

**Board Meeting  
February 14, 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. ADOPTION OF THE JANUARY 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
- V. FINANCIALS, January 2023..... Seth Robin
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. February Executive Committee – Draft Notes
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. I-49 Midway Corridor - Update
  - b. NextEra Project – Update
  - c. Board Member Bios – Reminder
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Organization Dental/Vision Benefits – Action
  - b. Organizational Staffing Consideration – Action
  - c. Staff Salary – Action
  - d. Opelousas Downtown Ordinance – Summary Presentation
- IX. ADJOURN

Upcoming Events:

- ODDD Board Meeting will be on Friday, February 24, 2023, at 9:00 am at the SLED building.
- CSLEDD Board Meeting will be Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 8:30 am at the SLED Building

**Voting Members Present:** Donald Dejean, Andy Dakin, Seth Robin, Don Reber, Lena Charles, Erika Milton, Daniel Lyons, Sharon Ortego, Ken Simeral, Kevin Doucet, Juan Joseph, Valli Soileau, Candace Pappilion

**Voting Members Absent:** Toni Effinger, Dr. John Hamlin

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

**Guests:** Herman Fuselier with Acadiana Tourism, Zach Hager with Cleco, Mr. Kade Jones with Acadiana Planning Commission, Kevin Fusilier, DVM

**Adoption of the January Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to accept the January 2023 minutes as submitted by Andy Dakin and seconded by Juan Joseph. Motion carried without objection.

**Financial Report:** Mr. Seth Robin provided an overview of the January 2023 financials. Mr. Robin recapped a few expenditures. A motion to accept the financials as submitted was made by Lena Charles and seconded by Roma Stewart. Motion carried with no objections.

**Committee Reports:**

**February Executive Committee:** Mr. Bill Rodier gave an overview of the executive committee meeting that was held last week. He explained how the executive committee works for the new board members.

**Old Business:**

**I-49 Midway Corridor:** Bill Rodier explained that the Midway Corridor project has been in the works since 2017. He introduced Mr. Kade Lyons to give the formal update. Mr. Jones reported on the land use control project and explained what stage we are in. Mr. Jones reported on the overall project and gave an overview for the new board members. He explained Performance Based Land Use and where we are in the structuring of the project. We are using Carencro's Corridor plan as an example for what we are asking of the midway corridor communities. The plans were reviewed by an attorney and Mr. Jones gave an update on what the attorney has advised. A Parish Planning Commission needs to be put in place. It will consist of 5 to 9 members that do not hold any public office. Once the commission is established, the communities will have to adopt in their own councils the ordinance and the overlay. Mr. Bill Rodier added a couple of additional points. Discussion and questions ensued.

**NextEra – Update:** Mr. Bill Rodier gave a brief update on the NextEra project and where the project is at. There is permitting underway, and NextEra was hoping to have everything ready for their permit in time for the Parish Council Meeting. It doesn't look like that will happen until March. Mr. Rodier explained that alternative energy is here to stay. There are multiple projects underway. Questions and discussion ensued.

**Board Member Bio's:** A reminder was given to the board to turn in their personal bio for use on our social media pages.

**New Business:**

**Organization Dental and Vision Benefits:** Ms. Janece Riser gave a brief update on the Vision and Dental program we want to offer our employees. She explained the differences between the two policies. Mr. Bill Rodier included that the employer is responsible for paying for these options. A motion was made by Seth Robin to approve the employee package of Dental and Vision for employees. A second was made by Ms. Erika Milton. Motion carried without objection.

Organizational Staffing Consideration: Mr. Bill Rodier went over the structure of the open positions in our office and how we must account for the salaries. He explained that he and the accountant for SLED, sat down and went over the budget and ways to be able to move forward with new positions in the future of SLED. Discussion and questions ensued. Lena Charles asked if the Economic Development Specialist would be able to assist the board with their projects. A motion was made by Seth Robin and seconded by Kevin Fusilier. Motion carried without objection.

Staff Salary: Bill Rodier reported on the changes in the job held by Teresa Reaves and the additional responsibilities added with only three of us in the office. Ms. Reaves is currently paid at the lower end of the scale. A motion was made by Mr. Don Reber to increase her salary to \$37,500. Ms. Valli Soileau then made a motion to increase Ms. Reaves salary to \$40,000. A second was made by Ms. Lena Charles. Motion carried without objection.

Opelousas Downtown Ordinance: Mr. Bill Rodier introduced Ms. Lena Charles and gave her extreme praise and acclaim for the amount of work she has done and the importance of the work she is still doing on the Vacant Building ordinance for the City of Opelousas. Ms. Charles reported on the work that has been done by the Opelousas Down Town Development District and explained that they were charged with coming up with the ordinance to improve the downtown area vacant and blighted buildings. The sixty empty buildings represent taxes that are missing from the community tax rolls and we need to see these businesses back into commerce. Questions and comments ensued.

Board Member Comments: Board member Kevin Fuselier asked for an update on all of the projects underway for the benefit of the new board members. Mr. Bill Rodier went through the list of projects and gave a brief update on each of them. Ms. Candace Pappilion asked about a charter school in the Our Saviors area and Mr. Rodier answered that question as well.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Seth Robin and seconded by Erika Milton. Motion carried without objection. Meeting adjourned at 11:49 am.

SECRETARY:



Erika Milton

CHAIRMAN:



Don Déjean