

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2021
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La. and via teleconference per guidelines issued by the Governor's office.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Patrick Duhon before Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, Ms. Roslyn White, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Carlton Campbell, and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent: Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Aidan Broussard, 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 May 5, 2021 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux. The motion was duly seconded by Mr. Patrick Duhon, 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 invoices and expenses totaling \$693.06. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux then motioned the board to have \$50,000.00 moved from VEDD's Special Projects Account to VEDD's Operating (Checking) Account to cover costs of operating the district through the end of the year. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried by the board.

Mr. Guilbeaux asked about sending out yearly invoices and noted that meetings with the appointing authorities should be conducted within the next month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in May. These included: conducting 1 business visitation, answering 3 inquiries from existing businesses, consulting with 3 pre-venture requests, and working with 1 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She also re-engaged the Job Fair planning team to produce a parish wide event in August, she joined the City of Abbeville's Louisiana Development Ready Communities Committee and worked with Nola.com's video crew to film "Lost in Louisiana" pilot showcasing Vermilion Parish.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Shari Cormier informed the board that Ms. Falgout has spoken to the USDA and they are waiting on Delta Regional Authority's formal response to the grant extension request. Ms. Cormier noted that Ms. Falgout has informed the USDA that Mr. Fitzpatrick was sent a demand letter giving him the option to provide the Cattle/Beef report or repay the deposit already paid to him. She also noted that copy of the letter will be sent to the USDA, along with any correspondence.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that the VEDD staff completed the Community Competitiveness Index with the help of Mr. Robert Abboud of LED, members of the VEDD board, and the public. Ms. Cormier reminded the board that this index is a tool used to develop our action plan and monitor our success. Mr. Abboud will complete the assessment and provide VEDD with the findings.

Ms. Cormier noted that Ms. Falgout was absent from the meeting because she was speaking to the Vermilion Parish Police Jury regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funding for infrastructure

projects. Ms. Falgout shared VEDD's interest in studying parish's sewer capacity, systems, and potential challenges from a broader perspective. The result of the study would help both VEDD and the Police Jury and other public entities prioritize sewer projects that could enhance Vermilion's marketability. Ms. Falgout wants the Jury to support a grant proposal for the study and cooperate on the research as needed when the study is commissioned.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Cormier presented the board with a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement drafted by Louisiana Economic Development. She informed the board that LED has received funding from the Economic Development Administration to provide technical assistance to Louisiana businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Falgout submitted VEDD's interest in being a contract assistance provider and LED has accepted. She noted that LED has agreed to reimburse us for up to \$10,000 for work done over the next 18 months and includes activities that are within our current program. She also noted that the contract was approved by legal counsel. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to authorize Ms. Anne T. Falgout to sign, on behalf of the organization, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Louisiana Economic Development (LED). Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Cormier presented the board with an updated funding report. Mr. Rivera noted that the office has reached out to the City of Abbeville and the Vermilion Parish Police Jury and plans to have those meetings take place this month.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout entered the meeting.

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, July 7, 2021 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Patrick Duhon, duly seconded by Ms. Anita Dupuis and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary