

Monthly Meeting

February 13th, 2025

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** 6:14 pm Chairman, Opal Andrus
2. **Roll Call: Secretary:** Raquel Manuel
 - a. **Present:** Michael Anderson, Opal Andrus, Brian Ardoin, Krista Vidrine, Jason Fontenot, Eugene Burge, Liz Chatelain, Maggie Eades, Eric Fontenot, Raquel Manuel
 - Absent:** Joey West
3. **Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Amendment to the Agenda:** None
5. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. Motioned by Liz Chatelain, seconded by Eric Fontenot; passed unanimously.
6. **Introduction of New Commissioner:**
 - a. Krista Vidrine, representing the Town of Mamou (2-year term).
7. **Industry Presentation:**
 - a. **Charm Industrial:** Presented by Alison Kelman
8. **Executive Committee Report: Vice Chair:** Liz Chatelain
 - a. Monthly Executive Committee Meetings set for 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM, one week before the EEDA Meeting. Reviewed Solicitation Letter. Industry speakers to be scheduled for monthly meetings. Organizational materials are updated on the State Boards and Commissions website. Bylaws updates will be sent via email and presented for approval at the next meeting.
9. **Finance Committee Report: Chair:** Eric Fontenot
10. Monthly Finance Committee Meetings set for 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM, one week before the EEDA Meeting. Recognized the need for an organizational checking account and CPAs.
 - a. **Motion:** Liz Chatelain moved to utilize Evangeline Bank for the EEDA checking account, seconded by Eugene Burge; unanimously approved.
 - b. **Motion:** Jason Fontenot moved to establish the checking account, requiring dual signatures from Executive Committee members as per bylaws; seconded by Brian Ardoin; unanimously approved.

- c. **Motion:** Maggie Eades moved, seconded by Brian Ardoin, for the Finance Committee to solicit quotes for a general business CPA and an annual audit CPA; unanimously approved.

11. Communications Committee Report: Chair: Maggie Eades

- a. Krista Vidrine offered to assist, monthly meetings will be held to establish priorities.

12. New Business

- a. **Public Comments:**
- b. **Raquel Manuel:** Announced a **\$500 donation** from the Evangeline Parish Farm Bureau Federation to assist with EEDA startup costs.
- c. **Clement LaFleur (Real Estate Developer):** Applauded EEDA's efforts to bring in industry representatives, particularly those focusing on trade industries.
- d. **Dr. Gwen Fontenot:** Inquired about forming a fundraising committee for future solicitation of funds, donations, and grants. Joey West, Michael Anderson, and Brian Ardoin volunteered to assist, with Dr. Fontenot also offering support. The committee formation will be addressed at the March meeting.
- e. **Opal Andrus:** Encouraged each EEDA member to help secure at least \$1,000 in donations by the next board meeting to meet startup cost goals. Announced ongoing negotiations for an annual cooperative endeavor agreement with the Evangeline Parish Tax Assessor's Office, funded through a parish solar project at no cost to parish citizens.

13. Adjournment:

- a. Motion by Liz Chatelain, seconded by Brian Ardoin; unanimously approved.