

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2020
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 12:18 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. Elliot Broussard.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon,
Mr. Gerrod Brasseur, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Ms. Anita Dupuis, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent:

Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Dexter Callahan, 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. Ruben Rivera entertained a motion to amend the agenda to address voting items first in the interest of time. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to move items 7E, 7B, and 8B to the top of the agenda. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 5, 2020 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande. The motion was 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 \$5,714.97. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Ms. Tammy Gordon 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 July. These included: Sending 7 new business owners postcards introducing VEDD and offering assistance, answering 6 inquiries from existing businesses, and working with 3 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She assisted Representative Miguez's office with 2 constituent issues. She also worked with Abbeville officials & the Acadiana Planning Commission to add details and reference historic studies in the Abbeville Prospectus.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout provided the board with a report detailing VEDD's COVID-19 response through August 31, 2020. She informed the board that the "Link and Learn" program, that she has been working on with One Acadiana and local internet providers, has been launched and the information has been distributed to the VPSS Virtual School contacts and community. She noted that they hosted the second-to-last webinar on September 2, 2020 and that she would continue to track and distribute any information as it becomes available.

Ms. Falgout provided the board with a copy of the letter and application that was sent to Prospect Skin. She also provided the board with a copy of the tracking details confirming that the packet was received. She noted that the prospect did not respond to her emails or return the requested information. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to have Ms. Falgout send the prospect a final letter informing him that his request has been closed and that he would need to complete the grant application for any future assistance. The motion was duly seconded by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the yearly invoices have been mailed to the stakeholders based on feedback from the appointments.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she has received the final report from Site Location Partnership (SLP). She noted that because of COVID VEDD will have some credits due if we renew the contract and that she still has questions regarding the report. Ms. Falgout asked that the contract renewal discussion be tabled until she can get the information she needs for a formal recommendation to the board.

Ms. Falgout updated the board on the Prospect Graze feasibility study. She noted that Paul Fitzpatrick, with Impact Development, has agreed work on the VEDA Cattle/Beef Industry Study and Prospect Graze's Feasibility Study simultaneously. She noted that in addition to the \$5,000.00 that the VEDD board committed to the phase 2 study, she was able to get additional funding from One Acadiana and the remainder of the costs will be paid by the prospect. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to move \$5,000.00 from the Special Projects Fund to VEDD's operating account to cover the cost of the Beef Processing Plant Feasibility Study. Mr. Elliot Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that Vermilion Parish was approved for individual assistance, so the office will be sharing information on applications and documentation for FEMA and SBA as it becomes available.

Mr. Ruben Rivera informed the board that the Personnel Committee has completed Ms. Shari Cormier's review and the committee's recommendation is to continue her employment at the current rate of pay. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Ruben Rivera reminded the board that the annual election of officers is scheduled to be held at the October board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the VEDD office has completed the requirements of notifying the Registrar and the Clerk of Court offices of our proposition for the November ballot. The required

notice has also been sent to the Abbeville Meridional for publishing. She also informed the board that she has contacted Billy Hobbs with Black and White PR who has agreed to help with putting a video together. She noted that she was offered free drone footage of the parish from a new local business owner. Ms. Falgout hopes to have something ready in a few weeks. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow the Executive Committee, Ms. Falgout, and Mr. Woody Woodruff to approve the video before it is released. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Falgout reminded the board that budget planning usually begins in September.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, pending the Governor's decision to move the state into Phase 3.

ADJOURN

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary