



C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, Director

## **Economic Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, April 13, 2018**

700 West State Street, Boise – J.R. Williams Building  
1st Floor, West Conference Room

### **Members Present:**

Steve Meyer, *Region I*  
Robin Woods, *Region II*  
Mike Reynoldson, *Region III*  
John Craner, *Region IV*  
Rick Phillips, *Region V*  
Mark Young, *Region VI*  
Dave Wilson, *Region VII*  
Sandy Patano, *At Large*

### **Commerce Staff Present:**

Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, *Director*  
Jake Reynolds, *Business Development and Operations Administrator*  
Susie Davidson, *Business Attraction Manager*  
Cindy Lee, *Grants & Contracts Manager*  
Dennis Porter, *Community Development Manager*  
Amanda Ames, *Community Development Specialist*  
Jason Barnes, *Business Attraction Specialist*  
Autumn Braase, *Senior Business Attraction Specialist*  
Sharon Deal, *Senior Community Development Specialist*  
Ewa Szewczyk, *Grants & Contracts Program Specialist*  
James Varner, *Administrative Assistant*  
Andrea Vlassis-Zahn, *Business Attraction Specialist*  
Patrick Watson, *Senior Research Analyst*

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Steve Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

### **Council Vote on Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Meyer noted that the minutes for the March 22, 2018 Economic Advisory Council (EAC) meeting had been distributed and if there are no corrections he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes as distributed.

Moved by: Robin Woods  
Seconded by: Mark Young  
All Aye. Motion approved.

### **Directors Welcome**

Commerce Director Bobbi-Jo Meuleman welcomed everyone and informed the Council of the Governor's decision to proceed with the Council's Opportunity Zone recommendations.

### **Commerce and Legislative Update**

Director Meuleman gave the Council an update on the legislative session.

## **Tax Reimbursement Incentive Project VERSE**

Director Jo Meuleman introduced Project VERSE, Application #2892. Project VERSE is an existing Idaho dairy processing company considering an expansion in Jerome, Idaho.

### **Motion to Move to Executive Session**

Chairman Meyer announced he would entertain a motion to move the Council to executive session to review the details of the TRI's proprietary scoring process ***pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(d) to review records exempt from public disclosure under Idaho Code Sections 74-107(6), and 67-4708.***

Robin Woods moved to enter into executive session. Dave Wilson seconded.

Roll call vote to move into executive session

Steve Meyer – Aye

Robin Woods – Aye

Mike Reynoldson – Aye

John Craner – Aye

Rick Phillips – Aye

Mark Young – Aye

Dave Wilson – Aye

Sandy Patano – Aye

With over two-thirds majority in favor, the Council moved into executive session at 9:24 a.m.

### **Return to Public Session**

Chairman Meyer noted that the Council returned to the public session at 10:26 a.m.

Chairman Meyer indicated the Council:

1. Reviewed and discussed Project VERSE application for a refundable tax credit; and
2. After discussions were concluded, closed the executive session upon motion by Robin Woods seconded by Mark Young, and a majority vote.

### **Motion**

In the matter of the application for Project VERSE, Dave Wilson moved that the Council approve the application and instruct the Director to enter into an agreement with Project VERSE upon the following terms.

- A post-performance refundable tax credit which represents 22% for nine years.
- No less than 20 new jobs or 60% of the total annual projected jobs, whichever is greater
- Average annual wages must equal or exceed the Jerome County average wage of \$34,626
- Subject to confirmation of a community match from Jerome County

The tax credit certification will be issued post-performance upon review and verification by Commerce. The company must maintain operations in Idaho for the term of the

agreement. The Director may add additional terms, not otherwise conflicting with the above conditions, including allowance for a maximum two-year construction phase during the term of the agreement, if applicable.

Moved by: Dave Wilson  
Second by: Sandy Patano  
All Aye. Motion Approved.

### **Block Grant Program Application Review**

Dennis Porter introduced the CDBG and RCBG applications.

### **Downtown Revitalization**

#### City of Sandpoint

Presentation by the City of Sandpoint Mayor Shelby Rognstad and City Employees Jennifer Stapleton, Amanda Wilson, and Sean Scoggin, on the City of Sandpoint Downtown revitalization project.

#### **Motion**

To approve City of Sandpoint's Downtown Revitalization application.

Moved by: Dave Wilson  
Seconded by: Mike Reynoldson  
All Aye. Motion approved.

#### City of Rupert

Presentation by the City of Rupert Mayor Mike Brown and City Treasurer/Finance Officer Jeffrey McCurdy as well as the landscape architect Christopher Hawkins on the City of Rupert Downtown Revitalization project.

#### **Motion**

To approve City of Rupert Downtown Revitalization application.

Moved by: Sandy Patano  
Seconded by: Mark Young  
All Aye. Motion approved.

### **Job Creation Applications**

#### City of Jerome

City of Jerome Mayor David Davis and City Administrator Mike Williams as well as the Magic Valley Quality Milk Producers CEO Alan Stutzman gave a presentation on the city's job creation application.

#### **Motion**

To approve the job creation application from the City of Jerome.

Moved by: Robin Woods  
Second by: Sandy Patano.  
All Aye. Motion Pass.

### City of Rupert

City of Rupert Mayor Mike Brown and City Treasurer/Finance Officer Jeffrey McCurdy as well as Sera Tec Co-Owner Rick Paniccia gave a presentation on the city's job creation application.

#### **Motion**

Reject application for future consideration.

Moved by: Mark Young

Seconded by: Dave Wilson

All Aye. Motion Approved.

#### **Motion**

Move to fund 13 of the 14 Public Facility applications as listed City of Malad, City of Firth, Power County, City of New Meadows, City of Franklin, City of Moscow, City of Deary, City of Kendrick, City of Culdesac, City of Ashton, City of Priest River, Minidoka County, and City of Homedale as stated in their application.

Move to fund Owyhee on a conditional approval as listed in the Block Grant Briefing Book.

Moved by: Robin Woods.

Seconded by: Mark Young.

All Aye. Motion Approved.

#### **Four Senior/Community Center Applications:**

CDBG Staff went over the applications for City of Rupert, City of Shelley, City of Aberdeen, and Owyhee County Senior/Community Center applications.

#### **Motion**

Fund City of Rupert and put City of Shelley and City of Aberdeen applications on hold for resubmission. Owyhee to be given \$45,000 for design and \$4,500 for administration fees under the circumstance that they hire a professional firm in accordance with state code

Motion by: Robin Woods

Seconded by: John Craner

All Aye. Motion Approved.

#### **Motion**

Robin Woods moved to close the meeting. John Craner seconded.

All Aye. Motion Approved.

**Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.**