

# Board of Directors Business Meeting Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 7:00 a.m.

**Location: Idaho Falls Auditorium District Office/Zoom Videoconference**

[**https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88386569938**](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88386569938)

# Event Center Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402 Room 2416

**Participants: Rob Spear, Terri Gazdik, Mike Carpenter, Ron Warnecke (via Zoom), Erik Hudson**

**Agenda**

1. **Action Item** - Call to Order 7:00 AM
2. **Action Item** – Accept Agenda – Carpenter moved to accept the agenda. Warnecke seconded. Motion passed.
3. **Action Item** - Accept the Consent Agenda
	1. Meeting Minutes 3-25-25
	2. Review of Payables/Financials – Spear presented a payables list totaling $31,910.93. The $1000 Wipfli expenditure for year-end closing was discussed. Fuller agreed with Spear that the 2024 engagement letter did not list this amount. Spear said he is still awaiting a call from Wipfli to discuss the issue. Spear reviewed the February financials and indicated the balance sheet was incorrect because it still listed the Bank of Commerce account having a balance of $39,170.90. Spear said that account was closed in January. Spear then reviewed February TRT revenues and noted that 2025 revenues were $158,757.47 versus $144,400.28 in 2024. Spear said for the current year revenues are up 14% over 2024 and 12% above 2025 budget. Spear indicated that IFAD still has not received $60K from 2024 that is still owed by a third-party marketplace facilitator. Gazdik invited a motion accepting the consent agenda based on receiving corrected financials from Wipfli. Warnecke moved that motion. Carpenter seconded. Motion passed.
4. **Discussion Item** –Public Comment (Any member of the public is welcome to take three minutes and share concerns or questions with the Board). There were no public comments.

1. **Action Item –** Presentation of Certificate of Election followed by election of IFAD Officers: Chairman/President, Vice Chair, Secretary, and a Treasurer. Fuller presented Gazdik a Certificate of Election since she is running unopposed in the May election. Carpenter nominated Gazdik as Chair and Spear as Secretary/Treasurer. Gazdik accepted the nomination for Chair and Spear accepted the nomination for Secretary/Treasurer. Warnecke nominated Carpenter for Vice Chair. Carpenter accepted the nomination of Vice Chair. Carpenter then made a motion to close the nominations. Warnecke seconded. Motion approved. All nominees were elected by acclamation.
2. **Action Item –** Future access to Mountain America Center for past IFAD Board members. Spear presented an updated IFAD Board of Directors Building Access Policy. The policy was updated to include founding Board members; Terri Gazdik, Mike Carpenter, Ron Warnecke, Bob Nitschke and Steve Vucovich. The revised policy also added the Centennial General Manager as a person that Board members must coordinate with when accessing the building. Warnecke moved to adopt the changes to the building access policy. Carpenter seconded. Motion passed.
3. **Discussion Item –** Review and discussion of HB375, HB388 and HJR5. Spear presented an overview of the House Bills and House Joint Resolution. Spear said HB375’s purpose is to allow cities and counties to adopt a 2% local option sales and use tax. The most impactful part of the bill states, “that no board shall have the authority to adopt any tax after January 1, 2027.” It also states, “any tax levied by an auditorium district that was adopted before January 2027, shall expire no later than January 1, 2031.” Spear explained that the wording to abolish auditorium districts is contrary to Idaho statute 67-4930, Dissolution of a District, which requires a petition to be signed by 3,000 people. If the petition is successful then the county commissioners would canvass a vote. ½ or more of the votes must be in favor in order to dissolve an auditorium district. Spear said he participated in a Zoom call convened by Representative Raybould where several entities stated they did not want to see any changes in local option taxes. Others, like the City of Meridian spoke against the bill because they want to establish an auditorium district.

Spear said he met with three individuals from the Pocatello Auditorium District and they indicated that the Greater Boise Auditorium District has already engaged the services of a lobbyist to oppose HB375 and HB388..

Spear said there is also a House Joint Resolution #5 where the legislature can authorize any county, city or town or other municipal corporation to levy a sales use tax within its jurisdiction. Raybould felt this constitutional amendment was needed.

Spear also reviewed HB388 proposing county residents can approve a 3% transient room tax. 50% of this collection would go to a property tax relief fund. The bill also requires owners of short-term rentals that don’t use a short-term rental marketplace to register with the State Tax Commission.

Gazdik asked what the point is for abolishing auditorium districts and Warnecke asked about the end game of the bill. Spear said he did not know and opined that it makes no sense to abolish a tax that is being paid by visitors to the area and replacing part of it with a local option tax that will sunset in four years. Fuller said it is like trading a 30-year mortgage for a credit card that in four years will become due. Gazdik said this would not allow any planning by communities. Fuller stated that the language in HB375 to abolish auditorium districts is unconstitutional because statute 67-4930 is how the legislature determined that auditorium districts would be abolished.

Spear said he responded to a survey sent by Representative Britt Raybould who appears to be the sponsor of HB375 and HB388. The survey asked to describe what the purpose of the auditorium district tax, what it is used for, how much total tax was collected since inception and for a comment. Spear said responded in the comment section that IFAD is not opposed to a local options tax as long as it wasn’t to the detriment of auditorium districts.

Before hiring a lobbyist, Fuller recommended the Board consider inviting local legislators to a future board meeting to discuss this legislation and brief them on the issues. Fuller said over 1,000 bills were proposed last legislative session and 350 were passed into law. Gazdik suggested inviting Raybould to a meeting with two board members to find out her purpose of the proposed legislation. Spear said he would contact Raybould and try to set up a meeting between May 6-13. The IFAD representatives recommended to participate in the meeting are the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director.

1. **Discussion Item –** Discuss Regional Economic Development (REDI) membership. Spear briefed the Board on the $250 contribution made annually and thought the funds could be reallocated elsewhere. Many local organizations have dropped their REDI membership. The Board said Spear can take action as he sees fit.
2. **Action Item –** Discuss partnering with Yellowstone Teton Territory (YTT) on a part-time consultant dedicated toward attracting conferences and events to Eastern Idaho. Spear said YTT will not find out about the proposal until June but wanted to keep this on the Board’s radar. Spear indicated that Pocatello has a Visit Pocatello entity and Boise has a Visit Boise entity. Idaho Falls has nothing and the grant would help fund a person designated to bring events to the area. Spear indicated that YTT controls all the funding for Region 6. Both Boise and Pocatello receive funding directly from the State.

**Report and Updates**

1. **Discussion Item –** Presentation from Erik Hudson
	1. Mountain America Center operations, March financial statement overview
		1. Net Income for March was ($28,149.97). The primary reason for the shortfall was moving the Stix concert from March to November. Hudson said if Stix had actualized the net profit would have been around $40K for the month of March.
		2. Expenditures were up slightly over budget due to extra expense for Event Staff Hockey & Ice Rental because of home playoff games.
		3. Utility costs were $3800 lower than last March due to the improvements to the HVAC system.
		4. For the year net income is $75,009.
		5. April, May and June should be very productive financial months.

Hudson said Anna Smith has been promoted to Director of Private Events. Spear asked Hudson why the revenues from hockey don’t appear to cover the costs. Hudson said when using hockey rental revenue only, that is true. But when you add in ancillary revenues from parking, the facility fee, suite and loge box rentals, and ticket royalty fees, hockey generates about $10K per game in net income. Hudson the plan is to increase the hockey parking and facility fee .25 cents each for next year.

* 1. Spud Kings Update – Hudson described the festivities for welcoming the Spud Kings back from winning the Dineen Cup. There will be a celebration at 6pm on 5-1-25 on the Teton Auto Plaza.
1. **Discussion Item** - Executive Director Report
	1. Executive Director Report Summary – Spear did not provide a summary.
	2. Building Update/New Signage – Spear reported that new signage installation started on 4-28-25. Estimated completion is the end of June for all signage both inside and outside of the building. Spear updated the Board on the gaps between the metal and the tilt up panels that will be completed by Smith Roofing. ATS will be on site this week to start the control upgrades on RTUs 1-4. Fuller asked about RTU2 being shut down because of a bad bearing in the motor and if that is a result of the system not functioning efficiently since the opening of the building. Spear said that is a possibility. Hudson said HVAC maintenance contracts are expiring at the end of April and that they are evaluating several proposals.
	3. Cash Flow Update – Spear said the healthy TRT revenue start to the year has positively positioned IFAD’s cash flow projections through 2032.
	4. State Tax Commission Reports – Spear compared February 2025 revenues of $160,214.22 with February 2024 revenues of $144,400.28.
	5. Action Items
		1. Contact Representative Raybould
2. **Discussion Item** - Legal Report – a legal report was not presented.

# Calendar and Announcements

1. **Upcoming IFAD Meeting** – **Next Meeting on May 27, 2025**
2. **Discussion Item** - Announcements and Minor Questions
3. **Discussion Item** - Agenda Items for May 27, 2025, meeting
	1. Airport Director will attend and present.

# Meeting adjourned at 8:15 AM