



Louisiana Planning District 5

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, Noon  
2nd Floor, East Conference Room  
HENNING SEED CENTER

4310 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605  
ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9583967845>

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Jacob Dillehay  
Chair

**II. Roll Call**

Mr. Mike Hollier  
Director

Mr. Jacob Dillehay – Responded Present  
Mayor Hal McMillan – No Response  
Ms. Mary Kaye Eason – Responded Present  
Mr. Ben Boudreaux – No Response  
Ms. Lisa Adams – Responded Present (Online)  
Ms. Katie Armentor – Responded Present  
Mayor Mike Danahay – No Response  
Mayor Michael Harris – Responded Present  
Ms. Kim Monte – Responded Present (Online)  
Ms. Carter Prejean – Responded Present  
Mayor Marshall Simien – Responded present  
Mayor David Vidrine – Responded Present  
Mayor Neal Watkins – Responded Present

**III. Reading and Adoption of Minutes**

Ms. Mary Kaye Eason  
Secretary

**A. Draft Minutes of Meeting held on December 17, 2025**

Action requested.

A MOTION to dispense reading of the December 17, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Mayor Michael Harris and seconded by Mayor Marshall Simien. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

A MOTION to adopt the minutes of the meeting held December 17, 2025, was made by Mayor Neal Watkins and seconded by Mayor David Valdrine. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

**IV. Financial Reports**

Mr. Ben Boudreaux  
Treasurer

**A. December 2025 Financial Report**

Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines reported that the December financial statements reflected a net loss of approximately \$95,000 due to delayed federal reimbursements resulting from the government shutdown. She noted that outstanding receivables totaled approximately \$315,000 and stated that reimbursements had begun to be received.

A MOTION to approve the December 2025 Financial Report was made by Ms. Mary Kaye Eason and seconded by Mayor David Valdrine. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

**V. Nominations and Election of Board Officers for 2026\***

Chair

- A. **Chair.** Action requested.
- B. **Vice Chair.** Action requested.
- C. **Secretary.** Action requested.
- D. **Treasurer.** Action requested.

*\* Elected officers assume their positions effective February 18, 2026*

A MOTION to approve to have the Board Officers for 2026 to remain where they are and to postpone the Election until January 2027 when a new Mayor for Sulphur is elected was made by Mayor David Valdrine and seconded by Mayor Michael Harris. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

**VI. My Gov Online (MGO Connect) Presentation**

Mr. Ryan Hutchinson

Information only. No action is requested.

Mr. Ryan Hutchinson, Chief Technology Officer of MGO Connect, provided a comprehensive presentation regarding the platform's permitting, licensing, planning and zoning, code enforcement, and public works software solutions.

Mr. Hutchinson explained that MGO Connect was developed by the South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) in Houma, Louisiana, and has been in operation for more than 20 years. He stated that the system was created to provide a cost-effective, flexible alternative to private sector permitting software and operates with no upfront cost, utilizing a monthly subscription model.

He reported that the platform is currently operating in 28 states and is the number one permit software provider in Louisiana. He highlighted features including:

- One-stop shop project guide for permitting
- Online customer portal and mobile applications
- Automated invoicing and permit issuance
- Digital plan review capabilities
- Inspector routing optimization
- GIS integration
- KPI and performance reporting tools
- Administrative customization features

Mr. Hutchinson noted that MGO Connect hosts an annual national conference in New Orleans and continues to expand its services nationwide.

Mr. Mike Hollier expressed strong support for the program and stated that he attended the national conference and was highly impressed with the system's capabilities and affordability. He encouraged Board members to consider participation within their respective jurisdictions.

Mayor Marshall Simien stated that he would have staff from the City of Lake Charles planning and permitting department contact MGO Connect for additional information.

No action was taken.

- VII. Resolution No. 2332 Formally Activating the 2026 SWLA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies Committee.**  
Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines

Ms. Jamie Gaines reported that the Economic Development Administration requires an update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies every four years. She stated that a steering committee must be activated to guide the development of district initiatives for the next planning cycle.

She noted that former Board members Mayor Henry Guinn and Ms. Claire Monceaux have volunteered to serve.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2332 formally activating the 2026 SWLA CEDS Committee was made by Mayor David Vidrine and seconded by Mayor Michael Harris. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- VIII. Resolution No. 2330 Formally Activating the SWLA-RPC Board Housing Committee and Defining Representative Seats.** Mr. Mike Hollier  
Action requested.

Mr. Mike Hollier stated that the Housing Committee is referred to in the bylaws but has not been activated. He explained that the committee would serve in an advisory capacity to recommend strategies related to the regional housing initiative.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2330 activating the SWLA RPC Board Housing Committee was made by Mayor Michael Harris and seconded by Mayor Neal Watkins. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- IX. Resolution No. 2328 Approving and Authorizing the Southwest Louisiana Regional Land Bank.** Mr. Mike Hollier  
Action requested.

Mr. Mike Hollier presented the proposal to incorporate the Southwest Louisiana Regional Land Bank pursuant to recently adopted state legislation. He explained that while land banks are typically used for housing purposes, he envisions broader applications including transportation right-of-way preservation, watershed initiatives, and redevelopment of adjudicated and abandoned properties.

It was noted that this action authorizes legal formation of the entity but does not allocate funding.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2328 authorizing incorporation of the Southwest Louisiana Regional Land Bank was made by Mayor Neal Watkins and seconded by Mayor David Valdrine. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- X. Resolution No. 2333 Approving and Authorizing the SWLA-RPC to Apply for the U.S. Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant to Facilitate Rail to the Port of Vinton.** Ms. Jamie Gaines  
Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines reported that the Commission seeks authorization to apply for federal funding to facilitate rail connectivity to the Port of Vinton. She stated that a private investor would provide the required match and that SWLA-RPC would serve as the eligible applicant.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2333 authorizing application for the USDOT Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant was made by Mayor David Vidrine and seconded by Mayor Michael Harris. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- XI. **Resolution No. 2329 Approving and Authorizing Preparation of the Southwest Louisiana Regional Mobility Authority Funding Mechanisms as Supported by Board Survey.** Mr. Mike Hollier  
Action requested.

Mr. Mike Hollier presented results of a Board survey identifying potential funding mechanisms for the Southwest Louisiana Regional Mobility Authority. He stated that unanimous support was expressed for pursuing legislative authority to dedicate one cent of the state's five-cent sales tax within designated corridors to fund regional transportation improvements.

He emphasized that this proposal would not create a new tax but would dedicate existing state revenue for regional infrastructure projects.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2329 authorizing preparation of funding mechanisms for legislative consideration was made by Mayor David Vidrine and seconded by Mayor Neil Watkins. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- XII. **Resolution No. 2334 Approving and Authorizing the RPC to Apply for the U.S. Department of Transportation Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant for a Multimodal Transit Hub in Lake Charles.** Ms. Jamie Gaines  
Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines presented a proposal to apply for federal funding to conduct planning, engineering, and environmental analysis for development of a multi-modal transit hub in Lake Charles centered around the existing Amtrak station.

Mr. Mike Hollier referenced the Rosa Parks Transportation Center in Lafayette as a model for consideration.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2334 authorizing application for the USDOT BUILD Grant was made by Mayor Marshall Simien and seconded by Mayor Michael Harris. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- XIII. **Resolution No. 2331 Authorizing Preparation of the IRON LEV Prototype Demonstration in Southwest Louisiana.** Mr. Mike Hollier  
Action requested.

Mr. Mike Hollier reported that Iron Lev, an Italian rail research company, expressed interest in conducting a prototype demonstration in Southwest Louisiana at no cost to the Commission. He stated that the demonstration could support development of a regional rail research institute.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2331 authorizing preparation for the Iron Lev prototype demonstration was made by Mayor David Vidrine and seconded by Mayor Michael Harris. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- XIV. Housing Steel Construction Pilot Negotiations Status** Mr. Mike Hollier  
Action requested to proceed with one initial pilot unit.

A MOTION to authorize moving forward with a pilot program involving one adjudicated lot was made by Mayor Marshall Simien and seconded BY Mayor Michael Harris. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- XV. March Meeting Date and Time** Chair  
For information only. No action is requested.

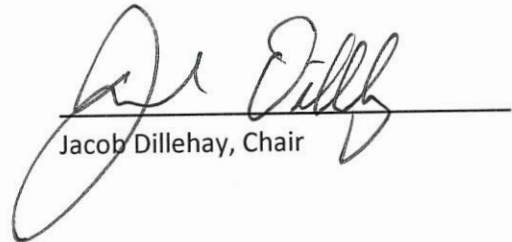
Ms. Gaines was asked to provide a Doodle poll to determine the next meeting date.

- XVI. Public Comment** Chair

There was no public comment.

- XVII. Adjournment** Chair

A MOTION to ADJOURN was made by Mayor Michael Harris and seconded by Mayor David Vidrine. Hearing no objections, the MOTION to ADJOURN carried.

  
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Jacob Dillehay, Chair

**ATTEST:**

  
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Michael Hollier, AICP  
Executive Director