

MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2020
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. The meeting was held via teleconference with access to the general public per guidelines issued by the Governor's office.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ruben Rivera.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Mr. Gerrod Brasseur, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Dexter Callahan and Ms. Roslyn White

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Carlton Campbell, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Patrick Duhon and Mr. Jeremy Lartigue

The following guests were present:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mr. Elliot Broussard entered the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 9, 2020 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, duly seconded by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$398.01. 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 April. These included: answering 47 requests for information (all COVID 19 related), working with 1 entrepreneur on a new business concept and working with one prospect on their plans to showcase locally sourced products. She also, assisted the City of Erath with their sewer-related grant submission and conducted an outreach to businesses impacted by COVID-19; cataloging concerns and resources provided.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the marketing company hired to do the survey for the cattle study is currently making calls to our local cattle producers using lists provided by the Farm Bureau Federation, the Cattleman's Association and a list purchased by the surveyor. She noted that the press

release that she sent out has also generated new leads. She also noted that she would be submitting a reimbursement for the initial costs of the project later this month.

Ms. Falgout stated that the COVID-19 response has consumed the majority of her work in April. She informed the board that she has assisted 150 individual businesses since the shutdown began. She noted that she published 11 newsletters with various COVID-19 related resources and updates in April, worked with the media on COVID related stories, worked with local government agencies and made a presentation at the Abbeville City Council meeting. She also noted that she is working with regional partners to offer webinars to business owners. Ms. Roslyn White complimented Ms. Falgout on the presentation she gave to the Abbeville City Council and informed the board that the meeting was viewed by about 2000 people.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that May is generally the month that the board discusses sending out the yearly stakeholder invoices. She noted that because of the COVID-19 pandemic the board needs to be mindful of asking our business supporters for funding and suggested delaying the process. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux noted that the supporting entities may require invoices in order to create their yearly budgets. The board asked Ms. Falgout to write a letter to the supporting entities informing them that our yearly invoicing will be delayed because of the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Rivera asked that the letter be sent to the board members in attendance for review before going out to the supporting entities.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that VEDD's phone/internet contract with KAPTEL will expire on July 31, 2020. She noted that 30 days' notice is required to cancel, and the contract will automatically renew for one year if no notice is received. She also noted that the office has not had any problems with the service they have received from KAPTEL. The board agreed to let the contract renew for another year.

Mr. Aidan Broussard left the meeting.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with information regarding the SEDAP Grant. She noted that Delta Regional Authority has extended their deadline for submissions to June 28, 2020 and presented the board with several project ideas. The board asked Ms. Falgout to choose three options that would work best for Vermilion Parish and present a more formal recommendation next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the necessary forms have been sent to the State Bond Commission and the Secretary of State. She noted that VEDD's application should be on the State Bond Commission's agenda for their next meeting on May 22, 2020 and if we receive the certificate of approval from the State Bond Commission, we can then move forward with notification to state and local government agencies.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Tammy Gordon stated that the increase in Delcambre's seafood sales have been unbelievable. Mr. Ruben Rivera noted that the Vermilion Chamber continues to do a good job putting out notices and webinars. Ms. Falgout noted that they will be working to put together some technical program ideas and will reach out to Lynn to update her on that status. Mr. Elliot Broussard stated that the Sheriff's Office's enforcement has not wavered. Mr. Dexter Callahan informed the board that the VPPJ has approved a 3-phase plan approach for reopening business in Vermilion Parish and are waiting for the Governor's authorization before moving forward with that plan.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Ms. Tammy Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Dexter Callahan and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary