**MINUTES**

**October 11, 2023, 3pm**

Vidalia Conference and Convention Center

112 Front St

Vidalia, LA 71373

1. Call to Order / Roll Call – RS, TJ, HC, JD, BD, TARYN??, MARCELLE, GA, JS, MC, DH, BC, KT, AB
2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance \_\_BD\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_BD\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Agenda – ***Action***

APPROVE M JD 2 BC

Against: 0

1. Public Comment

***Madison Police Jury Discussion by Rep johnson. BDavis asked if there were objections to the current representative serving for this meeting.***

1. Minutes

* August 23, 2023 – ***Action***

APPROVE M JD 2 TJ

Against: 0

***Rep. Johnson asked for a more descriptive version of minutes.***

1. Financial

* 2023 Q3 Financials – ***Action***

APPROVE M JD 2 MC

Against: 0

* Resolution 23-09 2023-2024 Budget Amendment – ***Action***

APPROVE M JD 2 TJ

Against: 0

***Sutherlin questioned the balance at the end of the budget to determine if was a deficit or surplus. It was determined it was a surplus and ok for approval.***

* Resolution 23-10 Accountant/Auditor Engagement – ***Action***

APPROVE M TJ 2 JS

Against: O

***In future, Sutherlin requested we consider minority or in district.***

* Resolution 23-11 Delta Regional Authority Strategic Plan Contracts – ***Action***
  + - * + Strategic Planning Consultant
        + Grant Management
        + Engineering

APPROVE M TJ 2 RS

Against: 0

***Mr. Boe presented the budget as submitted to the DRA in the application and asked the board to approve the budget as submitted.***

1. Executive Director’s Report

* Operations
  + - Grants Update - ***Ms. Bering presented an update on the following grants:***

***Thriving Communities REAPPLYING – need more strategic partners…need suggestions from the board.***

***EDA Planning and Local and Technical Assistance Program Through its Planning and Local Technical Assistance programs, EDA assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. The Planning program helps support organizations, including District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible recipients, with Short Term and State Planning investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation’s most economically distressed regions. The Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of local or State organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible recipients to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies and impact analyses. UNDER REVIEW – working to submit for feasibility study for regional water and transportation system in Q4 2023***

***DRA Strategic Planning AWARDED - $150,000***

* + - Resolution 23-08 Delta Bike Commission Memorandum of Understanding – ***TABLED***

REMOVE M JD 2 TJ

Against: 0

APPROVE M TJ 2 JS

Against: 0

***Rep Johnson gave a history of the Bike Trail and asked the representatives from the Ag Center to give an update on grants available. Representatives agreed to provide to Ms. Bering. Mayor Craft stated AgCenter has helped them a great deal. Sutherlin highlighted that tourism is always a part of community development.***

* + - Broadband Update – ***workshop to be held***

VII. Chairman’s Report

* By Laws Committee – ***Chairman Davis stated that he would like members to serve on the By Laws Committee to look at audit, officers, legislation, member appointments and empowering the Director. Scott, Sutherlin and Madison Police jury offered to serve.***
* Next Board Meeting – January 10, 2024, April 10, 2024

IX. Adjourn