

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:46 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. Claire Broussard, Ms. Linda Vincent, Ms. Kristin Vincent, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Nikki Vidos, and Mr. Elliot Broussard

The following members were absent: Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Jacob Landry, and Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande

The following guests were present: Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDA

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the August 9, 2023, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Nikki Vidos. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux 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 \$592.02. He noted that because the meeting was rescheduled payment of the invoices was approved by the Executive Committee. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and to ratify payment of the invoices. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: This was discussed under Transition Committee updates.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Cormier informed the board that she was asked by Louisiana Entergy Export Partners Coalition (LEEP) for VEDD's support by allowing them to display the VEDD logo on their website. She provided the board with a description of the organization, a list of the current partners, and examples of the content from the LEEP website. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to table the matter until the board members could review the organization's information. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Cormier presented the board with the initiation agreement for VEDD's 2023 financial review. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow Mr. Rivera to sign the agreement. Ms. Nikki Vidos duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that the Transition Committee is currently working with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury on a Hometown Revitalization Program Project. He noted that the Transition Committee provided the Police Jury with fifty project ideas which have been cut down to fourteen and they are currently trying to prioritize that list.

Ms. Cormier reminded the board that the 2024 budget meeting needs to be held in October as it will need to be presented for approval at the November meeting.

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

Ms. Nikki Vidos gave the report for the Transition Committee. She informed the board that they completed 4 preliminary phone interviews and will follow-up with Zoom and in person interviews. She noted that the committee hoped to make a formal recommendation to the board at the next meeting.

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 business assistance request, two grant assistance requests, one letter of support request and attended two meetings. The committee also continued work on Vermilion Parish Police Jury's Hometown Revitalization Project.

Ms. Vidos noted that Mr. Rivera met with Mr. Wendell Verret with the Twin Parish Port about the Vermilion shrimping industry. He noted that Mr. Verret wanted to move forward with the work he was doing with Ms. Victoria Bourque to support the local fisherman.

Mr. Rivera gave a report from the Executive Committee, he informed the board that he met with Ms. Shari Cormier to show his appreciation for what she has done for the organization. He also noted that the Personnel Committee's recommendation to the board is to continue Ms. Cormier's employment. Ms. Claire Broussard motioned the board to accept the committee's recommendation. Ms. Anita Dupuis duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Rivera also reminded the board that the annual executive committee elections will be held at the next meeting. He encouraged the board members to consider serving in one of the four positions.

Ms. Claire Broussard gave the update from the Workforce Development Committee. She informed the board that she spoke with Mr. Lonnie Richard with the Vermilion Parish School Board about their carpentry program and, along with the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce, met with the Nehemiah Project of Acadiana about a workforce grant.

Ms. Vidos gave an updated from the Sustainable Funding Committee. She informed the board that the paperwork has been submitted to the State Bond Commission and we are currently waiting to hear from a representative who will be reviewing the application.

Ms. Vidos gave an update on the Strategic Planning Committee. She noted that LDRC has had to be put on the back burner and she hopes that it can be picked up again after the hiring process is completed.

Ms. Cormier gave the update for the Communications and Promotions Committee. She informed the board that VEDD's website was down and cannot be repaired. She noted that the office received several quotes ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow a budget not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the Communications Committee to move forward with the new website. Ms. Nikki Vidos duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Rivera noted that the Business and Industry Development Committee met and discussed ideas. He noted that Ms. Kristy Doucet Touchet will give a report on that meeting at a later date.

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, October 11, 2023.

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

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary