

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2022
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. Dexter Callahan, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Joshua Anderson, and Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet

The following members were absent: Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Anita Dupuis, and Ms. Linda Vincent

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

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

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT- VPPJ: Mr. Ruben Rivera welcomed Mr. Joshua Anderson to the board. Mr. Anderson will replace Mr. Aidan Broussard as a representative of the Vermilion Parish Jury. He will serve a 4-year term beginning November 9, 2022 and ending November 9, 2026. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to ratify the appointment. Mr. Dexter Callahan duly seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 12, 2022, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Nikki Vidos. Ms. Claire Broussard 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 \$1,016.84. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the invoices. Mr. Elliot Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Ruben Rivera presented VEDD's 2023 budget to the board on behalf of the budget committee. He noted changes that were made from the previous budget. Mr. Dexter Callahan motioned the board to accept the 2023 budget. Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet duly seconded the motion and it carried with Ms. Nikki Vidos abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that the engagement letter for VEDD's 2022 financial review has been received from the auditors. This document initiates the mandatory review and is used to notify the Louisiana Legislative Auditors that Kolder, Slaven and Company, LLC will be handling the process. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow Mr. Ben Rivera to sign the engagement letter. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Elliot Broussard motioned the board to amend the agenda, allowing for items 8C and 9B to be discussed immediately. Mr. Dexter Callahan duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout entered the meeting.

Ms. Bourque informed the board that the \$180.50 remaining in the budget approval for merchandise will not cover the cost of the 12-shirt minimum order from Manuel's Screen Printing. She gave the board updated pricing for lower quantities. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow \$200

in additional funds. This will allow for \$380.50 for the purchase of t-shirts to be used as promotional items. Mr. Dexter Callahan duly seconded the motion. The motion was carried with opposition from Ms. Nikki Vidos.

Ms. Cormier informed the board of the need to reorder the push cards containing information about VEDD's services. These cards are given out when Ms. Bourque attends meetings or functions. She noted that the cost to reorder the cards from Copy Services would be \$120.00. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow \$200.00 to update and print the push cards. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with opposition from Mr. Richard Guilbeaux.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Ms. Victoria S. Bourque provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in October. These included: working with 7 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests, 5 business visits, and continued meetings with businesses, organizations, and individuals to introduce herself. She worked with the Vermilion Parish School Board to add local businesses to VPSB's Student Career Fair & Expo, attended the LA Sea Grant/LSU AgCenter Fisheries Tour and discussed Vermilion's coastal needs with federal, state, and local CWPPRA representatives."

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Bourque provided the board with an update on her visits with VEDD's stakeholders. She noted that she will complete her visits in November.

Ms. Claire Broussard informed the board that the Stakeholder Dinner will be held on January 26, 2023, in Erath. She noted that Save the Date emails will be sent out in November with formal invitations being mailed after January 1, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Rivera discussed having some of our board members attend LIDEA's Basic Economic Development Course in New Orleans on February 28, 2023 – March 3, 2023. He noted that this would give our board more understanding of VEDD's goals and the ability to bring a new perspective to the board, as well as our community. He asked Ms. Cormier to send the course information to the board members via email.

Ms. Bourque informed the board that VEDD will have a table at the Taste of Vermilion event, on November 17, 2022, showcasing Vermilion Parish's sweet and savory seasonings.

Ms. Bourque informed the board that VEDD has partnered with the Vermilion Chamber to hold a breakfast event on November 16, 2022, at Southern Oaks Country Club. The theme of the event will be "Keeping our Talent Local".

Ms. Bourque informed the board of VEDD's plans for Small Business Saturday on November 26, 2022. She described her plans for a scavenger hunt event with prizes for shoppers who visit the participating businesses.

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

Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board of the continued discussions being held by the Sustainable Funding Committee and noted that they hope to have a formal plan to be presented to the board at the next meeting.

Ms. Bourque informed the board that of the Workforce Development Committee's plans to tour Vermilion Parish's career campus at Abbeville High School.

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, December 14, 2022, at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Ms. Anne T. Falgout, duly seconded by Ms. Claire Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary