

MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2017
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Pat Rost called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The meeting was held in the Judge's Library, on the second floor of the Courthouse in Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Pat Rost.

Ms. Pat Rost requested a moment of silence.

A roll call was done by Ms. Gale Smith, with the following members present:

Ms. Pat Rost, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Jason Picard, Ms. Gale Smith, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Kirk Frith, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Paul Bourgeois, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Dane Hebert and Mr. Nash Patel

The following members were absent:

Mr. Aidan Broussard, and Ms. Sarah Trahan

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD and Corey Lege

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS – POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS/EXTENDED TERMS

Mr. Jacob Landry entered the meeting and Mr. Corey Lege entered the meeting as a guest.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux initiated a conversation about the possibility of extending the terms of board members. The bylaws state that the board members will serve four-year terms, but states nothing about the possibility of serving after the end of that term. Mr. Guilbeaux stated that he would like to offer current board members the choice to remain on the board on a year-to-year basis after their four-year term ends, if their appointing authority approves. Mr. Kirk Frith asked if there is a statutory requirement that the appointment is for four years. He also stated, that if this were the case, when a board member resigns then the replacement would serve the remaining of the four-year term and at that time the appointing authority would have the option to renew the appointment for another four-year term or appoint another representative. The board decided to consult legal advice on the matter. Ms. Anne T. Falgout will consult with the attorney.

Mr. Guilbeaux suggested the board delay the election of officers to October of each year because it is hard to make a quorum in the summer months. He also stated that the current officers would need to agree to extend their terms until the new officers would take over at the November meeting. The current officers were asked if they would agree to extending their terms and there was no opposition. Mr. Dane Hebert entered the meeting, and was asked if he would be opposed to extending his term as Vice President. He agreed to the extension as well. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux then

motioned the board to extend the terms of the current officers and postpone the executive elections to October and continue annually from there. Mr. Jason Picard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 5, 2017 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Kirk Frith, duly seconded by Mr. Paul Bourgeois, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. He reviewed the invoices and expenses, totaling \$5,431.70. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Carlton Campbell and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

Mr. Patrick Duhon and Ms. Megan Lalande entered the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Anne T. Falgout informed the board that VEDD has been awarded the Rural Business Development Grant. She stated that she has received the paperwork that requires her signature as the recipient. She also stated that more information, such as the accounting requirements, would be sent to us after the signed paperwork is received. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow Ms. Anne T. Falgout to sign the grant documents. Mr. Paul Bourgeois seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Anne Falgout handed out the remaining invoices to board members for delivery to their supporting authorities.

Mr. Ben Rivera opened a discussion about the UL campaigns class findings. He stated that the findings showed criticism for promoting the organization and not the parish. The staff plans to incorporate the boards suggestions into their advertising plans.

Ms. Anne Falgout addressed the changes at Planters Rice Mill. Ms. Falgout stated that she contacted the state economic development office as well as the City of Abbeville. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux suggested that Planters be contacted with an offer of help. Ms. Falgout also stated that she will offer to hold a job fair specific to the skill set of the employees who were laid off.

Mr. Paul Bourgeois and Mr. Dane Hebert left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout addressed changes to the GIS map application. She suggested that VEDA take over the hosting fee of \$500.00 per month in exchange for exclusive use. After a discussion, she suggested that we enter into further negotiations with Fenstermaker.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that LED has a grant available and she has submitted our job fair as a proposed idea. This would require a 1:1 match for a possible \$1,000.00 grant.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the state financial audit results have been received and that there were no concerns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Pat Rost brought up the need for evaluations of the employees and possible raises.

Mr. Kirk Frith motioned the board to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ben Rivera and unanimously carried. After the return from executive session, Mr. Kirk Frith informed the board that the Personnel Committee had unanimously agreed to defer any raises for the director, for this year because of the uncertainty of funding. He also stated that there would also be no decrease. Mr. Carlton Campbell motioned the board to accept the committee's recommendation. Mr. Nash Patel seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Carlton Campbell left the meeting.

Ms. Pat Rost addressed the committees. Mr. Jacob Landry had no additional information about the Agribusiness Committee as he had not been able to contact the committee members. Ms. Megan Lalande stated she is meeting with Existing Business Committee members individually to get things started. She talked about moving forward with the business walks and the planning of the Keep It Local program. She also stated that they were in the process of putting together a menu of services to help raise awareness about our program. Mr. Corey Lege was introduced as the new head of the Advanced Manufacturing Committee. He stated that he was researching advanced manufacturing to get a better awareness of exactly how to proceed.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux informed the board that he will be speaking to the finance committee at the school board. He stated that he requested information from the School Board regarding how many have applied for tax numbers as opposed to those that were cancelled. He stated that the results showed that there were over 1000 new applicants above those cancelled in the last three years.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a written report detailing the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in the month of June.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2017 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge's Library/Conference Room

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Ms. Megan Lalande, duly seconded by Mr. Ben Rivera and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Gale Smith
Secretary