



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

**Economic Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Idaho Department of Commerce**  
**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Idaho Commerce Staff</b>
Jeremy Grimm, <i>Region I</i>	(A) Tom Kealey, Director
Paul Kimmell, <i>Region II</i>	Jake Reynolds, Business Development & Operations Administrator
(T) Brian Wonderlich <i>Region III</i>	Ewa Szewczyk, Grants and Contract Manager
Randy Bauscher <i>Region IV</i>	Jerry Miller, Rural Services Manager
(A) Fred Titensor, <i>Region V</i>	Jason Barnes, Business Attraction Manager
John Radford <i>Region VI</i>	Adam Bohrer, Business Attraction Specialist
Tom Beckwith, <i>Region VII</i>	Betsy Hiddleston, Business Attraction Specialist
(T) Eve Knudtsen <i>At-Large</i>	Dennis Porter, Community Development Manager
	Tony Tenne, Community Development Specialist
(A) <i>Absent</i>	Dani Parmenter, Community Development Specialist
(T) <i>denotes via zoom meeting</i>	Jeremy Collier, Management Assistant

**Call to Order**

**Chairman Paul Kimmell** called the meeting to order at 08:33AM MDT with a quorum present.

Introduction of Council Members and Idaho Commerce staff.

Call for conflicts of interest: none heard.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Chairman Paul Kimmell** asked for motion to approve the 07/25/24 minutes.

**Moved by: Jeremy Grimm**

**Seconded by: Randy Bauscher**

**Motion approved.**

**Call for Conflict of Interest**

**Chair Paul Kimmell: none heard.**

### **Commerce Welcome and Update:**

- Jake Renyolds, Business Development and Operations Manager, gave a review of the EAC tour of Micron.
- Tina Salisbury, Business Development Manager, provided an update and overview of the restructure of the Business Retention & Expansion Team and the International Team into the Business Development Team.
- State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) update, STEP Y12 approved and an update on proposed federal legislation.
- Update on the partnership with Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to promote the STEP Grant, adding new companies is a big goal for the Small Business Administration (SBA).
- Jerry Miller, Rural Services Manager, gave an overview of the Rural Services Team, including the programs the team is responsible for.
- Jason Barnes, Business Attraction Manager, reviewed the October Japanese inbound Trade visit.

### **Deputy Attorney General Presentation – Open Meeting Law, Code of Ethics**

- Doug Tyler, Deputy Attorney General, presented an overview of Idaho Open Meeting Law and Ethics in Government.
- Reviewed meeting types: Regular, Special, Executive Session and the required actions before a meeting; notice & agenda, posting this information.
- Explained Executive Session discussion guidelines.
- Discussed the consequences of violating the Open Meeting Laws and personal consequences & penalties for members of the Council.
- Review of the legislation that governs ethics in government, and the Office of Attorney General Ethics in Government manual.

### **Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive Application: Project Snow; Project Connect**

**The Council may act to enter Executive Session Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(d) to review records exempt from public disclosure under Idaho Code Section 74-107(1), 74-107(6), and/or 67-4708**

**Moved by: Jeremy Grimm**

**Seconded: Randy Bauscher**

**Roll call vote:**

- Paul Kimmell (Chair) **AYE**
- Jeremy Grimm **AYE**
- Randy Bauscher **AYE**
- Brian Wonderlich **AYE**
- Tom Beckwith **AYE**
- Eve Knudtsen **AYE**
- John Radford **AYE**

**Motion approved.**

## **Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive Application Decision: Project Snow; Project Connect**

### **Snow Motion:**

- In the matter of the application for **Snow** I move that the Council approve the application and instruct the Director to enter into an agreement with Snow, upon the following terms:
- A post-performance refundable tax credit which represents 16% of new state revenue for 8 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: John Radford**

**Motion approved.**

### **Connect Motion:**

- In the matter of the application for **Connect** I move that the Council approve the application and instruct the Director to enter into an agreement with Connect, upon the following terms:
- A post-performance refundable tax credit which represents 17% of new state revenue for 8 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**

**Motion approved.**

### **CDBG Budget Review**

- Dennis Porter, Community Development Manager, updated the Council on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget.
- Review of CDBG Regular Budget allocations and budget set-asides; Post-disaster, Plans and studies, Parks, Public facilities, Economic development, Jobs & Downtown development.
- Review of the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act revitalization projects in Cottonwood, Kootenai County, Montpelier, Rigby and Good County.
- Review of Build America Buy America (BABA) for CDBG funded projects, a breakdown of the three phases of implementation, and BABA requirements.
- Overview of the Rural Community Investment Fund (RCIF) Infrastructure to Job Program Budget.

### **CDBG Park Application Overview**

- Dennis Porter, Tony Tenne, and Dani Parmenter presented the PY 2024 CDBG Project applications and made recommendations to the council.
- The Community Development Team recommended the Council approve funding for CDBG applications from; Lincoln County, the City of Athol, the City of Victor, the City of Arimo, the City of Parma, the City of Lava Hot Springs, the City of Tetonia, the City of St. Anthony, the City of Kooskia and the City of Mud Lake.
- The Community Development Team recommended the Council deny funding for the City of Oxford's CDBG application.

### **RCIF Presentation & Q&A – Island Park**

- Mayor Bruce Ard, City of Island Park; Roger Merrill, Playmill Theatre; Brent “Husk” Crowthers, Civilize Engineering; Ted Hendrick, Full House Productions and Brandon Harris, Fremont County presented an overview of the RCIF Island Park Project.
- They advised the Council of the history of the Island Park Community and what the Mack's Inn Infrastructure Improvements would entail.
- They explained the current infrastructure challenges faced by Mack's Inn, focusing on traffic congestion, drinking water and wastewater issues.
- They reviewed the projects scope, financing and economic impact.
- They discussed with council members the nature of the economic impact in terms of job creation.

### **CDBG Application Decisions**

**Chairman Kimmel:** Motion to approve the funding for CDBG applications from; Lincoln County, the City of Athol, the City of Victor, the City of Arimo, the City of Parma, the City of Lava Hot Springs, the City of Tetonia, the City of St. Anthony, the City of Kooskia and the City of Mud Lake.

**Moved: Jeremy Grimm**

**Seconded: John Radford**

**Motion approved.**

**RCIF Island Park Project Application Decision**

**Chairman Kimmel:** Motion to approve the RCIF Island Park Project Application.

**Moved:** John Radford

**Seconded:** Randy Bauscher

**Motion approved.**

**New Business & Public Comment**

- Future meeting scheduling.
- Planning for the next in-person meeting.

**Chairman Kimmell:** Motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Moved by:** Jeremy Grimm

**Seconded by:** Randy Bauscher

**Motion Approved**

**Meeting adjourns at 12:47PM.**