

MINUTES OF THE JULY 21, 2023  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

Mr. Patrick Duhon 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, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Linda Vincent, and Mr. Elliot Broussard

The following members were absent: Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Jacob Landry, and Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande

The following guests were present: Ms. Lynn Guillory, Ms. Ali Miller, Ms. Charlene Beckett, and Ms. Rebecca Shirley

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Lynn Guillory gave the board a summary of the Vermilion Parish Job Fair, which was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. She noted that 115 job seekers attended and that many of the employers were impressed with the caliber of job seekers. She also noted that 11 employers stated they were planning to hire someone they met at the job fair. She added that 2 job seekers attended the Job Seeker Workshop, and 24 businesses attended the Employer Breakfast.

Ms. Tammy Gordon entered the meeting.

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Ruben Rivera informed the board that the Vermilion Parish School Board has reappointed Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, the Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office has reappointed Mr. Elliot Broussard, and the Town of Delcambre has appointed Ms. Kristin Vincent to replace Ms. Tammy Gordon. They will all serve a 4-year term beginning August 1, 2023, and ending August 1, 2027. Ms. Anne T. Falgout motioned the board to accept the appointments. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

MINUTES: Ms. Nikki Vidos requested a change to the June minutes for more clarity on an issue. The minutes of the June 14, 2023, meeting was then approved with recommended changes on a motion made by Mr. Patrick Duhon. 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 \$1,008.86. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the invoices. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: There was no report provided for the month of June.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Patrick Duhon gave the final cost report for the Farmer's Appreciation Dinner. He noted that the presentation given by Commissioner Mike Strain was informative, and that everyone seemed to appreciate the gesture of the event.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Ruben Rivera noted that a review was completed for Ms. Victoria S. Bourque before her resignation as VEDD's Program Administrator was accepted. He noted that VEDD is very appreciative to her for the work she did and that VEDD is looking forward to working with her in her new role.

Mr. Rivera noted that in light of Ms. Bourque's resignation the Executive Committee has created a Transition Committee to oversee various roles that were conducted by Ms. Bourque and to serve as the hiring committee. The members of the Transition Committee are Ms. Nikki Vidos (1<sup>st</sup>. Chair), Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet (2<sup>nd</sup> Chair), Mr. Ruben Rivera (3<sup>rd</sup> Chair), Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Ms. Anne T. Falgout and Mr. Joshua Anderson.

Mr. Ruben Rivera noted that because of time constraints the Executive Committee approved the signing of a letter of support for the Southern Pecan Island Carbon Storage Hub Project. A copy of the letter was provided to the board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The board was provided with an updated funding report.

Ms. Nikki Vidos gave the report for the Transition Committee. She presented the board with a job description for a contract hire. This contract position would be in effect for 6 months and would consist of assisting local businesses and our stakeholders, educating the public, continuing the work of our committees and our programs set for 2023. She noted that an advertisement would need to be posted in the Abbeville Meridional.

Ms. Vidos updated the board on requests from the business community that the Transition Committee has managed in the past month. She noted that they received one media inquiry, two grant assistance requests and two letters of support requests.

Ms. Vidos informed the board that Ms. Bourque was also working on projects for our stakeholders and asked the board about having that stakeholder's board appointment assist with those projects in the interim. The board agreed that the VEDD board representative should be included in their representing authority's project and noted that if a project falls within one of the committees, then that committee should be tasked with assisting.

There was no update from the Workforce Development Committee.

Ms. Vidos gave an updated from the Sustainable Funding Committee. She informed the board that the parcel fee language needs to be adjusted to remove the "maximum payment per tax-paying entity" statement, because VEDD does not have the authority to exempt any taxpaying entities. She noted that because of the need to change the wording, the board must decide if any other changes need to be made. After a general discussion, Mr. Rivera read the proposed parcel fee language 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, for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033 (an estimated \$243,750.00 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 the current language and adding the parcel fee proposition to the March 23, 2024, ballot. Ms. Anne T. Falgout duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas – Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Linda Vincent, Ms. Nikki Vidos, and Ms. Tammy Gordon. Nays – Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Ruben Rivera and Ms. Anne T. Falgout. Absent: Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Mr. Jacob Landry, and Ms. Megan Lalande-Landry. The motion carried.

Ms. Nikki Vidos gave the update for the Strategic Planning Committee. She noted that the LDRC Vermilion Parish survey has not gotten the responses needed to move forward on their recommendation. She asked for help getting the survey information out to the public.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout gave a report on the Communications and Promotions Committee. She noted that the committee had their first meeting in June. They wrote one press release and set up a content calendar for social media that Ms. Cormier has agreed to help execute.

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, August 9, 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.

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Ms. Anne T. Falgout  
Secretary