

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2018
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera 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 Mr. Ruben Rivera.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

A roll call was done by Ms. Shari Cormier, with the following members present:

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Kirk Frith, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Paul Bourgeois, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and Mr. Dane Hebert

The following members were absent:

Ms. Sarah Trahan, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Gale Smith, Ms. Pat Rost, and Mr. Nash Patel

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, and Mr. Ronald Darby

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Jason Picard, duly seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Aidan Broussard gave the Treasurer's Report. He reviewed the invoices and expenses, totaling \$2,794.59. Upon motion by Mr. Kirk Frith, duly seconded by Mr. Dane Hebert and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout updated the board on the Stakeholder Appreciation Dinner that was held on March 21, 2018. She supplied the board members with a cost breakdown of the event, a list of the names of everyone in attendance and copies of the program materials. Mr. Paul Bourgeois suggested that she send copies of the program materials to the Police Jury, School Board and the other supporting entities.

Ms. Falgout provided the board with a quote in the amount of \$400.00 for the photography and design for an updated billboard to be used in Erath, LA. Mr. Ben Rivera suggested she contact Ms. Kristie Saltzman to see if she can do the design and if she charges for design services. Mr. Dane

Hebert motioned the board to allow for a \$400.00 cap to be used if Ms. Saltzman cannot do the design. Mr. Jason Picard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she made a presentation at the City of Abbeville's council meeting regarding VEDA moving into the empty office space on Veterans Memorial Dr. She stated that the Abbeville City Council has decided to review other options for the building before making a decision.

Ms. Falgout reminded the board that the Vermilion Parish Job Fair will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. She invited the board members to attend the luncheon that will follow the job fair. She also asked the board to allow the office to pay the job fair invoices and receive reimbursement from the Chamber. This would allow the use of the funds to be used as a match for the grant. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow for the payment of the invoices. Mr. Aidan Broussard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Ben Rivera addressed the board about current board member terms ending and which board members will be rolling off. He also spoke about the possibility of obtaining legislation to reduce the number of board members from 15 to 13 in order to lower the risk of not having a quorum. He asked the board members, who are also Police Jury members, if they would bring before the Jury the possibility of reducing the number of their representatives from five board members to three.

Mr. Rivera also addressed an issue with the board regarding absenteeism. He stated that we should not hold an absence against a board member if they attended a meeting when there was no quorum but missed the replacement meeting. Mr. Dane Hebert motioned the board to add "regularly scheduled meeting" to the absenteeism policy so that absences from these meetings do not negatively affect board members who attend. Attendance will be taken at all meetings, even those without a quorum and reported on during the next official meeting to serve as a record. Mr. Aidan Broussard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she had received an invoice from Acadiana Regional Alliance to renew her membership. She stated that the cost of renewal is \$100.00. She also informed the board of the upcoming Acadiana Day and stated that the cost to attend is \$35.00. Ms. Megan Landy-LaLande motioned the board to allow the payment of both the Acadiana Regional Alliance renewal fee and the Acadiana Day attendance fee. Mr. Carlton Campbell seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Ben Rivera informed the board that he would like to offer economic development training to the board members and the parish officials. He stated that Ms. Falgout has reached out to LIDEA about the possibility and was told that Louisiana Economic Development does offer such courses. He asked the board's opinion about such classes and the board agreed that this would be beneficial.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux gave a report on Fundraising/Funding. He stated that he has found no gaps in public funding that could be used by VEDA. He informed the board that we should look into funding from the private side.

Mr. Ben Rivera gave a report on the Agri-Business project. He stated that he and Anne have been in discussion with local cattle farmers about the project. He said that they have come up with several ideas for other businesses opportunities that may grow from this project. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux suggested starting a buying co-op as part of the project. Mr. Rivera requested we go forward with the project.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the USDA suggested that the next step should be a feasibility study to determine the viability of the project. Mr. Paul Bourgeois motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout to write an R.F.P. which is needed to get prices for the feasibility study. Mr. Jason Picard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Ben Rivera informed the board that “Board Member Updates” has been added to the agenda. This will allow the board members to communicate with their appointing authority and then report to the board.

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 March.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2018 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge’s Library/Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Ms. Megan Landy-LaLande, duly seconded by Mr. Dane Hebert and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Gale Smith
Secretary