**LaBIC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

**Port of Greater Baton Rouge**

**10:00AM – 12:00PM**

Rebecca Normand begins with roll call. The following committee members were in attendance:

* Don Pierson
* Thomas Clark
* Chairman Gregory Rusovich
* Don Sanders
* Richard Ranson
* Keith Guidroz
* Michael Olivier
* James Bourgeois
* Kaylin Cain
* Jay Hardman
* Gary LaGrange
* Richard Self
* Randy Robb

Additional attendees included:

* Larry Collins
* Jonathan Lupo
* Rebecca Normand
* Sheba Person

A quorum was declared.

The minutes, from the 11th board meeting, were approved.

Jay Hardman commented on the Port of Baton Rouge. Mr. Hardman thanked Sec. Pierson and Larry and LED for the provided support on the container and barge operation, as well as Gary and his staff at the Port of New Orleans.

Chairman Rusovich spoke on International flight capacity and the need to have a direct connection to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, etc. This would have a great economic impact.

Chairman Rusovich provided an update that in May, Condor, a German airline, will have 2 flights a week, directly from New Orleans into Frankfurt and back.

 Sec. Pierson reported on recent LED wins. He also gave an update on his recent successful Asian trip.

Sheba Person gave an update on the STEP grant. LED has been awarded a grant that will allow LED to support small businesses. LED is continuing to recruit companies for STEP program. It is a reimbursement program. The list of trade events is on the LED website.

Larry Collins spoke on the planning and operations and called on William Marshall to discuss the Cuba and OIC reports.

Each board member gave their closing remarks.

Chairman Rusovich called for public comments, but there were none.

Meeting was adjourned.