

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2023
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. Joshua Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance before Mr. Rivera requested a moment of silence.

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

The following members were absent: Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Elliot Broussard, and Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet

The following guests were present: Ms. Victoria Sagrera Bourque, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, Ms. Charlene Beckett, and Ms. Harper Duhon

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 11, 2023, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Nikki Vidos. Mr. Jacob Landry 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 \$1,449.99. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the invoices. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande entered the meeting.

Ms. Shari Cormier presented the 2023 insurance policy renewal quotes to the board. Ms. Anne T. Falgout motioned the board to approve the renewal of the three insurance policies at the total cost of \$2,923.86 and to have Mr. Rivera sign the renewal documents. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Ms. Victoria S. Bourque provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in January. These included: working with 7 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests, holding 1 business event, and conducting 1 business visitation. Ms. Bourque assisted with the City of Abbeville's Career Fair with 21 attendees and continued the planning of a grant writing workshop to be held in conjunction with Congressman Higgins' office. She also represented Vermilion Parish in Washington DC as she accompanied Rep. Ryan Bourriaque for his District 47 update.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Claire Broussard updated the board on the plans for the Stakeholder Dinner. She noted that the event will be held at the Erath Community Center on February 9, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Bourque informed the board that the Mardi Gras shirt sales have been completed. She noted that 43 shirts were sold, and that Manuel Screen Printing will be donating just under \$300 to VEDD.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that the wording for the potential change in VEDD's legislation that would allow VEDD to receive a portion of any future gaming funds was approved by VEDD's attorney. He noted that the next step would be to speak to the Vermilion Parish Police Jury.

Ms. Bourque provided the board with a list of VEDD's committees with detailed descriptions and current members. She asked that the board members consider joining at least one committee.

Mr. Ruben Rivera informed the board that he, Ms. Bourque and Stacey Duvic, Director of Community Competitiveness at Louisiana Economic Development presented the Louisiana Development Ready Communities program to the Vermilion Parish Police Jury. The program passed the committee and will go to the full board after their attorney approves the documentation.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Rivera presented the board with VEDD's proposed Board Member Expense Reimbursement Policy. He noted that the policy was reviewed by VEDD's CPA, who saw no issues with the wording. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to accept and implement the policy. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Rivera asked the board to allow the Executive Committee to approve the payment of invoices when due before the next board meeting date. He noted that any invoices paid in this manner would be included in the Treasurer's Report for ratification by the board. Ms. Nikki Vidos motioned the board to allow for the Executive Committee to approve invoice payments when time is a factor. Mr. Jacob Landry duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

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

Ms. Nikki Vidos presented the Sustainable Funding Committee's recommendations regarding long-term funding solutions. She noted that the committee has voted to recommend the board pursue another parcel fee. The board reviewed possible dates for upcoming elections, parcel fee amounts, ballot wording, and limiting the number of parcel fees collected from each taxpayer. After a board discussion, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to move forward with a \$6.50 parcel fee at the Spring 2024 election, and to limit collection of the parcel fee to only one per taxpayer. Ms. Anne T. Falgout duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Ms. Cormier informed the board, as well as the guests, that a formal vote would be needed at the March board meeting to adopt a resolution and move forward with the election process.

Mr. Jacob Landry spoke about a T-2 Certification training program for offshore and land operators and Ms. Bourque informed the board that the Workforce Development Committee is working with Lonnie Richard with the Vermilion Parish School Board to schedule another Career Campus/Pro-Start tour at Abbeville High School.

Ms. Megan Landry Lalande informed the board that the Farmer's Appreciation Dinner Committee has begun planning the event to be held in June.

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, March 8, 2023, at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, duly seconded by Ms. Claire Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary