



Executive Director's Report — September 2018

Greetings! As the months fly by, it is time once again to look at some of the great progress taking shape in greater St. Landry and across Acadiana. Let's first talk about the trend that we continue to see with overall economic and business growth.

Nationally, the economy recorded its best showing in almost four years in the second quarter as we watched the longest bull market in history with the DOW, as well as a host of other strong data showings. There is plenty of cause towards caution with some of these figures, however; as formal actions continue to progress forward on many fronts with trade related sanctions. Many feel these actions are necessary to help protect U.S. long term interests, but in the short term they could be painful for specific segments of the U.S. economy. This could include some of our areas agriculture industry and Louisiana export assets, such as the Port of New Orleans.

Oil prices seem to be on a steady climb as they test the market in the seventy dollar per barrel range. On shore rig counts are up nationally seven from last month and up a hundred and nineteen overall from last September. Off shore rigs in the gulf are steady from last month, but are still down seventeen from this time last year. This offshore plateau may be the most important figure for this region to monitor as we are still heavily impacted by offshore service industries. It also pays to note that a significant amount of this new drilling activity is gas related despite a modest decline in price over the past year.

When we look around the state, the region and around the area, we are seeing an general increase in project activity, but it is noticeability coming from the expansion of local area employers rather than outside recruitments. Our parish project count overall is 23; 16 of these are projects related to the expansion of area employers.

There is a not a single answer on why this is, but from a practical perspective, there are a number of things that are looked at when corporations look to make sizeable investments in new locations. A few of the key indicators are the education systems, infrastructure availability, stability of the governmental structure, the stability of the tax structure and sometimes more discreetly, the overall tort environment that prevails in an area, or in a state. These are all



factors that we as leaders of the region need to be mindful of for the future. These are all systemic areas of focus that if improved on through long-term proactive policy and planning initiatives will accelerate the long-term growth of businesses in this area.

Efforts that address a number of these factors, such as proactive education and infrastructure planning, as well as leadership development behind the scenes are a big part of what we are involved with through the teams at SLED, area stakeholders, and One Acadiana. It is our intent that these proactive efforts set the stage for growth over north Acadiana 5, 10, 15 years and beyond.

We cannot have much of an influence on the vast area of factors that affect our national and global economies, but we can and we are progressing by taking care of our own companies, and taking a more proactive planning approach for the future.

The following are some of the simple at a glance indicators specific toward St Landry:

August SLP Sales Taxes Collection Comparisons	July SLP Unemployment Comparisons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$5,608,199 August 2018• \$5,007,393 August 2017• Up 12%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 2018 7.6% < 7.9 June• July 2017 7.3%• July 2016 8.9%

It is important to note the steep increases we have been seeing in area sales tax collection. It is not only a good positive sign, but also a positive indication of efforts geared towards improving the efficiency of the tax collection system for St Landry.

As you can see, this picture is complicated and many of the factors associated with the economy is out of any of our control. What is not out of our control as leaders is how we respond to this eb and flow. Are we looking at it from a perspective of opportunity and sharing that with people within our sphere of influence? As simple as it seems, it is people, their perceptions and their responses that often drive markets. That is something we can we can all do a little part in helping to control.

We as the SLED Team and our area partners, are committed to playing a lead role in progressing forward our area economy through things we can control and though a positive outlook on things that we cannot control. We look forward to being able to serve you and all the stakeholders in our area towards a growingly robust growth throughout 2018.

Bill

Communications

The Executive Director's Report currently goes out to a large number of parish, regional, and state level leaders as an update to progress in St. Landry and Acadiana. We continue to move new features in the report working towards a revised more user friendly format. Improving our communications at many levels is one of our key 2018 priorities for SLED.

We are nearing the end our process of our web design and communications strategy content with Golden Shovel.

This new platform is being designed to consolidate www.opportunitystlandry.com, slpforward.com into a new site that includes the latest in technology and features for ED Sites in North America. Included in this new communications design effort will be new board reporting materials, as well as the ability for any visitor to collect portions of the web material into a shopping cart type feature that will build the material into a PDF for save/print. Since the 'Soft Launch' review on August 17, 2018, Brandy, project lead on this effort, has been diligently working on overseeing the remaining edits and additional data needed to remain in alignment with timeline for hard launch which is anticipated by the end of September 2018.

We will be looking specifically over the next couple of months at getting better direct communication with businesses that are located within the Central St. Landry Economic Development District boundaries. We have secured the complete mailing list for those respective businesses and will be working on newsletter that can be sent directly to each of them to ensure they are aware of the latest happenings. We are finding that many businesses are not aware of the progress that is being made in their area. In some cases, we are still finding businesses that are not clear on how the districts and our tax structure works.

www.slpforward.com



108 articles shining the light on positive things happening in St. Landry Parish. We are currently in the site development process with Golden Shovel so these and all the articles will be loaded into the new communications site format. Please take the time to review the site and the attached articles to learn more about some of the great things happening in our area.

Who's looking to grow in St. Landry Parish?

This section of the report highlights companies that may be considering expansion or location in and to St. Landry Parish. These projects are given code names to ensure that the project integrity is not compromised. Once the project is prepared to launch, then the name and location of the project is shared in *public announcement*. These projects do not include many of the new construction commercial, retail and office buildings that you see in and around areas of the parish. SLED is involved in many of these projects in various capacities in order to bring them to the area and get to their construction state, but they are not listed for practical considerations in managing the size of this report. *Note percentage for development percentage*

Project Anchor – This is an in state expansion, area recruitment project. The project has a project 2.5m capex in renovations of an existing building and site. The project will allow for the retention of 35 FTE’s and the expansion of another 20 FTE’s. *Latest update: Initial work on this project in Grand Coteau started last on September 5th. We will be organizing a formal announcement this month. Percent for Development 100%*

Project Belt – This project came together because of local BRE efforts. It is a cooperative between a local area employer and SLED in trying to bring a supplier into an existing manufacturing facility. The job creation figures if successful are now estimated up to 45 FTEs. *Latest Update: This project is a go. Work with the companies incentive consultants has gone slower than expected. We still anticipate an imminent announcement in the near future. Percentage for development - 95%*

Project Boost – This is a very large potential expansion project in terms of capital expenditure. The project would produce about 15 new employees at very high wage scales and well up to 170 temporary construction jobs for a year or more. *Latest Update: This project is a go and initial construction is underway at this time. We are finalizing a soft announcement plan at this, which available over the next couple weeks. Percentage for development - 100%*

Project Care – This is a health care project that could set the stage for significant additional development on a high profile corridor in the central parish. The project itself would allow for up 18 new jobs being created. *Latest update: There have been some delays on this project due to property and infrastructure concerns. We hope to see these items addressed as soon as Oct . Percentage for development 70%*

Project Clean – This is a manufacturing infill development project located in the center of the parish. If successful this project will create 25 new direct positions, with the ability to grow up to 50 FTEs. *Latest Update: The company has purchased the building and received all local permit and variance requirements. The last step on this being announced is finalization of a DEQ Permit. Final permits have slowed this down, however; . It should not be a question of if, but when on this project started into the renovation construction process, when should be soon. Percentage for development – 95%*

Project Cleanse - This is a new recruitment project, as well as an in state expansion, looking to expand operations into the parish at one of our rail site locations. Initial job creation figures are up to 50 FTEs, with a capex still to be determined by existing building, or greenfield selection of the site. *Latest Update: We are waiting final word for an on a site visit. We will keep*

this project on the list for at least one more report cycle, but things have been pretty quiet. Percentage for development 10%

Project Doughnut – This is a recruitment, as well as an in state expansion project. Negotiations are proceeding on a vacant existing building site. This project would create up to 15 FTE’s and result in 3 to 3.5 million in new project investment. *Company officials hope to have the property secured in the next 60 days.*



Twenty-two St. Landry Parish projects announced over the past 36 months have created potential for

- 1,058 new fulltime jobs.
- Retention of 265 existing jobs.
- Creation of at least 353 indirect jobs
- Support of an estimated 3,315 temporary jobs

Percentage for development 80%

Project Drop Off - This is an area expansion project that is likely to set the stage for the development of an additional industrial development area in the parish. This specific project is scheduled to create up to 10 Direct FTE’s *Latest Update: We are still working on state project incentive in anticipation of a soft announcement in next couple weeks. Percentage for development – 100%*

Project Expo/Fountain – This is master planned development recruitment project. While not finalized, the potential investment of the project is far in excess of 100m in capital investment and hundreds of new FTE’s created. The clock continues to tick on the on the land use of the property where the expo project portion of the project would be located. *Latest Update: Four of the key players are in place regarding the Master Plan Conceptual. The master plan includes*

a market feasibility study to the back side of property and a land-use planning and design to frontage. An initial consolidated proposal for a conceptual master plan design has been received. At the September 2018 CSLEDD Meeting the commission agreed to move forward with payment of the Master Plan.

Percentage for master plan moving forward, 95% percentage for property plan development – 50%

Project Gateway – This is a large commercial retail development project in the central parish. Property sales are in process in accordance with a detailed master plan for close to 100 acres of prime I-49 property. There will be a mix of projects going into this gateway development, which will include big ticket retail, medical office, commercial, and religious facilities. On completion, this gateway will have generated close to 100m in construction investment and will lead to the direct created of more than 100 FTE’s. *Latest Update: The announcement and subsequent work going forward on Our Savior’s Church was the start of what will be numerous ground breakings in this area over the course of the calendar year. We anticipate one of the large retailers on the project to coordinate with us on a ground breaking for their large presence over the next couple weeks, which is Project Ride. There are now 10 of 17 parcels in this development in contract, or being closed on. Percentage for development – 100%*

Project HIPPO – This is a heavy industrial project that is very large in scope on its investment and job creation potential. Currently, we are working with the lead organization for the project on a number of fronts related to the site plans and investor proposals and tours. Latest Update: *There are efforts to finalize details of a three investor partnership to take the lead on this project. We anticipate the results of this negotiation by the later this month, or in October.* Percentage for development – 65%

Project Home – We don't normally track projects that are dealing with residential development, but this project has the potential to soon become the largest residential development in St Landry Parish with 168 home parcels becoming available in this phase of the project, which has capacity for more than 450 home sites. Latest Update: *We are working to get permission from the national parent for a formal announcement coming over the next couple weeks for this project located in west Sunset. Early construction is currently underway.* Percentage for development of phase one – 100%

Project Incubate – This is an expansion related expansion project in the central area of the parish that projects to create 25 new FTE Positions at very high average wage levels going into the six digit salary area. Latest Update: *The project is now in the stage of planning and incentives evaluation. The projected start date for this project construction is October 2018.* Percentage for development – 85%

Project League – This is a new recruitment project with major impact potential that would expand across the region and even the state. If successful this project would create up to 100 white-collar, high paying positions, collectively averaging close to \$100,000 annually. Latest Update: *This project has continued to move through many stages of its vetting process. It is large and complicated so the process of plugging in various stakeholders into the various pieces of the feasibility analysis. The project still has an optimistic bias, but will be ongoing throughout the remainder of the calendar year to see if all the partners can be brought together.* Percentage for development – 65%

Project Link – This is a proposed expansion project with an existing parish company. If successful this project would create up to 25 new direct jobs and see more than \$10 million of investment into equipment and new facility construction. Latest Update: *The financing for this project is in place and initial incentive applications have been submitted. The combined announcement with area, region and the state has been postponed until Oct.* Percentage for development – 95%

Project Protect - This is an in-parish expansion project that has already made the land acquisition for their new site. The project could expand to up to 12 new manufacturing positions once the new location is operational. Latest Update: *Latest discussions are that the company still has the potential for beginning their new construction in 2018 pending suitable financing options.* Percentage for development – 50%

Project Radiate – This is a clean energy related project looking at the eastern side of the parish for a new production facility. The project has a potential large initial cap ex in excess of 100m with a large number of temporary construction job. Direct FTE's after construction would be less than 10. *Latest Update: Negotiations on property with this and other alternative sites are still in progress. This negotiation stage should come to a go/no go soon.*
Percentage for development 50%

Project Ride – This project represents the recruitment of a large retailer into the center of the parish. This project will create up to 50 new positions. *Latest Update: We anticipate an actual construction start for this project over the next 30 days. This project will be one of many projects within Project Gateway. We expect an formal announcement on this project in late September, early October.*
Percentage for development – 100%

Project Shell –The project is looking to refocus their feasibility back at the original building site, or a greenfield site in near proximity. If successful, this project could create up to 20 new positions. *Latest Update: This was a previously parked project that now has been brought back into play. This project has received preliminary USDA grant approval. Company officials are working with equity investors now to supplement this grant with a current high degree of optimism for international investment in the project. The project land acquisition should be presented to a local area government at their October meeting.*
Percentage for development – 75%

Project Tail – This is an expansion project with a long time local area employer. This project would create and additional 50 seasonal employment positions, which an additional 10 FTE positions. The capex on the project is targeted at 3m. *Latest Update: The project is targeted for construction groundbreaking on Oct 9th.*
Percentage for completion – 100%

Project Vertical – This project is dealing with a light industrial manufacturer looking to put a new production facility in the Parish. If successful this project would create up to 30 direct full-time positions. *Latest Update: Company officials still say the funding for the project is go. There would have to be a land sale/lease consideration for SLED for this project to be placed on its planned site. We will continue to monitor the funding progress.*
Percentage for development – 35%

Project Wrench – This project is a recruitment project dealing with an industrial service provider that would create up to 12 FTEs over the first 18 months of operation. Initial capex is projected at less than 400k. *Latest Update: Construction of this facility is underway, but has stalled. We will still see an announcement being likely on this project, but are trying to obtain details on what has slowed the build process.*
Percentage for development – 90%

Project Zeus – This is new recruitment project that is cooperative submittal with SLED, 1A and LED. This project has a project 40m capex with the creation of up to 40 FTE’s. *Latest update; The submission was made in May. We will continue to monitor this project as it moves through the vetting cycle. Percentage for development – 20%*

Business Outreach

We continue outreach to employers throughout our parish. Our first goal is to determine any challenges, or opportunities for these employers. An additional goal is to improve the quality of relationships with these leaders so that they can provide input on key challenges and decisions we are actively engaged in around the parish, the region, and the state. Many of the expansion projects we deal with are initially founded in these outreach visits. We have continued to visit key employers through the past year, many of which we are in regular conversation with on items affecting their growth in the parish. We are now well into the outreach process for 2018.

In the Region

Some of the key high level regional priorities being driven by One Acadiana this year are:

- Active Promotion: Accelerating economic development activities using the “South Louisiana” brand for business and talent recruitment
- Infrastructure and planning: Advancing regional infrastructure priorities through a regional steering committee structure working to produce a RIVR Report of regional infrastructure priorities. SLED is a member of this steering team.
- Supporting Education: Strengthening business-led workforce development initiatives that align K-12 and higher education institutions with market demands. The 55 in 25 initiative is part of this priority.
- Developing Product: Aggressively developing shovel ready, certified sites across the region. Three are in progress, or active negotiations in SLP.

SLED takes an active leadership role in many of the One Acadiana committee and board efforts that focused on various key elements in the region, which include the following committees that provide input to the board structure:

- Governmental Affairs Committee
- Workforce and Education Committee
- Urban Revitalization and Development Committee

14 Formal Parish Employer Visits This Year

- Gaienne Lumber
- Dixie Storage
- Lowes Opelousas
- C&G Container
- Giles Automotive Group
- Courville Toyota
- Wal Mart Distribution Center
- Savoies Foods
- Noble Plastics
- Riceland Crawfish
- Design Precast Concrete & Pipe
- Evangeline Downs
- Gaubert Oil
- Iron Horse Implement

- Business Development Committee
- Site Selection Committee (3 St Landry Sites Pending Certification)
- Acadiana Regional Alliance Committee
- Regional Transportation Steering/Transportation Committee

The regional business accelerator effort, Accelerate Acadiana, continues to make solid progress. This accelerator project is the result of a partnership with ULL, the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Winrock International, Chase Bank, One Acadiana, the Acadiana Economic Development Council, LEDA and Lafayette General Health Systems. The first 10 company cohort recently graduated in a well-attended ceremony. Earlier this month the second cohort of ten health care focused companies were identified. These companies, all but one of which are from outside the area, or the state participated in a well-attended pitch competition at the UL Atchafalaya Grand Ballroom. We are now in the process of helping all the companies develop connections in the Acadiana area in an effort to provide fuel for their accelerated growth.

We continue many cooperative partnerships with the Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) on a broad range of planning and related efforts. Some of these efforts include, the I-49 Midway Corridor Project, the St Luc Hospital Environmental studies and the discussion of feasibility for a phase 2 northbound public transportation system.

Educational Progress

St. Landry Parish: We continue our work with Patrick Jenkins, St Landry Parish Schools Superintendent, his staff and the St Landry Parish School Board through our support of a strategic plan and efficiency analysis for St. Landry Parish Schools. Gibson Consulting, the firm identified to provide the services for the comprehensive strategic plan and cost efficiency evaluation for the district. All of this work is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 31st of this year. There will be milestone updates, which we will continue to share. As a reminder, neither of these types of efforts have ever been done for SLP Schools so all of this represents unprecedented progressive actions to set a blueprint for growth over the next 3 – 5 years. The District also recently held their second annual convocation that was again a very inspiring way to start the new school year. They have also recently provided a surplus budget to move forward with for the next year. We will have Dr Tracey Beard as our presenter this month to talk about some of the great progress that is being made with vocational education efforts in the district system.



We are also helping to lead a pilot project in association with the Lafayette Education Foundation (LEF) and FOX 15 on a public awareness campaign for public education that would also allow for each Acadiana Parish to establish a separate parish education foundation. St Landry

would look to become one of the initial pilot parishes in this program. This would allow the rural parishes to utilize the current programs of LEF, as well as allow them to utilize private contributions in the manner that is most needed in order to support public education in their area.

We received word this month that JD Bank will be sponsoring the Junior Achievement financial literacy program to eight graders in Opelousas throughout this school year. Our hope is that this set a foundation for the program to eventually expand into all middle schools in the parish.

T.H. Harris: We now meet on a regular basis with leaders from SLCC and the TH Harris Campus, both at the parish level, as well as the regional level. Locally, the TH Harris enrollment figures were up more than five percent for the fall semester. We continue to work with the TH Harris on the new LPN/RN Program and its 2019 targeted launch. We also continue to follow the progress of SLCC being the new service provider for the Acadiana Workforce Investment Area. We have also committed through GOEIDC/Vision St Landry for an additional student scholarship for 2018/2019. SLCC overall was recently recognized as one of the top ten colleges nationwide for enrollment growth.

LSU-Eunice: LSU-E continues to increase its enrollment with to increase for the fall with enrollment figures that shows more than a six percent increase and brings their numbers close to 3300-students. Many exciting announcements continue to come from the campus, including plans to create multiple new program offerings, and 2 new programs for Bengal Sports. A ground breaking was recently held for the new soccer field that are scheduled to be complete by the end of this year. We are very pleased to have the Chancellor on Vision St Landry this year and look forward to even more active partnership activities with LSU-E through this coming year. We have also committed through GOEIDC/Vision St Landry for an additional student scholarship for 2018/2019

Community Development

The CEO Roundtable Board, Vision St Landry has been focused on identifying priorities that will have significant impacts for SLP over the next 5 to 20 years. The group continues to make significant strides with its work with its support for public education, redevelopment of downtowns through supporting the DDD in Opelousas and growing the I-49 Corridor. This corridor focus continues to broaden through a combination of efforts and initiatives, many of which will be encompassed in the Midway Corridor Planning Project. At the most recent quarterly meeting conversations continued around public education and the goals and objectives as identified within the SLP School District Master Plan. Vision St. Landry will host its next quarterly meeting on October 29th.

SLED, along with One Acadiana the other parish economic development organizations in Acadiana hosted a very well attended retail trends workshop on September 5th at the Picard

Center in Lafayette. The session was led by a firm from Alabama called Retail Strategies. The goal of this workshop was to give local area leaders a better understanding of how the retail site selection process really works.

We continue work in a broad scope on the alternative use of the St Luc Hospital as a placemaking asset along the cultural corridor. Many early stages of evaluation have been completed, which includes an environmental assessment, a business plan for alternative use, and conceptual floor plan layouts for a remodeled building design. There have been some very productive conversations this month with the LSUE School of Art and Design on engaging in a broader context with this project, as well other efforts in the cultural economy and place making efforts in our area.

The Central St Landry Economic Development District continues to progress with their 2018 priorities. These priorities include:

- Improving wastewater capacities to the north and south
 - Planning/engineering and property acquisition efforts are in progress now on both a north and south locations. We anticipate approximately 470,000 in additional capitol outlay funding to be added to this effort as early as this week.
- Maintenance of the grounds and trash along the I-49
 - The corridor has been cleaned and cut for the fifth time this year, three of which have been paid by CSLEDD
- Lighting along the I-49
 - The upgraded proposals for complete rehabilitation in the form of LED lighting has been received and reviewed by CSLEDD. It was agreed upon at the September 2018 to proceed with complete LED lighting upgrades at the Harry Guilbeau exit as indicated in proposal. The contract to begin work has been finalized and currently awaiting signature.
- Master planning the EVD Property.
 - One consolidated proposal has been received. A joint conference call with Populous, HR&A and CSRS regarding planning efforts for the multipurpose event venue and entertainment district master plan on Boyd property was conducted. At the September 2018 CSLEDD meeting the board authorized Chairman Helton to enter into the contract agreement.

Through their partnership with SLED, this economic development district will be the catalyst for long-term transformation change in the future growth throughout the core of St Landry Parish along the I-49.

We are continuing to work with the Mayor of Eunice on ways to expand his economic development capacities for the City of Eunice. This discussion has covered a broad scope of activities and options for the City. We intend to host a facilitated planning session in October for the City that will focus on the SWOT, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats philosophy for the city and its surrounding area.

As part of the economic development district process, Grand Coteau continues their planning progress in several areas which include:

- A TAP Grant that will provide pedestrian transportation access through the business corridor of the town is near 75% completion.
- An complete engineering analysis of roundabout traffic solution for the east frontage road has been completed and is being sent to Baton Rouge for its final evaluation.
- An engineering plan for providing lighting at the Exit 11 interchange is in the que for approval for its initial stage with DOT in Baton Rouge.

The placemaking for the areas of Sunset, Grand Coteau, and Arnaudville area continue to garner attention for around the region and around the country. Some of these placemaking anchors include the former St. Luc Hospital, the old Sunset School Project, the Hanging Garden Project between Grand Coteau and Arnaudville, and repurpose considerations for the Sunset arena. As it relates to the Hanging Garden Project the 'Call to Artist' application has been submitted to 17 colleges and universities which will award a student/student team for the winning design that will serve as a public art barrier fronting a concrete culverts manufacturing company located in St. Landry Parish. These project form a backbone across Hwy 93 that will continue to be anchored by strong residential development growth across this corridor through the course of this year.

An update on the current progress of the Downtown Development District is included on the regular board agenda. The board has done considerable outreach and education to date, which will continue through the course of the year. Beyond education, the board to date has achieved the following notable tasks:

- Announcement motion of proposed 1% sales tax levy in the Opelousas DDD Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana.
- Adoption of resolution giving Notice of Intention to create the proposed Opelousas DDD Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana.
- Developed a top list of priorities that provide the best initial returns on investment for downtown.
- Implemented via social media and by way of a website landing page a Public Education/Outreach Campaign as it relates to DDD information and education.

The SLP continues to gain traction and visibility throughout the parish by keeping a constant pulse within the community. During the month of September 2018 SLP received a 'GO' through our partnership with St. Landry Cinema to host our third Private Screening Movie Event of the new comedy release 'Night School' on Thursday, September 27th. This particular fundraising event in the pass has consistently drawn over 100 individuals in attendance and raised in excess of \$1,000.00 for our organization. We also plan to donate a portion of monies raised to CASA.

Upcoming events important to mention include facilitation of a City of Opelousas Mayor/Chief of Police Debate in a run-off capacity, sponsored by Vision St. Landry to be held at Evangeline Downs Event Center. More details forthcoming.

Grants Update

SLED received notice as a 2018-2019 LBIA Grant Recipient in the full amount of \$25,000.00 to be dedicated towards the total amount to replace the business center roof. As always, we work to set an example of "Owning It"; referring to owning the perception. We would value any ideas that you may have to help promote this concept. Improvement of the main area lavatories is part of this consideration.

We continue partnership work with Grand Coteau on their DOTD TAP Grant designed to address the accessibility and safety of pedestrian transportation in the business district area of Grand Coteau. The first preliminary analysis is roughly 70% complete and should be submitted to DOTD for review in the month of September 2018. The town has confirmed their match allocation of 210k to match for 480K.

We continue work with a local engineering firm along with Opelousas Downtown Leaders about a TAP Grant for sidewalk improvements in the downtown area around the Courthouse. Currently the preliminary analysis is complete for the two (2) sidewalks along W. Landry Street between the intersections of S. Market Street and S. Court Street and is anticipated to be submitted to DOTD in the next 30 days.

We are working on planning and engineering efforts within the CSLEDD with funds received through the capital outlay process last fall that will be used as the basis for a heavy infrastructure plan for the south side of Opelousas along I-49 as well as the Grolee area.

A CEA has been successfully completed between CSLEDD and St. Landry Parish Government regarding the inclusion of additional property for a possible wastewater treatment facility as well as upgrades have been made to current engineering analysis which include additional options as it relates to wastewater infrastructure upgrades throughout the CSLEDD. Per the local engineering firm the cost analysis is roughly 85% complete, with the general report near 35% completion.

Additional capital outlay requests for CSLEDD are still in play with the legislature due to the cooperative efforts of our legislative leadership and our government affairs team. There are an additional 460,000 in capitol outlay funds for this effort on the state bond commission agenda that is currently schedule for September 20th.

On April 30, 2018 in collaboration with APC a RDBG Grant was submitted for assessing the needs of a I-49 Midway Growth Corridor Plan. It has been indicated that the grant will be funded by the Delta Regional Authority when the FY2018 funds are received. An update proposal plan

for this Midway Corridor Project is expected later this week. This items is scheduled to be a specific topic of discussion for the SLED and CSLEDD meetings in the month of October.

We have 9 tenants in the Business Center that include

- Boone Speech and Learning Services
- Miracle-Ear
- Happy Housemaids
- Magnolia Community Development Corporation
- Victory Manufacturing
- WIOA 40
- Global Environmental Solutions (Storage Only)
- Mind and Body Connections, LLC
- St. Landry – Evangeline United Way

The Business Center now has more than 20 employees in working out of the building on a regular basis with hundreds of persons visiting the center in some capacity each month.

The Business Center

The Business Center is now at near occupancy, apart from 1 office and 1 storage area. Inquiries on space is continuing to grow. We are continuing our work with on-going facility upgrades at the main business center. The next big step for the building to be upgraded will be the consideration for the roof replacement that will be on the agenda for this months SLED Mtg.

The last LSBDC, ULL SBDC counseling session was scheduled on September 11, 2018 at SLED. The next date for these counseling services will be October 9, 2018. These services are available to businesses at any level of growth, are confidential, and are free to area businesses.

Our new CAVE area is getting used frequently by area nonprofit and governmental partners for planning and presentation meetings. On average, the room is getting used by partners, as well as some of our boards at least several times per week. In addition, the CAVE will

soon be highlighted on our new website accompanied with multiple images backed by strong content highlighting all the technology assets offered which will only provide a heightened visibility for usage.

If you know of businesses in the area that may find value in using the CAVE area for small retreats, or breakout planning sessions please let us know so we can get them more information on its use.

Training Opportunities

SLED is committed to paying the tuition of board members, or a limited number of elected officials in the area to participate in the next basic economic development course.

The LIDEA Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC) - January 2019
Location: GNO, Inc., 1100 Poydras Ave., New Orleans.

The course provides participants an overview and introduction to the fundamentals of economic development that prepares them to help their communities and their organizations meet the competitive challenges they face in fostering economic development.

A brief overview of economic development will be given in the following areas:

- Managing the Economic Development Organization
- Ethics in Economic Development
- Transportation and Logistics
- Real Estate Development and Reuse
- Community Development
- Understanding Retail
- Workforce Development
- Marketing and Attraction
- Finance /Incentives
- Strategic Planning
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship

Upcoming Meetings

- Opelousas DDA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. September 21st, SLED Bldg.
- Central St. Landry EDD Board Meeting, 8 a.m. on October 11th, SLED Bldg.
- SLED Board of Directors Meeting, 10 a.m. on October 16th, SLED Bldg.
- Vision St Landry regular board meeting, October 29th, SLED Bldg.