



September 2019

## DEDICATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

**Maintaining a professional organization working for Vermilion's success.**

- Provided copies of August Highlights to stakeholder groups
- Worked with Kyla Fleming of USDA Rural Development to evaluate a Community Facility Grant
- Anne presented a project update and funding request at the Village of Maurice meeting
- Participated in interview with Shaun Hearen of the Abbeville Meridional regarding VEDA's current projects and funding; article ran in the paper covering those topics and Maurice rejoining participating funding entities
- Shared Board Member Spotlight for Elliot Broussard - article appeared in Gueydan Journal
- Received financial contributions from Vermilion Parish School Board and Village of Maurice
- Received financial contributions from the following business supporters: Gulf Coast Bank, Broussard Financial, Acadiana Ford & Thomson Smith & Leach
- Met with LED, legal counsel and Parish Assessor to discuss long-term funding sustainability; created internal committee to vet ideas and make recommendations to the board
- Held 2020 Budget Subcommittee Meeting in anticipation for the November board meeting
- Welcomed new Kaplan appointee, Jeremy Lartigue, to the VEDA board
- Sent two email newsletters to database with information about On-the-Job Training and SBA Loan Financing for flood-affected businesses
- Anne attended LIDEA Annual Conference in Lake Charles



## EXISTING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

**Encourage local expansion to have an economy that's self-supported.**

- Met with Brandy Ledet, LED's new Business Expansion Director, about Vermilion-based businesses
- Attended the Dupuy's 150th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting celebration
- Conducted research for Project Paradise, contacted national experts to understand best practices
- Conducted business outreach to 5 companies that could utilize the state's On the Job Training Program to subsidize their in-house efforts, made connection to Lesia Handy with the BCSC
- Answered 9 requests for information
- Conducted 1 business visit with local business owner

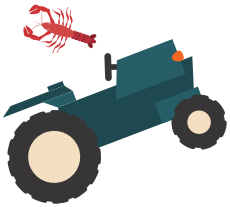


# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



## Drawing attention to investment opportunities.

- Met with local property owners to gauge their property's unique characteristics
- Promoted available property to local and national RV and campground contacts
- Met with Tom Chamberlain & Creed Romano of Entergy to discuss utility infrastructure and commercial development projects in the parish
- Conducted research on Fabtech Expo in Chicago
- Spoke with Site Location Partnership about upcoming Site Selector event and tactics for attendance
- Initiated Prospect Foil - reviewed site needs and client's strategic advantage with Twin Parish Port staff
- Initiated Prospect Ernest - reviewed site needs, arranged property visits, and conducted due diligence
- Initiated Prospect Owl - reviewed project details to evaluate overall impact to the parish
- Continued due diligence with Prospect Skin evaluating the project and its potential long-term benefits
- Conducted site research from 2 prospects - food manufacturer (SLP) & 200K facility (LED) - no matches



## Using agriculture, aquaculture & fisheries to keep our uniqueness.

- Met with coastal parish partners to discuss a potential coalition to capitalize on our region's unique assets related to the seafood industry
- Board reviewed and approved Special Project funding as a gap financing tool to attract viable businesses to the parish in exchange for job creation

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## Supporting improvements & partnerships to create better communities.

- Spoke with Acadiana Planning Commission about a green infrastructure project with the EPA
- Explored potential tourist attraction with out of town developer
- Worked with Rebecca Shirley at One Acadiana to plan a small business event with Congressman Higgins
- Reviewed RIVR projects & encouraged advocacy with local legislative delegation
- Shared 35 positive articles on VEDA and Keep It Local, Vermilion Facebook pages to build community pride and share useful information with followers
- Worked with the Vermilion Arts Council to build programming for 2 upcoming local events

# UPCOMING EVENTS

TBD - Abbeville Opportunity "Pitch" Event

10/7 - VEDA Sustainable Funding Committee Meeting

10/8 - Kiwanis Officer Installation Ceremony - Anne speaking

10/10 - United Way of Acadiana's Women Who Mean Business Awards - Anne is a recipient

10/15 - Palmetto Island State Park Nature Center Project Meeting - Anne attending

10/16 - One Acadiana Executive Committee Meeting - Anne attending

10/21-10/22 - Statewide Economic Development Summit (Baton Rouge) - Anne attending

11/4 - LED & Entergy Roadshow (Crowley) - Anne & Shari attending

11/5 - Congressman Higgins Visit in coordination with One Acadiana

11/11 - 11/14 FabTech Expo - Anne attending