



Meeting Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

Date: April 9, 2025

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 PM 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 at 2:01 pm, welcomed everyone, and took roll call to confirm attendance.
- The Idaho Rural Partnership Board members and attendees introduced themselves.

Attendees:

Board of Directors Present:

1. Co-Chair Director Tom Kealey, Idaho Department of Commerce
2. Co-Chair Kelley Packer, Executive Director, Association of Idaho Cities
3. Director Jess Byrne, DEQ
4. Shannon Madsen, US Small Business Admin
5. Jeff McCurdy, President of Region IV Development
6. Barbara Petty, Extension Director at University of Idaho
7. Tim Solomon, Regional Business Manager at Rocky Mountain Power
8. Laura Johnson, Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture, proxy for Director Chanel Tewalt
9. Tim Solomon, Director of Commercial Accounts and Community Relations for PacifiCorp
10. Doug Ricks, Idaho Senate
11. Hope Morrow, ID National Laboratory
12. Carleen Herring, U.S Economic Development Administration
13. Erica White, ID Department of Agriculture
14. Brian Dale, State Director of HUD

Other Participants Present:

15. Jerry Miller, Manager, Rural Services, Idaho Department of Commerce
16. Jermy Collier, Management Assistant, Idaho Department of Commerce
17. Jamie Hayward, Management Assistant, Recording Secretary, Idaho Department of Commerce
18. Jules Belyea Rural Services Specialist, Idaho Department of Commerce
19. Jennifer Todd-Goynes, TIP Strategies
20. Mishka Parkins, TIP Strategies
21. Amy Neale, Business Services Consultant for Dislocated Workers & Workforce Development
22. Eric Kingston, IRP Community Review Team

Approval of Minutes:

- Jeff McCurdy moved to approve October 4, 2024, IRP Board Meeting Minutes.
- Kelley Packer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without objection.

Presentation on the Idaho Rural Impact Strategy- TIP Strategies (Mishka Parkins & Jennifer Todd-Goynes)

Mishka Parkins and Jennifer Todd-Goynes gave a presentation on the Idaho Rural Impact Strategy and explained how investigators with the Idaho Rural Impact Strategy and how work funded from grant from US development. Mishka referenced videos available to view on YouTube and they're there to give feedback and are very informative to help strengthen processes and partnered with Idaho Energy consortium in Idaho. Rural strategy will identify tools, tips and best practices for future events in disaster or economic related and turn to. Mishka provided an overview of TIP strategies, economics and workforce with staff across the country working on strategic plans, theory and practice. Mishka explained the desired outcomes and that state-grown rural areas are not left behind and that Idaho strengths and assets meet the needs of employers and outcomes and building collab frameworks within rural Idaho and with economic development of other organizations and entities are within departments.

Mishka explained the plan and pieces of stratus. One, What we hear from communities; Two, Took time and data conducting analysis of economic and industry trends and data component; Three, Experience of team work closely with bouncing back ideas and pulling from expertise and research team; Four, State comparisons where Idaho performed as a state is performing very well, tremendous population change and extremely high domestic migration levels and beyond statewide and more in state dynamic socio-economic and worker migration sources and industries.

Jennifer Todd Goynes showed slides with graphic representation and rural business development and attraction showing success and business that are staying and growing. Talent and people and economy and talent pipeline can maintain skills and access to jobs and create workers with skills and training access and can be a big hurdle. Mobile units can access career pathways and retention and can retail affordable housing and childcare, affordable healthcare and newcomer integration and how concierge and housing and local groups and network and remote worker and campaigns and patronizing local restaurant. She stated the goals are for physical infrastructure and is IRP ability and real partnership and economic approach and work on solutions together.

In response to questions from Board Members, Jennifer Todd-Goynes recommended converting existing partners and leveraging partnerships with supplement childcare options and completion of planning a community offering grants for in home childcare and getting people in system. She focused on business retention and expansion and creating anchors in communities. Mishka Parkins stressed industries and growth in economy and higher quality and higher paying jobs

2024 IRP Annual Report (Co-Chairs Tom Kealey & Kelly Packer)

Co-Chairs Tom Kealey and Kelly Packer summarized the annual report. Jerry Miller advised the Board of Statutory requirements to prepare an annual written report and annual meeting. Jerry Miller provided a summary of S1294 as passed and its impact on Idaho Rural Development Partnership Act (Title 67, Chapter 90, Idaho Code). He advised members of the composition of the board and the necessity. He advised members of the history of the Idaho Rural Partnership and explained statutory provisions. He noted the resources available to the Idaho Rural Partnership at the Department of Commerce and the potential for cooperation with other states and national organizations. He advised the Board of open-source data sites that could be useful to stakeholders for funding applications and fund information.

Commerce Rural Services Update – Jerry Miller, Manager, Commerce Rural Services

Jerry Miller provided a summary of Commerce Rural Services, updating members on the composition of the new team. He reviewed Idaho Rural Partnership funding, ongoing engineering and planning projects, Gem grants and the Idaho Main Street program. He summarized 44GO! Project. He advised the Board of the upcoming Idaho Rural Success Summit and the Northwest community development In-leadership academy.

He noted the availability of the ‘Show Me the Money’ e-newsletter. He continued, explaining the Private Activity Bond, the housing market in Idaho, Opportunity Zones designations, Monthly Rural Economic Developer Chats. He reviewed the Idaho Economic Outlook 2025 document, highlighting what is going on in rural Idaho identified positive trends.

Idaho Rural Success Summit Update – Jerry Miller, Manager, Commerce Rural Services

Jerry Miller updated the Board on the Idaho Rural Success Summit Update current registration numbers. He reviewed the speakers including Jeff Siegler and Lieutenant Governor Scott Bedke. He advised members on the topics of panel discussion for the Summit including a panel on Agri-tourism, downtown renovation and accessibility.

Other Business -Open Discussion

Board members discussed the need to collaborate from cities to the county to state policy, affordable housing, future meeting plans and statutory requirements, and the legislative session.

Adjournment:

Shannon Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff McCurdy seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. The meeting ended at 3:53 PM Mountain Time.