



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Economic Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Idaho Department of Commerce

Thursday March 26, 2020
700 West State Street, Boise – J.R. Williams Building
Second Floor, Clearwater Conference Room

Members	Idaho Commerce Staff
(T) Steve Meyer, <i>Region I</i>	Tom Kealey, <i>Director</i>
(T) Robin Woods, <i>Region II</i>	(T) Jake Reynolds, <i>Business Development & Operations Administrator</i>
(T) Mike Reynoldson, <i>Region III</i>	(T) Susie Davidson, <i>Business Attraction Manager</i>
(T) John Craner, <i>Region IV</i>	(T) Eric Forsch, <i>Business Retention and Expansion Manager</i>
(T) Rick Phillips, <i>Region V</i>	Dennis Porter, <i>Community Development Manager</i>
(T) Mark Young, <i>Region VI</i>	(T) Ewa Szewczyk, <i>Grants and Contracts Manager</i>
(T) Dave Wilson, <i>Region VII</i>	(T) Mark Blaiser, <i>Grants and Contracts Analyst</i>
(T) Sandy Patano, <i>At-Large</i>	(T) Tony Tenne, <i>Senior Community Development Specialist</i> James Varner, <i>Community Development Analyst</i>

(T) denotes via telephone

Call to Order

Chairman Steve Meyer called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Meyer noted that the minutes for the January 16, 2020 Economic Advisory Council (EAC) meeting had been distributed and if there were no corrections, he would approve the minutes as distributed.

Motion

To Approve the meeting minutes from January 2020

Moved by: Sandy Patano
Seconded by: Mark Young
All in favor. Motions Approved.

Call for Conflict of Interest

Chairman Meyer asked the Council if they have a conflict of interest and would like to recuse themselves. (No response from EAC)

Director’s Welcome – State of Idaho COVID-19 Overview

Director Tom Kealey welcomed EAC to the meeting and explained how Commerce is working through COVID-19. Health first. The Department of Commerce is trying to help keep Commerce healthy in the State. The department has already taken the steps to work from home. Keeping the Governor informed on different projects including a report on who can provide help with

COVID-19. Sifting through a lot of data and providing the best to the governor. The best place to go for information on COVID-19 in Idaho is [Coronavirus.idaho.gov](https://coronavirus.idaho.gov). The Commerce website has links to the coronavirus.idaho.gov. The TRI lawsuit was unanimously resolved in our favor. The Business Advantage Act was signed by the Governor for another 10 years. We are waiting for the Governor to sign the approval for the Broadband person in Commerce. The Data Center bill has gone through the legislators. We are setting up a framework to get ready for the new normal after COVID-19. Dennis Porter is looking into all the Block Grants to see if there is a way to use them.

Preview of April 2020 EAC meeting

April meeting will now be a virtual meeting. Susie Davidson let EAC know we might have a TRI for the April meeting. Rylon Hofacer has been working on all the historical data regarding the TRI that will be presented. Dennis Porter informed EAC Driggs has scored high enough to present to the council but they will not be coming in person. They can call-in or the CDBG team can present on their behalf. CDBG had their audit and there were no findings. There will be CARES funds going to the CDBG program. The Council believes it would be a good idea to have Driggs prerecord their presentation for the Council. The July meeting will be talked about after April to see what happens with COVID-19. Director Kealey gave the Council an update on the possible ways the State can help Business.

Region Update

Each Council Member gave an update about their Region concerning COVID-19.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.