



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Economic Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Idaho Department of Commerce
January 30th, 2025

| Members | Idaho Commerce Staff |
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| (T) Jeremy Grimm, <i>Region I</i> | Tom Kealey, Director |
| (T) Paul Kimmell, <i>Region II</i> | Jake Reynolds, Business Development & Operations Administrator |
| (T) Brian Wonderlich <i>Region III</i> | Dennis Porter, Community Development Manager |
| (T) Randy Bauscher <i>Region IV</i> | Tony Tenne, Community Development Specialist |
| (T) Fred Titensor, <i>Region V</i> | Dani Parmenter, Community Development Specialist |
| (T) John Radford <i>Region VI</i> | Jeremy Collier, Management Assistant |
| (T) Tom Beckwith <i>Region VII</i> | |
| (T) Eve Knudtsen <i>At-Large</i> | |
| | |
| (A) Absent | |
| (T) denotes via zoom meeting | |

Call to Order

Chairman Paul Kimmell called the meeting to order at 2:01PM MST with a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Paul Kimmell asked for motion to approve the 12/12/24 minutes.

Moved by: Jeremy Grimm
Seconded by: Eve Knudtsen
Motion approved.

Call for Conflict of Interest

Chair Paul Kimmell: none heard.

Directors Welcome and Update:

- Director Kealey reviewed the documents submitted to the Economic Outlook & Revenue Assessment Committee which included copies of the Commerce Annual Report, Tax Reimbursement Incentive Report, and the Official Idaho Travel Guide.
- He noted North Idaho secured a \$48 million tech hub. Several business projects are advancing, including Tractor Supply (Nampa), a pipe company (Burley), and a new Kuna

data center. Micron's expansion continues with a 2030 completion target. He advised that AI adoption efforts are ongoing.

- The Rural Success Summit is set for April 30–May 1.
- Commerce officials plan to attend the Select USA Foreign Direct Investment trip to ASEAN in February.
- Director Kealey reviewed the Department of Commerce's presentation to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee, where questions were fielded on the 2026 FIFA World Cup and broadband.

CDBG Budget Overview

- 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.
- Gave a brief overview of Build America Buy America (BABA) for CDBG funded projects, a breakdown of the three phases of implementation, and BABA requirement and thoughts on award increases in the future.
- Overview of the Rural Community Investment Fund (RCIF) Infrastructure to Job Program Budget.

CDBG Projects Overview: Public Facilities & Downtown Revitalizations

- Dennis Porter, Tony Tenne, and Dani Parmenter presented the PY 2025 Public Facility and Downtown Revitalization Project application scoring spreadsheets and made recommendations to the Council.
- The Community Development Team recommended the Council approve to advance to the addendum round the public facilities applications from; the City of Murtaugh, the City of Kooskia, the City of Elk River, the City of Culdesac, the City of Homedale, the City of Cascade, the City of St. Anthony, the City of Pierce, the City of Council, the City of McCall, the City of Arimo, and the City of Lava Hot Springs.
- The Community Development Team recommended the Council approve to advance to the addendum round the City of Arimo's public facilities application, under condition the \$10,000.00 City-match go toward acquisition.
- The Community Development Team recommended the Council not advance to the addendum round the public facilities application of the City of Rigby.
- The Community Development Team recommended the Council approve to advance to the addendum round the downtown revitalization application from the City of Rathdrum.
- The Community Development Team recommended the Council not advance to the addendum round the downtown revitalization application of the City of Preston.

RCIF Presentation – Sugar City

- Mayor Steve Adams, City of Sugar City; Arlynn Jackson, Sugar City Public Works Director; Kurt Hibbert, Sugar City Community & Economic Development; Ryan Lowe, SunPro (a Clyde Incorporated Company) and Jade Coyle, Ancient Grains, presented an overview of the RCIF Sugar City Project.
- Mayor Adams and Arlynn Jackson advised the Council of the history of Sugar City and what the infrastructure improvements would entail.
- Ryan Lowe and Jade Coyle advised business would benefit from strong highway and Key infrastructure access including connection to the water system for business operations and fire protection.
- Kurt Hibbert explained the long-term impacts of the project such as job growth, increasing property tax revenue, advising the Council that Sugar City is highly developable.
- Mayor Adams stressed balancing growth with infrastructure needs while keeping a business-friendly environment. He noted the city is preparing for increased service demands and long-term sustainability.
- In response to questions from the Council, they advised the city is investing in sidewalks, pathways, and infrastructure with funding from grants and private contributions. They added that tax revenue benefits would take time to come to fruition.

CDBG & RCIF Funding Decisions

RCIF Sugar City Project Application Decision

Chairman Kimmel: Motion to approve the RCIF Sugar City Project Application.

Moved by: Eve Knudtsen

Seconded by: Fred Titensor

Motion approved.

CDBG

Chairman Kimmel: Motion to approve to advance to the addendum round the public facilities applications from; the City of Murtaugh, the City of Kooskia, the City of Elk River, the City of Culdesac, the City of Homedale, the City of Cascade, the City of St. Anthony, the City of Pierce, the City of Council, the City of McCall, and the City of Lava Hot Springs.

Moved by: Fred Titensor

Seconded by: Paul Kimmel

Motion approved.

Chairman Kimmel: Motion to approve to advance to the addendum round the downtown revitalization application from the City of Rathdrum.

Moved by: Jeremy Grimm

Seconded by: Eve Knudtsen

Motion approved.

New Business & Public Comment

- Director Kealey thanked the council for taking the time to consider the applications in detail.
- Eve Knudtsen invited Council Members to the Coeur d'Alene Economic Development Council Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 23rd.
- Paul Kimmel advised members of an upcoming workshop on the Tax Reimbursement Incentive process and noted the upcoming Rural Success Summit from April 30th-May 1st.

Chairman Kimmell: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Eve Knudtsen

Seconded by: Jeremy Grimm

Motion Approved

Meeting adjourns at 4:58PM MST