

**LaBIC Meeting Minutes**  
**December 13, 2021**  
LED  
617 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

The following Committee Members were in attendance.

1. Paul Aucoin
2. Kate MacArthur
3. Wylly Gilfoil
4. Brenda Stelly
5. Jay Hardman
6. Michael Olivier
7. Rick Ranson
8. Drew Heaphy
9. Don Sanders
10. Renee Lapeyrolerie
11. Michelle Ribera

Additional Attendees included:

1. Ed Webb- New Orleans World Trade Center
2. Phil Jones
3. Ben Fontenot
4. Jessica Steverson
5. Rebecca Normand
6. Courtney Maciasz
7. Larry Collins

Call to Order

Chairman Rusovich

Roll Call

Rebecca Normand

Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Rusovich

Approval of Minutes from March board meeting

Chairman Rusovich

Introductory Remarks

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Chairman Rusovich  
Don Pierson

Discussed recent activities within the OIC department.

Discussed water and flood management at the Water Campus and strides within the technology offered. Don Sanders asked about Formosa permit.

OIC Planning, Operations

Larry Collins

Recent and Upcoming Activities

OIC Staff

**Jessica Steverson:**

Ms. Steverson discussed the STEP Grant, funding available to companies and how trade shows have been impacted due to Covid. Ms. Steverson has been working with marketing team to distribute information regarding the STEP grant and reaching companies that could qualify for funding. Mrs Steverson discussed her recent trip to Abu Dahbi for the ADIPEC show.

**Courtney Maciasz:**

LED recently received Technical Assistance Grant from the Economic Development Administration some funds will go towards International office and to create digital platform for site visits and will help LED target foreign direct investments. It will help identify industry trends, identification of potential investors, and benching location competitiveness.

**Benjamin Fontenot:**

Mr. Fontenot discussed OICs overseas reps and working with them to overcome some travel restrictions due to COVID. Worked with embassy's and consulate to determine a specific quarantine and travel plan.

Ongoing Activites

Larry Collins

Mr. Collins discussed upcoming events including Select USA conference in DC, LAGCOE in Lafayette. Also discussed bringing on ED Bee to write the new Master plan.

**Board Comments**

Don Sanders

Mr. Don Sanders discussed the Multi-Modal Advisory Commission meeting. The primary discussion was concerning barge, aviation, roads and lack of truck stops within the state. 18-wheelers are on electric timers that require them to stop after 10 hours of driving and are having to stop on the side of the interstate. Dreading is taking place for a new ship to be able to pass through the Mississippi river. Sec. Pierson discussed the large container opportunities that have been possible due to the widening on the Panama Canal and the accessibility to natural gas.

Public Comments  
N/A

Chairman Rusovich

Closing Remarks & Adjourn  
The meeting was adjourned.

Chairman Rusovich