

MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2023  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:30 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. Nikki Vidos, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Claire Broussard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, and Mr. Elliot Broussard

The following members were absent: Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Linda Vincent, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, and Ms. Anne T. Falgout,

The following guests were present: Ms. Victoria Sagrera Bourque, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments regarding any of the items on the agenda.

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 12, 2023, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux. Mr. Jacob Landry 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 \$781.71. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux 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.

Ms. Anita Dupuis entered the meeting.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Ms. Victoria S. Bourque provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in April. These included: working with 8 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests, holding 1 business event, and conducting 5 business visits. She continued with the planning for the Vermilion Parish Job Fair, she connected local businesses owners with a loan assistance opportunity through disaster recovery funds, she met with the Mayor from the Town of Gueydan, and she compiled demographic reports for the parish and local municipalities.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Victoria S. Bourque informed the board that Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet has agreed to chair the Business and Industry Committee. She noted that an updated list of committees will be sent to all board members.

NEW BUSINESS: In answer to a question asked at the April meeting, Mr. Rivera informed the board that the Open Meetings Law states that meetings cannot be held virtually. He noted that this statute also includes committee meetings.

Ms. Cormier presented the board with a list of items that need to be completed before, during and after the committee meetings.

Mr. Elliot Broussard left the meeting.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that the Executive Committee has reviewed VEDA's past action plans and are updating them to include items that can be done by the committees as well as what items will

be tasked to Ms. Bourque. He noted that when completed it will be sent to the committee chairs for their input before being brought before the board for review.

Mr. Rivera presented the board with information about LSU's Louisiana Public Leader Program. He noted that he wanted to share the information with the board to make them aware of the program.

Ms. Cormier asked about sending out the annual stakeholder invoices as they usually go out in June of each year. She was asked to draft a letter that would accompany the invoices and send it out to the board for review.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that VEDA's 2022 Financial Review has been completed. She provided copies for the board members and noted that the CPA informed her that there were no issues that needed to be brought to the board.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that three board members will have terms expiring on August 1, 2023. She noted that letters will be sent to their representing entity and asked that they speak to them to discuss their wishes.

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

Ms. Claire Broussard updated the board on the Workforce Development Committee. She noted that members of the community have shown interest in working with the committee and hopes to schedule a meeting at the end of June. She also informed the board that VEDA is working with the Vermilion Parish School Board and a local company to offer education opportunities to Vermilion Parish's seniors.

Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board that the State Bond Commission was asked to review the wording of the parcel fee language and has an issue with the legality of exempting parcels from landowners who have more than one property. She noted that the State Bond Commission requested that VEDA have their attorney review the language. Mr. Guilbeaux was asked to contact Mr. Woodruff and ask him to review the parcel fee language.

Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board that the Strategic Planning Committee is focusing on the Vermilion Parish LDRC program. She noted that the first Steering Committee meeting will be held on May 30, 2023, with representatives from around the parish.

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, June 14, 2023.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Patrick Duhon, duly seconded by Ms. Anita Dupuis and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Ms. Anne T. Falgout  
Secretary