

**Board Meeting
March 16, 2021**

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

Chairman, Andy Dakin opened the regular board meeting at 10:03 A.M.

Voting Members Present in Person: Andy Dakin, Donald Dejean, Roma Stewart, Hals Beard, Lena Charles, Seth Robin, Ken Simeral, Erika Milton, Wil Fontenot, Don Reber, and Candace Papillion

Voting Members Present Virtually: Lynn Lejeune, Brett Manuel, and Ken Marks

Voting Members Absent: Dr. Gerald Thompson, Kevin Simoneaux, and Daniel Lyons

Non-Voting Members Present in Person: Bill Rodier, Glenda Carriere, and Taylor Lormand

It was determined a quorum was present.

The following guests were in attendance in person:

Katrena King	-Acadiana Planning Commission
Rachel Godeaux	-Acadiana Planning Commission

The following guests were in attendance virtually:

Herman Fusilier	-St. Landry Parish Tourism
Katie Chiasson	-CLECO
Jim Bradshaw	-Writer

Public Announcements: Rotary Club International 6200 will be hosting their annual conference to be held from April 15 through April 17, 2021. They have requested businesses with LED Digital signs to display this information to help with promoting the conference.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to adopt the February 2021 Board Meeting minutes was made by Don Reber and seconded by Seth Robin. Motion carried without objection.

Financial Report: Hals Beard provided an overview of the February 2021 financials. A motion to adopt the February 2021 financials was made by Erika Milton and seconded by Don Reber. Motion carried without objection.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee Report: A motion to adopt the February 2021 Executive Committee Meeting minutes was made by Don Dejean and seconded by Has Beard. Motion carried without objection.

New Business:

Midway Corridor Presentation: Katrena King and Rachel Godeaux with Acadiana Planning Commission made a presentation of the deliverables from Phase I of the I-49 Midway Corridor plan. They submitted a proposal for Phase II of this plan to the board. Acadiana Planning Commission applied for a \$30,000 grant with USDA for the first part of Phase II to model after the Carencro Performance Land Use overlay and implement it through the whole I-49 Corridor in St. Landry Parish. Rachel stated they cannot technically start this project until they have been awarded these funds, which will be sometime this summer. Bill Rodier stated the proposal was presented to CSLEDD at their board meeting. Their board is willing to help with the expense of this plan. Acadiana Planning Commission is budgeting for a 2-year timeframe. A motion was made to approve a resolution of support for the application for Phase II by Ken Simeral and seconded by Wil Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

Cooperative Committee: Bill Rodier stated that Pride Doran, Senic Batiste, and Dr. Metoyer met on behalf of CSLEDD to review the Cooperative Committee document created by Andy Dakin. They suggested changes to the wording from Executive to Advisory and clarify some of the details. Ogden Pitre with the ODDD is in the process of reviewing this same document and is expected to give his input. Andy Dakin suggested that the board review this report and call him or Bill Rodier if they have any questions or concerns. This committee would operate as a mechanism to bring collaboration between the boards but not expect them to give up authority over their funding. Concerns were expressed regarding the board members receiving the packet the day before the meeting and not having enough time to review the material in preparation for the meeting. Andy Dakin stated he and Bill Rodier to come up with a potential solution.

Old Business:

Property Sale: Andy Dakin stated that we did not receive any bids on the SLED property. Bruce Gaudin sent out a letter regarding SLED's ability to sell the property at what might be less than market value. The Real Estate Committee had conversations and presented their recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee made recommendations for selling government property. One would be to request the Attorney General's interpretation of our statute and what additional leeway it gives us in lowering the price. Another would be to get another appraisal. Ken Simeral's recommendation was to contract with another commercial real estate company to provide advice. A motion to authorize SLED to obtain the Attorney General's opinion and start the process of hiring a commercial realtor was made by Wil Fontenot and seconded by Don Reber. Motion carried without objection.

Priority of Work: Bill Rodier stated that the priority of work document that Taylor Lormand has been working on has more than 60 pages and is modeled after a document from Lafayette Economic Development. Andy Dakin recommended that an executive summary report be created to give an overview of the various sections. Bill Rodier stated that he would like to meet in smaller groups with the board members and set up sessions in one day with different available times to continue discussions. It was recommended that a spokesman from each group or minutes be generated to convey the message to the entire board.

Board Training: A motion to amend the agenda to postpone the board training until the next meeting was made by Don Reber and seconded by Erika Milton. Motion carried without objection.

Staff Transition: Glenda Carriere shared with the board her resignation from SLED. Bill stated that he is working on different options for filling her position.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn at 11:33 am by Wil Fontenot and seconded by Lynn Lejeune. Motion carried without objection.

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN:

Secretary

Andy Dakin