**LaBIC Meeting Minutes**

June 28, 2018

LED FastStart Conference Room

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

10:00am-12:00pm

The following Committee Members were in attendance.

1. Greg Rusovich
2. Don Pierson
3. Larry Collins
4. Paul Aucoin
5. Jay Hardman
6. Richard Ronson
7. Chett Chaisson
8. Caitlin Cain
9. Renee Simon
10. Michael Olivier
11. Tommy Clark
12. Jim Bourgeois

Additional Attendees included:

1. Stephen Holliday
2. Leigh Billeaud
3. Jonathan Lupo
4. Ben Fontenot
5. Jessica Steverson
6. Seth Leto

Call to Order Chairman Rusovich

Declaration of Quorum Chairman Rusovich

Approval of Minutes from December 18th board meeting Chairman Rusovich

Introductory Remarks Chairman Rusovich

Introductory Remarks & Recent Wins Secretary Pierson

Secretary Pierson reviewed the activities of the International Commerce office including recent visits to the UK, Asia, Canada and the Select USA Summit in Washington, DC. Secretary Pierson highlighted recent wins including the $9.4 billion investment announcement from Formosa Petrochemical in St. James Parish as well as Taiwan’s $20 billion off-take agreement established with Cheniere, totaling roughly $30 billion in transactions for the state of Louisiana.

Secretary Pierson also reported on Canadian company, CGI, meeting its 500 employee target in Lafayette and committing to another 400 hires, as well as DXC technologies, a global company, now located in New Orleans; Citadel Completions at Chennault airport; US Foods expansion in Jefferson Parish; Western Global Airlines in Shreveport; and Champion Homes in Leesville with 200 jobs.

Secretary Pierson also spoke to recent budget challenges during the legislative sessions, emphasizing that funding and political support remain critical to investment in the state.

Back from Select USA Summit, major program executed by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Through LED is attempting to solve problems with the help of Secretary and his staff and have received full support from the Department of Commerce. Heading to the Paris Airshow in London, where all major aviation and aerospace companies will be there and we’ll get a lot done. Louisiana’s partnership will Alabama, Florida and Mississippi called the Aerospace Alliance allows us to a host a reception for 400 C-level executives, from companies such as Boeing and others. Dedicated to getting England Airpark tenant and challenges we have in Lafayette, but aviation sector remains very strong for us.

One of the benchmarks we look when attending these conferences, such as Workboat Show, OTC, Aviation MRO Show, Paris Airshow, etc., is participation from our allies. Local participants can articulate opportunities in a first person perspective.

Recent announcement, Accruent, IT/software firm in New Orleans, has committed to 350 job program. UNO, SUNO, SELU, Delgado, are feeding IT professionals into this market which is now being recognized as significant.

BERG working with struggling companies like ARDOG, glass manufacturer based in Ruston, recently laid off 200 and have a 400-person workforce, trying to save those rural jobs.

LED is supporting large as well as small and mid-sized companies grow in Louisiana to strengthen backbone of the economy. The STEP grant is helping companies participate in shows overseas, like Global Petroleum Show.

Board of Industry and Commerce, unanimously approved changes to the Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP 2.0), significant accomplishment to involve all stakeholders in the process and delivering a revised program. It’s a foundational program that allows parishes to bring something to the table.

Olivier noted that state incentive program is under fire and it’s on the organizations throughout the state to educate boards and multipliers on the value of the economic development process and incentive programs.

State Trade Expansion Program & Global Petroleum Show Jessica Steverson

Ms. Steverson provided a summary of STEP participation and results, including a report on participation by region. Ms. Steverson also discussed participation at the Global Petroleum Show in Calgary, Canada, where Secretary Pierson participated as a panelist and Louisiana exhibited with companies and Lafayette International Center.

EU and Israel Missions Jonathan Lupo

Mr. Lupo provided an update on Israel and Europe trip.

Asia Mission Benjamin Fontenot

Mr. Fontenot discussed a recent trip to Asia that included visits to current investors as well as investment seminars in Japan, South Korea, China, and Taiwan.

Overseas Representation Leigh Billeaud

Ms. Billeaud reported on the hiring of two new representatives based in Canada and France as well as LEDs recent participation at the UK Northsea Offshore Federation Annual Conference.

Public Comments Chairman Rusovich

N/A

Closing Remarks & Adjourn Chairman Rusovich

The meeting was adjourned,