

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

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:08 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 a request for a moment of silence by Mr. Ruben Rivera.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Gerrod Brasseur, Mr. Carlton Campbell, and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent: Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Tammy Gordon, and Mr. Aidan Broussard

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 June 2, 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 \$753.68. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in June. These included: conducting 1 business visitation, answering 6 inquiries from existing businesses, consulting with 5 pre-venture requests, and working with 1 business prospect/project to meet their specific requests. She also began employer recruitment for the August 17, 2021, job fair, planned the Employer Workshop and the Jobseeker Training events, worked with the City of Abbeville on the Louisiana Development Ready Communities committee, worked with the Town of Erath on their Brownfield's grant application, and worked with Picard Farms on commercial tenant recruitment.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Falgout informed the board that our representative at the USDA contacted Mr. Fitzpatrick and he has agreed to complete the Cattle/Beef study by July 15, 2021. She was also able to get the grant deadline extended to July 31, 2021. Ms. Falgout noted that because of the timing, a special meeting will need to be called for the board to review the study.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with the results of the Community Competitiveness Index, along with a list of recommendations from Louisiana Economic Development.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Falgout presented the board with the findings from VEDD's 2020 Financial Reports. She noted that the CPA said that there were no issues that needed to be brought to the board.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a list of stakeholder invoices that have been prepared. She asked that the board members review the list and let the office know if they require any changes or if they would like hand-deliver the invoice to their appointing authority instead of it being mailed.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a letter from Mr. Scott Angelle asking VEDD to sign a resolution showing support for the resumption of federal offshore leasing in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Ruben Rivera asked that this item be tabled until more information could be obtained on the matter.

Ms. Falgout reminded the board that she has been working on a project that has stemmed from the UL Seafood Study. She noted that she was contacted by the clients about an extension to the project to be located in the northern part of the parish. VEDD was able to recommend a property that fit their storage needs and provide a startup for their current project. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux informed the board that Prospect Graze is still planning a property search in the next few months.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Falgout noted that VEDD has received a contribution from Slemco.

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, August 4, 2021 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary