



**Brad Little**, Governor  
**Tom Kealey**, Director

**Economic Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Idaho Department of Commerce**  
**October 25, 2023**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Idaho Commerce Staff</b>
(T) Jeremy Grimm, <i>Region I</i>	(A) Tom Kealey, Director
(T) Paul Kimmell, <i>Region II</i>	Jake Reynolds, Business Development & Operations Administrator
(A) Brian Wonderlich <i>Region III</i>	Ewa Szewczyk, Grants and Contract Manager
(T) Randy Bauscher <i>Region IV</i>	Dani Parmenter, Community Development Specialist
(T) Fred Titensor, <i>Region V</i>	Cathy Perry, Grants and Contract Operations Analyst
(T) John Radford <i>Region VI</i>	Susie Davidson, BAG Program Manager
<i>Vacant Region VII</i>	Tony Tenne, Community Development Specialist
(A) Eve Knudtsen <i>At-Large</i>	Dennis Porter, Community Development Manager
	(T) Mindy Peper, Event Planner contractor
(A) <i>Absent</i>	(T) Guests: Nate Mortimer, Ross Benitz, Amanda Collins, Surina Piyadasa
(T) <i>denotes via zoom meeting</i>	

**Call to Order**

**Chairman Paul Kimmell** called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. with a quorum present. Introductions are held. Joined by public guests, Nate Mortimer, Amanda Collins, Ross Benitz, and Surina Piyadasa.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Chairman Paul Kimmell** noted that the minutes for the October 4, 2024, Economic Advisory Council (EAC) meeting had been distributed. Randy Bauscher moves to approve the minutes as is.

**Moved by: Randy Bauscher**  
**Seconded by: Jeremy Grimm**  
**All in favor. Motion approved.**

**Call for Conflict of Interest**

**Chair Paul Kimmell:** None found.

**Chairman Paul Kimmell lends the floor to Jake Reynolds**

**Jake Reynolds:**

There have been updates on changes in the Governor's office, and the IBAB meeting last night. Jake reports that Idaho received two tech hub awards with the potential funding of up to \$75 million each, for aerospace funding and nuclear energy. Discussed Idaho Rural Partnership legislation, and the positive feedback concerning ICORT from last week. Reynolds mentioned the sentiment study and encouraged participation.

### **Idaho Tax Reimbursement Applications**

**Chairman Paul Kimmell:** The Council will now review the details of an application for a refundable tax credit under the Idaho Reimbursement Incentive Act that have been received by the Director and submitted to this Council for review. The application contains records and information exempt from public disclosure.

As a result, I will entertain a motion under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(d) to go into executive session to review the applications.

**Moved by: Fred Titensor**

**Seconded by: Randy Bauscher**

***Vote to enter into executive session: Roll Call by Ewa***

Jeremy Grimm - Aye

Paul Kimmell- Aye

Brian Wonderlich - Aye

Randy Bauscher - Aye

John Radford - Aye

Fred Titensor- Aye

**All in favor. Motion approved.**

**Motion to close executive session:**

**Moved by: Fred Titensor**

**Seconded by: Jeremy Grimm**

**All in favor. Motion approved.**

**Chairman Paul Kimmell:** The Council has come out of executive session and returned to the regular meeting. Please let the minutes reflect that the Council:

Reviewed and discussed the following application:

- Project Beta

The application was submitted for a refundable tax credit. Board will now meet with their decision on the application.

**Project Beta Motion:**

In the matter of the application for **Project Beta**, I move that the Council approve the application and instruct the Director to enter into an agreement with Project Beta, upon the following terms:

- A post-performance refundable tax credit which represents 26% of new state revenue for 13 Years.
- Tax credit certificate issued post-performance upon review and verification by Commerce.
- No less than 20 new jobs for a rural county or 50 new jobs for an urban county, or 60% of the total annual projected new jobs, whichever is greater.
- Average annual wages must equal or exceed the average county wage, which is subject to change annually.
- Company must maintain operations in Idaho for the term of the agreement.
- Any additional terms deemed necessary by the Director not otherwise conflicting with the above conditions.

**Moved by:** Jeremy Grimm  
**Seconded by:** Randy Bauscher  
**All in favor. Motion approved.**

#### **Public Comment**

#### **CDBG Budget Overview; CDBG Public Park Applications; Funding Decisions**

Dennis Porter covers highlights for his presentation today as well as the documents received by the EAC in preparation for today.

Dennis notes the breakdown for EAC quarterly meetings to review project applications.

Dennis goes over the CBDG PY 2023 budget allocation of \$3.1 billion and the rollover from 2022. May have \$4.9 million to roll over at the April meeting, partly due to CARES funds.

Dennis reminds the board of Build America Buy America Act guidelines; when it is applicable and when it is not. BABA is not applicable in purchasing fire engines. The EAC council should consider adding bonus points to applications seeking funding for fire engines. The cap is \$500,000 and EAC receives 1-2 applications each year.

**John Radford:** The cost of fire engines can approach \$1 million. The definition for fire engines does expand to brush trucks. He explains leasing and payment options in the matter of purchasing.

**Jeremy Grimm:** is there flexibility in the grants for lease payments?

Dennis Porter to research.

**Chairman Paul Kimmell:** I will entertain a motion to add up to 40 bonus points to funding applications for fire engines.

**Moved by:** Brian Wonderlich  
**Seconded by:** John Radford  
**All in favor. Motion approved.**

Dennis shares pictures of some of the recently funded projects and gives a recap of CDBG CARES funds and how phase 1, 2, and 3 have been used; and what funding will need to be expended by June 2026. Dennis suggests obligating monies by July 2024 to ensure compliance within the time frame. Remaining in CARES funding is about \$6 million.

Dennis suggests putting about \$4.5 million back into parks and tie into safe fitness outdoor recreation facilities to mitigate long-term COVID effects. He discussed qualifications for project sites and to expect two applications by January from Clark County EMS and St. Mary's hospital. And that there may be potential future funding for projects for Rural Community Investment Fund.

Dennis touched on the changes to the Rupert fire station application, changing from the design bid build method to a design build method which initiates Davis-Bacon requirements. Dennis entertains a motion that changes funding scope from building a fire station, to purchasing a fire engine increase the award by \$100,000, to utilize the 2023 funds.

**Moved:** Jeremy Grimm  
**Seconded:** Randy Bauscher  
**All in favor. Motion Approved.**

Dennis covers the PY2022 CDBG projects for public parks, scoring, and briefing book. Staff presents short commentary and recommendation on 12 public park projects.

**Chairman Paul Kimmell:** I will entertain motion to accept all 12 public park CDBG projects as presented and recommended by staff.

**Moved:** Randy Bauscher  
**Seconded:** Fred Titensor  
**All in Favor. Motion Approved**

**New Business:**  
**None**

**Chairman Paul Kimmell adjourned the meeting at 4:02 pm.**