

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2019
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Patrick Duhon.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Jason Picard, Ms. Tammy Gordon and Mr. Gerrod Brasseur

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD and Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ruben Rivera welcomed the new representative for the City of Kaplan, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, to the board.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande entered the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the current Executive Committee for another term. There were no objections from the Executive Committee members or other nominations for any of the positions. Mr. Carlton Campbell duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Ruben Rivera will serve as President, Mr. Patrick Duhon will serve as Vice-President, Mr. Aidan Broussard will serve as Treasurer and Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande will serve as Secretary.

MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes of September 9, 2019, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande questioned the use of both VEDD and VEDA in the minutes. As VEDD is the initials for Vermilion Economic Development District, all uses of VEDA will need to be changed to VEDD. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to accept the minutes with the noted changes. Ms. Anita Dupuis duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Aidan Broussard gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$780.00. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a list of accomplishments made by the VEDD office in the month of September. These included: conducting 1 business visit, answering 9 requests for information and conducting business outreach to 5 companies that could utilize the state's On the Job Training Program. She also worked with 7 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She added that she met with LED's new business retention director and members of Entergy's business development team to discuss opportunities in Vermilion.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout updated the board on VEDD's relationship with Site Location Partnership and informed the board of their suggestion that she attends the Fabtech Expo in Chicago. Ms. Falgout presented the board with travel and hotel costs that range from \$1,100.00 to \$1,800. She noted that this is within the \$2,500.00 yearly travel limit that has already been approved. The board agreed that Ms. Falgout should attend the Expo and that a vote was not necessary because travel costs were allocated at the July 1, 2019 meeting.

Ms. Falgout noted that she spoke to Ms. Clair Marceaux, Cameron Parish Port Director, about the possibility of initiating a purchasing event to bring together the Cameron businesses with Vermilion companies that may be able to provide services to them. Ms. Marceaux responded that she could help with a hiring event, but Representative Ryan Bourriaque would need to be contacted about a purchasing event with the Cameron businesses. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux volunteered to speak to Representative Bourriaque at an upcoming meeting he has scheduled.

Ms. Falgout updated the board on Prospect Skin. She noted that the prospect was currently waiting on the bank's decision on their loan application.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she met with Mr. Mike Tarantino, President of the Iberia Industrial Development Foundation, Mr. Wendell Verret, Director of the Twin Parish Port Commission and Ms. Rebecca Shirley, of One Acadiana, to discuss to the UL Seafood Study. They agreed that Iberia and Vermilion parishes should align and work together. She stated that Dr. Stewart is currently mapping out geographically all the assets that were outlined in the study and addressing gaps. When this is completed, a formal plan will be prepared to address those needs. The group proposed forming a formal Coastal Seafood Coalition and initiate an intergovernmental agreement or cooperative endeavor agreement between the two parishes. Mr. Rivera asked that Ms. Falgout reach out to Mr. Jay Campbell, with the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal District, to be a part of this coalition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout provided the board members with a list of funds that have been received in 2019. She noted the receipt of contributions from Acadiana Ford, Gulf Coast Bank, Broussard Financial Group, the Village of Maurice, the Vermilion Parish School Board, Thomson, Smith and Leach and the City of Kaplan. She also informed the board that the Sustainable Funding Committee will meet on Monday, October 7, 2019 and that Mr. Calvin Woodruff has agreed to attend.

Mr. Rivera asked Ms. Falgout if she had any information about the USDA grant that VEDD applied for to cover the cost of a feasibility study on the cattle industry. She noted that she has not heard anything recently but would contact them again.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Ruben Rivera asked the board members if there was anything notable happening that they would like to share with the board. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande spoke about the upcoming Taste of Vermilion event; Mr. Patrick Duhon spoke about Leadership Vermilion graduation; Ms. Roslyn White spoke about the approaching completion of the Abbeville airport terminal project, the Cattle Festival, the Giant Omelette Festival and Thursday's Sounds on the Square; Mr. Jeremy Lartigue spoke about the City of Kaplan recently tearing down the old Jr. Food Mart; and Ms. Anita Dupuis spoke about Gueydan's upcoming Community Outreach Festival.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Patrick Duhon, duly seconded by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary