



NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, July 7, 2026, at 3 pm
Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road, Opelousas, LA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Commissioners of the Central St. Landry Economic Development District will meet in open and public session on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at three (3:00) p.m. This session will be located at the St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District office 5367 I-49 S. Service Rd., Opelousas, Louisiana, that such time the Board of Commissioners will hold a regular monthly meeting for the following purposes:

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ Public Comments – Limit of 3 minutes
- ❖ CSLEDD Business Recognition Program – Mike Candella’s State farm Insurance.
- ❖ Approval of May 14, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
- ❖ May and June 2026, Financial Report
- ❖ Election of Officers
- ❖ Old Business
 1. Champions Mural Update
 2. Equine Sales Facility Committee Update
 - a) Patio Ceiling Update
 - b) Patio Lighting Update
 - c) CSLED Equine Position\
 - d) Ratification of \$35,000 Transfer
 3. Infrastructure Projects
 4. Retail Strategies Update

5. District Expansion

❖ New Business

1. Retail Strategies Contract Renewal
2. Direct Solutions contract Renewal
3. Transfer of Ownership and Responsibility of City of Opelousas Update

❖ Board Member Comments

The following members were present in person: Frank Helton, Yvonne Normand, Rod Sias, Ammy Taylor, Senic Batiste

The following members were absent: Dirk Boudreaux, Tina Vidrine

The following Staff Members were present: Brittany Cretchain, Victoria Mott, Janece Riser

The following guests were present in person: Latasia Thomas (St Landry Parish Government), Bobby Ardion

Chairman Helton welcomed the board members, guests, and staff and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting at 2:56 PM.

Public Comments: N/A

CSLEDD Business of the Month: Chairman Buddy Helton recognized Mike Candella State Fram Insurance, located at 5317 I-49 S. Service Rd, Opelousas, LA, as the July 2026 CSLED Business of the Month.

Approval of May 14th, 2026, Minutes: Yvonne Normand made a motion to approve the minutes from May 14th, 2026. The motion was seconded by Senic Batiste. The motion carried without objection.

June 2026 Financial Report: Chairman, Buddy Helton reported that the financial statements have not yet been received, however Mr. Helton went over the start and end balances on the bank statements.

Election of Officers: Chairman Helton handed the meeting over to Janece Riser as to allow for the nomination and election of officers.

Senic Batiste made a motion to roll the same slate of officers. Rod Sias seconded the motion, and it carried without objection. The officers are as follows:

Chairman: Buddy Helton

Vice Chairman: Senic Batiste

Treasurer: Tina Vidrine

Secretary: Yvonne Normand

Janece Riser handed the meeting back to Buddy Helton.

OLD BUSINESS

Champions Mural Update: Janece Riser reported that there were no new championship teams to be recognized this year; therefore, updates to the Champions Mural will be deferred until next year. She explained that the school system will review championship winners each April, or possibly May to account for later baseball championships, before any future additions are made. Ms. Riser also noted that the mural project has been paid in full and that staff is planning a media day and press release to highlight and promote the completed mural.

Equine Sales Facility Committee Update: Ammy Taylor reported that the patio ceiling project at the Equine Sales Facility has been completed. She noted that the new, lighter-colored ceiling complements the building's exterior and has significantly brightened and enhanced the appearance of the patio area. Board members expressed their satisfaction with the completed project, agreeing that it greatly improves the overall appearance of the space and encouraging others to visit the facility to view the improvements.

Amy Taylor reported that several fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts throughout the facility are no longer functioning. She explained that the existing fixtures cannot be repaired because replacement components are no longer manufactured. However, each fixture continues to have sufficient operational bulbs to adequately illuminate the area. After discussion, the board agreed to leave the existing fixtures in place and defer replacement until necessary, at which time the lighting will likely be upgraded to LED fixtures.

Equine Position: The board discussed the proposed full-time Equine Sales Facility Manager position and clarified that the intended salary has always been \$60,000, rather than the \$50,000 reflected in the previous meeting minutes. Members noted that the current manager has reached the limits of balancing the responsibilities of managing the facility while maintaining a full-time teaching position, making a dedicated full-time manager necessary. Although concerns were expressed regarding the facility's overall profitability, the board agreed that a full-time position is essential to the facility's continued growth and operations. Following discussion, the board approved establishing the position with an annual salary of \$60,000, to be employed by St. Landry Economic Development (SLED) and funded by CSLED, with SLED responsible for employee benefits and supervision. Ammy Taylor made a motion to authorize Buddy Helton to sign the CEA between SLED and CSLEDD. Senic Seconded the motion.

Infrastructure Projects: Buddy Helton provided an update on ongoing infrastructure projects. He noted the continued progress of the lighting improvements along the I-49 corridor and reported that the waterline extension project is approximately 80% complete. Mr. Helton also stated that Phase III of the wastewater project is awaiting final approval from the FPC. Once approval is received, the project team will move forward with a public groundbreaking ceremony and a social media announcement.

Retail Strategies: No representatives were available for the meeting.

New Business:

Retail Strategies Contract Renewal: Yvonne Normand made a motion to approve continue services with Retail Strategies at \$40,000 per year. Ammy Taylor seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Direct Solutions Contract Renewal: Ammy Taylor made a motion to continue services with Direct Solutions Contract at \$3,750 per month. Senic Batiste seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Transfer of Ownership and Responsibility to the City of Opelousas Update: Buddy Helton reported that the Parish has adopted an ordinance authorizing the transfer of ownership of the main wastewater facility to the City of Opelousas, and that the City has formally accepted the transfer. He further explained that CSLED will prepare a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) to transfer ownership of the Phase II infrastructure components, including the pump station, force main, and gravity sewer line, to the City. Upon completion of the transfer, the City of Opelousas will assume responsibility for the operation, maintenance, and repair of these facilities.

Board Member Comments: N/A

With no further matters to be brought before the board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Yvonne Normand and seconded by Ammy Taylor. The motion carried without objection. The meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.

Yvonne Lognion Normand

Chairman: Frank “Buddy” Helton