



JEDCO Executive Committee
April 29, 2021 @ 8:30 A.M.
701-A Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094
MINUTES

Call to Order: 8:30 a.m.

Attendance: Mickal Adler, Kenneth Bertucci, Lloyd Clark, Michael Fahrenholt, Josline Frank, Lesha Freeland, Tom Gennaro, Brian Heiden, Teresa Lawrence, Stephen Robinson, Gene Sausse

Staff: Lacey Bordelon, Cynthia Grows, Annalisa Kelly, Scott Rojas, Penny Weeks

Absences: Larry Katz and Mayra Pineda

Attorney: Reed Smith, Jefferson Parish

Guests: Chris Kane, Adams & Reese LLP

I. Call to Order – Chairwoman, Teresa Lawrence

Chairwoman Teresa Lawrence called the meeting to order, welcomed guests and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken and the above-named Commissioners attended the meeting.

- **Approval of Board absences for today, April 29, 2021** – Lloyd Clark motioned, seconded by Tom Gennaro to approve the above-named absences. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of minutes for meeting on March 25, 2021** – Lesha Freeland motioned, seconded by Gene Sausse to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

III. Unfinished and New Business

- Discussion and take position on Legislation in the 2021 Regular Session – **Lacey Bordelon**

Ms. Bordelon informed the Board that Jerry was absent due to delivering a keynote address to business and education leaders in Jefferson Parish related to career readiness, and since this is heavily related to the implementation of the

Jefferson EDGE, Chairwoman Teresa Lawrence recommended that Jerry participate in the address.

Each Commissioner was provided a copy of HB 472. Ms. Bordelon explained that this Bill, co-authored by Representative Joe Marino and Senator Pat Connick, provides for JEDCO to receive a specialty license to cultivate medical marijuana. She reminded the Board that this is also related to the implementation of the Jefferson EDGE and JEDCO's focus on Medical Innovation and Research and Development. Ms. Bordelon introduced Chris Kane of Adams and Reese, who assisted with drafting the legislation for HB 472, and is working to advance the bill in Baton Rouge. Mr. Kane provided information regarding the current structure of the State's Medical Marijuana Program. Current law provides that there be only one license holder, which is held by LSU and Southern, as co-licensees of that one license. Mr. Kane said JEDCO's Strategic Plan identifies this as an opportunity, and based on where the market is, the timing is right – for example, over the last 3 years, the state has continued to expand the permissible use of Medical Marijuana as doctors/physicians have gotten engaged in the process and patient demand has increased. He stated it is a fairly accessible program, but there is not a lot of supply. Mr. Kane emphasized that JEDCO is not trying to compete with LSU and Southern, and that there is supply need on the patient side and tremendous need on the Research and Development side.

Following Commissioner questions and further discussion, Mickal Adler motioned, seconded by Gene Sausse to allow JEDCO via the President & CEO to take a position and speak in support of HB 472 and authorize the President & CEO to agree to amendments that he deems beneficial to the passage of this legislation. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Monthly Financial Report

- **March 2021 – Cynthia Grows**

Tom Gennaro motioned, seconded by Lesha Freeland to approve the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. President and CEO Report

On behalf of Jerry, Ms. Bordelon provided the following updates:

- One of the prospects that JEDCO has been working with has officially signed a lease to locate at Avondale. When commissioned, the project will result in an \$80 million investment and 65-80 jobs paying approximately \$83,000 annually.
- Avondale is also one of the final two sites under consideration for a major automobile import facility.
- JEDCO staff will be meeting with Parish President Cynthia Lee-Sheng to discuss prioritization of spending the Parish's \$84 million in federal stimulus money. JEDCO is working with the parish to hopefully present projects that are relevant to the EDGE and will be catalytic in nature.
- The JEDCO Board recently voted to extend the PILOT agreement with US Foods since they were adversely impacted by the historic river levels last year. JEDCO

appealed to the Board of Commerce & Industry to do the same relative to US Foods Enterprise Zone Application. Yesterday, USF received the first-ever extension granted by the Board of Commerce & Industry.

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

None

VII. Adjournment – Mickal Adler motioned, seconded by Lloyd Clark to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.



Mayra Pineda

JEDCO Secretary

Minutes for April 29, 2021