



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Economic Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Idaho Department of Commerce
April 23rd, 2025

Members	Idaho Commerce Staff
Jeremy Grimm, <i>Region</i>	Tom Kealey, Director
Paul Kimmell, <i>Region II</i>	Jake Reynolds, Business Development & Operations Administrator
Brian Wonderlich <i>Region III (A)</i>	Jason Barnes, Business Attraction Manager
Randy Bauscher <i>Region IV</i>	Adam Bohrer, Business Attraction Specialist
Fred Titensor, <i>Region V</i>	Dennis Porter, Community Development Manager
John Radford <i>Region VI (A)</i>	Tony Tenne, Economic Development
Tom Beckwith, <i>Region VII</i>	Jamie Hayward, Management Assistant, recording secretary
Eve Knudtsen <i>At-Large</i>	
<i>(A) Absent</i>	

Call to Order

Chairman Paul Kimmell called the meeting to order at 02:37 PM MDT with a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Paul Kimmell asked for motion to approve the February minutes.

Moved by: Jeremy Grimm
Seconded by: Fred Titensor
Motion approved. Aye

Call for Conflict of Interest

Chair Paul Kimmell: none heard.

Commerce Welcome & Housekeeping:

- Director Kealy called for introductions for EAC members and Idaho Commerce attendees at the meeting.

- Director Kealey gave an update on Idaho Commerce and noted his recent trip to Idaho Falls to visit small modular and energy sites and noted challenges for energy in Idaho and other states.
- He spoke about the tractor supply groundbreaking in Nampa, that BAT attended, and that TRI inquiries are currently down. He spoke about Micron and Fab portion is open and a new Chobani in Region IV and data center in Kuna.
- Explained about the past 30 days and federal partners have lost staff in SBA, HUD and US commercial services.
- The premiere of Project 3100 on May 14, 2025, is about 3100 navigable waterways in Idaho promoting tourism, commerce tourism dollars are still up in forecast, international travel and tourism to US is down.
- He communicated about the new fiber optics project with faster service and how it will provide lower costs for anyone underserved, and upcoming events, Commerce Connects and road shows around the state.
- Jake Reynolds, Administrator, Idaho Commerce, gave updates on housekeeping items.

EAC Training on TRI Application criteria and packet review Scoring overview Q&A

- Jason Barnes and Adam Bohrer from Business Attraction Team (BAT) provided an overview and training on Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) application criteria and deep dive into program from start to finish.
- TRI helps businesses prosper, contribute to the economy, impact is far reaching, great recruitment, gives a competitive edge and how its post-performance based while being mindful of taxpayers' dollars and provides incentives for new companies looking to have a footprint.
 - If business is adding or bringing high-paying jobs to Idaho, it may be eligible for the Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive. This post-performance incentive creates a maximum credit of 30% on income, payroll and sales taxes for up to 15 years.
- Companies recognize Idaho as good business and the purpose of accelerated growth, encouraging high paying jobs and gives us economic edge for Idaho making economy more diverse.
- Applies to existing and new businesses and looking to relocate and supply chain TRI is open to anyone and not industry specific.

EAC CDBG/RCIF Training Application criteria and packet review Scoring overview Q&A

- Dennis Porter provides an overview of CDBG/RCIF training application criteria and packet and scoring review of programs with Q & A session for EAC members.
- Dennis explains process of potential CDBG applicants and how we work with water districts or senior associations as an example. Funds from public service is tough road and we stay in infrastructure and qualify-national objectives, and community must benefit. Households must meet qualifiers; senior center automatically qualifies, & senior connect.

- Review of CDBG Regular Budget allocations and budget set-asides, post-disaster, plans and studies, parks, public facilities, economic development, jobs & downtown revitalizations.
 - Downtown revitalization and sidewalks and parking lots critical and bring small businesses and keep downtown vital and relevant and each town has uniqueness and try to do what we can. Post disaster grants must be natural disaster.
- Summary of the Rural Community Investment Fund (RCIF) Infrastructure to Job Program Budget 2025 allocations are yet to be.
- Proposed (slide) CDBG changes to discussion and not asking for vote. A few things in the way 2025 allocations are yet proposed change, carriage funds to combat covid.

New business & public comment

Chairman Kimmell asked any other business or comments recess and adjourned.

Chairman Kimmell: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Fred Titensor

Seconded by: Eve Knudtsen

Motion Approved

Meeting adjourns at 05:03 PM EDT.