



The mission of St. Landry Parish Economic Development is to provide leadership in economic and community development that facilitates growth opportunities leading to enhanced prosperity for St. Landry Parish businesses, communities, its citizens and youth.

Executive Directors Report

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I - Business Center Update

We continue to be proactive in planning education sessions designed to address community, business, property development and education related issues. We are working now to put tentative dates together for a small business training session to be held concurrently with LSU-E, and the SBDC on their campus in mid December. We are also working with the Parish President to formalize a follow on Parish Leadership Community Roundtable Session sometime in Early January 2015.

We have had the following prospective tenants within the past at the Business Center:

Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc. d/b/a Eckerd has confirmed that for a possible 6-month term, they want to lease Room 15 and Room 17 for a total lease amount of \$535.50, effective December 1, 2014.

PPI – An update on their most current status will be provided as part of the regular agenda.

Happy House Maids Cleaning Service – Scheduled to move in on 1 December.

Judy has also provided direct business assistance to the following small businesses:

Ethan Slocum- Franchised restaurant location identification. Construction pending for a Creswell Lane location.

We have written confirmation from the Office of Community Development as it relates to documentation necessary to satisfy their requirements on total job creation for the Business Center. A close out package has been completed and submitted to OCD. Our grants unit should be commended for the continued hard work on this project! We hope to have feedback on this closeout package by the end of the November.

Effective December 1st, we should have eight businesses operating in our center, which are:

Relentless Designs

C&C Painting and Pressure Washing

Excellent Drivers Academy

A 24/7 Inspection Services

Boone Speech and Learning Services

Miracle Ear

Eckerd Youth Alternatives

Happy Housemaids – Effective December 1st.

David Joseph Counseling Services- Moving out effective December 1st.

Joie de Vive Counseling- Moved out November 1st.

II – Communications

Since the release of the newly redesigned SLED website, it has improved user friendliness and appeal. In addition to changed design and layout of pages, the structure of information has been changed to improve overview and usability. Our goal with this new site is to provide our visitors with an easier way to learn about what SLED does, why we do what we do, and how to get involved. We will be adding new research on a regular basis, and upcoming events and featured articles are updated as they become available. If you have not yet had a chance to tour the site please do so at, www.opportunitystlandry.com.

Our Communications Coordinator continues to compile data with relation to St. Landry Parish in terms of economic development to begin a complete database of information beneficial to agencies and organizations throughout St. Landry Parish. Most recently she has researched, analyzed, and compiled data as it relates to Project Expo. Information was drafted and inserted within the Capital Outlay package provided to the state legislature for infrastructure purposes.

The St. Landry Chamber of Commerce Relocation Guide is now complete and approved for print. Our Communications Coordinator should be commended on all the hard work and the great final product representing SLED's three page layout to be displayed within the guide. The information depicted will highlight the major functions as it relates to economic development throughout St. Landry Parish.

SLED Employee Handbook, which clearly defines our workplace policies has been reviewed and submitted to the Board of Commissioners as of November 13, 2014. Our community development group should be commended for a lot of hard work that has gone into this project.

If you as board members have sessions or meetings that you would like to see me give an economic development update at we would welcome your assistance in helping to facilitate these presentations.

III - Property Development (Large-scale)

We continue to aggressively work with on planning efforts for large-scale development along the high profile transportation corridors in the parish. We are continuing, along with other key stakeholders and leaders on outreach and incentive structuring along our major transportation corridors. We also continue to work with Parish, City and private sector partners along with the Adams and Reese Team, on finalizing the Harry Guilbeau Road Economic Development District. An update on this specific effort will be provided in the presentation listed on this month's agenda.

There has been a 5th stage planning process meeting the ULL Architecture Department on a master plan rendition for the entire Harry Guilbeau Road Corridor. This work is an excellent example of how public and private sectors can come together to move a meaningful effort forward.

The work with the Corps of Engineers on the wetland mitigation work on the property adjacent to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center is not officially completed. The final permit on this action was issued in accordance with their directive dated September 11, 2014.

We continue work with LED and AEDC on certifying industrial sites within the Parish. We are working on the top site, as well as an alternate and are moving forward with continued contract negotiations that will help move this project forward. Both sites are located on Hwy 167, which has the potential to form the basis for a broader scale industrial job creation corridor.

Our closed bid sale was concluded on the 422 acre parcel. An update of this sale will be included on the regular board agenda.

IV Projects Update

Summary: 15 Active, 6 Announced, 1 Dropped, 1 Pending Drop,

Project Alberta – This project deals with a manufacturer dealing in oil field services support production. They are interested in an expansion location to support offshore activities here in the parish. They are currently in the process of evaluating site options for existing and new construction buildings at locations within the parish. If successful this project could initially create up to 35 new direct full time positions with significant potential for expansion.

Project Amber – This project is another that is contingent on some rail upgrades in the Parish and it is part of a great discussion to upgrade rail capacity within the vicinity of the Opelousas Industrial Park. It is likely that a decision on this project will be made in the 1st quarter of 2015. If successful this project could create up to 13 full time positions.

Project Bayou – This is a retail recruitment project targeted for the center of the parish. The company is in the due diligence process on property now. Assuming successful completion of this process this project could be announced in the 1st quarter of 2015. If successful this project could create up to 55 direct full time positions.

Project Crush – The company consulting team, as well as the organizational executive team is still focusing their effort on the construction of a facility Nevada. They still have an interest here in St Landry Parish and we will continue to work with their team to bring an additional production facility to Louisiana. If successful this project could create up to 100 direct full time jobs. We will keep this project on the list for an additional month pending any new updates, but the direction seems to be waning away from a site in this area.

Project Prairie – This is an in state expansion project targeted for the western part of the parish. Company executives are currently visiting sites and buildings with community representatives. This project could create up to 15 direct full time employees if successful.

Project Cloak – Although the details of this project continue to be confidential there is a contract in place to allow for the performance of due diligence on the site being considered. Contractors continue to work through this process at this stage legal officials with the project give it a medium chance for final success. This project could potentially create in excess of 60 direct full time positions.

Project Crude – This project continues to move forward and will hinge largely on our ability to find ways to expand rail infrastructure. This will not likely be an initial high job creation project, but is important because it could dramatically expand infrastructure capacity for other projects to come in behind it. The timeframe for this project is 4th quarter 2014. This project could potentially create in excess of 12 direct full time positions.

Project Expo – A formal update presentation of this project will be of this month's agenda under the heading of EDD Update.

Project Focus – Large scope project dealing with historic properties in the parish. Initial meetings with the partners have been positive. Follow on face to face discussions will continue to move forward over the next several weeks. This project would be primarily

event driven so the number of jobs created would vary. This project is moving very slow, but may still have potential.

Project Outpost (A) - The national tenant is in under contract and in the due diligence stage on one site located on Hwy 190. We anticipate this process continuing through its course over the next 120 days prior to a final conclusion toward actual construction. Both of these locations if successful could create up to 30 direct full time positions.

Project Outpost (B) This national tenant is close to finalizing a purchase contract on a 2nd site location along a high profile transportation corridor within the Parish. We are working closely with a number of different parties on infrastructure capacity for this second site, which will be a key component of this due diligence process. If successful, this project could create up to 45 full time positions.

Project Mat – This project directly ties back into Project Roto. The company is one of the suppliers in their system and is very interested in starting an additional location on site if certain transportation infrastructure assets can be put in place, most notably rail infrastructure upgrades in the Opelousas Industrial Park. If successful this project could potentially create in excess of 40 direct full time positions.

Project Pacific – This project currently has parish wide potential. The project deals with specific agricultural production. There is the potential for site visits by company and international executive partner before the end of 2014. In these early stages it is still unclear on an estimated job creation potential for this project.

Project Shield – Many presentations have been made to senior company officials on this project. They are now formally in the decision process. We anticipate feedback on this decision over the next couple of week. If successful this project could create up to 400 direct positions in St Landry Parish.

Project Neighbor – This a medium size retail location project on the western side of the parish. We are currently working with their design team on the details of a facility layout for this project, as well as infrastructure capacities to the development site. This project if successful could create in excess of 65 direct full time positions.

Project Strip – Announced Expansion This is a large commercial project on a large multi tenant commercial facility on the I 49 Service road corridor, St Landry Plaza. The company, Rock Step Capital, made a formal announcement earlier this month through their President, My Andy Wiener. He pledged to bring as many as 8 new national tenants to the facility over the next 2 years. This project to could allow for up to 75 direct full time and a greater number of part time employees.

Project Essen - Announced Expansion Crest Industries, based in Pineville, Louisiana, will invest \$5 million to develop a new cutting, machining and fabrication facility in Eunice and add new machining centers to existing PCS equipment. Crest will retain 18 PCS jobs, and the expansion project will create 20 new jobs averaging \$50,000 per year, plus benefits. LED estimates the investment will result in an additional 24 indirect jobs, for a total of 44 new jobs in the Acadiana Region.

Project Rip – Announced Recruitment This company, Top Timber, deals with the timber hardwood related processing. It is located to the rear of S&B Sawmill in the proximity of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The company had indicated that it could initially employ up to 12 full time positions with the potential to grow very quickly if certain international agreements can be established.

Project Roto – Announced Expansion This is an existing company within the Parish, Noble Plastics, that has acquired the Yahoo building to begin production of additional plastics components through a process call roto mold plastics production. There is a good potential that this project would bring in a partner supplier, Project Mat. This project will initially create 15 or less direct full time positions, but has a great potential for future expansion.

Project Alon – Announced Expansion The Alon Refinery has recently completed an expansion at their facility to include the building of a rail transfer facility that will allow them more efficiently loading on and off load bulk rail materials to be utilized both in and out of their production facility. The project is expected to created as many as 12 full time positions.

Project Runway – Announced Recruitment: A formal announcement was made for this project on Thursday February 20th at 1:30 PM at their new construction site just past Beau Chene High School. We conducted a follow-up site visit last week. There is solid progress on the foundation structure, which is the most time consuming portion of their build process. The company expects operations to commence in a matter of weeks. This project could create as many as 25 direct full time positions.

Project Martin – Announced Expansion: Bayou State Lumber Company, LLC, formerly known as Acadiana Hardwood, LLC. This company will create 29 permanent new jobs and retain 21. This mill is the only viable employment opportunity for most individuals in the area.

V – Area and Regional Development Items:

We continue to foster an active relationship on many important initiatives being addressed by the St Landry Chamber of Commerce. As a follow-up to the strategic

planning session that was held back in the 2nd quarter of this year the strategic planning committee recently reconvened to evaluate the progress that has been made so far with these priorities. A rough assessment is that the Chamber has moved forward successfully with approximately 75% of its strategic priorities for this year. We continue to work with Lynn Lejeune, Chamber CEO, and the board on collaborative efforts that will provide greater value to businesses in St Landry Parish.

We continue to work closely with Parish Tourism to ensure we are aligned on key initiatives through the region. The staffs of both agencies continue to collaborate on ideas and concepts for joint marketing and parish promotion. We now have bi-weekly meetings with their leadership and other key partners to discuss priority projects for the parish that will be promoted by Cornerstone Governmental Affairs in the next legislative session.

We continue the process of physical outreach with all of the Parish Top 25 employers face to face. The meetings are being held jointly with LED, AEDC and the Saint Landry Chamber of Commerce Director whenever possible.

We continue to get positive feedback on progress with some of the major companies in SW Louisiana that form the basis for \$67,000,000,000 in new investment that could create 29,264 construction and 20,866 new permanent positions. This is going to put a big strain on our already strained workforce environment in this parish and in this region.

Cornerstone Governmental Affairs is hoping to see two of the parish capital requests, a hanger for the airport and a lighting upgrade for the Delta Grand include on the bonding agenda in December 2014.

1 Acadiana held a very well attended launch luncheon earlier this month and continues to build positive momentum around the region.

AEDC (Acadiana Economic Development Council) Update:

AEDC is now in negotiation with 1 Acadiana on establishing blue print for much of the economic development activity that will be accomplished under the new 1 Acadiana Structure that is scheduled to get underway in concept in early 2015.

AEDC recently submitted funding for the upcoming year Tier I funding through LED that helps to market and promote the Acadiana Region.

VI – Community Development in St Landry Parish

This month we had a Parish Strategic Planning session with the South Central Planning District, soon to be the Acadiana Planning Center, to look at some of the critical needs in infrastructure and resources for the parish over the near to midterm.

The SLP Young Professionals have established an Executive Leadership Team, comprised of seven individuals whose clear purpose is to define the organization's reason for being, beyond the functions of social gatherings. The meeting was held on November 7, 2014. Action items determined from the meeting included a clearly defined demographic as it relates to membership being that of 21-40 years of age, with those seasoned professionals wishing to participate to serve as champions and/or advocates for the organization. Moreover, it was decided that an event will be scheduled each month throughout a full calendar year to ensure membership engagement; events will be scheduled within all municipalities throughout the parish ensuring parish wide collaboration. Actions taken place since meeting include a proposed budget for 2015 fiscal year and website development as well as branding redesign. The next SLP Young Executive Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2014, where planning will begin for the official SLP Young Professional membership meeting to be held in January 2015.

LSU-E students will be attending our November board meeting as part of a formal effort to develop their leadership capacity through engagement in key entities throughout the parish. We also continue to work with LSU-E to formally explore the potential of using IWTP funding as part of their value component to area and parish businesses.

We have become formally engaged in the LSU Board of Advisors, which is designed to bring in key stakeholders from around the parish to get the latest university updates and to help understand some of their most pressing challenges and opportunities.

Our staff maintains a regular presence in the Eunice Satellite office on Thursdays. They are continuing community outreach and meeting with interested small business clients that are being referred by the Eunice Economic Development Committee.

All of the staff continues to participate with the Steamboat City Association in Washington on various community development initiatives. We still hope to move forward a project with the Wal-Mart Distribution Center could use in help connect career opportunities for persons in their communities that have some kind of challenge to employment. A recent change in the GM structure at Wal-Mart has temporarily put this effort on the backburner, but we will renew a push after 1 January with the new GM.

We continue to hold regular meeting with the Parish President, Parish Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce, to identify priorities that can be worked on by Cornerstone Governmental Affairs in this legislative session. Our capital outlay request for the upcoming session is in total 12.5 million, which includes our match so this is a big topic of our bi-weekly conversations. We do have a list of items however that we review each week.

We are in the process, along with the Parish President and key persons from Cornerstone of meeting with each one of the representatives for St Landry to discuss our capital outlay requests for this upcoming session. We meet with four of the seven on November 14th and plan to meet with the remainder very soon.

We continue to work with both private and public sector partners in efforts to proactively engage in infill development within downtown Opelousas. One of the key events happening in the near future is the development of a small park in the parking area just down from Java Square. Additional positive activities downtown include approval of 8 new traffic signal poles to be installed through the downtown area. A positive grant opportunity for 188k to improve the sidewalks around the Parish Courthouse. Updates through Cornerstone for DDD establishment language to be included in the upcoming legislative session.

Grants related efforts:

We received a \$25,000 LBIA Grant to be used for the Business Center at an 80/20 match. The total grant application for this grant is \$30,355 due to the match requirement. The executive committee has approved these funds allocation for building upgrades and improvements. Work has started on Task 1 of grant, Air Conditioning for three back offices of warehouse area.

USDA RBEG Grant; by the Delta Regional Authority accepted our grant application; however due to the slow process in the change of ownership by OCD we may not be in a position to accept this grant award for the electronic marquee sign. This grant application has been approved and funded by USDA Rural Development, National Office, Washington, D.C., contingent upon change of ownership of the business center.

Louisiana Pecan Growers Association-Technical assistance provided resulted in a grant application submitted to the USDA for consideration. This could benefit at least 7 large pecan growers here in St Landry Parish.

We are working closely with the SCPDD on the potential for grant funding for rail upgrades designed to support Project Roto, Project Mat, Project Crude, Project Amber.

We are also working with the SCPDD on the potential to support infrastructure development for Project Outpost (B)

Darnel, Sikes, Frederick, and Gardes performed an audit of the St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District; August 11th and August 12th . They will be presenting their final report at this meeting.

VII – Training Opportunities

The next Economic Development Basic Course in near proximity will be offered at the main campus of LSU from January 13th – 16th. I would highly encourage those of you with an interest to getting with me with more questions if you have any interest in this valuable training.

VIII – Conclusion

We continue to be looked at by most people in the parish for that ongoing positive message that positive change is here and that is just the beginning of good things for St Landry Parish. You as board members are an important part of that effort and I am very grateful to all of you for your direct support to me, our staff and our mission in promoting this positive message to the businesses, leadership and residents of our parish. We continue to welcome your thoughts and ideas on things that can help promote our efforts to continue this forward momentum. With your continued active support and input I am confident that we will real project success, as well as the groundwork being laid for unprecedented opportunity to blossom through St. Landry Parish through the final weeks of 2014 and make good things happen for other people.