

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 4 , 2021
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:05 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. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Aidan Broussard, and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent: Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Gerrod Brasseux, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jason Picard, and Mr. Dexter Callahan

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 July 7, 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. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$2,784.32. 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. Ms. Tammy Gordon entered the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in July. These included: conducting 2 business visitations, answering 8 inquiries from existing businesses, consulting with 2 pre-venture requests, and working with 3 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She hosted the Job Seeker Training event and continued the planning of the Employer Workshop and Job Fair. She also assisted the City of Kaplan with Liberty Rice Mill research, the City of Erath with their Brownfields Grant application, and the City of Abbeville with their LA Development Ready Community project.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Falgout informed the board that Mr. Fitzpatrick did not meet the deadline to provide us the Cattle/Beef study. She noted that she was unsure of what request the USDA will make regarding repaying the funds. Ms. Falgout's recommendation was to pursue legal measures to get our payments returned. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to contact Mr. Calvin Woodruff and start legal proceedings. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux asked Ms. Falgout to ask Mr. Woodruff's legal opinion about requesting the entire grant amount, if needed, along with legal fees, and economic loss. Mr. Elliot Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Ruben Rivera requested that Ms. Falgout also explore other options for the study.

Ms. Falgout provided the board with a list of organizations/government agencies that have provided a letter of support or resolution to Mr. Scott Angelle for resuming federal offshore leasing in the Gulf of Mexico. Ms. Falgout noted that as a coastal parish this may be in our best interest. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to have Ms. Falgout sign the resolution in support of resuming federal offshore leasing in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she has spoken to Prospect Graze. They will be closing on their other facility within the week and will be looking to expand their operations in Vermilion Parish as was originally planned.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she submitted a letter of interest to the EPA requesting funds to conduct a sewer study. Included with the letter was the Police Jury Resolution and a support letter from the Acadian Planning Commission. She noted that because of the tight deadline the letter had to be submitted prior to the board meeting and asked the board to ratify our application for these funds. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to ratify the application for the EPA funds. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a partnership agreement with Twin Parish Port for their Seafood Hub Grant Application. The terms were in line with services that VEDD already provides, and the agreement doesn't require any financial investment, only a commitment to assist any companies that locate in the Seafood Hub or participate in their program. She noted that she signed the paperwork because the deadline was prior to the board meeting and asked that the board ratify our participation in the agreement. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to ratify the execution of the partnership agreement. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Ruben Rivera provided a list of upcoming election dates and noted which of the elections would be parish wide.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Falgout provided the board with a funding update and Mr. Rivera informed the board that, as discussed at the last meeting, no fees can be opposed on utility services unless voted on by the public. Ms. Falgout informed the board that she would schedule the meetings with the police jury members and that it would be better if done in small groups, before their committee meetings.

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, September 1, 2021 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary