

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Bayou Vermilion District  
Held by ZOOM at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana  
4:30 pm, October 27, 2021

**Call to Order** was given by President Eaton. The meeting was called at 4:32 pm. The BVD meeting is on ZOOM due to COVID-19. Adhering to Governor's Proclamation, following mandate and guidance.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** Given by the Secretary: Commissioners David Eaton, Calvin Leger, Phyllis Mouton, Holden Hoggatt, Claire Darby, Karen Hail, and Mark Wiltz were present on ZOOM.

Commissioner Don McConnell was absent. There was a quorum.

**Guest(s):** Guests: Ryan Goude Locke, BVD attorney; Pam Granger, with McBade Engineers; RPF, C, 013481, 13372573714, User, J, CJ, iPhone. Staff: CEO Cheramie, Brady McKellar, Elizabeth Daspit, Millicent Norbert, Melanie Harrington, Brenda Lalonde, Chris Benoit, Kim Fournet, and Tom Melancon.

**Approval of Minutes:** President Eaton asked if there were any questions, changes, or issues with the minutes as written from the September 22, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Holden asked. There were no other questions, changes, objections, or issues. **MOTION:** (C. Leger/ H. Hoggatt) to accept minutes as corrected. All were in favor. Motion carried

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

**President's Report:**

A. President Eaton reported on the Executive Meeting. It was a great meeting. The topics covered were insurance of buildings and artifacts; ordinances-not to step over authority; budget form sent from Ryan Goude Locke, CEO authority and Board authority, River Operations Department Head and Vermilionville Operations Department Head.

**CEO Report:**

Copies of CEO Cheramie's report and coordinators reports (on file) were e-mailed to the commissioners. Boo Bayou and Murder on the Bayou were both a tremendous success. Together they netted \$13,000. Murder on the Bayou was Elizabeth Daspit's idea, and the script was written by her.

A. Vermilionville Voyage

The Vermilionville Voyage is a three-day canoeing and camping trip down the Vermilion. This event was started by Jesse Guidry and has not taken place for a couple of years. Mr. Guidry would like to start it up again in 2022.

B. Reorganization

Brady McKellar will oversee all Vermilionville Operations. Curtis Willingham will oversee Bayou Operations.

C. Louisiana Watershed Initiative

CEO Cheramie, Marcus Bergeron, and Grace Rentrop attended "Working with Nature" webinar. CEO Cheramie sent a link to the commissioner. Dr. Habib proposed the idea of using an Aquifer Storage and Recovery system which would inject storm water into the Chicot Aquifer.

D. Vermilion River Alliance

The Vermilion River Alliance met by videoconference recently. The meeting had presentations by Donald Sagrera, water sampling program, and Shane Miller with LADEQ.

## E. Budget

CEO Cheramie received the September 2021 financials and will continue to work on the 2022 projected budget and the 2021 amended budget for presentation next month.

### **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee:** The committee met October 26, 2021. President Eaton discussed the meeting earlier tonight.

**Finance:** The committee met October 19, 2021. Commissioner Hail summarized her minutes. Commissioner Hail explained the changes to the monthly financial reports going forward. Mr. Goude Locke the 5% plus or minus rule.

**Bayou Operations and Development:** The committee will meet November 1, 2021. Commissioner Darby reviewed her agenda for the upcoming meeting.

**Vermilionville Operations:** The committee met October 13, 2021. Commissioner Leger read the minutes. Great turnout for Boo Bayou and Murder on the Bayou. Congratulations to all staff involved.

### **Discussion Items**

A. Discussion of the process of tree removal on the Vermilion with support documentation on the effectiveness of this process and permitting requirements. Tom Melancon explained to the board the process by which the bayou crew removes downed trees from the river and how the trees are secured on land to prevent them from falling back into the river. This method has been used for 15 years to keep the river clean, with no complaints. The State Legislature has given permission to BVD to clean the river. Pam Granger and the Board would like this authority from the State Legislature in a letter. Ms. Granger described her work in Florida with water management.

**MOTION:** (K. Hail/H. Hoggatt) to designate CEO Cheramie with the process of tree removal on the Vermilion with support documentation on the effectiveness of this process and permitting requirements. All present commissioners were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Request for \$100,000, transfer allowance disbursement to Vermilionville. The request was tabled by CEO Cheramie.

C. Discuss and vote to name Elizabeth Daspit as curator and artifacts collections. Anne Mahoney left as Curator at the end of June. This position has been vacant since then. **MOTION:** (C. Leger/P. Mouton) to name Elizabeth Daspit as curator and artifacts collections. All present commissioners were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Discussion and vote to move the Gift Shop under Vermilionville Operations. This is not necessary since Brady McKellar will oversee all Vermilionville Operations and the Gift Shop is already in the Vermilionville revenue stream.

E. Discuss and vote to create Louisiana Music History Museum. BVD does not have the funds at present to make any purchases or improvements to the old Water Shed building but by creating this entity, Brady McKellar can start applying for grants to help fund the project.

**MOTION:** (C. Leger/P. Mouton) to create Louisiana Music History Museum in the old Water Shed Building. All present commissioners were in favor. Motion carried.

F. MOU Discussion and vote.

The BVD Board and the Vermilionville Living History Museum Foundation formed a Task Force earlier this year to sort out several issues between the two boards. They Task Force was charged with deciding which entity owns the artifacts in the village. Who can accept donations, Rewriting or updating the current MOU. Most of these tasks were not completed.

**MOTION:** (C. Leger/H. Hoggatt) to remove the current MOU from BVD's Policy and move forward with writing a new MOU. The vote was 5 yeas, 2 nays, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

G. Discussion to hire Pam Granger as an advisor to the BVD commissioners. The BVD board is looking for outside help with the management of the river/water.

**MOTION:** (C. Leger/H. Hoggatt) to hire Pam Granger as an advisor to the BVD board of commissioner, on retainer. All present commissioners were in favor. Motion carried.

H. CEO delegation of authority for 2022 budget.

The commissioners want an expression of authority attached to the proposed 2022 budget. CEO can move moneys from one line item to another line item in the same department.

I. CEO delegation of authority.

The board has authority and cannot give out more authority than it has.

**MOTION:** (C. Leger/C. Darby) the authority of the Board supersedes the authority of the CEO. The vote was 6 yeas, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

J. Discussion on creating River Manager and Vermilionville Manager under CEO.

This delegation of management will help with BVD's reorganization and relieve day-to-day duties from CEO.

**MOTION:** to create a River Manager position and a Vermilionville Manager position under CEO. All present commissioners were in favor. Motion carried. Curtis Willingham and Brady McKellar will fill these positions. They will oversee an and all day-to-day activities in their respected departments.

**Adjournment: MOTION:** (H. Hoggatt/M. Wiltz) Motion to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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David Eaton, President

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Calvin Leger, Secretary