 Vermilion & Iberia Parish Railroad Development 

District Board of Commissioners

DATE: July, 23 2024

TIME: 2.00 PM-3:00 PM

PLACE OF MEETING: LSU Ag Building

1105 W Port Street

Abbeville, La 70510

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. CHAIRMAN- HOMER STELLY
4. VICE CHAIRMAN-JOSEPH HEBERT
5. ELBERT DAWSON-SECRETARY
6. DAVID BROUSSARD (absent)
7. Agenda Item
8. rails to trails

First speaker was Mr. Larry Campisi who addressed the room with his concerns about the railroad tracks serving as a form of protection from surge waters. He also stated it is still an active railroad. Mr. Campisi then asked to go on record that he is against Rails to Trails. Residents residing near the trail also stated there is enough well-kept parks in Abbeville to enjoy and expressed concern that removing the tracks will level off the levee. Mr. Benson Langlinais stated the railroad was built in 1920 and his concerns were about permits with FEMA and why residents were required to attain them, but not this project. Taylor Mencacci, The Mayor of Erath, is neutral on the subject but the idea came to him in March 2023. At the time there was not enough information to bring this idea to the committee therefore nothing was moved forward on the subject. Mayor Roslyn White was unable to attend this meeting therefore she wrote a letter to be read on her behalf which Taylor Mencacci read aloud. Mr. Marshall Broussard with the Iberia/Vermilion Twin Port was never notified of project despite hearing false rumors that they were for it. Residents have voiced that they want their land back if the railroad does shut down. The Railroad Committee voted after Larry Campisi insisted that they make a motion. The board unanimously voted not to support Rails to Trails. The next meeting will be held 6:00pm on 27 August 2024 at the LSU Ag center.

1. ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Hebert second by Mr. Elbert.