

**Board Meeting
March 15, 2022**

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

AGENDA

- I. WELCOME.....CHAIRMAN, ANDY DAKIN
- II. PLEDGE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 2022 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
- V. FINANCIAL REPORT..... TREASURER, HALS BEARD
- VI. REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
 - a. COMMITTEE VACANCY - DAKIN
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. WALMART PILOT AGREEMENT UPDATE - RODIER
 - b. I-49 MIDWAY CORRIDOR PROJECT – RODIER
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. ST. LANDRY BUSINESS SUMMIT OVERVIEW – RODIER
 - b. LUS FIBER – I-49 VISIONING – RODIER/MECHE
- IX. PRESENTOR – DR. NANCY SORENSON – CHANCELLOR LSUE
- X. ADJOURN

Chairman, Andy Dakin opened the regular board meeting at 10:17 A.M.

Voting Members Present: Andy Dakin, Roma Stewart, Boisy Pitre, Lena Charles, Seth Robin, Dr. John Hamlin, Wil Fontenot, Sharon Ortego, Toni Effinger, Daniel Lyons, and Candace Papillion

Voting Members Absent: Donald Dejean, Hals Beard, Ken Simeral, Erika Milton, Christopher Clostio, and Don Reber

Non-Voting Members Present in Person: Bill Rodier, Taylor Lormand, Teresa Reaves, and Janece Riser

Guests: Laina Brickley (St. Landry Chamber of Commerce), Buddy Helton CSLEDD), Ginger Collier (SLEMCO), Jim Bourgeois (One Acadiana), Ryan Meche (LUS Fiber), Dr. Nancee Sorenson (LSUE)

It was determined a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Daniel Lyons to accept the February 2022 board meeting minutes and seconded by Wil Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

Financial Report: Bill Rodier provided an overview of the February 2022 financials. A motion to adopt the February 2022 financials was made by Seth Robin and seconded by Candace Papillion. Motion carried without objection.

Real Estate Committee:

Bill Rodier provided an overview of the recent topics being addressed by the Real Estate Committee. The Committee met on March 3, 2022 and discussed the need to establish priorities and attainable objectives for the year. Acadiana Workforce Commission Business Services Department has moved into their new

location leaving several vacant offices in the SLED building. We are expecting a new group of Workforce employees to move into a few of the vacant offices. Additional discussion covered the installation of the podcast studio and the potential to use the large office adjacent to Bill's office for this.

Andy Dakin appointed Toni Effinger to the Real Estate Committee. A motion to accept Ms. Effinger's nomination was made by Roma Stewart and seconded by Boisy Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

Old Business:

Walmart PILOT Agreement: Bill Rodier gave an update on the Walmart Pilot agreement. The CEA is currently pending review by each entity's legal representative.

I-49 Midway Corridor Activity Update: Bill Rodier gave an update on the Midway Corridor. The Policy Committee met with representatives on March 14, 2022, with project managers from The Acadiana Planning Commission. This project is expected to reach completion in late August 2022.

New Business:

Business Summit – Bill Rodier introduced Mrs. Laina Brickley, CEO of the St. Landry Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Brickley expressed excitement about the St. Landry Business Summit scheduled for April 27, 2022 from 8:30am – 1:00pm to be held at the Opelousas Civic Center. The purpose of this event is to bring parish businesses together for a day of networking to foster progressive partnerships. The theme of this Summit is "Empowering Resilience" and will feature a schedule of speakers in a TED Talks format. There are still a few sponsorship spots open and tickets are on sale through the St. Landry Chamber of Commerce website.

LUS Fiber – I-49 Visioning: Bill Rodier introduced Ryan Meche, Director of LUS Fiber. Mr. Meche gave an overview of the NTIS Grant that will support the expansion of fiber internet service to go through Church Point and into Eunice, and then on to Ville Platte, LA. A plan to further expand this service is being discussed – this expansion has the potential to expand LUS Fiber's service to the southern border of St. Landry Parish. The St. Landry Economic Development Group hopes to work with other parish entities to further expand through the I-49 Corridor and along Hwy. 190 into Downtown Opelousas. Mr. Meche explained the importance of getting fiber internet into communities and the positive effect this service can have on economic development efforts.

Presenter:

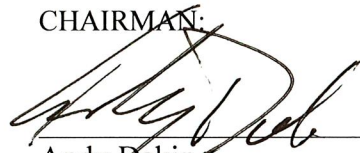
Dr. Nancee Sorenson, LSUE Chancellor: Due to schedule conflicts, Dr. Sorenson was unable to give her presentation – staff will work to reschedule.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn at 11:13 pm by Seth Robin and seconded by Lena Charles. Motion carried without objection.

ATTEST:


Secretary

CHAIRMAN:


Andy Dakin