



Meeting Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

Date: October 04, 2024

Time: 10:03 – 11:30AM Mountain Time

Place: Held virtually using Zoom by computer or phone with limited in person seating at Idaho Commerce, Sawtooth Conference Room, 700 west State Street, Boise, ID 83702.

Welcome and Call to Order:

- Co-Chair Tom Kealey called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and took a roll call to confirm attendance.
- The board members introduced themselves.

Attendees:

Board of Directors Present:

1. Co-Chair Director Tom Kealey, Idaho Commerce
2. Co-Chair Kelley Packer, Executive Director, Association of Idaho Cities
3. Director Jess Byrne, DEQ
4. Jeff McCurdy, President of Region IV Development
5. Barbara Petty, Extension Director at University of Idaho
6. Tim Solomon, Regional Business Manager at Rocky Mountain Power
7. Laura Johnson, Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture, proxy for Director Chanel Tewalt
8. Tim Solomon, Director of Commercial Accounts and Community Relations for PacifiCorp
9. Rep. Pickets, District 27, Oakley
10. Brad Huerta, Lost Rivers Medical Center

Other Participants Present:

11. Jerry Miller, Interim Manager, Rural Services, Idaho Department of Commerce
12. Jermy Collier, Management Assistant, Recording Secretary, Idaho Department of Commerce

Approval of Minutes:

- Barbara Petty moved to approve May 7th, 2024, IRP Board Meeting Minutes. Tim Solomon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without objection.

Summary and Implementation of S1294:

Jerry Miller provided summary of S1294 as passed and its impact on Idaho Rural Development Partnership Act (Title 67, Chapter 90, Idaho Code). The number of board members has been reduced; the changes took away the mandate for an executive director. He noted agency staff would fulfil the functions previously occupied by the executive director. He advised members of the composition of the board and the necessity to identify and vote in four federal partners and two tribal nations partners to serve on the board. He identified four federal partners to the board, whom he felt were worth consideration for including in the board. Director Kealey advised the partner would be the federal agency, who would then choose their representative.

Jeff McCurdy moved to approve federal Board Members from USDA Rural Development, US Economic Development, Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Small Business Administration. Brad Huertas seconded the motion. The motion was approved without objection.

Tim Solomon moved to approve tribal Board Members from the Nez Perce Tribe and the Shoshone Bannock tribe. Representative Pickett seconded the motion. The motion was approved without objection.

Director Kealey nominated Kelley Packer for Co-Chair of the Board. Barbara Petty seconded the nomination. The nomination was approved without objection.

Financials:

Jerry reported that the Idaho Rural Partnership has a current fund balance of \$48,503.27, as grant was received from U.S. Department of Agriculture rural development for the IRP rural strategy plan. Director Kealey advised this money was now held in a custodian account. In response to questions from Board Members, Jerry Miller advised there are no outstanding commitments.

He advised prior to S1294 IRP had its own budget that came from donations, sponsorships, and revenue from grant opportunities. The IRP has moved to the Department of Commerce and the Executive Branch. The Administration functions that were supported by the IRP's budget will now be absorbed by the agency.

Strategies and Plans:

Jerry Miller presented an overview of the Rural Impact Strategy. Each state was able to apply for funds for COVID recovery, and to make states stronger for the next pandemic, or crisis. With Idaho's allocation at Commerce these funds were used for several different initiatives including development planning and zoning tools to accommodate growth in smaller, rural communities.

Jerry Miller reviewed TIP Strategy's Idaho Rural Impact Strategy. He noted their experience working with Idaho and with HUD & EDA programs. He advised members their definition of rural was any county that does not have a population center of 20,000 persons or greater. The Rural Impact Strategy identified four goal areas: business development, place, talent & people, infrastructure. Identified who is best placed to pursue the four goal areas. The desired outcomes of the Rural Impact Strategy are; to position rural areas to capture as much opportunity as possible; promote recovery and building resilience in rural

areas; leverage Idaho's assets and talent to the maximum extent possible; encourage entrepreneurship & create collaborative frameworks between state, local, rural governments.

Board members discussed the importance of grant writers and administrative capacity in small communities in Idaho.

Adjournment:

Rep. Pickett moved to adjourn the meeting. Tim Solomon seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. The meeting ended at 11:08 AM Mountain Time.