

**LaBIC Meeting Minutes**

**March 18, 2021**

Port of Baton Rouge  
2425 Ernest Wilson Dr  
Port Allen, LA 70767

The following Committee Members were in attendance.

1. Paul Aucoin
2. Kate MacArthur
3. Wylly Gilfoil
4. Brenda Stelly
5. Bobby Landry for Brandy Christian
6. Jay Hardman
7. Michael Olivier
8. Rick Ranson
9. Drew Heaphy
10. Don Sanders
11. Renee Lapeyrolerie
12. Michelle Ribera

Additional Attendees included:

1. Ed Webb- New Orleans World Trade Center
2. Michael Hecht-GNO
3. Russel Richardson
4. Rep White- Covington
5. Ms. Mosbrucker- Advocate
6. Ben Fontenot
7. Jessica Steverson
8. Rebecca Normand
9. Courtney Maciasz
10. Larry Collins

Call to Order

Don Sanders

Roll Call

Rebecca Normand

Declaration of Quorum

Don Sanders

Approval of Minutes from August board meeting

Don Sanders

Introductory Remarks

Don Sanders

Don Sanders thanks Jay Hardman for hosting the LaBIC meeting. Offers the floor to Jay Hardman for remarks. Mr. Hardman thanks everyone for attending and discuss the hope for a prosperous 2021. Don Sanders introduces Rep White from Covington.

Larry Collins recognizes guests and media in attendance.

#### Introductory Remarks

Secretary Pierson

Secretary Pierson thanked all of our Port partners and briefly discussed the Covid climate and the effects on Louisiana business and Global trade. He also discussed that the LED Digital Annual Report is available on the website for viewing. Hard copies are also available as a marketing tool. Sec. Pierson announces that the America Competiveness Exchange to be held November 7-12. The purpose of the exchange is for the US Government through the Department of Commerce interacts with the 35 members from Latin America Countries. Presentations will include ways that Louisiana can assist with EDAs, networking and Lead Development. Sec. Pierson discussed advancing Smart Port Initiative- Port of New Orleans. This event will have more information later this year.

Rep White from Covington spoke about a study to be reported to the legislature regarding increasing international trade potential by 2030. Covid has postponed the study.

#### OIC Planning, Operations

Larry Collins

Mr Collins discussed the changes and challenges taken place due to Covid travel restrictions, and how the OIC staff has dealt with this during the course of the year. Maintaining relationships with International colleagues and prospects.

#### Recent and Upcoming Activities

OIC Staff

##### **Jessica Steverson:**

Ms. Steverson discussed the STEP Grant, funding available to companies and how trade shows have been impacted due to Covid. Ms. Steverson has been working with marketing team to distribute information regarding the STEP grant and reaching companies that could qualify for funding.

##### **Courtney Maciasz:**

LED recently received Technical Assistance Grant from the Economic Development Administration some funds will go towards International office and to create digital platform for site visits and will help LED target foreign direct investments. It will help identify industry trends, identification of potential investors, and benching location competitiveness. Ms. Maciasz is currently preparing the RFQ for project.

##### **Benjamin Fontenot:**

Mr. Fontenot discussed the impact on International Companies due to the travel ban and how LED has assisted these companies.

Ongoing Activites

Larry Collins

Wins: \$7 million-Area Pac, packaging plant, LA dept of agriculture, for Rice mill- \$4 million.  
Shintec \$1.3 billion

### **Board Comments**

Paul Aucoin with the Port of S.LA discussed the SW pass to Baton Rouge. The CORPS is working on dredging the river to 50 feet to allow larger vessels to travel down river. The project estimated to be complete by the end of 2023. The goal is to help development business opportunities for the State of Louisiana.

Drew Heaphy discussed two major projects. Rehabilitation of Chalmette Slip, \$32 million project and will bring slip back up to full potential. Recently broke ground on the new Domino sugar plant in St. Bernard Parish. This will be the first warehouse to store finished product on site.

Bobby Landry discussed the pilot simulation testing for large ships. Environmental testing being done as well to accommodate larger cargo ships in the ports. Project projected to be complete 6-7 years.

Public Comments  
N/A

Don Sanders

Closing Remarks & Adjourn  
The meeting was adjourned.

Don Sanders