

**Board Meeting  
February 20, 2024**

**St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District  
Business Resource Center  
5367 I-49 S. Service Road  
Opelousas, LA 70570**

Agenda

- I. WELCOME..... Chairman, Donald Dejean
- II. PLEDGE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- V. ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES -  
Action
- VI. FINANCIALS, DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024.....Treasurer Seth Robin – Action
- VII. 2022-23 COMPREHENSIVE FINNCIAL AUDIT SUMMARY PRESENTATION - ACTION
- VIII. INVESTMENT CONSIDERATIONS - ACTION
- IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. Opelousas Downtown Development Board January Board Meeting (Notes)
  - b. Central St Landry Economic Development February Board Meeting (Notes)
  - c. SLED Executive Committee (Notes)
- X. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. I-49 Midway Corridor / Parish
- XI. NEW BUSINESS
  - a.) Executive Committee AT-Large Appointments – Action
  - b.) SLED Health insurance Annual Renewal – Action
  - c.) Board Member Interim Appointment / Simeral Vacancy – Action
  - d.) SLED 2024 Objectives Overview
  - e.) 2024 Board Member Training Session Date
- XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

#### XIV. ADJOURN

**Voting Members Present:** Andy Dakin, Kevin Doucet, Seth Robin, Chelsey Sharplin, Dr. John Hamlin, Erika Milton, Sharon Ortego, Toni Effingger, Roma Stewart, Daniel Lyons, Lena Charles

**Voting Members Absent:** Don Dejean, Susan Vigeo, Juan Joseph, Kevin Fuselier, Candace Papillion

**Voting Members Present Virtually:** None

**Non-Voting Members Present in Person:** Bill Rodier, Janece Riser, Teresa Reaves, Brittany Cretchain

**Guests:** Herman Fuselier, Amy Thibodeaux, Polly Koury, Shirley Vige, Brennan Breaux, Alicia Mire, Kade Jones

Vice-Chair Roma Stewart welcomed the board and guests to the meeting and thanked them for their time, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and opened the meeting at 9:07 AM.

**Public Comments:** Mr. Herman Fuselier stated that there were over 4000 people in downtown Opelousas for Mardi Gras. Ms. Alicia Mire stated that there were also thousands of people in Eunice for Mardi Gras. Many of those were from other states and other countries. Mr. Daniel Lyons stated that it was wonderful to see so many people getting along and that there were no issues of violence.

**Adoption of the December 2023 Board Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to accept the December 2023 minutes as submitted by Ms. Lena Charles and seconded by Mr. Daniel Lyons. The motion was carried without objection.

**December 2023 Financial Report:** Mr. Seth Robin went over the year-end expenses and stated that it was due to one-time expenditures. He also went over the income and stated that it was a very normal month for income. Mr. Bill Rodier stated that there will be Board Training on March 8<sup>th</sup> and it will cover how to read and understand financial reports. A motion was made by Mr. Andy Dakin and seconded by Mr. Daniel Lyons to accept the financials for December 2023 as submitted. The motion was carried without objection.

**January 2024 Financial Report:** Mr. Seth Robin went over the income and expenses for the month of January. He stated that again there were one-time expenditures for audit and accounting fees. Mr. Bill Rodier asked if there were any questions and explained that some of the expenses were for the LBIA match grant for the security cameras and door pads at the entry to the building, and he stated that grants will be covered in the board training as well. A motion was made by Ms. Lena Charles and seconded by Ms. Sharon Ortego to accept the financials for January 2024 as submitted. The motion was carried without objection.

**2022-2023 Comprehensive financial Audit Summary Presentation:** Mr. Shirley Vige was present to give the report on the audit for 2022-2023. He explained the differences between the two documents that he handed out and stated that he would be going over the report. Mr. Vige spent some time going over the different line items in the report. Mr. Vige stated that it was a good audit and there were no findings. Mr. Bill Rodier asked if there were going to be any mandated changes from the last legislative session that we should be aware of moving forward into next year and Mr. Vige replied no, there are not. A motion to accept the report was made by Mr. Seth Robin and seconded by Ms. Erika Milton. The motion was carried without objection.

**Investment Considerations:** Mr. Bill Rodier directed the board members to look at the breakdown of the banks and rates in their packet. He reminded the board members that currently there are two broken out CD accounts. One of those accounts is with the Bank of Sunset on a 30-day recurring CD with \$1.1 – 1.2 million dollars. Mr. Rodier stated that there is also the same amount in St. Landry Bank on a 90-day CD. Mr. Rodier stated that since we are already upon February of 2024 we are coming up on new rates from the federal reserve and it's fair to say that we are on a different track than at the same time last year. Mr. Rodier stated that it was discussed in the EC to potentially move, and he stated that The Bank of Sunset has a 6-month CD at 5.15% but we don't really want to move the 90-day CD at this time because there is a penalty if we move it too early. Mr. Rodier stated that we are really talking about just half of the money at this time. Mr. Rodier stated that over the past week since the Executive Meeting was held, he has spoken to several bankers that have told him that the federal reserve is most likely going to pull back on the 12-month rates. Mr. Rodier stated that he has talked with treasurer Seth Robin and strongly recommends moving forward with the Sunset Bank CD to a 12-month CD and locking in the rate because it is highly unlikely to see that rate again. Mr. Rodier stated that on the 30-day renewal CD it's important to keep in mind that there is an ebb and flow that you will see in that type of investment. Mr. Rodier stated that putting the funds into a twelve-month CD would make sense for budgeting purposes because you will know what it will be for the entire time. Mr. Seth Robin made the recommendation to move the balance of the funds that are currently in The Bank of Sunset CD and lock in the 12-month CD at American Bank at the 4.85% before the rates change potentially change again. Mr. Hamlin asked if anyone has thought about possibly putting it at the higher 6-month rate of 5.15% at Bank of Sunset and then moving it to the 12-month to get the larger percentage before the rates drop. Mr. John Hamlin asked the question that if the rates do go down, where do you see it going? Mr. Bill Rodier answered that he doesn't foresee a substantial drop.

After some discussion, Mr. Seth Robin made the recommendation to move the 30-day CD at Bank of Sunset to the 6-month 5.15% CD at Bank of Sunset and then wait for the 90-day CD at Bank of Sunset to mature and decide what to do at that time.

Mr. Andy Dakin stated for the record that he is abstaining from any vote on the CD's.

A motion was made by Ms. Lena Charles and seconded by Mr. John Hamlin to move forward with the recommendation by Treasurer Seth Robin. The motion was passed without objection.

A motion was made to grant Treasurer Seth Robin the authority to initiate the process of moving funds from the 90-day CD to the 12-month CD at American Bank at the rate of 4.85% if the funds become available before the next meeting by Mr. John Hamlin and seconded by Ms Erika Milton. The motion was carried without objection.

### **Committee Reports:**

*Opelousas Downtown Development:* Mr. Bill Rodier gave some highlights of the work going on with the ODDD. The ODDD board meeting notes were in the packet for the SLED Board Members so that they can be informed of the projects going on in downtown Opelousas. Ms. Lena Charles stated that the press release came out yesterday and the start date of the Donald Gardner stadium project will be December of 2024 to allow the football teams that use the stadium to use the stadium as planned for their 2024 season.

*Central St Landry Economic Development:* Mr. Bill Rodier gave a high-level summary of the projects going on with the CSLEDD board. The CSLEDD Board Meeting minutes as notes were included in the SLED Board Meeting Packet to keep them updated with the projects going on in the Central district.

*SLED Executive Committee Meeting:* Mr. Bill Rodier gave a summary of the Executive Committee meeting from February 14<sup>th</sup> and explained that the meeting notes are in the packet for the board to read.

**Old Business:**

**I-49 Midway Corridor / Parish Planning Commission – Update:** Mr. Kade Jones with Acadiana Planning Commission was present to give a report concerning what is happening with the I-49 Corridor. He announced that the Parish Planning Commission has been formed. He stated that the next step will be for the Parish Planning Commission to meet and to elect their officers and set their bylaws. He stated that after that, the Midway Corridor Project will get underway. Ms. Lena Charles stated that it is critical for the planning commission to provide the city council with a fact sheet when meeting with the council to get their backing and Mr. Jones replied that they do have a packet of handouts and a fact sheet to present when they go before the municipalities.

**New Business:**

**Executive Committee At-Large Appointment:** Mr. Bill Rodier went over the portion of the minutes of the last meeting showing that the appointees were previously selected. They were Mrs. Sharon Ortego, Ms. Candace Pappilion and Mr. John Hamlin, PHD. The motion was made by Mr. Andy Dakin and seconded by Mr. Seth Robin to accept the new members to the Executive Committee. The motion was carried without objection. Mr. Andy Dakin gave a thank you to Ms. Lena Charles and Ms. Toni Effinger for their service to the Executive Committee.

**SLED Health Insurance Annual Renewal – Action:** Mr. Bill Rodier explained that there has been a rate increase for the coming year at 9.9% and asked for a motion to continue the policy. The motion was made by Seth Robin and seconded by Mrs. Sharon Ortego. The motion was carried without objection.

**Board Member Interim Appointment / Simeral Vacancy:** Mr. Bill Rodier explained that Mr. Ken Simeral had sent in his resignation letter in November but because the January meeting was cancelled due to weather, the 45-day time frame has passed. Mr. Rodier stated that This means that the position will have to stay vacant until the end of his term on December 31, 2024. No action was taken at this time.

**SLED 2024 Objectives Overview:** Mr. Bill Rodier gave a presentation of the 2024 objectives. He asked the board members to take notes and ask him if they have questions about anything. He stated that he will also cover the objectives in the March 8<sup>th</sup> board training. Mr. Rodier read the updated Vision Statement and asked the board to consider and offer suggestions. He also read the Mission statement and again asked for the board members to consider the statement and offer suggestions. Mr. Rodier went through the slides one by one and stated that these will be focused on through the year 2024. Mr. Rodier went over the management structure of our boards and stated that it is the only structure of its kind in the state. Mr. Rodier asked the board to read over the list of ODDD focus areas and opened the floor to questions. Ms. Lena Charles gave updates on some of the items on the objectives list for the ODDD. Mr. Rodier went over the focus areas for CSLEDD and gave the board time to read through the list and ask any questions that they might have. Mr. Rodier covered the focus areas concerning the Midway Corridor Project and the Certified Site Program as well as the Parish Equine Designation. Mr. Rodier covered the growth incentive programs and stated that best practices will be put into place to obtain those goals and he covered the catalyst properties in Downtown Opelousas. Mr. Rodier touched on the business and retention objectives and included the area of Grand Coteau. Mr. Rodier included the conversation on our communications component including, website, social media, podcast studio, Content articles, and a communications plan. Mr. Rodier stated that Business Recruitment has the potential

to bring in over 1 billion dollars in business this coming year. Mr. Rodier included Education and Workforce in the 2024 objectives. Ms. Janece Riser gave a report on the 2024 Objectives for Policies for Processes and Procedures, Human Resources, Leadership and Staff Development, The Business Center, Cleaning Services, Tenant Management, and Project Software.

2024 Board Member Training Session Date: Mr. Bill Rodier stated that he has set the date for Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 pm for the 2024 Board Member Training and stated that it will include a working lunch. All board members are invited and encouraged to attend, but especially the new board members.

Executive Session: Mr. Andy Dakin made a motion for the board to go into Executive Session and the motion was seconded by Mr. Seth Robin. The Motion was carried without objection and the board entered Executive Session at 11:57 am. A motion was made to exit the Executive Session and return to the regular board meeting by Ms. Erika Milton. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seth Robin. The motion was carried without objection and the board re-entered the regular board meeting at 12.01pm.

Board Member Comments: Mr. Lyons invited everyone to come out and attend the Annual Beef Cook Off on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Adjourn: With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Lena Charles and seconded by Mr. Seth Robin. The motion was carried without objection. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

SECRETARY:

  
Erika Milton

CHAIRMAN:

  
Don Dejean