

**Board Meeting
November 21, 2023**

**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 OCTOBER 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES - Action
- VI. FINANCIALS, OCTOBER 2023.....Treasurer Seth Robin -
Action
- VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Opelousas Downtown Development Board September Mtg (Notes)
 - b. Central St Landry Economic Development Board October (Notes)
 - c. SLED Executive Committee Notes
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. I-49 Midway Corridor/Parish Planning Commission – Update
 - b. Capital Outlay
 - i. CEA Amendment – Action
 - ii. Resolution – Action
 - c. 2023-24 LBIA Grant - Update
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. ITEP/PILOT Policy Creation Proposal - Action
 - b. Board Vacancies- Action
 - c. SLCC CDL Program - Update
 - d. Washington Exit Lighting - Update
 - e. 2023 Holiday Gathering
- X. SITE AND PROJECTS UPDATE

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

XII. ADJOURN

Voting Members Present: Don Dejean, Andy Dakin, Seth Robin, Erika Milton, Roma Stewart, Sharon Ortego, Don Reber, Kevin Doucet, Lena Charles, Juan Joseph

Voting Members Absent: Kevin Fuselier, Dr. John Hamlin, Toni Effingger

Voting Members Present Virtually: Candace Pappilion

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

Guests: Herman Fuselier (St Landry Parish Tourism), Ms. Chelsea Sharplin, Ms. Susan Vigeo, Mr. Steven Dashe

Adoption of the October 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the October 2023 minutes as submitted by Mr. Juan Joseph and seconded by Mr. Kevin Doucet. Motion carried without objection.

October 2023 Financial Report: Mr. Seth Robin provided an overview of the October 2023 financials. Mr. Robin discussed the income and expenses. A motion was made by Ms. Lena Charles and a second to the motion was from Mr. Daniel Lyons. Motion carried without objection.

Committee Reports:

Opelousas Downtown Development: Mr. Bill Rodier reported that we are now including the notes from each of the other board minutes to keep everyone updated. Chairwoman Lena Charles gave a brief update about the TAP Grant on Landry Street and the opening of Chik-fil-A on November 30th. She also reported on the historical district.

Central St Landry Economic Development: Mr. Bill Rodier gave a brief report about the projects going on with CSLED. Mr. Rodier reported that the board has, after completing their due diligence, agreed to move forward with the purchase of the Equine Sales Facility and gave a brief update regarding the potential park near Love's location as well as the CSLEDD lighting project. The notes from the previous board meeting were included in the packet for information to update the board on their other projects as well.

SLED Executive Committee Meeting: Mr. Bill Rodier gave a summary of the Executive Committee meeting, which was held last Tuesday, November 14th.

Old Business:

I-49 Midway Corridor: Mr. Kade Jones was available remotely to give an update on the I-49 Midway Corridor project. Mr. Jones stated that they are waiting on the Parish Planning Commission to be put into place. He stated that St Landry Parish Government has the ball in their court at this time. Mr. Bill Rodier asked what the next step is after the commission is in place. Mr. Jones replied that the next step would be that the Parish President would call the first meeting of the Parish Planning Committee where they will

accept their by-laws and then from there, they will be meeting monthly. Mr. Rodier clarified what the Planning Commission will be regulating and asked if the residential subdivisions would be included. Mr. Jones wasn't sure if they would be involved in residential planning or not, but he will be asking the Parish.

Capital Outlay:

CEA Amendment: Chairman Dejean asked for a motion to move forward with the amended CEA between SLED and CSLEDD. A motion was made by Dr. John Hamlin and seconded by Ms Lena Charles. The motion was carried without objection.

Resolution: Chairman Dejean asked what the resolution entails and Mr. Bill Rodier informed the board that there was a resolution to add Janece Riser as a signer. The paperwork had to be sent in before October 31, so it has already been submitted. This action will be to ratify that submission. A motion was made by Mr. Andy Dakin and seconded by Mr. Seth Robin to ratify the resolution granting Mrs. Janece Riser permission to sign the disbursements. The motion was carried without objection.

2023-24 LBIA Grant Update: Mr. Bill Rodier gave a report on the LBIA grant and let the board know that we were awarded the full amount of the requested \$25,000 for 2023-2024. Mr. Rodier complimented Mrs. Janece Riser for all her hard work on this year's grant application.

New Business:

ITEP /PILOT Policy Creation Proposal: Mr. Bill Rodier informed the Board that Mr. Mike Busada is an attorney with the firm of Butler-Snow, and he is making a presentation to help the board put policies and procedures in place for any future PILOT or ITEP programs that may come up with future expansion or development projects. Mr. Rodier stated that it is essential that there are processes in place when companies apply for these programs going forward to have the necessary transparency in the evaluation process for these incentives. Chairman Dejean asked if they would be putting the information out on the website. Mr. Busada replied yes, his company will build out an applications system for us. The information will be on our website, the potential client will be able to log in, and everything they need to know will be right there. They will be able to submit their application online and all the compliance components will be easily obtained as well since there will be compliance documents that they will have to submit yearly. Mr. Busada also stated that any fees they need to pay will be able to be paid through the system on the website.

Ms. Lena Charles asked what other parishes are using this service and Mr. Busada answered that they are utilizing this in Caddo Parish, Sabine Parish, in Lincoln Parish. He noted that they are currently putting together a proposal in Orleans Parish, as well as Rapides Parish. Ms. Charles stated that she believes this is all good information and wanted to know if our Parish President knows about this, or if he has been involved at this point. Mr. Bill Rodier stated that no, he hasn't discussed this with him yet but that he feels that he should be informed if the process moves forward. Mr. Rodier also noted that with all the new solar farms coming forward it is necessary to have a best practices model and procedures to follow and that this process would assist in making that happen.

Chairman Dejean asked if once it's designed will it carry over year after year. Mr. Busada answered, yes and if once it's finished changes can be implemented along the way without charge.

A motion was made by Mr. Seth Robin to move forward with Butler-Snow for \$12,000 for them to put together policies and procedures for PILOT and ITEP Program applicants. The motion was seconded by Andy Dakin. The motion was carried without objection.

Board Vacancies: Mr. Bill Rodier gave a brief update regarding the resignations of Valli Soileau and Mr. Don Reber and introduced Ms. Chelsea Sharplin and Ms. Susan Vigee, who have applied for those positions. Both ladies gave an introduction about themselves and why they applied. A motion was made by Mr. Daniel Lyons to accept the two ladies, Ms. Chelsea Sharplin and Ms. Susan Vigee, to the board to fulfill the remainder of the appointments of Ms. Valli Soileau and Mr. Donald Reber, which will expire on December 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roma Stewart. The motion was carried without objection.

SLCC CDL Program: Mr. Rodier informed the committee that he has been working with SLCC to bring the CDL Certification program permanently to Opelousas for several years. The challenge to this has been finding an area where the CDL instructors could provide safe training for things like parking, backing, cone drills, etc. Mr. Rodier stated that he was approached by SLCC back in the summer for support of a possible plan to convert a large parking lot across from the SLCC Campus on King Street into an area that could be designated for use in the program. Mr. Rodier said he has met with Kenny Boagni of Morgan and Goudeau as well as SLCC leadership several times and they have come up with a conceptual plan for the project. Mrs. Ericka Milton noted that the CDL program runs every 6 to 8 weeks and generally has around 12 to 15 students per cohort. Mr. Rodier stated that this could allow a solid pipeline of students into sustainable wage careers in a relatively short turnaround time. Mr. Rodier informed the board that he just brought the conversation to them to get some feedback on SLED potentially providing funding for such a project. Conversation ensued. Mrs. Milton said that the economic development leadership at SLCC would be willing to come and make a presentation. Ms. Milton also stated that CDL is a high demand career field. There was no action taken by the board on this item.

Washington Exit Lighting: Mr. Rodier gave an overview to the committee of the exit lights at the Washington I-49 Exit. Mr. Rodier explained that CSLEDD has a DOTD 90/10 grant to get the lighting along all four interchanges of the interstate in Opelousas. He noted that the concept in doing this is not only safety and security, but also that you never have a second chance to make a first impression. Mr. Rodier further noted to the board that because we have experience and a relationship with DOTD we could potentially follow this same model at the Washington Exit and that there may be up to 90% match available through DOTD to do this project. Mr. Rodier mentioned that EP Breaux has quoted the upgrades on this project to be \$200,000. Mr. Rodier informed the board that the town of Washington does not have the funding for the match, but it could be a good project for SLED to consider putting up a 10% match. Mr. Rodier also noted that for DOTD to consider a project like this, there we need to be a letter drafted stating a commitment to the match, a commitment to the ongoing utility costs, and a commitment for future maintenance of the lights. He informed the committee that the Town of Washington would cover utilities and he would have more discussion with the mayor on their commitment toward further maintenance

cost after getting a better estimate of what such costs might be on a recurring basis. There was no action taken by the committee on this item.

2023 Holiday Gathering: Ms. Teresa Reaves gave an overview of the plans for the 2023 SLED Holiday Social and let the board know that we have a larger number of guests that have responded that they are coming this year. She stated that it will be at The Steamboat Warehouse again this year and that the cost per person is \$50.00. Ms Reaves also stated that there will be awards, door prizes, entertainment, and photos.

SITE AND PROJECTS UPDATE: Mr. Bill Rodier gave an overview of a sampling of some of the ongoing projects and of properties in the parish that have the potential of becoming certified sites to entice large companies that could be very financially beneficial to St. Landry Parish.

Board Member Comments: None

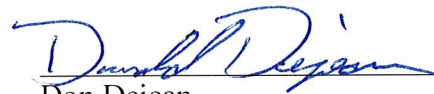
Adjourn: With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Seth Robin and seconded by Ms. Roma Stewart. Motion carried without objection. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

SECRETARY:



Erika Milton

CHAIRMAN:



Don Dejean