

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Bayou Vermilion District
Held by ZOOM at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana
4:30 pm, April 24, 2021

Call to Order was given by President Michot. The meeting was called at 4:30 pm. The BVD meeting is on ZOOM due to COVID-19. Adhering to Governor's Proclamation, following mandate and guidance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Given by the Secretary: Commissioners Thomas Michot, Calvin Leger, David Eaton, Phyllis Mouton, Mark Wiltz, and Holden Hoggatt were present on ZOOM. Commissioners Kristie Cornell, Don McConnell, and Jason Sullivan were absent. There was a quorum. The board was informed the Kristie Cornell will be resigning from her commission.

Approval of Minutes: President Michot asked if there were any questions, changes, or issues with the minutes as written, there were none. **MOTION:** (P. Mouton/H. Hoggatt) to accept the minutes from March 24, 2021 meeting as written. All were in favor. Minutes were accepted.

Guest(s): Guests: Ryan Goude Locke, BVD attorney, Deidre Stock and Burton Kolder, BVD CPA firm, Michael Martin, C, Kel, RPF, Claire Taylor, and Wanda Maxim joined by ZOOM. Staff: CEO David Cheramie, Charissa Helluin, Kim Fournet, Millicent Norbert, Brady McKellar, Anne Mahoney, Melanie Harrington, Chris Benoit, and Melissa Bastien joined by ZOOM.

Public Comment(s): There were no public comments at this time.

President's Report:

A. Ethics Training

President Michot reminded the commissioners that they must take an online ethics training course and submit their financial disclosure form before May 16, 2021. The online site was sent to each commissioner.

B. Financial Consultation

Deidre Stock and Burton Kolder discussed and reviewed the new format of the monthly financials. The CPA team pointed out that the expenses were in-line, but revenues were low. Payroll is the biggest expense. Vermilionville needs to bring in \$20,000, per month to stay afloat, and should possibly increase their mark-up. Commissioner Leger reported that staff is working on improving ways to attract visitors.

Attorney Ryan Goude Locke spoke on the issue of the board meeting for training sessions and/or orientations. The board should avoid any meetings where a quorum is possible without the ability of the public to attend. Another issue was the possibility of spot dredging the Vermilion without the Army Corps of Engineers. This is not possible because the ACE considers any water to be navigable.

CEO Report:

Copies of CEO Cheramie's report and coordinators reports (on file) were e-mailed to the commissioners. CEO reviewed his report.

A. Watershed Building

The building is completed except the boring to run the fiber, costing about \$13,000.00. There was a wrap up meeting with the contractor last week for touch up items.

B. Shuttered Venues Operating Grants (SVOG)

This grant is for businesses to receive funds for lost revenues during the COVID pandemic. BVD could receive up to \$400,000.00.

C. Evangeline Thruway Redevelopment Team

The ETRT is still meeting, discussing the use of two funding sources for ECI catalyst projects. This is not part of the I-49 connector, these are separate monies.

D. Louisiana Watershed Initiative

The LWI had its steering committee meeting April 18, 2021. They received an overview of the final governing recommendations that will be finalized and forwarded in May and the scoring of round 1 funding that is separate from state funding.

Committee Reports

Marketing/Public Relations: The committee did meet. Commissioner Leger send minutes to the board members. The committee is working on restructuring the marketing budget and working to terminate some relationships. Harvest Host is bringing in quite a lot of business. There is consideration to install some RV hookups if possible. Looking to upgrade the Performance Center.

Finance/Capital: The committee did not meet but plan on doing so in the near future.

Environmental/Bayou Ops/Maintenance: There was no meeting.

Education/Programming/Grants: The committee did not meet. Commissioner Hoggatt had many ideas for new events/activities at Vermilionville. Possibly having a Farmer Market, Artisans Fair or even having shrimp boats come up the river to sell fresh seafood.

Curatorial/Acquisitions: The committee met, and Anne Mahoney's board report has information on the meeting. There were many questions on the ownership and valuation of the artifacts.

Discussion Items

A. Discuss of CEO and managerial positions job descriptions voted on and signed by the board. There are minutes addressing the job descriptions but there are no signed documents. Commissioner Eaton would like the Executive Committee to have a meeting to secure proper and signed documentation of said items.

B. Discussion of CEO designation of authority voted on and signed by the board. Again, there is no proper signed document for this authority. Commissioner Eaton would like the Executive Committee to have a meeting to secure proper and signed documentation of said item. The Executive Committee will have a meeting to formalize and complete these items and have a vote at the May meeting.

C. Proclamation for French Louisiana.

Mr. Leger would like to designate September 7, 2021, as French Language and Heritage Day. The board will vote next month on the proclamation.

D. Honorary Mayor of Vermilionville

Commissioner Leger noted that Vermilionville does not have an honorary mayor. The honorary mayor would represent BVD and preside over a festival to be held on Labor Day weekend. The honorary mayor would be the BVD President.

MOTION: (M. Wiltz/P. Mouton) to make the President of BVD board the honorary mayor of Vermilionville and represent BVD. The honorary mayor would rotate with the existing president. All were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Ordinance BVD-2021-5

MOTION: (D. Eaton/C. Leger) to accept Ordinance BVD-2021-5. The ordinance was introduced May 24, 2021 by Commissioner Calvin Leger. The ordinance was read by Commissioner Eaton. The vote was yeas 6, nays 0, recused 0, absent 3. The Ordinance was adopted.

F. Ordinance BVD-2021-6

MOTION: (D. Eaton/C. Leger) to accept Ordinance BVD-2021-6. The ordinance was introduced May 24, 2021 by Commissioner Calvin Leger. The ordinance was read by Commissioner Eaton. The vote was yeas 6, nays 0, recused 0, absent 3. The Ordinance was adopted.

Adjournment: **MOTION:** (D. Eaton/P. Mouton) Motion to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Thomas Michot, President

Calvin Leger, Secretary