

DERSD MINUTES JANUARY 8TH 2025

Meeting called into order at 3:05pm

Becky Brown- Senate 34
C. Travis Johnson- Rep 21
Doretha Cook- Rep 19
Robert James Lee- Clayton
Carl Olds- Mayor St. Joseph
Jarrod Bottley- Mayor of Waterproof
Kendal Thompson- East Carroll Police Jury
Ashley Skipper- Ferriday Mayor
Buz Craft- Mayor of Vidalia
Renata Johnson- Mayor Lake Providence
Steve Fleming- Concordia Police Jury
Dave Wilson- Madison Police Jury
Dr. John Sutherlin- ULM
Dr. Gray Kennedy- Latech
Melissa Tate- LSU

Quorum was established and prayer was led by Kendall Thompson then followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The approval was made for the last meeting minutes. Motion made by Jarrod Bottley and second by C. Travis Johnson. Unanimously approved.

There were no public comments.

Pertaining to the minutes from the last meeting Dr. Sutherlin asked for his name to be corrected. A motion was made by Kendall Thompson and second by Jarrod Bottley and unanimously approved.

Financial report was approved. Motion made by C. Travis Johnson and second by Jarrod Bottley

Dr. Sutherlin gave a report on the Brownfield grant and how it's moving along. C. Travis Johnson stated that the Bike Trail project will begin soon in Vidalia and throughout the Delta Region.

Director Jimmy Jones was asked by Brandon Davis about how many grants has he written and also said that this has saved the organization money

Mayor Jarrod Bottley asked about solar lights throughout the town so that the elderly can see when lights are cut off by storms.

Brandon Davis mentioned Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District and the pilot program to put lights there and maybe show that this can be done then expand.

Buz Craft mentioned how maybe the Public Service Commission may have funding for towns that are serviced by them.

C. Travis Johnson during Chairs report discussed the Solar and Ag Center on how it will be only \$400.00 and will work with Southern University and Tensas Parish.

C. Travis Johnson then gave a report on the Delta Food System and said there were 34 applicants who applied and that they will pick 25 by February 15th.

Kennedy said Louisiana Tech could help people on how to use greenhouses.

The Chairman Brandon Davis stated that Elections would be at the next meeting in April and that the next officers would learn and take over at the July 1st meeting.

Hemp report given by C. Travis Johnson about a grant applied for by LSU Ag.

A motion was made by C. Travis Johnson to allow the Chairman to pick another financial institution and was seconded by Ashley Skipper and unanimously approved.

The board approved up to \$2500.00 to be provided to 21st Century Workforce Development for the 2nd annual sustainability conference.

A motion was made for the meeting to adjourn by Kendall Thompson and Seconded by Jarrod Bottley.