

**St. Tammany Parish Development District
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes | May 28, 2026**

Present: Chair Joan Coffman, Vice Chair Mimi Dossett, Secretary/Treasurer Paul Myers, Sandy Badinger, Dr. Jim Carlson, Elder Brown III, Eric Schouest

Absent: Sean Burkes, Louis Ochoa, Ross Lagarde, Eric Singletary

Staff: Russell Richardson, Ashley Llewellyn, Vincenzo Caronna, Shiv Thakor, Keith Espadron, Kyle Buckley, Kristin Durand (virtual), Tyler Miller, Sharon DeLong

Counsel: Mark Balkin | Hardy Carey Chautin & Balkin; Phil Sherman | Adams & Reese (virtual)

Guests: Lieutenant Billy Nungesser & Staff

Call to Order

Chair Joan Coffman called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m., noting that a quorum was present.

Public Comment Period

Chair Joan Coffman opened the floor for public comment on any agenda item. No comments were received from the public.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the March BOC Minutes, and the YTD Financial Statements for all accounts. *With no requested revisions, the Consent Agenda was presented for approval on a motion by Eric Schouest, seconded by Sandy Badinger. The motion carried unanimously, and all items were approved as presented.*

Presentation | Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser

Nungesser provided a presentation highlighting statewide tourism, economic development, and cultural initiatives across Louisiana. The presentation emphasized the importance of tourism as a major economic driver and included updates on international tourism efforts, sports tourism development, state parks, public-private partnerships, aerospace and defense opportunities, library and cultural programs, seafood promotion, and statewide beautification initiatives. Additional focus was given to Louisiana's participation in the upcoming America 250 celebration and ongoing efforts to market Louisiana as a premier destination for visitors, investment, and business growth. Nungesser fielded questions from Commissioners. Upon the conclusion of the presentation, Nungesser and staff exited the meeting at 3:57 pm.

Old Business-None

New Business

Florida Marine Transporters Signatory Authorization

Kyle Buckley and Phil Sherman provided brief background information on this resolution, noting that FMT periodically sells or refinances vessels in the program, and these transactions are often time sensitive. Vessels may be temporarily conveyed out of the PILOT for refinancing and returned shortly thereafter, while permanent conveyances occur upon sale, requiring timely execution to meet the company's closing schedules. United States Coast Guard documentation is also executed annually as part of standard compliance to verify ownership status.

Under the current practice, officers of the District Board have been authorized to execute these documents without action from the full Board. The proposed resolution maintains this approach and adds the President & Chief Executive Officer as an authorized signatory, allowing the District to quickly execute transactions that are primarily administrative in nature and have no negative financial repercussions for the parish for property tax purposes. This change is especially

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important if Board officers are unavailable, and time-sensitive action is required. This addition improves responsiveness for company closings while maintaining current procedures.

Dr. Jim Carlson, motioned to approve the resolution to add the STEDC President & CEO's name to the list of signatories for Florida Marine Transporter documents. Mimi Dossett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Elder Brown abstained from the vote. All other Commissioners present at the meeting approved of the measure. Commissioners absent from the vote were noted. The motion carried.

**Activity Update | Russell Richardson
Executive 6-Month Report**

Richardson presented a six-month executive report outlining organizational progress, operational alignment, business development activity, and strategic initiatives. The report highlighted progress in advancing four projects totaling approximately \$84 million in capital investment and representing 587 new and retained jobs, while strengthening efforts in advanced manufacturing, logistics, and energy sectors. The organization also reported continued implementation of the THRIVE2029 strategic plan, improved collaboration with state, regional, and local partners, and organizational enhancements including performance management systems and deployment of new operational tools. Financially, the organization reported approximately \$3.6 million in assets and a net position of \$2.5 million.

The presentation further reviewed financial standing, budget performance, stakeholder relations, leadership and governance initiatives, external communications efforts, partnerships and collaboration activities, and strategic plan implementation.

Activity Update

Richardson updated the group on active business recruitment and retention efforts, STartUP Northshore activities, business retention visits, workforce-related concerns raised by employers, and upcoming economic development engagements and events. Recent project announcements included expansions by Associated Wholesale Grocers and Textron Systems, representing significant capital investment, retained jobs, and new employment opportunities within St. Tammany Parish.

Richardson introduced Tyler Miller, the new Fellow working with BR&E. He also noted several upcoming events on the June calendar, including a staff retreat. A Finance Committee meeting will be held prior to the June 18 Board of Commissioner meeting to review the amended budgets for FY 25/26, as well as the proposed budgets for FY 26/27 for all entities. Chair Coffman suggested hosting a Board Retreat for all Commissioners.

Adjournment

Chair Coffman noted the announcements on the agenda. With no further business to come before the Board, *Elder Brown moved to adjourn, seconded by Mimi Dossett. The motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by the St. Tammany EDC Staff.