

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2021
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:09 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. Carlton Campbell.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Ms. Roslyn White, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Aidan Broussard, and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent:

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Dexter Callahan, and Mr. Gerrod Brasseux

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.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 3, 2021 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux. The motion was duly seconded by Ms. Roslyn White, and 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 \$877.71. Mr. Carlton Campbell motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report with adjustments as stated by the treasurer and pay the invoices, Ms. Tammy Gordon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in March. These included: conducting 3 business visitations, consulting with 1 pre-venture, and working with 6 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She also held our Q1 Business Tune-Up with 22 registrants, conducted outreach to landlords around the parish to inform them about the state's rental assistance program, and hosted a LA Development Ready Community meeting with representatives from Abbeville, Kaplan, Erath, Delcambre, and LED.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the contractor, Impact Development, did not meet the deadline to submit the completed cattle industry study. She asked the board to allow her to renegotiate the terms of the grant with USDA and ask for an extension, as well as possibly a new vender to complete the study. She also asked for authorization to contact legal counsel about the matter. Ms. Tammy Gordon motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout to renegotiate with USDA, consider legal action and/or

pursue a new vendor according to USDA's guidance. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board of issues with the office internet speed. She noted that because of the pandemic, teleconferences have become a necessity and the office's current internet speed cannot handle such calls without interruption. She provided the board with the cost of upgrading the Kaptel account. The board agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting and asked Ms. Falgout to get pricing from other providers.

Ms. Falgout updated the board with a report on the expansion and retention projects, as well as the business prospects she is currently working with. She noted that the Prospect Graze project has been pushed back and LED has put a hold on any offers until the prospect is ready to move forward.

Ms. Falgout informed the board of a grant program offered by AARP. The Community Challenge Grant is part of the nationwide AARP livable community's initiative that helps communities become great places to live for residents of all ages. She noted that Erath and Kaplan will be submitting applications for the grant and that she will be assisting Kaplan with their application process.

Ms. Falgout informed the board of the media projects that she has been working on. She noted a news release that she wrote about the new restaurants around the parish that was picked up by several outlets. She also noted a week-long project with KADN News 15 that will have Al Hebert at five different locations in Vermilion Parish during the morning show and a project with NOLA.com and The Advocate will feature Vermilion in the first of a series called "Lost in Louisiana".

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rivera asked Ms. Falgout to schedule a committee meeting to update the members and get their opinions on moving forward.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

The board members each spoke about the areas they represent and shared things happening in their communities.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Ms. Roslyn White, duly seconded by Mr. Aidan Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary