



Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: May 28, 2026

Location: Greenleaf City Hall

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Chair: Kate Dahl Vice Chair: David Moore Secretary: Lee Belt
Executive Director: Debbie Davis**

Attendance:

Lee Belt - City of Greenleaf, REP Secretary
Kate Dahl* - Valley Regional Transit, REP Chair
Debbie Davis - Melba Chamber, REP Executive Director
Tobin Dixon* - Small Business Administration
Taylor Dunn - Idaho Power
Leslie Griffith* - Homedale Chamber
Tammie Halcomb*
Emily Hendrickson* - Integra Resources (Delmar Mine)
David Moore - Zion's Bank, REP Vice Chair

* via video-conference

1. *Welcome and Call to Order – Kate Dahl, Chair*

Kate Dahl called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05p.

2. *Approval of Current Agenda & Prior Meeting Minutes*
Action Item:

- *Approval and/or Amendment of Current Agenda*
- *Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2026 Monthly Meeting*

No adjustments were made to agenda.

David Moore moved to approve the 23 Apr 2026 minutes. Kate Dahl seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

3. *Financial Report*

Action Item:

- *Approve Current Financial Report*

Discussion followed. It was clarified that Verizon bill reflects 7 months of service. Concern was expressed that David Lincoln may not have reported all outstanding mileage and expenses.

David Moore moved that the REP contact David Lincoln and request that any current & past mileage, expenses, paperwork and computers or material be turned in to the REP before end of this Fiscal Year (30 Sep). Kate Dahl seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Moved to approve the Financials. Kate Dahl seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. *Director's Report – Debbie Davis*

Please see written report for detail. Debbie also reported on opportunity to inform Channel 6 about the Rural Economic Partners and EDD#3 effort when Channel 6 was out to report on the Melba Senior Center. Debbie also has prepared a one-page framed info-sheet for display.

It was noted that the organization is a member of the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce. General discussion followed, including how to connect and grow the Rural Economic Partners with the rebranding.

Draft rebranding / introduction letter was reviewed, along with the updated membership form.

Debbie mentioned that a review and update of by-laws is upcoming.

A 3-pg draft handout from Kimley-Horn describing the economic development district was briefly reviewed. It was expressed that there is probably too much text, perhaps condense to one-page. By consensus, Kimley-Horn will be asked to condense to one-page.

Debbie highlighted her to-do list, including membership spreadsheet, and pursuit of a grant-writer. Grant writing financial structure was generally discussed, including distinction between grant writing as an up-front cost, and grant management which may be paid through the grant.

General discussion followed, including asking members what their needs are, and services they would like available. The Canyon County meeting on 09 June was also discussed.

5. *Idaho Department of Commerce Update – Jules Belyea, Rural Services Specialist*

Jules was not able to attend the meeting.

6. *Old Business:*

Discussion:

- *EDD3 Consultant Update*
- *Rebranding Update*
 - *Website – WE ARE LIVE!*
 - *Social Media – WE ARE LIVE ON FACEBOOK!*
 - *Business Cards – ON ORDER!*
 - *Membership Form – UPDATED & ON WEBSITE!*
 - *New Email: info@ruraleconomicpartners.org*
- *Funding Requests – Cities, Counties, Business Partners – DRAFT LETTERS FOR REVIEW!*
- *ED Pro Grant Application*

EDD Consultant Update – Debbie had an update from Kimley-Horn (KH) kickoff meeting. KH is working on expanding stakeholder list. KH believes this is an about 6-mo. Project. A shared drive is in process – This may take the form of a drop box folder provided by Kate Dahl.

Rebranding – Covered under the Director's Report. Debbie is working on getting a replacement cell phone.

7. *New Business:*
Discussion: Open

Kate expressed desire for development of offering an economic development strategic plan for small cities, perhaps with a facilitated meeting, SWOT analysis, and identification of projects. A fee would need to be charged to cover costs. Other service projects could be identified to be offered on a fee basis.

Emily Hendrickson with the Delmar Mine, expressed encouragement at having a regional economic development agency available in the Rural Economic Partners.

8. *Round-Table Announcements*

Tobin Dixon reinforced that having a regional CEDS helps greatly with scoring federal funded projects. Capital Matrix is the large player for 504 funding, and is

SBA has a trade export loan 90% guarantee available, which is also available to negatively impacted businesses, including all grocery and food chain businesses.

There is a \$1mil pot for an award for small business pitch for their business' innovation – Tobin can review for eligibility.

Leslie Griffith brought greetings from the Homedale Chamber of Commerce.

David Moore mentioned that Zions Bank in Wilder is currently first or second in SBA loans, commercial loans and ag loans are very active. The rural area is doing well. It was announced today that there will be a \$250.00 bill with President Trump's face on it.

Debbie Davis mentioned that real estate is also doing well, although there is a shortage of inventory.

9. *Meeting adjourned. Next meeting June 25, 2026 (4th Thursday of each month)*

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:02p

Respectfully submitted,

Lee C. Belt
REPSWI Secretary
Greenleaf City Clerk



Monthly Meeting Agenda

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Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Chair: Kate Dahl Vice Chair: David Moore Secretary: Lee Belt
Executive Director: Debbie Davis**

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Kate Dahl, Chair
2. Approval of Current Agenda & Prior Meeting Minutes
Action Item:
 - Approval and/or Amendment of Current Agenda
 - Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2026 Monthly Meeting
3. Financial Report
Action Item:
 - Approve Current Financial Report
4. Director's Report – Debbie Davis
5. Idaho Department of Commerce Update – Jules Belyea, Rural Services Specialist
6. Old Business:
Discussion:
 - EDD3 Consultant Update
 - Rebranding Update
 - Website – WE ARE LIVE!
 - Social Media – WE ARE LIVE ON FACEBOOK!
 - Business Cards – ON ORDER!
 - Membership Form – UPDATED & ON WEBSITE!
 - New Email: info@ruraleconomicpartners.org
 - Funding Requests – Cities, Counties, Business Partners – DRAFT LETTERS FOR REVIEW!
 - ED Pro Grant Application
7. New Business:
Discussion: Open
8. Round-Table Announcements
9. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting June 25, 2026 (4th Thursday of each month)

**20523 Whittier Drive, Greenleaf, ID 83626 208-615-6083
info@ruraleconomicpartners.org www.ruraleconomicpartners.org
Formerly: Western Alliance for Economic Development**

City of Greenleaf
Trial Balance
 As of April 30, 2026

	Apr 30, 26	
	Debit	Credit
D.L. Evans Checking:Rural Ec. Ptnr. (WAED) project	50,249.51	
Accounts Rec.--WAED	2,500.00	
Accounts Payable		20,124.99
Payroll Liabilities		25.64
Payroll Liabilities:Idaho State Withholdings		0.00
Retained Earnings		24,552.88
Pass Through Income:WAED Grant Income		15,000.00
Pass Through Income:Memberships--WAED		10,841.25
Pass Through Income:Grant & Membership EDD #3		20,000.00
Payroll:Wages	12,360.00	
Payroll:Payroll Expenses	945.54	
Payroll:Payroll Expenses:Benefits-PERSI	478.40	
WAED--Expenses:Cell Phone --WAED	271.09	
WAED--Expenses:Fuel--WAED	252.56	
WAED--Expenses:Grant Admin Exp.--WAED	20,000.00	
WAED--Expenses:Insurance Corp- WAED	698.00	
WAED--Expenses:Meals/ Meetings--WAED	178.52	
WAED--Expenses:Office Supplies- WAED	133.24	
WAED--Expenses:Professional Membership & Dues	748.37	
WAED--Expenses:Training --WAED	959.00	
WAED--Expenses:Travel-- WAED	359.34	
WAED--Expenses:Website Exp- WAED	411.19	
TOTAL	90,544.76	90,544.76

Accts Payable
 Kimley Horn \$20,000
 Visa \$124.99

City of Greenleaf
Profit & Loss by Class
 October 2025 through April 2026

Rural Ec. Ptnr. (WAED)

Income		
Pass Through Income		
WAED Grant Income	15,000.00	
Memberships--WAED	10,841.25	
Grant & Membership EDD #3	20,000.00	
Total Pass Through Income	45,841.25	
Total Income	45,841.25	
Gross Profit	45,841.25	
Expense		
Payroll		
Wages	12,360.00	
Payroll Expenses		
Benefits-PERSI	478.40	
Payroll Expenses - Other	945.54	
Total Payroll Expenses	1,423.94	
Reim.-Cell & Utility Reim	0.00	
Benefits - Health Insurance	0.00	
Total Payroll	13,783.94	
WAED--Expenses		
Cell Phone --WAED	271.09	
Fuel--WAED	252.56	
Grant Admin Exp.--WAED	20,000.00	
Insurance Corp- WAED	698.00	
Meals/ Meetings--WAED	178.52	
Office Supplies- WAED	133.24	
Professional Membership & Dues	748.37	
Training --WAED	959.00	
Travel-- WAED	359.34	
Website Exp- WAED	411.19	
Total WAED--Expenses	24,011.31	
Total Expense	37,795.25	
Net Income	8,046.00	

City of Greenleaf
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
October 2025 through April 2026

	Rural Ec. Ptnr. (WAED)			
	Oct '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Pass Through Income				
WAED Grant Income	15,000.00	30,000.00	-15,000.00	50.0%
Memberships--WAED	10,841.25	20,000.00	-9,158.75	54.21%
Grant Admin Fees--WAED	0.00	12,000.00	-12,000.00	0.0%
Fundraising/ Scholarships--WAED	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Grant & Membership EDD #3	20,000.00	60,000.00	-40,000.00	33.33%
Total Pass Through Income	45,841.25	122,500.00	-76,658.75	37.42%
Invest Pool Trans- Cash Carry	0.00			
Total Income	45,841.25	122,500.00	-76,658.75	37.42%
Gross Profit	45,841.25	122,500.00	-76,658.75	37.42%
Expense				
Payroll				
Wages	12,360.00	55,000.00	-42,640.00	22.47%
Payroll Expenses				
Benefits-PERSI	478.40	4,085.00	-3,606.60	11.71%
Payroll Liab. Other	0.00	9,900.00	-9,900.00	0.0%
Payroll Expenses - Other	945.54			
Total Payroll Expenses	1,423.94	13,985.00	-12,561.06	10.18%
Reim.-Cell & Utility Reim	0.00			
Benefits - Health Insurance	0.00			
Total Payroll	13,783.94	68,985.00	-55,201.06	19.98%
WAED--Expenses				
Bank & Service Charges	0.00	260.00	-260.00	0.0%
Cell Phone --WAED	271.09	1,400.00	-1,128.91	19.36%
Fuel--WAED	252.56	7,000.00	-6,747.44	3.61%
Grant Admin Exp.--WAED	20,000.00	12,000.00	8,000.00	166.67%
Insurance Corp- WAED	698.00	1,500.00	-802.00	46.53%
Marketing--WAED	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
Meals/ Meetings--WAED	178.52	3,000.00	-2,821.48	5.95%
Office Supplies- WAED	133.24	2,000.00	-1,866.76	6.66%
Professional Membership & Dues	748.37	1,400.00	-651.63	53.46%
Training --WAED	959.00	6,000.00	-5,041.00	15.98%
Travel-- WAED	359.34	6,000.00	-5,640.66	5.99%
Website Exp- WAED	411.19	1,000.00	-588.81	41.12%
Reserves--WAED	0.00	8,955.00	-8,955.00	0.0%
Total WAED--Expenses	24,011.31	53,515.00	-29,503.69	44.87%
Total Expense	37,795.25	122,500.00	-84,704.75	30.85%
Net Income	8,046.00	0.00	8,046.00	100.0%

City of Greenleaf

5/22/2026 1:56 PM

Register: D.L. Evans Checking:Rural Ec. Ptnr. (WAED) project

From 10/01/2025 through 05/22/2026

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
10/10/2025	35872	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 09/...	269.40	X		24,371.06
10/10/2025	35873	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 09/...	332.46	X		24,038.60
10/14/2025	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 pa...	216.28	X		23,822.32
10/24/2025	35904	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 10/...	269.40	X		23,552.92
10/24/2025	35905	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 10/...	332.46	X		23,220.46
10/28/2025	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 pa...	216.28	X		23,004.18
10/30/2025	35917	VISA - LINCOLN	Accounts Payable	acct ending 1268	188.28	X		22,815.90
10/30/2025	35918	Verizon	Accounts Payable	Inv 612610576...	38.72	X		22,777.18
11/06/2025	35937	Caldwell Chamber of...	Accounts Payable	Inv 17759 WA...	215.00	X		22,562.18
11/07/2025	35945	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 10/...	269.40	X		22,292.78
11/07/2025	35946	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 10/...	332.46	X		21,960.32
11/12/2025	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 pa...	216.28	X		21,744.04
11/20/2025		Idaho Power	Accounts Rec.--WAED	FY26 WAED		X	1,500.00	23,244.04
11/21/2025	35969	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 11/...	269.40	X		22,974.64
11/21/2025	35970	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 11/...	332.46	X		22,642.18
11/25/2025	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 pa...	216.28	X		22,425.90
11/25/2025	35978	Verizon	Accounts Payable	Inv 612859901...	38.74	X		22,387.16
11/28/2025		City of Greenleaf--W...	Accounts Rec.--WAED	CoG membersh...		X	3,000.00	25,387.16
12/04/2025		Idaho Dept of Comm...	Accounts Rec.--WAED	auto deposit pa...		X	7,500.00	32,887.16
12/05/2025		Zions Bank	Accounts Rec.--WAED	online pymt M...		X	241.25	33,128.41
12/05/2025	36005	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 11/...	269.40	X		32,859.01
12/05/2025	36006	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 11/...	332.46	X		32,526.55
12/09/2025	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 pa...	216.28	X		32,310.27
12/09/2025	36018	Lincoln D.	Accounts Payable	IEDA Confere...	694.92	X		31,615.35
12/19/2025	36038	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 11/...	269.40	X		31,345.95
12/19/2025	36039	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 11/...	332.46	X		31,013.49
12/22/2025	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 pa...	216.28	X		30,797.21
12/30/2025	36058	Verizon	Accounts Payable	Inv 613111364...	38.73	X		30,758.48
12/30/2025	36059	VISA - LINCOLN	Accounts Payable	acct ending 1268	110.32	X		30,648.16
01/02/2026	36066	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 12/...	269.40	X		30,378.76
01/02/2026	36067	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 12/...	332.46	X		30,046.30
01/05/2026		Intermountain Gas	Accounts Rec.--WAED	WAED wrks c...		X	1,000.00	31,046.30
01/07/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	216.28	X		30,830.02
01/16/2026	36098	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 12/...	269.40	X		30,560.62
01/16/2026	36099	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 12/...	332.46	X		30,228.16
01/20/2026		Wilder	Accounts Rec.--WAED	WAED check ...		X	2,300.00	32,528.16
01/21/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	216.28	X		32,311.88
01/26/2026	36116	Gem County Chambe...	Accounts Payable	Membership du...	100.00	X		32,211.88
01/26/2026	36117	Verizon	Accounts Payable	Inv 613362483...	38.73	X		32,173.15
01/30/2026	36128	VISA - LINCOLN	Accounts Payable	acct ending 1268	464.52	X		31,708.63

City of Greenleaf

5/22/2026 1:56 PM

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From 10/01/2025 through 05/22/2026

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
01/30/2026	36125	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 01/...	269.40	X		31,439.23
01/30/2026	36126	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 01/...	332.46	X		31,106.77
02/03/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	216.28	X		30,890.49
02/13/2026	36166	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 01/...	269.40	X		30,621.09
02/13/2026	36167	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 01/...	332.46	X		30,288.63
02/17/2026		VRT- Valley Region...	Accounts Rec.--WAED	WAED wrks c...		X	300.00	30,588.63
02/18/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	216.28	X		30,372.35
02/19/2026		Canyon County - Cust	Accounts Rec.--WAED	canyon county ...		X	20,000.00	50,372.35
02/24/2026	36176	Verizon	Accounts Payable	Inv 613612702...	38.73	X		50,333.62
02/27/2026	36185	VISA - LINCOLN	Accounts Payable	acct ending 1268	310.00	X		50,023.62
02/27/2026	36178	David L Lincoln	-split-	Pay Period 02/...	269.40	X		49,754.22
02/27/2026	36179	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 02/...	332.46	X		49,421.76
03/03/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	216.28	X		49,205.48
03/03/2026	36205	Davis, Debbie	Accounts Payable	WAED reimbu...	209.50	X		48,995.98
03/11/2026		Idaho Dept of Comm...	Accounts Rec.--WAED	Dept of Comm...		X	7,500.00	56,495.98
03/13/2026	36225	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 02/...	851.70	X		55,644.28
03/17/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	153.00	X		55,491.28
03/18/2026	EFT	PERSI - payroll liabi...	-split-	C266 Bi-weekl...	191.40	X		55,299.88
03/26/2026	36237	Verizon	Accounts Payable	Inv 613865057...	38.73	*		55,261.15
03/27/2026	EFT	PERSI - payroll liabi...	-split-	C266 Bi-weekl...	191.40	X		55,069.75
03/27/2026	36240	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 03/...	851.70	*		54,218.05
03/30/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	153.00	X		54,065.05
03/31/2026	36252	VISA - LINCOLN	Accounts Payable	acct ending 1268	351.63	*		53,713.42
03/31/2026	36253	Davis, Debbie	Accounts Payable	WAED reimbu...	335.00	*		53,378.42
04/10/2026	36273	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 03/...	851.70	*		52,526.72
04/14/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	153.00	*		52,373.72
04/14/2026	EFT	PERSI - payroll liabi...	-split-	C266 Bi-weekl...	191.40	*		52,182.32
04/24/2026	EFT	PERSI - payroll liabi...	-split-	C266 Bi-weekl...	191.40	*		51,990.92
04/24/2026	36288	Debbie A. Davis	-split-	Pay Period 04/...	851.70	*		51,139.22
04/28/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	153.00	*		50,986.22
04/30/2026	36295	Verizon	Accounts Payable	Inv 614117408...	38.71			50,947.51
04/30/2026	36296	United States Liabilit...	Accounts Payable	Acct # NDO	698.00			50,249.51
05/05/2026	36316	VISA - LINCOLN	Accounts Payable	acct ending 1268	124.99			50,124.52
05/08/2026	36321	Debbie A. Davis	-split-		851.70			49,272.82
05/12/2026	EFT	United States Treasury	-split-	82-0314498 Pa...	153.00			49,119.82
05/13/2026	EFT	PERSI - payroll liabi...	-split-	C266 Bi-weekl...	191.40			48,928.42
05/22/2026	36339	Debbie A. Davis	-split-		851.70			48,076.72

Events, Meetings & Training:

- 4/23/26 Rural Economic Partners Monthly meeting at Greenleaf City Hall.
- 5/4/26 I met with Idaho Power (Taylor Dunn & Jerry Nelson) and the City of Greenleaf (Lee Belt & Mayor Schnuerle) to discuss future growth needs. It was an informative meeting and it was good to formally meet with Taylor Dunn who took over for Mike Ybarguen.
- May 13th, at my Melba Chamber Commerce & Coffee, I was able to meet with Matt Carlson from Compass and update him on our rebrand as well as Region 3 efforts.
- May 18th I virtually attended a kick off meeting with Kimley-Horn for Region 3. We went over our framework and timeline focusing on initial stakeholder outreach. We have a outreach document they provided us for review.

Connections & Discussions:

- May 18th I met with Leslie Griffith (Homedale Chamber of Commerce President) and Megan Poole (Marsing Chamber of Commerce President) to talk about Rural Economic Partners and Region 3.
- At our last REP meeting, Kevin Arkoosh gave me a business card for the new Caldwell Economic Development Director, Daniel Torres. I reached out to him via email to introduce myself. We are working on coordinating a meeting in the future.
- May 27th I received a referral email from Lee @ City of Greenleaf for Fronco Pedro (long haul refrigerated trucking co). I will reach out to him.

Office Time:

- The application for Canyon County FY2027 has been submitted and I meet with them on June 9th.
- The Website is up and functioning. ED & Board bios coming soon. www.ruraleconomicpartners.org
- Membership form is updated and online.
- Facebook page is live (no content yet)
- Business Cards are here
- New email up and running: info@ruraleconomicpartners.org
- Draft letter for cities, counties and business partners is ready for review.
- ED Pro grant – got the email on 5/27/26 that it's open.

To Do List:

- Review and update by-laws for Board review and approval
- Build our contacts and membership tracking spreadsheet
- Update membership form - DONE
- Update Website - DONE
- Order business cards - DONE
- Begin outreach to cities/counties – (deliverables with tracking)
- Funding requests to cities/counties – DRAFT LETTER FOR REVIEW
- Upcoming ED Pro Grant Renewal – RECEIVED EMAIL 5/27 THAT IT'S OPEN

EDD3 Kickoff Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date/Time: Monday, May 18, 2026

Meeting Time: 1:00-2:00 PM (MST)

Subject: Kickoff Meeting for Economic Development District
Region 3 (EDD3) Planning

Meeting Goals:

-
- Understand the Nonprofit Needs
- Stakeholder Outreach Approach
- Board Meeting Reporting
- Schedule
- Communication preferences

Agenda

Item #	Discussion Topic
1	Introductions
2	<p>Nonprofit Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bylaws/Framework• Roles for leadership and staff<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Kate as optional invite to coordination meetings – invite as options board○ Debbie point of contact○ Biweekly meeting• Staffing needs year 1<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TBD• Information on purpose (informational sheet on what we are doing for stakeholder outreach)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Why important? Funding?○ Examples of funding – what does this do? Who and what does this fund?• Business plan — voted that region will target cities over 10,000 in population to participate, counties for sure• Rural partners stays as their own entity (supports small communities)

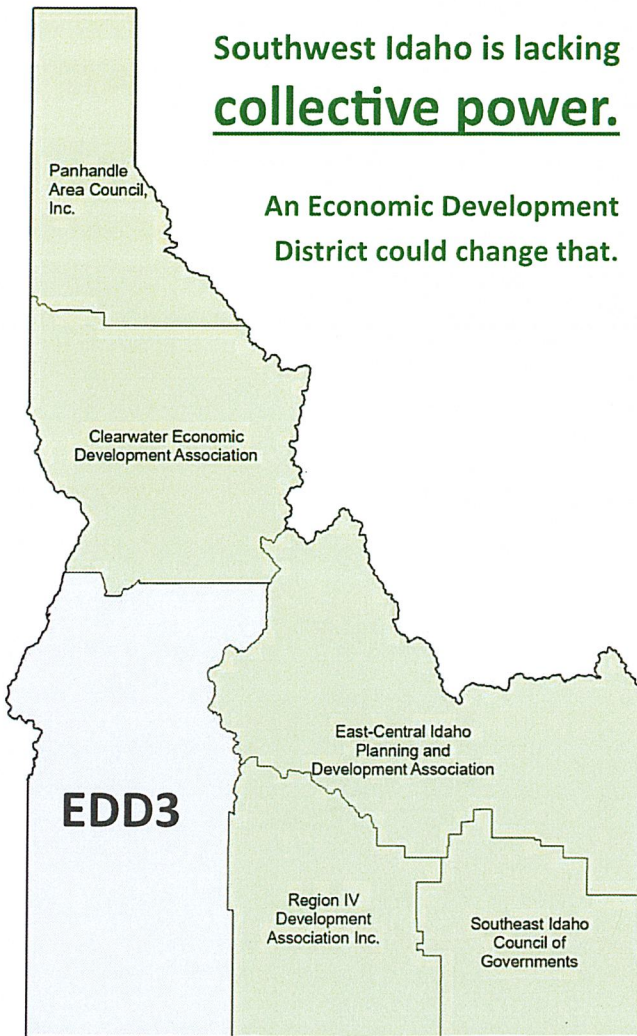
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to not duplicate efforts and support each other in complementary efforts ● Biggest funding source – Canyon County ● Participation and who is served ● Base level participation – threshold based on population ● Assistance with grants is key
3	<p>Stakeholder Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Who are key stakeholders? ● Best approach to engaging – road show to each county, virtual, phone? ● Interview format for up to 15 stakeholders ● Stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Right now best time to meet ○ Budget season ○ Grouping – email, phone then meeting ○ County, chamber of commerce, staff and how to group ○ Letters of support or call for action ○ Support county budgeting
4	<p>Board Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last Thursday of every month 1-2 pm MST ● Monthly progress report update format <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Written updates – 5 days before meeting to Debbie ● How best to prepare and engage with your board – updates at beginning of the meeting
5	<p>Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Timeline for project – ideal is a year or less. (target Dec/Jan) ● Best time to engage with people ● What is failure? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creation of district is a need ○ If there is not participation then that is an answer if the district would be successful ○ District 4 – potential for expanding staff to support the other 10 counties south ○ Anything is on the table for achieving those needs ○ Need to fund a role within District 4 to support EDD3 as a division within the district to serve communities within the 10 counties ○ If folks cannot contribute financially – how can they be involved and support and endorse

6	Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do you prefer updates and coordination?• Frequency on coordination meetings
7	Next Steps & Wrap Up

Action:
Set up SharePoint file
Why create a district file

Southwest Idaho is lacking collective power.

An Economic Development District could change that.



Every county in Idaho is represented by an Economic Development District (EDD) except for ten counties in Southwest Idaho: **Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington Counties**. This area is one of Idaho's fastest-growing and most economically complex regions, yet it lacks a formal regional tool that other parts of Idaho already have. These ten counties have an opportunity to form an Economic Development District called EDD3 and close *the last major gap* in Idaho's statewide coverage. Together, they are already recognized as Idaho's Region III by the Idaho Economic Development Association (EDA). Without EDD designation, EDD3 lacks the EDA-recognized structure that other Idaho regions use to coordinate strategy, organize priority projects, and compete for funding.

What is an EDD?

An EDD would give the ten counties a shared strategy so local projects have a better shot at funding and support. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) defines an EDD as a multi-jurisdictional entity that brings together public,

private, and non-profit sectors to establish a "strategic blueprint" for regional collaboration.

The region already functions as one connected economy.

Workers, businesses, freight routes, farms, housing markets, recreation areas, utilities, and public services cross county lines every day. The problem is that the region does not always act like one region when it comes time to plan, fund, and deliver projects.

An EDD would help these counties work from a **single regional playbook** instead of competing county by county. EDDs support regional cooperation, economic development strategies, public and private investment, and public infrastructure funding.

The Major Points:

- EDDs bring additional capacity to rural communities *without requiring new county staff*.
- EDDs improve *competitiveness* for federal and state infrastructure and economic development funding.
- EDDs provide professional grant writing, administration, planning, and tech support.
- EDDs help move priority projects from ideas to *implementation*.
- EDDs create a stronger regional voice when advocating for infrastructure, housing, broadband, workforce, transportation, and economic development investments.
- EDDs encourage coordination between counties, cities, utilities, ports, tribes, businesses, and state and federal partners.
- EDDs *share costs regionally*, making services more affordable for small and rural communities.
- EDDs support long-term resilience, economic diversification, and fiscal sustainability.

Why Now?

Southwest Idaho is growing, infrastructure costs are rising, rural counties can get overshadowed by the Boise metro area, and federal and state grants are more competitive than ever. An EDD would help the region compete for funding for water systems, sewer upgrades, broadband, industrial site readiness, workforce training, disaster resilience, and downtown and main street reinvestment. **The shared economy deserves a shared strategy.**

Funding and the Role of the CEDS

Funding usually goes to those who are ready to receive it. A community may have a real problem with their sewer,

broadband, roads, or workforce, but if a problem isn't tied to a regional strategy supported by data and partners, it can lose out to another region that has done the homework. EDDs also write and maintain their region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is a locally based, regionally driven economic development plan. An EDA-approved CEDS would give Southwest Idaho a stronger foundation for pursuing EDA assistance, aligning local projects with regional priorities, and showing state and federal partners that the region is organized around a shared investment strategy. Funding and executing a CEDS is a crucial step in EDD3's success.

How We Achieve This

The first step is a shared county-level commitment to organize Region III around an EDD structure, either through a new regional entity or an existing organization that can represent the full ten-county area. That structure should include counties, cities, tribes, business groups, workforce partners, utilities, education partners, and community organizations. It should also give smaller counties a real voice so they are not overshadowed by Ada and Canyon Counties. Jurisdictions must also commit to funding the establishment of the district.

Build for the Long Haul

Rural EDDs tend to struggle when dues are too high or the value of the district doesn't match the cost. To overcome these potential issues, we must have a right-sized funding program that brings value to the jurisdictions involved. The EDDs that stick around are not only champions of a shared strategy but are trusted implementation partners in the region. The strongest organizations:

- keep membership costs reasonable,
- maintain balanced rural representation,
- focus on implementation rather than planning alone, &
- demonstrate measurable results through funded projects and community support.

What Our Region Needs

Southwest Idaho requires a few things for designation as an EDD: membership, funding, an organizational structure, and an approved CEDS plan. Funding can work in a number of ways:

- **County-Based Funding:** Counties provide the largest share of annual contribution because counties benefit the most from regional coordination. They also often have broader tax bases and typically administer infrastructure and economic programs.

- **Per Capita Formula:** Many rural EDDs use this approach for equitable distribution of funding based on scale and size.
- **Hybrid Model:** Base fund with a modest per-capita component.
- **Tiered Membership Model:** Very common for rural councils of government and EDDs.

Example:

Population	Annual Dues
Under 1,000	\$500
1,000-5,000	\$1,500
5,000-15,000	\$3,000
Counties	\$15,000 flat

(Note: Idaho Rural Partnerships will continue to be a partner to support small towns under populations of 10,000.)

The district would then prepare a CEDS. It would identify economic conditions, infrastructure gaps, workforce needs, industry strengths, risks, priority projects, funding opportunities, and performance measures. Counties bring local needs to the table, the EDD organizes them into a regional strategy, and the region uses that strategy to pursue funding, infrastructure, jobs, and long-term resilience together.

How This Works for Rural Counties

The EDD functions as a regional partner that helps local governments accomplish projects more efficiently and strategically. Counties maintain local control while benefiting from shared expertise, regional coordination, and increased funding opportunities. Rather than replacing local efforts, the EDD strengthens them by:

- identifying funding opportunities,
- preparing competitive grant applications,
- assisting with project development and administration,
- coordinating regional priorities,
- and helping communities respond to economic and infrastructure challenges.

For many rural communities, participation in an EDD can mean access to professional economic development and planning support that would otherwise be difficult or costly to maintain independently.

Want to Learn More?

Contact Debbie Davis at debbiedavis270@gmail.com for more information and involvement opportunities.

Successful EDD Funded and Operated Projects:



Figure 2: Altura Community Consulting & Business Finance
Source: <https://alturaidaho.com/driggs-location>

Teton Business & Education Center – Driggs, Idaho

ECIPDA secured a \$3.8 million EDA grant to develop the Teton Business and Education Center in rural Teton County. The facility supports startup businesses, entrepreneurship, and workforce development in a small rural community. Since opening, the center has created and retained jobs while supporting long-term economic diversification in the region.

Lewiston Regional Airport Industrial Park

In north central Idaho, local and regional economic development partnerships helped secure a \$1.9 million EDA investment to improve infrastructure around the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport.

The project funded road improvements, water and sewer infrastructure, and industrial site development.

The original estimate projected 255 jobs, but the completed project ultimately helped generate approximately **686 jobs and millions in private investment for the region**. They succeeded because they created regional capacity to:

- identify funding opportunities,
- coordinate partnerships,
- package projects competitively,
- and manage complex grant requirements.

EDA awarded \$3.2 million to the Idaho Department of Transportation to repair, replace, and modernize Idaho's roadside historical markers. The project added QR-code-based digital content and was designed to support tourism recovery after the pandemic. The grant was matched with \$800,000 in state and local funds.

Post Falls / Kootenai County: Industry Recruitment Planning

In 2024, EDA awarded \$76,000 to the City of Post Falls to hire a consultant for a comprehensive assessment of area resources, infrastructure, and market trends, leading to a marketing plan for Kootenai County. The purpose was to support industry recruitment, new employment opportunities, and regional economic growth.

Idaho Falls: Energy Workforce Training

In 2025, EDA awarded about \$1.7 million to the Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium in Idaho Falls for the Advanced Nuclear Workforce Ecosystem, a workforce training program tied to the regional nuclear energy industry. The project includes higher education, state agencies, industry, and union partners, with work on curriculum, apprenticeships, outreach, training, and job placement. It also supports the Intermountain-West Nuclear Energy Corridor Tech Hub, which EDA designated in 2023.

Boise State / South Idaho Design-Prototype Center

Through EDA's Build to Scale program, Boise State's TechHelp led the South Idaho Design-Prototype Center, focused on workforce development, entrepreneurship, product design, prototyping, and advanced manufacturing. The project projected a \$73 million annualized increase in combined industry sales, savings, and investment, with jobs created and retained expected to double to 260 annually, **including a target of 25 percent rural representation**.

Idaho Department of Transportation: Historical Markers and Tourism Recovery



DRAFT

On behalf of Rural Economic Partners of Southwest Idaho, I am reaching out to request your consideration of becoming a funding and/or membership partner in our organization as we continue our mission of supporting and strengthening rural communities throughout Southwest Idaho.

Rural Economic Partners of Southwest Idaho, formerly known as the Western Alliance for Economic Development (WAED), has served rural communities for more than 15 years. Through our recent rebranding effort, we have renewed our focus and expanded our outreach efforts, including establishing a growing social media presence and updating our website to provide a more interactive and informative experience for businesses, community partners, and the communities we serve.

Rural communities face unique challenges and opportunities related to economic growth, infrastructure, workforce development, business support, and long-term sustainability. Our organization serves as a resource connector and advocate for our rural communities.

We are fortunate to work alongside valuable resource partners that help strengthen economic opportunities and provide meaningful support to the communities we serve. These partners include the Idaho Department of Commerce, USDA Rural Development, the Idaho Department of Labor, the Small Business Administration, and other regional organizations and agencies. Through collaboration and relationship-building, we help connect communities and businesses with programs, tools, and resources that may otherwise be difficult to identify or access.

A major focus of our current efforts is helping support the reinstatement of Southwest Idaho's Region 3 Economic Development District. We are actively making progress toward bringing this important regional resource back to our area. Restoring Region 3 would create long-term benefits for our communities by strengthening regional collaboration, increasing access to planning and development resources, and creating opportunities that support sustainable economic growth throughout Southwest Idaho.

Attached you will find our membership information and membership form for your review and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our organization, our goals, and how a partnership with Rural Economic Partners of Southwest Idaho can support the long-term success of your community and our region.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Together, we can continue building strong communities and creating opportunities that strengthen rural Southwest Idaho for future generations.

Sincerely,

Debbie Davis
Executive Director
Rural Economic Partners of Southwest Idaho

20523 Whittier Drive, Greenleaf, ID 83626 208-615-6083
info@ruraleconomicpartners.org www.ruraleconomicpartners.org
Formerly: Western Alliance for Economic Development



Membership Form

Mission Statement: To strengthen and preserve rural communities in Southwest Idaho through collaboration, resource connection, and strategic economic development that supports businesses, agriculture, and long-term community prosperity.

Our Vision is to create thriving, resilient rural communities where businesses, agriculture, and families prosper together, ensuring opportunity, innovation, and a high quality of life for future generations. We look forward to having you as a member!

Benefits of Membership:

- Voting privileges at membership meetings
- Listing on our website with direct links to your business/organization
- Collaboration opportunities with community leaders, businesses, and partners
- Access to resources, information, and economic development opportunities
- **A voice in shaping the future of rural SW Idaho and the opportunity to directly invest in and contribute to the strength, success, and long-term vitality of our rural communities**

Annual Membership Levels:

- Associate Member \$200: 10 employees or less
- Business Partner \$500: 11 to 20 employees
- Corporate Partner \$1000: 25 employees and up
- City Member: \$1/resident at last census
- Government Member: Negotiated rate

Business Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone#: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

of Employees: _____ Business Website: _____