



**JEDCO Executive Committee**  
**April 28, 2022 @ 8:30 A.M.**  
**700 Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** 8:30 a.m.

**Attendance:** Chairman Tom Gennaro, Jimmy Baum, Kenny Bertucci, Joe Ewell, Josline Frank, Lesha Freeland, Brian Heiden, Larry Katz, Jim Martin, Mayra Pineda, Stephen Robinson

**Staff:** Jerry Bologna, Lacey Bordelon, Janet Galati, Cynthia Grows, Annalisa Kelly, Jennifer Lapeyrouse, Penny Weeks

**Absences:** Lloyd Clark, Teresa Lawrence, Gene Sausse

**Attorney:** Colin Cisco, Jefferson Parish

**Guests:** Michael Hecht – Greater New Orleans, Inc. President & CEO  
Angela Desoto – Jefferson Parish Engineering Director  
Tim Palmatier – Jefferson Parish Finance Director

**I. Call to Order – Chairman Tom Gennaro**

- **Approval of Board absences for today, April 28, 2022** – Mayra Pineda motioned, seconded by Josline Frank to excuse Lloyd Clark and Teresa Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of minutes for February 24, 2022** – Joe Ewell motioned, seconded by Lesha Freeland to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Presentation by Parish President’s Office - Road Lighting Millage Renewal**  
Ms. Angela Desoto, Jefferson Parish Engineering Director, provided information about an important millage renewal on the April 30th ballot. The millage, not to exceed 3 mills, is the sole source of revenue to power and properly maintain the roughly 60,000 street lights throughout Unincorporated Jefferson Parish and the Town of Jean Lafitte. The funding from the Consolidated Road Lighting Millage is used to replace deteriorated wiring and pole systems, which are sometimes 50 years old. The money is also used to install new lighting systems along major thoroughfares in Unincorporated Jefferson Parish. Commissioners were encouraged to share this information with their nominating organizations.

- **Presentation Greater New Orleans, Inc.**

Mr. Michael Hecht, President and CEO of Greater New Orleans, Inc., provided updates related to opportunities and challenges for the New Orleans region. He stated that we are entering a moment of change, opportunity, and risk in global trade, unprecedented in our lifetime. Key takeaways from his presentation included:

- Continued growth in containerization
- Opportunity to capitalize on labor and capacity constraints at other ports
- Opportunity for logistics/distribution/warehousing/value-added manufacturing in GNO and LA
- Louisiana well-placed in Washington D.C.; \$17B in IJIA for Ports
- Upheaval: with the war in Ukraine, entire supply chains will be rewritten, creating massive volatility and unpredictability – and even more opportunity
- Threat from competition (Mobile surpassed PONO in containers last year)

Additionally, Mr. Hecht shared what he is excited to see happening in the region:

- Growth in Advanced Manufacturing – Air, Sea and Space
- BioScience – “The MD Anderson of Alzheimer’s”
- Technology – Inclusive Innovation
- Entrepreneurship – The Fly Wheel is Turning
- Energy – Leading Responsible Decarbonization
- Talent – Building a Better Butterfly Garden

## II. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

## III. **Unfinished and New Business**

- **Resolution authorizing execution of contract with Terracon Consultants, Inc. for environmental services under JEDCO’s EPA Cooperative Agreement Award– Annalisa Kelly (Deferred from February 24, 2022)**

Joe Ewell motioned, seconded by Mayra Pineda to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Approval of the JEDCO 2022 Strategic Operating Plan – Lacey Bordelon**

Joe Ewell motioned, seconded by Josline Frank to approve the draft copy of the JEDCO 2022 Strategic Operating Plan as amended from the floor (amendment listed below). The motion passed unanimously.

### AMENDMENT

**Page 8, Goal IV, Objective A. shall be amended to say** – “Continue JEDCO’s strong working relationship with the Parish, Jefferson Business Council, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, City of Gretna, GNO, Inc. Jefferson Chamber and other partners, and leverage to advance economic development efforts (Managers as noted)”

**IV. Monthly Financial Report**

• **February 2022 and March 2022 – Cynthia Grows**

Larry Katz motioned, seconded by Lesha Freeland to approve the February and March 2022 Financial Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

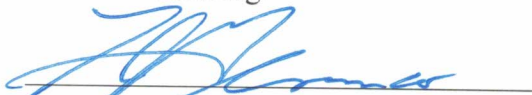
**V. President and CEO Report – Jerry Bologna**

- To celebrate the grand opening of the new JEDCO Finance Center, and to jump start Economic Development week, JEDCO will host a business boosting bash in Churchill Park on May 6, 2022 before Economic Development Week starts. Festivities include food trucks, music, and open house tours of the JEDCO Complex. The event starts at 11:00 and is open to the public.
- Pamela Manual was offered, and accepted, a full-time permanent position assisting Ms. Cynthia Grows with accounts payable and accounts receivable.
- Working with transition team to schedule a meeting with Mayor-elect Glaser to discuss Economic Development and a formalized partnership/CEA.
- Legislative updates:
  - HB566 – Increases the number of entities eligible for licensure as medical marijuana production facilities: the bill has passed out of Health and Welfare and will now go to the House floor.
  - HB477 – Provides relative to issuance of a special permit for the operation of a combination of vehicles or tandem loads hauling containers to and from port facilities: At the request of Ronnie Mains of CRC Global, JEDCO provided a letter of support for this bill. The bill passed the Senate and is now with the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.
  - HB2 – Capital Outlay: This bill includes a project with the allocation of funds for rail improvements at the Avondale Marine Site. JEDCO provided the Louisiana Legislators a letter supporting the addition of the rail infrastructure and advised that JEDCO intends to serve as the public entity sponsor for this project.

**VI. Other Updates or Comments from the JEDCO Board of Commissioners**

There were no other updates or comments.

**VII. Adjournment** – Joe Ewell motioned, seconded by Josline Frank to adjourn the meeting.



**Tom Gennaro**  
JEDCO Chairman

Minutes for April 28, 2022