

MINUTES OF THE RIVER PARISHES TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING November 14, 2013

The Vice-Chairman, Helen Banquer, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:14 A.M. on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at the St. John the Baptist Parish Council Chambers, LaPlace LA.

Members present were, H. Banquer, C. Faucheux, R. LeBlanc, R. Drexel, and, R. Vincent, thus achieving a quorum. B. Petit and M. Octave were absent. Also present were Robert Collins (Veolia), Elizabeth Griffith (GCR, Inc), Tyler Antrup (GCR, Inc), Stacy VanSickle (Solutient), and Alan Abadie (Solutient).

H. Banquer requested that the board members review the meeting minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting. E. Griffith and T. Antrup noted the Secretary/Treasurer's Report balance of liabilities and equities needed to be amended to 1,018,669.01 and the profit and loss statement YTD to 819,476.87, and to remove reference to a net loss in the profit and loss statement. R. LeBlanc noted that his vote on the motion of reducing payment to the South Central Planning Commission needed to be amended from an abstention to no.

It was moved by C. Faucheux, seconded by R. Drexel to accept amended minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Banquer then asks for any comments from the public. None were received.

R. Collins presented Veolia's Transit Operations Report for October 2013. There were 1,553 passengers transported for the month of September, 14,001 year to date. The daily average was 67.5 passengers per day, 1.61 passengers scheduled per hour. Veolia's on-time performance averaged 93.5 percent. Total revenue collected for September was \$2,942.00 as well as 37 vouchers. The total miles travelled were 21,727 miles. The average cost per mile \$3.86 and average miles per trip was 13.99. Collins informed the Board that there was one accident for October, it was a fixed-object strike of a garbage can. There was one complaint from a long-time passenger who was unable to receive her preferred ride due to high demand during the peak hours of service. The passenger was encouraged to contact her representative in St. Charles Parish to request that there be an increase of service. The September denial rate remained at 1.22%. There were a total of 1,642 requests for service. The year over year comparison data requested last month will be available at the December board meeting as the records were not available from October of the previous year but will be available in November. H. Banquer requested that the ridership data be presented in a chart form.

C. Faucheux asked what data was used to calculate the average cost per mile. R. Collins explained that the average cost per mile is calculated by multiplying the miles per month by the base price per hour. There was a general discussion about the profitability of transit and the need for federal subsidies to maintain service. H. Banquer discussed a provision in the Affordable Health Care Act that allows free gasoline for the transport of low-income persons to health care facilities and the possibility of RPTA utilizing this program. GCR will research this for the December board meeting.

H. Banquer then requested the Secretary/ Treasurer's Report. S. Vansickle reported that cash flow from January 1, 2013 through November 12, 2013 ended with a net loss of -\$80,150.73. This is due to funds which should be coming from a federal reimbursement of approximately \$72,000, the state reimbursement request of approximately \$31,000 and receivables from St John and St Charles parishes for a total of roughly \$120,000. . The Profit & Loss statement from the beginning of service in 2008 reported that the total income has been \$747,737.70. The balance of all liabilities and equity as of October 11, 2013 was \$946,929.84. The profit and loss statement for 2013 year to date shows \$908,770.83 S. VanSickle introduced Solutient accountant Alan Abadie to discuss to depreciation issue per request of B. Petit in October's meeting.

A. Abadie acknowledged that theoretically the depreciation should not be on the cash flow statement or the profit loss statement however South Central had historically done this because the capital assets were listed as expenses not allowing for depreciation. Solutient will continue to manage the books as they were received from South Central until the year end auditor can reconcile the figures. Solutient will then moving forward in 2014 with the proper mode of accounting for depreciation. S. VanSickle confirmed that Solutient would send notice to Stagni and Associates notifying them of their investigation into this issue.

H. Banquer then requested the following checks for approval and payment.

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service into St. James Parish. There was an open discussion on whether there would be enough notice to the public and officials to start Saturday service in December. There was general agreement on December 7, 2013 to be the start date and that ads should go out in L'Observateur, The Examiner, The Herald Guide, Times-Picayune and The Advocate Press releases were requested for all as well.

H. Banquer stated that a motion would be required to start Saturday Service with prior contacts to the Parish President and Councils and public awareness provided.

It was motioned by R. Vincent, seconded by R. Drexel to approve Saturday Service as a trial program for the month of December with December 7, 2013 as the official start date. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Griffith presented the quarterly grant report at the request of H. Banquer.

E. Griffith then proposed a new grant opportunity to work with other transit agencies and research institutes for the creation of the Resilient Emergency Support for Transit (REST) Toolkit. UNO has expressed interest for RPTA's involvement due to their work during Hurricane Isaac and that staff time could be used as an in-kind match though it is not necessary for participation. E. Griffith expressed that this project is time sensitive and would need a commitment by December. C. Faucheux asked E. Griffith to explain the benefits for RPTA as a participant in this project. E. Griffith responded that the benefits would be the increased cooperation in regional planning for disasters and that this research would provide preliminary evidence of commitment to disaster planning for receipt of future funds available from FTA. R. Collins explained that RPTA would not be incurring any charges for the staff time, but that Veolia would be absorbing the costs for the operation of drills. H. Banquer asked if further discussion was needed for approval.

It was moved by C. Faucheux, seconded by R. Drexel to authorize RPTA to participate in the REST Toolkit Project. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by R. LeBlanc, seconded by R. Vincent to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Having no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:14 AM.


Brent Petit, Chairperson

12/11/13
Date