



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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 22, 2024**

- I. Call to Order –** Mike Harper, Chair
- II. Roll Call –** Mike Hollier, Director

Mayor Henry Guin – Responded present  
Mayor Mike Danahay – Responded present  
Mayor Marcus Renfrow – Responded present  
Mike Harper – Responded present  
Mayor Nic Hunter – Responded present  
Mayor Hal McMillin – Responded present  
Katie Armentor – Responded present  
Mary-Kay Eason – Responded present  
Creed Romano – No response  
Jacob Dillehay – Responded present  
Mayor Jean Paul – No response  
Kim Rainwater – No response  
Kim Monte – No response

- A. Reading and Adoption of Minutes –** Mayor Hal McMillin, Secretary
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting held on December 14, 2023.**  
Action requested.

MOTION to adopt the minutes of December 14, 2023, was made by Mayor Nic Hunter and seconded by Mayor Marcus Renfrow. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

- III. Financial Reports –** Jacob Dillehay, Treasurer
- A. December 2023 Financial Report**  
Action requested.

There was a profit loss for the month of December. The total income was \$84,000 and the total expenses were \$184,000. We are at a deficit for December of \$100,535.92.

Motion to accept the December 2023 Financial Report made by Mayor Nic Hunter, seconded by Mayor Hal McMillin. Hearing no objections, motion carried

**B. January 2024 Financial Report**

Action requested.

The total income was \$327,000 and the total expenses were \$113,000.  
The net income is \$214,041.66.

MOTION to accept the January 2024 Financial Report was made by Mayor Nic Hunter and seconded by Mayor Hal McMillin. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

**C. Presentation of the 2022-2023 Draft Single Audit Report by McElroy, Quirk, and Burch – Jason Guillory Receipt and Acknowledgement**  
Action requested.

Mr. Jason Guillory presented the 2022-2023 audit, which includes the financial statements as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Motion Nic Hunter, seconded by Mayor Hal McMillin. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

**IV. Election of 2024 Board Officers (Effective February 1, 2024) – Chair**

**A. Chair Election: Nominations at December 2023 Meeting – Mayor Marcus Renfrow**

Action requested.

Motion to approve the election of Mayor Marcus Renfrow as Board Chair was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Mayor Nic Hunter. Hearing no objections, the Motion carried.

**B. Vice-Chair Election: Nominations at December 2023 Meeting – Jacob Dillehay**

Action requested.

Motion to approve the election of Mr. Jacob Dillehay as Board Vice-Chair was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Mayor Nic Hunter. Hearing no objections, the MOTION was carried.

**C. Treasurer Election: Nominations at December 2023 Meeting – Mayor Hal McMillin**

Action requested.

Motion to approve the election of Mayor Hal McMillin as Treasurer by Mr. Mike Harper and seconded by Mayor Nic Hunter. Hearing no objections, the Motion was carried.

**D. Secretary Election: Nominations at December 2023 Meeting – Mayor Nic Hunter**

Action requested.

MOTION to approve the election of Mayor Nic Hunter as Secretary by Mayor McMillin, seconded by Mayor Mike Danahay. Hearing no objections, the MOTION was carried.

**B. Regional Housing Inventory Status –**  
Information only. No action requested.

Mike Hollier

Taking our existing data, the core of which is from the census, our team is creating datasets to have a better understanding of where our housing units are. We can use this data to determine residency, which can change very quickly. The data itself is very critical because we use it to generate trips within our model, as well as on multiple other projects to determine feasibility, network traffic, and impact studies. It is centered around Calcasieu Parish, but any data we have collected is included within some parameters of this. A long-term goal is to consider construction, or units permitted for construction for this dataset. Completion is viable within the next several weeks.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Southwest Louisiana Technology Hub Status Report –** Yasic Naumenko  
Information only. No action requested.

Broadband: The map contestation period was recently completed, and we expect new information about broadband opportunities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act soon, which will be significantly larger than any other broadband effort before. Public fiber will likely be limited in scope through this funding, so we are looking for other opportunities, one of which is the USDA Reconnect Grant. Our intent is to bring public fiber throughout Jefferson Davis Parish.

ACP Outreach Grant: In the previous year we were awarded a \$150,000 grant to promote signups and outreach for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which gives a \$30 a month discount to eligible households for broadband services. ACP has run out of funding and is shutting down in April, and as a result has canceled or paused the Outreach Grant.

We are still working towards bringing the Economic Technology Enterprise centers into Oberlin, DeRidder, and Iowa.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Southwest Louisiana Regional Mobility Authority –** Mike Hollier  
No action is requested.

One of the key components that has come up most recently through the MPO is to reclassify the I-14 spur to I-514. This is no small effort, ranked also next to the I-10 bridge, and the transportation needs of the area are not limited to these two projects. The new governor has announced that there will be some major reform coming out of the DOTD and, in many

cases, the DOTD will not have the resources to grab federal funds or other opportunities. Depending on what this reform at the DOTD entails, I suggest that you consider a multi-jurisdictional entity that has the opportunity to reach out and grab opportunities that pop up periodically.

**VII. Other**

**A. Director's Report –**

Mike Hollier

We are identifying a series of projects as well as programs throughout the region. There are opportunities to apply for funds through normal grant-writing channels and through the political legislative branches of government. We do not know the legislative branch and need direction on who to go to for these needs:

1. Legislative Representative Leads: Adjudicated Property Law
2. Legislative Representative Leads: Regional Public Roadway
3. Match Resource Fund
4. Legislative Representative Leads: West Louisiana Public
5. Coordination District
6. Congressional Earmark Leads: La. Region 4 Watershed
7. Series Reservoirs Acquisition Funding
8. Congressional Earmark Leads: Cameron Public Jack-Up
9. Multipurpose Facility.

Our 5-Page Comprehensive Plans initiative continues. Currently in review: Cameron Parish, Jefferson Davis Parish, City of Westlake, and Town of Lake Arthur.

The Town of Lake Arthur's plan focuses on mitigation of half a dozen major issues that are threatening the lake itself. The threats include the lake silting up, invasion of the apple snail, saltwater intrusion, lack of fresh water, the chico aquifer, etc.

**B. Membership Needs Discussion –**

Mike Hollier

Please let us know what the Board Members would like to address.

**C. Executive Session: Personnel Responsibilities and Compensation – Chair**  
Action requested.

**D. Executive Director Contract –**  
Action requested.

Chair

**E. March Meeting Date and Time –**  
Action requested.

Chair

**VIII. Public Comment – Chair**

This is Mike Harper's last meeting as representing Beauregard Parish Police Jury, as he has relinquished his seat to someone else. Thank you to Mike, on behalf of the entire staff.

**IX. Adjournment – Chair**

Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED.

  
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Mayor Mike Harper

Chair

ATTEST:   
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Michael Hollier  
Executive Director