



Location: BREC Administration Building - 6201 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Thursday, March 17, 2022

**Attendees:**

Dr. James Gilmore, **Chairman**  
Stephanie Cargile, **Treasurer**  
Brian Lafleur, **Board Secretary**  
Dr. Jacqueline Mims, Board Member  
Myra Richardson, Board Member  
Eugene Johnson, Board Member  
Dr. Leroy Davis, Board Member (joined late)  
Bill Pizzolato, Board Member (joined late)

**Board Staff:**

April Hawthorne, **Executive Director**  
Melvin Davis, **Board CPA**  
Errin Green, Esq. substituting for Nahshon Route, **Board Attorney**

**Absent:**

Gary Chambers, Board Member  
Tasha Clark Amar, **Vice Chairperson**  
Jessie Glasper, Board Member  
Tara Williams, Board Member  
Dezmion Barrow, Board Member

A quorum was established later in the meeting.

- I. Roll Call
- II. Partners' Reports
  - A. ExxonMobil North Baton Rouge Training Initiative (Report given by Stephanie Cargile) 100 candidates interviewed by 20 contractor firms; graduation one month ago; grads are interviewing for jobs; plans to get more interns this year; contractor partners doing the hiring; craft certifications offered in high school; second round of EBR students this summer with new initiatives for millwrights, electricians, etc.; no stipends received by students, but free training given.
  - B. Baton Rouge Area Chamber (Report by Donnie Miller) – BRAC Is pulling talent from everywhere; six (6) projects, 400 new jobs.
    1. On Film Side: crew hiring 100 plus employees in Baton Rouge ("BTR") for Disney's National Treasure movie; result is filming BTR itself and filming in BTR resulting in more tourism. Custom Metal Works – ITEP exemption approved unanimously by City of Central; 48 projects; greater than 9,000 jobs tracking; 15 NRA categories close to closing 2,000 jobs; new leads from LED in chemical processing. Digital media project at Bon Carre with February/March recruitment efforts.



2. Would like to collaborate with BRNEDD on projects. There is less conversation about new grocery store in NBR and more about economic development; however, no loss of momentum on this issue.
3. Note: New construction on Evangeline at Airline Highway.

*A quorum was established with late arrivals.*

III. Approval of Minutes for Thursday, February 17, 2022

1. Motion to approve March 17, 2022, Minutes made by Brian Lafleur.
2. Motion seconded by Myra Richardson. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. February 2022 Financial Report (presented by Melvin Davis, Board CPA)

A. Financial Statements for the two months ended February 28, 2022

B. Total Fund Balance: \$529,610.42

1. Motion to approve Financial Report made by Dr. Jacqueline Mims.
2. Motion was seconded by Stephanie Cargile, Treasurer.
3. No public comment.
4. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Chairman's Report

One Façade and Signage Improvement Grant Application

A. Noland Turner d/b/a Accurate Tax Services 2929 Mohican Street (signage and awning improvements – anticipated cost \$10,700)

1. Motion to approve application by Dr. Jacqueline Mims.
2. Motion was seconded by Bill Pizzolato.
3. No public comment.
4. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Action Item:** Ad Hoc Committee will meet to discuss Board's intent to increase the award amount to utilize all funds allocated. Consider allowing applicants to submit bills directly to Board for payment. Bring forth recommendations about how BRNEDD can help those who don't have upfront money to fund their projects.

3. **Action Item:** Another FSIP information session upcoming on April 8<sup>th</sup>; each Board member should communicate with 5 businesses to spread the word.

4. **Action Item:** Executive Director Hawthorne to set aside money from FSIP funds for a ceremony for all grant recipients at program's end.

VI. Executive Director's Report

A. Formulating a Strategic Plan – Planning Committee to do a needs assessment and develop an Amended Strategic Plan. (See Handout: Strategic Planning Process Proposed by SSA Consultants.)

B. Target Area Map Proposal – Executive Director Hawthorne collaborated with Senator Regina Barrow and proposed economic synergy in a 3-mile area (referred



to on the map in packet), business retention, inclusiveness, new developments forthcoming in our district.

- C. Healthy Communities Grant Letter of Intent submitted by Executive Director April Hawthorne (included in packet) to Keep Louisiana Beautiful requesting \$8,000 grant. BRNEDD is waiting to hear from them. This is a youth litter program that would be incorporated into BREC to educate students about taking pride in their community.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Amended Annual Operating Budget for the Period January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.
  - 1. Submitted for Public Inspection February 17, 2022.
  - 2. No public comment.
  - 3. Motion to Approve Amended Annual Operating Budget for the Period January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, by Dr. Leroy Davis.
  - 4. Motion was seconded by Dr. Jacqueline Mims.
  - 5. Motion carried unanimously.
  
- B. Final 2022 Proposed Annual Operating Budget
  - 1. Motion to Approve Final 2022 Proposed Annual Operating Budget by Dr. Leroy Davis.
  - 2. Motion seconded by Bill Pizzolato.
  - 3. No public comment. (Posted for 10 days as required by law.)
  - 4. Motion carried unanimously,

VIII. New Business

- A. None

IX. Announcements

- A. ExxonMobil Day at the Capitol on Monday, March 21 at 5:45 p.m. (Louisiana State Museum.
- B. Next meeting Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 12:00 Noon

X. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn by Dr. Jacqueline Mims; seconded by Brian Lafleur.
- B. Meeting was adjourned.