



Southwest Louisiana Regional Planning Commission  
(SWLA-RPC)  
Louisiana Planning District 5

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Wednesday October 16, 2024

- I. Call to Order** Mayor Marcus Renfrow, Chair  
Mayor Marcus Renfrow called the meeting to order

- II. Roll Call** Mike Hollier, Director

Mayor Marcus Renfrow - Responded present  
Mr. Jacob Delahay - Responded present  
Mayor Hal McMillin - Responded present  
Mayor Nic Hunter - Responded present  
Ms. Lisa Adams - Responded present  
Ms. Katie Armentor - No Response  
Mr. Ben Boudreaux - Responded present  
Mayor Mike Danahay - Responded present  
Ms. Mary Kay Eason - Responded present  
Mayor Henry Guinn - Responded present  
Ms. Kim Monte - No Response

Mr. Mike Hollier reported that a QUORUM had been reached.

- III. Reading and Adoption of Minutes** Mayor Marcus Renfrow, Chair  
Action requested.

MOTION to dismiss reading of the minutes by Chair and seconded by Mayor Nic Hunter.

A MOTION to adopt the minutes of the meeting held August 14, 2024, was made by Mayor Nic Hunter and seconded by Mr. Jacob Dillehay. Hearing no objection, the MOTION carried.

- IV. Financial Reports** Mayor Hal McMillin  
Action requested. Treasurer

- A. August 2024 Financial Report**  
Action requested.

Ms. Brittany Shirley presented the financial reports for August in the absence of Mayor Hal McMillin. For August 2024, the net income was a negative \$45,357.28.

**B. September 2024 Financial Report**

Ms. Shirley presented the financial reports for September in the absence of Mayor McMillin. For September 2024, the net income was a negative \$52,444.38.

Ms. Shirley reported that outstanding receivables are \$131,924.21.

Mayor Mike Danahay made a MOTION with a second by Mayor Nic Hunter to accept financials for August 2024 and September 2024.

Hearing no objection, the MOTION carried.

**V. Resolution No. 2286 Approving and Authorizing an Economic Development Administration Public Work and Economic Adjustment Program Application for the Port of Vinton.**

Jamie Gaines

Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines stated that the Board adopted a resolution to work on an EDA Grant to assist the Town of Vinton at the last meeting, and request approval and authorization to apply for an Economic Development Administration grant to extend sewer and water infrastructure to the Port of Vinton, which would also serve Clime Works, a carbon sequestration facility located near the port.

Mayor Nic Hunter asked if there was a local match required, and Ms. Gaines replied that the Regional Planning Commission was working with Clime Works for the match.

A MOTION to accept Resolution 2286 Authorizing and Approving an Economic Development Administration Public Works and Economic Adjustment Programs Application for the Port of Vinton was made by Mayor Mike Danahay and seconded by Mayor Hal McMillin.

Hearing no objection, the MOTION carried.

**VI. Resolution No. 2285 Approving and Authorizing an Economic Development Administration Development District Partnership Grant.**

Jamie Gaines

Action requested

Ms. Jamie Gaines stated that the Regional Planning Commission is invited to apply for the \$300,000 Economic Development Administration Planning and Local Technical Assistance grant. She explained that this will cover salaries of those who operate the economic development component of the office. This grant does require a local match which is budgeted for annually. Since the district is not considered distressed any longer, the local match is 30% or \$90,000, with EDA providing 70% of the funds, or \$210,000.

Mayor Nic Hunter asked for clarification if the grant was to ensure the operation of the administrative staff who help run the economic development area, economic development strategies, and also helped in paying rent for the administrative office. Ms. Gaines replied that it would

A MOTION to accept Resolution Number 2285 Approving and Authorizing an Economic Development Administration Development District Partnership Grant was made by Mayor Nic Hunter and seconded by Mayor Hal McMillin.

Hearing no objection, the MOTION carried.

**VII. Resolution No. 2287 Approving and Authorizing a Southwest Louisiana Credit Union Savings Account (Replacing a Chase account).**

Jamie Gaines

Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines requested that the Regional Planning Commission open a business checking account at the Southwest Louisiana Credit Union. Since the business banker with Chase Bank is not local, it creates numerous challenges. Signature cards provided earlier in the meeting are for board members for this specific account.

Ms. Gaines explained that accounts are designated for the Metropolitan Planning Commission dues, another account for district dues, and another is a business savings account. The reimbursements for the grants will be deposited into the savings account then funds will be transferred to the checking for accounts payable tasks.

A MOTION to approve Resolution 2287 Approving and Authorizing a Southwest Louisiana Credit Union Savings Account was made by Mayor Nic Hunter and seconded by Mayor Henry Guinn.

Hearing no objection, the MOTION carried.

**VIII. Resolution No. 2288 Approving, Adopting, and Authorizing Establishment of The Southwest Louisiana Regional Mobility Authority.**

Mike Hollier

Action requested.

Mr. Mike Hollier stated it is his opinion that this region has lost out on a number of opportunities to coordinate and secure funding. A Regional Mobility Authority would include the five-parishes: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis.

To get a Regional Mobility Authority established, the board would need to support a request of the local legislative delegation to formulate legislation.

Mr. Hollier stated the material outlining the plan would be forwarded to board members. There are 13 area legislators, senators and representatives that would receive a letter signed by the Chair explaining the Board's support in the Southwest Louisiana Regional Mobility Authority (RMA). The RMA would help facilitate transportation projects, maintenance, project management, and intergovernmental agreements. The Regional Mobility Authority would be a legal subdivision of the state.

No action is required today.

Mayor Nic Hunter made the MOTION to defer it until the November Board of Directors meeting. Mayor Hal McMillin seconded the motion.

Hearing no objection, the MOTION to defer carried.

**IX. Resolution No. 2289 Approving and Authorizing a Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$31,553.83.**

Jamie Gaines

Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines reported that a Certificate of Deposit has matured at \$31,553.83 and requested approval to roll into another CD at 4.7% interest.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2289 Approving and Authorizing a Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$31,553.83 was made by Mayor Nic Hunter and seconded by Mayor Henry Guinn.

Hearing no objection, the MOTION carried.

**X. Resolution No. 2280 Approving and Adopting a Revised and Updated SWLA-RPC Rules of Policy and Procedure.**

Mike Hollier

Action requested.

Mr. Mike Hollier stated that the Rules of Policy and Procedure have been updated since it was last discussed a few months prior. Ms. Jamie Gaines pointed out the changes were noted with a tab on the corner of each page with administrative changes as well as changes to the Table of Contents. Mayor Nic Hunter asked if a legal review had been completed.

A MOTION to defer Resolution No. 2280 Approving and Adopting a Revised and Updated SWLA-RPC Rules of Policy and Procedure was made by Mayor Nic Hunter and seconded by Mayor Henry Guinn.

Hearing no opposition, the MOTION to defer carried.

**XI. Resolution No. 2290 Approving and Authorizing a New Southwest Louisiana Regional Planning Commission Logo.**

Jamie Gaines

Action requested.

With the end of the Regional Planning Commission's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Ms. Jamie Gaines presented a proposed new logo for consideration, which includes a gold medallion with the purple State of Louisiana.

A MOTION was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Mayor Nic Hunter to accept Resolution No. 2290 Approving and Authorizing a New Southwest Louisiana Regional Planning Commission Logo.

Hearing no opposition, the MOTION carried.

**XII. Director's Report**

Mike Hollier

Information only. No action is being requested.

Mr. Mike Hollier reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization is considering establishing a Transportation Management Center (TMC). The TMC would be multi-jurisdictional; however, the MPO has funds available and the Regional Planning Commission could operate it until a permanent solution could be reached.

He went on to explain that Adjudicated Property Legislation for Southwest Louisiana has been deferred until further notice. Under the Adjudicated Property Legislation, the time limit would no longer be 35 years but would be lessened to three years for redemption. He recommended a letter written by the Chair to all 13 members of legislation in the State of Louisiana supporting this action.

Mayor Nic Hunter asked if this proposal was legally possible. Mr. Hollier replied that it was in fact possible during a Constitutional Convention. He explained that there are conflicting laws when it pertains to land adjudication. Mayor Hunter said that his understanding was it was more of a federal law issue rather than state. Mr. Hollier explained that 49 states have already adopted a three-year redemption requirement.

Mr. Hollier then introduced the Watershed Region 4 Initiative, which covers nine parishes from DeSoto Parish to Cameron Parish. Initially, funds for the Watershed Initiative came from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He noted that it has been a struggle to get qualifying census tracts to define their low to moderate income areas that are impacted. The Watershed Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024, and requested all plans for potential projects be submitted by that date.

Mr. Hollier's final item to discuss was Grant Matching Funds. He stated the previous Louisiana governor allocated \$20 million through the Office of Rural Development. It was never brought before the state legislature. More recently, new legislation was approved which reduced the allocation to \$12 million through the Louisiana Infrastructure Technical Assistance Corporation (LITACorp).

**XIII. November Meeting Date and Time**

Jamie Gaines

Information only. Discussion.

The November Board of Directors meeting was tentatively set for November 20, 2024. An executive session will be held if a quorum cannot be reached.

**XIV. Public Comment**

Chair

There were no public comments.

**XV. Adjournment**

Chair

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Mayor Marcus Renfrow and seconded by Mayor Nic Hunter.

Hearing no OBJECTION, the meeting was adjourned.

  
for Michael Holler  
Mayor Marcus Renfrow, Chair

ATTEST:   
Jamie Gaines, Assistant Director