

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 6, 2018  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. The meeting was held in the Judge's Library, on the second floor of the Courthouse in Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ruben Rivera.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

A roll call was done by Ms. Shari Cormier, with the following members present:

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Gerrod Brasseur, Mr. Carlton Campbell, and Mr. Ruben Rivera

The following members were absent:

Ms. Gale Smith, Mr. Kirk Frith, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Dane Hebert, Ms. Christine Trahan, and Ms. Tammy Gordon

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, Ms. Roslyn White, and Ms. Felicia Williams

Mr. Ben Rivera informed the board that the City of Abbeville has appointed Ms. Roslyn White to represent them on the VEDA board for the new term ending June 4, 2022. Ms. Megan Lalande motioned the board to ratify the appointment. Mr. Jason Picard duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the July 2, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Carlton Campbell, duly seconded by Mr. Jacob Landry, and unanimously carried by the board.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. He provided a list of the invoices and expenses, totaling \$1,022.27. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Ms. Megan Lalande and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

### OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Anne Falgout reminded the board of the Economic Development training that will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. She informed the board that they will have speakers from the state and regional economic development agencies and she listed the names of those who had registered for the

event. Mr. Rivera added that the purpose of this training is for the board to be more informed and updated in economic development and function as a better system.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the second draw of the USDA grant has been approved and that \$22,939.26 has been received into the USDA account. She also informed the board that she will be working on the final report and the last draw, as the grant period has now ended. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux asked how to go about transferring the money from the USDA grant account to the operations account. He also requested that we ask the CPA if this money is considered income now or when it is transferred into the operations account.

### NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she and Ms. Shari Cormier completed business walks in Gueydan, Delcambre, and Kaplan. She stated that they visited 30 business. She also mentioned that several of the business stated that their business has been picking up and most felt that it was due to the oilfield recovery.

Ms. Falgout informed the board of the Retail Strategies Workshop that will be held on September 5, 2018. This workshop is aimed to focus on best practices, trends and retail recruitment. They also set aside time to talk with each municipality about the best opportunities in their town. Representatives from Maurice, Abbeville, Kaplan and Erath are planning to attend and have scheduled time to speak individually with the Retail Strategies team members.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she is currently working with Mayor LeBlanc in Erath about marketing a property on Hwy 14 for retail. She stated that she is also working with Mayor Theriot and Southern Lifestyle Development to market the Prairie Cove and Picard Farms properties in Maurice. Ms. Falgout said that she has reached out to seven business about the property in Maurice and two have the potential to materialize. These two businesses could be new businesses to the parish.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout presented the board with an updated report showing the funds that have been received in 2018. Mr. Ruben Rivera urged the board members to move forward with contacting the businesses they submitted in order to garner support of our agency. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux reminded the board members that the 2019 budget would need to be completed by October and that the funding amounts will be needed for that process.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that only one feasibility study proposal has been received. She informed the board that she is currently waiting for information from the LSU representatives who were asked to vet the study to see if there was anything that needed to be added. She also informed the board that Ms. Kady Rost, who is a statistician from the University of Denver, will be working on a questionnaire that will solicit information about the cattle and beef industry in Vermilion Parish.

Ms. Falgout informed the board of a workshop entitled "Harvesting Potential in the Field: Agritourism Logistics Liability & Sustainability". This will be held on August 27-28, 2018 and will include tours to existing agritourism operations in Vermilion Parish, as well as presentations focused on the region's needs and assets. It will also discuss ways to turn local farming operations into tourist attractions. She informed the board that the cost for her to attend would be \$100.00. Mr. Jason

Picard motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout to attend at the cost of \$100.00. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a written report detailing the accomplishments made by the VEDA office in the month of July.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge's Library/Conference Room.

#### ADJOURN

Upon motion by Ms. Megan Lalande, duly seconded by Mr. Jason Picard and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

---

Ms. Gale Smith  
Secretary