

Board Meeting

July 15, 2025

St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District

Business Resource Center

5367 I-49 S. Service Road

Opelousas, LA 70570

Agenda

- I. WELCOMEChairman, Seth Robin
- II. PLEDGE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS, VIA COMMENT CARDS- Limit of 3 Minutes
- V. ADOPTION OF JUNE 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
- VI. FINANCIALS, June 2025.....Treasurer – John Hamlin
 - a. CD Account
- VII. BOARD AND COMMITTEE NOTES
 - a. SLED Executive Committee Meeting Notes
 - b. CSLED Meeting Notes
 - c. ODD Meeting Notes
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Walmart Project Rosie PILOT Agreement (Update)
 - b. SLED By-Law Change
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. SLED Board Member Vacancy
 - b. 2025-2026 LBIA Grant Application
 - c. 2025 Legislative Recap – Andre Breaux – One Acadiana
 - d. St Landry Professionals (The SLP)
 - e. SLED Organizational Priorities
- X. BOARD COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURN

Chairman Seth Robin opened the public hearing at 10:00 AM. The hearing remained open for ten minutes; however, no public comments were received. Chairman Robin closed the public hearing at 10:11 AM.

Voting Members Present: Seth Robin, Lena Charles, Chelsey Sharplin, Erika Milton, John Hamlin, Juan Joseph, Thurman Johnson, Toni Effingger, Daniel Lyons, Susan vige, Donald Dejean

Voting Members Absent: Andy Dakin, Devin McKnight, Kevin Doucet, Perry Fontenot

SLED Staff Members Present: Bill Rodier, Janece Riser, Brittany Cretchain, Victoria Mott

Guests: Anthony Gradney (Opelousas General Hospital), Helen Leday (STAR Staffing), Herman Fuselier (SLP Tourism), Brennon Breaux (SLEMCO)

It was determined a quorum was present.

Chairman Seth Robin opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed the board at 10:17 AM.

Candace Papillion was marked present at 10:23 AM.

Public Comments: None.

Adoption of June 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the June 17, 2025, board meeting minutes as submitted by Susan Vige and seconded by Chelsey. The motion was carried without objection.

June 2025 Financial Report: John Hamlin reviewed the financial report, highlighting the expenditures and revenues of June 2025. John Hamlin reported that total revenues amounted to \$61,400, while total expenses were \$75,991, resulting in a net decrease in the fund balance of \$14,591. Erika Milton made a motion to accept the financial report for June 2025, seconded by Susan Vige. The motion carried without objection.

Bill Rodier informed the board that he researched various CD rates and found the most favorable option to be a 12-month term at 4%. He explained that, because the funds are quasi-governmental, any deposit must be fully secured by the bank, which contributed to the lower-than-anticipated rates. Rodier further noted that, since the excess funds are not expected to be needed unless a major emergency project arises, placing them in an interest-bearing account would be the most beneficial use.

Chelsey Sharplin made a motion to approve moving \$400,000 into a CD account at St. Landry Bank for a term of 12 months. Toni Effingger seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

COMMITTEE NOTES:

Executive Committee: Bill Rodier noted that most discussions presented at the full board meetings are first reviewed and vetted by the Executive Committee to gather detailed feedback and recommendations.

CSLEDD: Bill Rodier noted that a quorum was not achieved at the July CSLEDD meeting. Mr. Rodier also mentioned that they are still awaiting the Attorney General's opinion.

ODDD: Lena Charles provided a brief update on the South Park Project, noting that while there have been minor weather-related delays, the overall timeline remains largely unaffected, and the completion date is expected to be pushed back slightly.

OLD BUSINESS

Walmart Project Rosie PILOT Agreement: Bill Rodier reminded the board of the special meeting held at the end of June, which did not achieve a quorum, to review the legislative changes taking effect on July 1, 2025, regarding PILOTs and the abatement of state sales tax. Because a quorum was not present, the board was unable to vote on the PILOT agreement, and authority over the state sales tax abatement has now shifted to the Secretary of the Department of Revenue and the Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development. While there have been some discussions about pursuing the abatement, no definitive resolution has been reached.

Seth Robin then provided an update on the meeting held the previous day, noting that the decision now rests with Walmart regarding how they wish to proceed. For clarification, this would involve a new PILOT agreement specific to the Project Rosie equipment. Walmart has already repurchased the property from SLED.

SLED By-Law Change: Seth Robin reiterated to the board that the proposed bylaw change would revise the approval process for new PILOT projects to ensure that all affected parties, including taxing authorities, are informed and involved in the discussions. The proposal was submitted to the Parish Government for feedback and received their approval. This change will be presented to the SLED Board as a formal resolution at the August meeting and will be brought to a vote at the September meeting.

Lena Charles made a motion to forward the proposed process to Bruce Gaudin for the development of a formal resolution, which will be presented at the August board meeting and brought to a vote for adoption at the September meeting. Candace Papillion seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

NEW BUSINESS

SLED Board Member Vacancy: Bill Rodier informed the board that Kevin Fuselier has officially resigned from the SLED Board, effective August 1, 2025. Mr. Rodier explained that, upon a member's resignation, the SLED Board has the authority to appoint an interim member and encouraged board members to consider potential candidates for the position. Candace Papillion recommended Mike Ortego for consideration.

2025-2026 LBIA Grant Application:

Susan Vigee made a motion to allow Bill Rodier to acquire quotes to formalize the 2025-2026 LBIA Grant Application. Daniel Lyons seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

2025 Legislative Recap: Bill Rodier introduced Andre Breaux of One Acadiana, who distributed a summary of the recent legislative recap. Breaux explained that the report focused on three major initiatives led by LED during the session. The first was the launch of the High Impact Jobs Program, a new flagship job creation incentive that replaces the former Quality Jobs Program and became effective on July 1. The second initiative was the establishment of the Site Investment and Infrastructure Improvement Fund, which is intended to prepare sites across the state for future development. The third measure highlighted was the continued restructuring of LED, including the creation of the Office of Innovation to support modernization and growth efforts within the department.

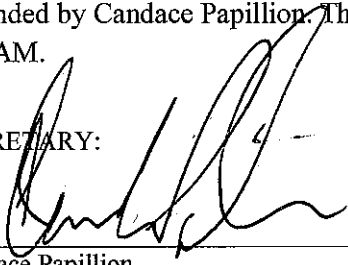
St Landry Professionals (The SLP) – Bill Rodier informed the board that the previously inactive Young Professionals group, The St. Landry Professionals, is being revitalized as part of an initiative to re-engage and strengthen the professional workforce in the parish. Brittany Cretchain provided an overview of the program, highlighting that it is open to individuals aged 21 to 45 across all industries. Ms. Cretchain noted that participation is flexible, allowing individuals to engage in various capacities. For example, those who “age out” of the core demographic may still remain involved by serving as mentors to younger members. All board members were encouraged to help spread the word about the program.

SLED Organizational Priorities: Bill Rodier provided a brief overview of the SLED Organizational Priorities, which outlined strategic goals spanning all affiliated boards, including SLEDD, ODDDD, and CSLEDD.

Board Comments: None

With no further matters to be brought before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Susan Vigeo and seconded by Candace Papillion. The motion passed without objection, and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

SECRETARY:


Candace Papillion

CHAIRMAN:


Seth Robin