

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

Mr. Elliot Broussard led the Pledge of Allegiance before Mr. Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Ruben Rivera, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Ms. Linda Vincent, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Claire Broussard, and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent: Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Mr. Aidan Broussard, and Mr. Jacob Landry

The following guests were present: Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, Ms. Charlene Beckett, and Ms. Lynn Guillory

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments regarding any of the items on the agenda.

MINUTES: The minutes of the August 3, 2022, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was 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 \$1,186.14. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the invoices. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Because of illness, Ms. Victoria S. Bourque did not attend the meeting. Ms. Bourque's report will be provided to the board and reviewed at the next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Bourque will provide the board with an update on her visits with VEDD's stakeholders at the next board meeting.

Ms. Claire Broussard informed the board of the Stakeholder Dinner Committee's decision to postpone the event until early in 2023. The decision to postpone the dinner will allow Ms. Bourque to have more time to introduce herself to VEDD's stakeholders, meet with members of the community, and work with local businesses. It would also give VEDD more time to host events, establish standing committees and to develop a larger strategy plan that could be announced at the dinner. Ms. Anita Dupuis motioned the board to accept the committee's decision to postpone the Stakeholder Dinner as presented by Ms. Broussard. Ms. Nikki Vidos duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Shari Cormier updated the board on VEDD's EDA grant. She informed the board that she answered the state's request for clarification on a few items, but she has not yet been contacted about instructions for receiving the grant funds. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux noted the board's decision, at the August meeting, to allow for the opening of an account at Vermilion Bank, if necessary to receive funds. He motioned the board to allow a \$200.00 deposit into the account if it is opened. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Rivera asked Ms. Cormier to contact the CPA to get his opinion about keeping an account open permanently for receipt of grant funds.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that none of the board members conveyed to her any issues with changing VEDD's meeting date from the first Wednesday of the month, to the second Wednesday of the month. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to adopt the second Wednesday of the month as the official meeting date for the organization. Ms. Anita Dupuis duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Nikki Vidos addressed the board about the need to form a Workforce Development Committee. This committee will create projects and partner with other organizations within Vermilion Parish to create opportunities and enrich our workforce. She noted that Mr. Jacob Landry has agreed to chair this new committee which will include both VEDD board members and members of the community. Ms. Claire Broussard agreed to join the committee and serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow for the creation of the Workforce Development Committee. Ms. Nikki Vidos duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Rivera asked the board to table the discussion about Ms. Cormier's yearly review until the October meeting. Several board members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Cormier's efforts in the daily operations of the VEDD organization.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Cormier provided the board with an updated funding report.

Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board of the continued discussions being held by the Sustainable Funding Committee and noted that they hope to have a formal plan to be presented to the board at the October meeting.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that the Transition Committee's duties have expired as of September 1, 2022.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: The board members spoke about the areas they represent and shared things happening in their communities.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the District will be at 5:30pm on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary