

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2023
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

Mr. Elliot Broussard led the Pledge of Allegiance before Mr. Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Linda Vincent, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, and Mr. Elliot Broussard

The following members were absent: Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following guests were present: Ms. Victoria Sagrera Bourque, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, Ms. Jennifer Gerard, Mr. Larry Campisi, Mr. James Faciane, Ms. Juliana Faciane and Ms. Lynn Guillory

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Larry Campisi stated that he came to the meeting to get help with locating Enterprise Zone maps as he is looking for property in the area to relocate the Aqua Dams manufacturing facility to Louisiana.

MINUTES: The minutes of the March 20, 2023, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux. Ms. Nikki Vidos duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$572.09. Ms. Anne Falgout motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the invoices. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Ms. Victoria S. Bourque provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in March. These included: working with 7 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests, holding 1 business event, and conducting 9 business visitations. She introduced two Cajun Country Caravan airstream groups to Vermilion Parish's industries and culture at Crawfish Haven. She also hosted six congressional staffers from the office of U.S. Senator John Kennedy and along with Mr. Mark Shirley, with the LSU AgCenter, led the group in a tour of Vermilion Parish. The group discussed areas of concern with business owners and local government officials.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Ruben Rivera noted that the discussion on VEDD Funding would be discussed under the Sustainable Funding Committee update.

Ms. Victoria S. Bourque provided the board with a list of committees and members. She noted that the Business and Industry Committee does not have a chair. Mr. Rivera noted that when all of the committees have been slated, he will be reaching out to all of the chairs with housekeeping rules and how to bring information back to the board. Ms. Anne T. Falgout requested information about the committee's meeting virtually.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Ruben Rivera prompted a board discussion regarding the need to hire a part-time marketing person to help with designing materials and social media posts. After a lengthy discussion Ms. Falgout noted that although the Communications and Promotions Committee has not yet met, the members may be able to help Ms. Bourque in this area and come to the board with a recommendation if needed later.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Cormier provided the board with an updated funding report.

Ms. Nikki Vidos reviewed the discussion from the February 8, 2023, meeting. She noted that the Sustainable Funding Committee recommends going forward with adding another parcel fee to the March 23, 2024, election. A detailed resolution needed to file with the State Bond Commission was presented to the board. Mr. Ruben Rivera read the proposed proposition aloud.

Shall the Vermilion Parish Economic Development District, State of Louisiana (the “District”), be authorized to levy an annual parcel fee of \$6.50 on all the property subject to taxation in Vermilion Parish with a \$6.50 maximum payment per tax-paying entity, for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033 (an estimated \$224,250.00 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the fee for an entire year), for the purpose of conducting activities that stimulate the economy, leverage local resources, and/or provide workforce opportunities?

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to move forward with adding the parcel fee proposition to the March 23, 2024, ballot. Ms. Anne T. Falgout duly seconded the motion. After a board discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Yeas – Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Ms. Linda Vincent, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Nikki Vidos and Ms. Tammy Gordon. Nays – None. Absent – Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Dexter Callahan and Ms. Anita Dupuis. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Claire Broussard noted that the Workforce Development Committee’s has not yet met.

Ms. Nikki Vidos, with the Strategic Planning Committee discussed the Vermilion LDRC (Louisiana Development Ready Community) and noted that they were in the process of finalizing the application.

Mr. Elliot Broussard left the meeting.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: The board members spoke about the areas they represent and shared things happening in their communities.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the District will be at 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Ms. Tammy Gordon, duly seconded by Ms. Nikki Vidos and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary