



Board of Directors Meeting

Held by Zoom

August 12, 2020 – 9:00-11:00 a.m MT

ATTENDANCE

Present via Zoom: Art Beal, Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Association, Jon Barrett, Idaho Rural Partnership; Kermit Mankiller, Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises; Tom Kealey, Idaho Dept. of Commerce; Erik Kingston, Idaho Housing and Finance Association; Melissa Hamilton, University of Idaho Extension; Chanel Tewalt, Idaho Dept. of Agriculture; Jerry Miller, Idaho Dept. of Commerce; Kelley Packer, Association of Idaho Cities; Jeff Marker, Idaho Transportation Department; Brian Dale, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development; Daryl Moser, USDA – Rural Development; Diane Bevan, Idaho Women’s Business Center; Jeff McCurdy, Region IV Development Association; Barbara Petty, University of Idaho Extension; Paul Kimmell, Avista Corporation; Jim Wernitz, US Environmental Protection Agency; Trent Clark, Customalting; Will Jenson, Idaho National Laboratories; Donna Pence, Gooding; Randy Kemp, Idaho Commission for Libraries; Senator Mark Nye, Idaho Legislature; Representative Caroline Nilsson Troy, Idaho Legislature; Tom Dayley, U.S. Farm Service Agency; Kristyn Carr, ID. Department of Labor; Tim Hibbard, Idaho Assoc. of Counties; Joe Adamski, Bureau of Land Management; Laurel York Odell, Concepts in Writing.

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVE MINUTES

Co-Chair Art Beal CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. Mountain. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 board meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

- Trent Clark Shared information about Idaho Workforce Development Council's Launch Idaho initiative. Scholarships are available for short term skills building. Information about the workforce skills gap closure can be found at www.idaholaunch.com.
- Erik Kingston IHFA is administering CARES Act funding available for rental assistance. This year is the 30th anniversary of the American's With Disabilities Act. IHFA involved in fair housing education project.
- Donna Pence A recent fire near Soldier Mountain is having significant impacts on nearby communities.
- Barbara Petty U of I Extension is increasing efforts to take programming to the people by using Zoom and similar tools. Conducting virtual field days are one example. As usual this time of year, Extension is participating in fairs around the state.
- Kermit Mankiller Tribe and Tribal Enterprises are trying to figure out how to continue supporting causes we usually contribute to: groups, events, projects. We're soon submitting a proposal for business park building. Building the infrastructure is a current focus.
- Tom Kealey At Commerce, we're making extensive use of virtual and remote meetings. Idaho Travel Council grants were recently announced. New Frigitec cold storage facility in Bannock County recently broke ground.
- Will Jenson INL is offering CARES Act-funded grants to businesses to support recovery from the pandemic.
- Diane Bevan Idaho Women's Business Council is in the process of opening offices in Idaho Falls and North Idaho. We would love any referrals for small business owners affected by COVID to be able to tell their story and participate in Crowdfund Idaho LIVE on November 16.
- Paul Kimmell We're convening roundtables with business leaders in our area (north central and north Idaho).

Sen. Mark Nye	The Legislature is getting ready to go into special session on 8/24/20.
Joe Adamski	The Bald Mountain Stewardship Project is a current focus of BLM.
Jim Werntz	We lost a lot of staff at EPA over the last couple of years. We're trying to rebuild. I am retiring at the end of this month.
Chanel Tewalt	2020 was a particularly bad grasshopper year, impacting many of our producers. Harvest is ramping up. In some cases, finding labor is a challenge. The Farm Future program has a new coordinator. Her name is Anna Pratt.
Kelly Packer	We're working on our municipal small grant program. Also supporting communities applying for broadband grant funding.
Tim Hibbard	Our Public Lands Committee is getting ready to meet on September 15 @ 2 pm MT.
Jeff McCurdy	Each of the five regional economic development districts received \$400,000 in funding from EDA for revolving loan funds to support pandemic recovery.
Tom Dayley	We continue to work with our 5,000 producers involved in our programs.
Melissa Hamilton	AmeriCorps focused on educational efforts - youth development and environmental education - Advisory Council, 4-H Animal Projects and showing, Leadership and Diversity Learning Circles, Master Gardeners, Plant Clinics, virtual and in person, outside, socially-distanced events.
Rep. Nilsson Troy	The bi-partisan farming, ranching, and timber caucus continues to communicate to identify challenges and opportunities.
Tim Solomon	We, like most utilities across the country, are working to ensure we remove as much pressure from residents and businesses as possible during this time. We have suspended late notices and disconnects, which has helped many businesses survive the pandemic. Utilities are finding other creative ways of helping, including regulatory changes, rate modifications on a temporary basis, and assisting with aggressive payment plans. PacifiCorp has also dedicated most Foundation funds to non-profit agencies under stress due to the virus. Earlier this year, we donated more

than \$300,000 to organizations in our broader service territory including food banks and hospitals. We recently gave funds to a small rural hospital to purchase personal protective equipment to help guard against COVID. The challenges are real and I'm grateful we can join others as we find solutions and help each other.

Daryl Moser

(1) RD-Idaho (and across the country) continues operating under "enterprise-wide remote operational status" (i.e., all offices closed and employees working from home); (2) RD-Idaho has a new Broadband contact (Joe Bradley has transferred to Texas): John Holman (503-310-7692, john.holman2@usda.gov); (3) we just finished our RBDG grant "season" -- 4 TA awards to RIVDA (2), PAC, and CEDA that we think will provide opportunities to partner with and complement the RLF awards that Jeff McCurdy announced; (4) our B&I loan guarantee program has close to \$1 billion in CARES Act funding (available through 9/30/21) that we expect to be a great help to businesses as we continue to move into recovery.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Jon summarized program activities since the June 24, 2020 board meeting. This information was also provided in the board meeting agenda packet. Highlights include: (1) conducted COVID-19 survey of rural leaders, (2) initiated planning for Phase II of Blackfoot Community Review, (3) Post-Review community coaching with McCammon, Ashton, Cascade, Plummer, and Emmett, (4) Developed invite list for rural peer learning network, (5) continued project planning and coordination (with Laurel York Odell) for Pierce/Weippe rural health project.

Highlights of recent work related to outreach, networking, fundraising, and organizational development include: (1) funding-related communications with Blue Cross, Bayer, INL, USDA Rural Development, (2) submitted \$45,000 grant proposal to Chobani Community Impact Fund, (3) building relationship with BSU 'WorkU' intern program, (4) IRP finance committee meet on 7/28/20, (5) Partners for Rural America board meeting and ongoing planning of 2020 annual conference (which is proposed as a virtual conference).

REVISED
WORKPLAN AND
BUDGET FOR
REMAINDER OF
2020

The proposed workplan and budget was provided to the board prior to the meeting. Jon summarized the differences between the proposed July-December workplan and the 2020 workplan approved by the board in December 2019. Highlights of the revised workplan include completing Phase II of the Blackfoot and Harrison Community Reviews, update community review application materials, complete the COVID-19 survey of rural leaders, continue working on the Pierce/Weippe rural health project, fundraising, fill open seats on the board.

The proposed budget for the remainder of the year reflects actual year to date expenses and anticipated expenses and revenue for the remainder of the year. These adjustments result in a revised 2020 budget of \$80,000. The revised budget would allow IRP to start 2021 with \$20,000. For comparison, the 2020 budget approved by the board in December 2019 was \$113,000.

APPROVAL OF
REVISED
WORKPLAN AND
BUDGET

The revised workplan and budget for July-December 2020 was approved by the board by unanimous consent.

PHASE II OF
VOICE OF THE
COMMUNITY
RURAL HEALTH
PROJECT

Proposed project coordinator Laurel York Odell and E.D. Jon Barrett summarized the scope of work featuring facilitation and project development work with health stakeholders in the Pierce-Weippe area. The project aims to increase access to needed health care services and/or facilities. The scope of work, along with a proposed professional services agreement, and summary of Laurel York Odell's qualifications and experience, were provided to the board in a memo dated Aug. 7, 2020. Laurel worked under contract with IRP to lead the services of health focus groups in fall and winter of 2019. Phases I and II of this project are funded by the \$40,000 grant from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation (via Idaho Community Foundation). The Phase II scope of work includes in-person meetings in the two communities in late August. Jon and Laurel indicated their belief that conducting these initial meetings in-person are critical to project success. Limited access to broadband was also identified as a concern by the communities. Jon and Laurel developed COVID-19 safety measures that will be in place during the upcoming in-person meetings.

APPROVAL OF
CONTRACT

The proposed contract with Laurel York Odell was approved by the board by unanimous consent

SURVEY OF
RURAL LEADERS

Several IRP partner agencies and organizations collaborated to complete a survey of rural leaders in late July and early August. The survey increases our understanding of how rural communities are being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and how we can better support post-pandemic recovery. A total of 333 people across the state responded to the survey. Jerry Miller, Economic Development Specialist with the Department of Commerce, provided a preliminary summary of the survey results.

Jon, Jerry, and the other partner agencies and organizations will be completing a written report of survey results. When complete, this report will be shared with the board and made available on the IRP website (www.irp.idaho.gov).

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chairs Beal and Kealey adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am MT.

NEXT MEETING

The next IRP board meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2020.