

**Central St. Landry Economic Development District**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Meeting Date and Time: October 14, 2021 @ 8:30 am**  
**Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road, Opelousas LA**

**AGENDA**

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ Approval of September 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Financial Report – Tina Vidrine, Treasurer
  - Consider external audit firm
- ❖ Committee Reports
  - Land Use
  - Marketing and Communications
  
- ❖ Old Business
  - Industrial Board Operational Support Agreement
  - Boyd Gaming Purchase Agreement offer update
  - Sewer Project Update
  - Lighting Projects Update
  - Vegetation Maintenance/Litter Abatement update
  - Retail Strategies update
  
- ❖ New Business
  - Discuss 2022 Budget/Future projects

The following members were present in person: Chairman Buddy Helton, Yvonne Normand, Senic Batiste, and Dr. Derick Metoyer

The following members were absent: Ammy Taylor, Tina Vidrine, Pride Doran

The following non-voting members were present in person: Bill Rodier (CEO of SLED), Janece Riser (SLED), Taylor Lormand (SLED)

The following non-voting members were absent: Julius Alsandor (Mayor), Jessie Bellard (Parish President), and Dexter Brown (Parish Council Chairman)

The following guests were present in person:

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Chairman Buddy Helton opened the meeting at 8:44 am.

*Approval of September 9, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes:* Following a review of September 9, 2021, regular board meeting minutes, a motion was made by Yvonne Normand and seconded by Senic Batiste to accept minutes as submitted. Motion carried without objection.

*Financial Report:* Chairman Helton presented the September 2021 Financial Report. Mr. Helton reported CSLEDD is operating within the budget. He also advised that it's time for the annual external audit. The question was posed should they continue with the current accounting firm or

chose a new firm. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the board will continue with the company that was previously used.

### **Committee Reports:**

Land Use Report: Bill Rodier spoke on the corridor performance land use topic. He noted that during the past City Council meeting it was discussed that Our Savior's Church has requested to place a youth transitional housing along the corridor. Although nothing has been determined at this time. Bill reminded the board that performance land use doesn't restrict placement, it only requires mitigation. He also spoke about overlays such as the ones Carencro have in place. Bill Rodier also informed the board that there is a re-engagement meeting being held in the SLED building on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am that is open to the public.

Communications Report: In the absence of Ammy Taylor, Chairman Helton delayed the topic until the next meeting. Bill Rodier advised the board that he had a CSLEDD appearance on Passe Patout last week . He also said some opportunities are surfacing to get the word out through Opportunity St. Landry. He will have more information once things are confirmed.

### **Old Business:**

Industrial Board Support Agreement Update: Chairman Helton gave an update on the Industrial Board CEA and support agreement. The CEA has been signed. The board chairs of SLED, CSLEDD, and ODDD met with Bill in reference to the Advisory Board make up and mechanics of how it will run. He also stated will be meeting with Bill, Taylor, and Janece in reference to transferring duties as listed in the Operational Guide. Bill advised the organizational guide is a work in progress and he is in the process of prioritizing the tasks.

Boyd Gaming Purchase Agreement Offer Update: After rejection of our offer, a teleconference meeting with the next level of Boyd Gaming executives has been set in hopes to get their thoughts, hopes, dreams, and apprehensions. Bill Rodier gave a brief presentation reminding the board of the plan submitted and what he feels may need to be tweaked to get Boyd Gaming on board.

Sewer Project Update: Buddy Helton advised that according to William Jarrell the project is on task. The components that are being manufactured in the Lake Charles area due to be set up and delivered by the first week of November. The backup generators are the only component that are delayed but this delay should not interfere with the project timeline.

#### I-49 Lighting Project Update:

- William Jarrell is in the process of contacting DOTD to get an update in reference to the lighting from Creswell Lane through Judson Walsh to Harry Guilbeau. DOTD was in the process of assigning a project number and putting it in line for approval.
- I-49 Project has been completed with the exception of Harry Guilbeau at the interchange of Hwy 182. Entergy is still dealing with restoration from Hurricane Ida.

Vegetation Maintenance/Litter Abatement Update: Chairman Helton reported that Burns vegetation and litter abatement cycles are on schedule and moving well. The second herbicide treatment of the year has been done which is less than the four or five done in previous years.

Chairman Helton stated that Ammy Taylor received two proposals for maintenance of I-49/Hwy 190 interchange from Kelly with AOK; one proposal for off-year and one for on-year. The proposals include the cost of mulch, however, should the board still have mulch available to them the cost would be reduced drastically. If so, we'd only be responsible for trucking the materials in. After a brief discussion it was decided to defer locking in the current price and accepting the proposal for "off year" treatment next year until the next meeting when the full board would be available. A discussion about possibly involving ULL, LSUE, or local organizations to aid low maintenance landscaping for this area.

Chairman Helton noted the improved look of the frontage road barrier in front of the SLED building on the I-49 Service Road that has been cleaned by Under Pressure.

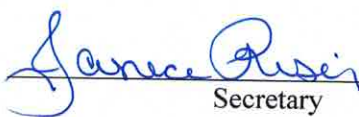
Retail Strategy Update: Development on Cresswell Lane have been moving along very well. McAllister's received a variance for parking from the City Council this past week. This is in line with them being open in the second quarter of 2022. Talks are happening for a nationally known coffee shop in that same area. The Stage building is still being shopped but nothing definite has arisen, yet.

**New Business:**

Discuss 2022 Budget/Future projects: Chairman Helton suggested that one area of focus to investigate is high speed internet in this area. The heads of the 7 parish Acadiana region have been meeting on this topic and it would be a good idea to have this in our sights. Another area of focus should be expanding the sewer plants to be able to prepare for the residential expansion of this area. Scenic advised that he was briefly approached about CSLEDD helping to repave the parking lot at the Civic Center. He has plans to get more information from the officials and bring to the board. Another focus area is to possibly expand CSLEDD's litter abatement to include parking lots such as Walmart/Waffle House area. The overgrown grass and litter have gotten out of hand. Chairman Helton suggested it may be time to sit with the city officials to speak about enforcing the laws in place. Bill Rodier suggested that CSLEDD possibly adopt a practice to create a standard. A discussion about a monthly newsletter to businesses along the corridor. A newsletter could help get the message out to the businesses without tying up a lot of man hours. Adopting a business recognition program was also discussed. Yvonne Normand volunteered to be on that committee.

Announcements: Next meeting will include preparing next year's budget as well as having an engagement letter for Darnell Sikes for the audit.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Yvonne Normand and seconded by Scenic Batiste to adjourn at 10:01 am. Motion carried without objection.

  
Secretary

  
Chairman