Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Bayou Vermilion District

Held by ZOOM at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana

4:30 pm, December 16, 2020

**Call to Order** was given by President Michot. The meeting was called at 4:31 pm. The BVD meeting is on ZOOM because of COVID-19. Adhering to Governor’s Proclamation, following mandate and guidance.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**: Given by the Secretary: Commissioners Thomas Michot, Don McConnell, Kristie Cornell, Jason Sullivan, Holden Hoggatt, Mark Wiltz, Calvin Leger, and David Eaton were on Zoom. There was a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** President Michot asked if there were any questions, changes, or issues with the minutes as written, there were not. Minutes stand approved.

**Introduction of Guest(s)**: Guests: Zoom Sam Oliver, Aprille Sonnier, Anne Swanson, Michael Martin, John Sharp, Deborah Simeral, Peggy Feehan, Tiffany Guillory, Liz Skilton and Deidre Stock, CPA with Kolder, Slaven & Company. Staff: CEO Cheramie, Kayla Guidry, Charissa Helluin, Curtis Willingham and Kim Fournet.

**Public Comment(s):** John Broussard, a former BVD commissioner, asked if the now present Water Shed building was still going to be used to house Creole artifacts. This was a decision voted on by the previous board. Mr. Broussard has heard some disappointing information and comments concerning this action. According to President Michot and CEO Cheramie that is still the plan.

Paul Simon sent a letter to President Michot concerning the BVD’s budgets and the letter has been put into the record.

**President’s Report:**

A. Discussion with Kolder, Slaven and Company about financial consulting role

At this time, Kolder and Slaven are strictly accounting and bookkeeping. Commissioners want more consulting and availability to the board. KS&C has many government entities as clients, they can certainly provide addition services. The company has submitted a proposal for the board’s review concerning expanding KS&C’s responsibilities.

**CEO Report:**

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

A. Hurricane Delta debris removal reimbursement

The process of FEMA reimbursement of $3,975.00, the cost for Bob’s Trees to remove trees from Southside Park is going forward.

B. Watershed Building Update

The progress on the building is coming along.

C. Meeting with St. Landry Parish

CEO Cheramie, Commissioner J. Sullivan, and Bayou Ops Foreman Tom Melancon met with St. Landry Parish President Bellard to see if St. Landry Parish could help with litter abatement in Bayou Fuselier. At this time, the parish has no extra funds to help litter abatement in the water. The parish is working on solid waste issues.

**Committee Reports**

**Ma**r**keting/Public Relations**: The committee did meet. Brady McKellar has stepped up to help with the promotion of all revenue entities at Vermilionville. Millicent Norbert is calling on the Mardi Gras Krewes for 2021 events. Restaurant sales are picking up. Jamie Dupuis is working on social media.

**Finance/Capital**: The committee did meet. The committee transferred $50,000, to the Vermilionville Operating account for 2020. The committee agreed to transfer up to $30,000, per month in 2021 if necessary.

The financial analysis comparison for the month ending October 2020 and October 2019 and the financials were emailed to the commissioners.

**Environmental/Bayou Ops**: The committee met December 15, 2020. As mentioned earlier, Commissioner Sullivan, CEO and staff met with St. Landry Parish President Bellard to discuss litter abatement. The committee also covered several issues. Cleaning up the sediment at North Landing. Repairing and cleaning the dock at Vermilionville. Water Quality Lab signage to include all commissioners involved in the project. Erosion control. Tee work and safety briefing.

**Education/Programming/Grants**: The committee did not meet. Commissioner Hoggatt is now the chair of the committee.

**Curatorial/Acquisitions**: The committee did not meet.

**Executive**: The committee did not meet.

**New Business**

A. CRI Audit

Commissioners Eaton and Leger requested tabling the CRI Audit in place of a special council (Planning Task Force).

**MOTION**: (C. Leger/D. Eaton) to propose that BVD table CRI Audit. Propose to create a Joint BVD Overview and Planning Task /force. The task force would make recommendations to Bayou Vermilion District on how to make BVD and Vermilionville even more successful within their budgets and available public and private resources. The PTF would meet between January to March and report to the BVD at the March meeting. The task force would be made up of the following committee of 11.

BVD chair and 3 commissioners

Foundation chair and 2 members

CEO (Dr. Cheramie)

Emile Ancelet

Brady McKellar

+1 other staff member

Much discussion followed from commissioners and public comments. An Amendment was added. **AMENDMENT**: (C. Leger/D. Eaton) the BVD Board will give authority for the task force to receive any documents necessary to fulfill their mission.

**MOTION**: (D. Eaton/J. Sullivan) to accept the motion as amended.

A vote was called for the amendment to be accepted. Six yeas and two nays. Motion carried. A vote to accept the amended motion was called. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Donations from website and any other donations

The donate button on the website sends donations to the Foundation. Commissioner Eaton would like all donations to go through BVD and not the Foundation. CEO Cheramie explained the 501(c)3, the foundation, was created to accept donations for BVD. Many donations are received with specific purposes. CPA Deidre Stock pointed out that BVD could accept donations, and they would be tax deductible for the donor, with certain IRS bookkeeping.

C. Legal Counsel

President Michot will contact attorney Ryan Goudelocke for a contract, including rates and services.

D. Officer nominations and elections

At the November meeting, elections for President and Vice President were tied. The two commissioners for president are Tommy Michot and David Eaton. The two commissioners for vice president are Mark Wiltz and Jason Sullivan.

**MOTION**: (D. Eaton/C. Leger) to vote on the unfilled positions. All in favor. Vote followed

For president, the vote was 5-3 for Tommy Michot and the vote for vice president was 5-3 for Mark Wiltz. The officers for 2021 are President T. Michot, Vice President M. Wiltz and Secretary C. Leger.

**MOTION**: (D. Eaton/C. Leger) to nominate members of the task force. D. Eaton and H. Hoggatt nominate Calvin Leger. C. Leger and H. Hoggatt nominate David Eaton. D. McConnell and H. Hoggatt nominate Jason Sullivan. All were in favor. The BVD members of the task force were approved.

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

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Thomas Michot, President Calvin Leger, Secretary