

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2020
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 12:04 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, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Dexter Callahan, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent:

Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Carlton Campbell, 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.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow the current Executive Committee to remain in their current positions until the board can meet in person. This motion was duly seconded by Mr. Dexter Callahan and unanimously carried by the board.

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 2, 2020 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande. The motion was duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard, and unanimously carried by the board.

Ms. Roslyn White entered the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$1,700.34. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Ms. Roslyn White 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 3 visitations with local business owners, assisting 2 jobseekers with their search, answering 7 inquiries from existing businesses, and working with 3 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She worked with local agencies to offer relief to those affected by Hurricane Laura – getting people tarps, helping them locate info for

FEMA & SBA and creating a way to capture issues related the hurricanes in order to follow-up with the businesses who respond. She also completed a series of 15 COVID-19 business webinars covering various topics.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she spoke to our account representative at SLP to let him know that VEDD would like to postpone discussions about renewing their services until after the election. He suggested that we start with a budget and then we can pick and choose the services that would best suit us if we would like to move forward. Ms. Falgout noted that VEDD should have a credit of \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 because of services that could not be provided because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Falgout updated the board on the Cattle/Beef Industry Study. She noted that Paul Fitzpatrick, with Impact Development, will work on the Phase 2 Plant Study first, because Prospect Graze will need that information to meet their timeline. The prospect is hoping for a November announcement.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that because of COVID-19 and the hurricanes that have hit this area, this holiday season will be particularly important to our small retail businesses. She noted that she would be applying for VEDD to be a “Neighborhood Champion” through the American Express Small Business Saturday Program. Should VEDD get accepted the participating retailers will get merchandise and advertising materials. Ms. Falgout asked the board for a budget of \$250.00 for printing, advertising and supplies for Small Business Saturday and holiday-related promotions. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout a budget of \$250.00 to be used for Small Business Saturday and holiday-related promotions. This motion was duly seconded by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that in anticipation of early voting, she has prepared an inspirational video about VEDD. She noted that it will be released on social media and will be added to our website. She also provided the board with a list of community members who have made videos in support of the proposition. She noted that these videos were not made by VEDD but encouraged the board members to “like” and share the videos on their networks in order to have them circulating throughout parish. Mr. Ben Rivera encouraged the board to note that the proposition is “the last item on the ballot” because that is something voters may remember.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Elliot Broussard noted that Vermilion Parish had more damage from Hurricane Delta than Hurricane Laura. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux noted that he will be sending out the Parcel Fee information to his contacts. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande spoke about Maurice’s new water system coming online in November. Mr. Patrick Duhon spoke about Duhon Brothers weathering the storm well, never running out of fuel or power and how prior planning matters. Mr. Dexter Duhon noted that he has gotten several calls from constituents and is working to get issues solved. Ms. Anita Dupuis told the board that Gueydan is still having power issues and that meals are being distributed from the town hall. Mr. Ruben Rivera noted that the Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual State of Vermilion meeting on October 22, 2020. Ms. Roslyn White stated that the City of Abbeville is continuing storm clean up and that they were able to get streets passible within 24 hours of the storm. She also noted that the Police Jury has received more tarps and they will be distributed to the

municipalities. Ms. Tammy Gordon noted that most of Delcambre has had their power restored and that they were trying to have a market next month.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary