



JEDCO Board of Commissioners
May 29, 2025 @ 8:30 A.M.
JEDCO Conference Center
701-A Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094

MINUTES

Call to Order: 8:30 a.m.

Attended: Chairwoman Josline Frank, Mickal Adler, Jimmy Baum, Darren Chifici, Billy Douglass, Michael Fahrenholt, Brian Heiden, Teresa Lawrence, Jim Martin, Mayra Pineda, Paula Polito, Joe Riccobono, Stephen Robinson, Gene Sausse, Melissa Simeon, Lynda Nugent Smith, Bob Stevens, Teri Tucker

Absent: Joe Ewell, Melissa O'Neal, Shondra Williams

Staff: Jerry Bologna, Lacey Bordelon, Annalisa Kelly, Jennifer Lapeyrouse, Scott Rojas, Neil Schneider, Kelsey Scram, Penny Weeks, Kate Wendel, Jennifer Wollfarth

Attorney: Reed Smith – Jefferson Parish

Guest: Lauren Seigel, Matt Campbell, Jordan Maier – Trepwise Strategy Consulting
Ross Berlin – Fourth Economy Consulting
Sara Bradford – GNO, Inc.
Greg Rigamer – BDPC, LLC
Joey Richard – Richard CPAs
Joseph Meerman – ART-CO
Ruth Lawson – Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
Clay Tufts – Jefferson Parish

I. Call to Order – Chairwoman, Josline Frank

- **Swearing-in of new Commissioner** – Reed Smith with the Jefferson Parish Attorney's office performed the swearing in of Darren Chifici. Mr. Chifici represents the Louisiana Restaurant Association.
- **Approval of Board absences for today, May 29, 2025** – Lynda Nugent Smith motioned, seconded by Teresa Lawrence, to excuse Joe Ewell and Shondra Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Approval of minutes for April 24, 2025** – Teresa Lawrence motioned, seconded by Billy Douglass, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Presentation – updates related to the CEA between GNO, Inc. and JEDCO**
Sara Bradford, GNO Inc.'s Chief Operating Officer, presented an overview highlighting their activities related to the deliverables contained within the CEA. The overview included 2024 Business Development wins (13 announced projects with three in Jefferson Parish - UBE, RNGD, and Birdon), and State and Federal Public Policy outcomes in 2024.

II. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

III. Unfinished and New Business

- **A resolution appointing Darren Chifici to the Board of Directors of JEDCO Development Corporation and removing Mr. Kenny Bertucci from the Board of Directors of JEDCO Development Corporation – Jerry Bologna**
Mayra Pineda motioned, seconded by Joe Riccobono, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bologna announced for the record that Mr. Chifici will serve on the JEDCO Finance Committee.

- **Approval of JEDCO 2024 Financial Audit Report**
Joey Richard, representing Richard CPAs, provided hard copies of the JEDCO Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2024 to each Commissioner. The Financial Statements included component units for Forward Jefferson Corporation and JEDCO Development Corporation. There were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies reported in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

Brian Heiden motioned, seconded by Paula Polito, to approve the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- **A resolution in support of JEDCO's funding application to the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) on behalf of a Jefferson Parish business, and authorizing JEDCO's President & CEO to execute and submit the grant application and any related and supporting documents necessary to meet the requirements for grant consideration and by advice of legal counsel – Annalisa Kelly**
Jefferson Parish-based American River Transportation Company (ARTCo), in partnership with SESI, their grant writing and administration consultant, approached JEDCO to be the public entity lead applicant of a Federal Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant to support the construction of a Safe Harbor project.

ARTCo, a subsidiary of ADM with operations on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish, operates the largest fleeting operation in New Orleans that supports barge line and stevedoring. They are located on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish, with their New Orleans Shipyard located on land leased from Wood Resources, LLC. ARTCo and Wood Resources seek to make improvements to the site to ensure worker safety and seamless operations during a hurricane or other severe weather event.

Under the proposed arrangement, JEDCO would apply for approximately 50-80% of \$6,000,000 through the PIDP grant, with a final amount dependent on a required benefit-cost-analysis still being developed. The current anticipated total project cost is approximately \$6,000,000, and ARTCo would provide the 50% - 80% match. Under PIDP's Small Port Small Project Classification, projects can request up to 80% of the total project cost; however, ARTCo has the funding to provide 50% - 80% of the costs. SESI, ARTCo and JEDCO will determine their preferred cost-share match to be included on the Grant Funding Application to provide the greatest review benefit. Expenses under this project would include but not be limited to: Dredging; Pile/Sheet Pile Driving; Material Cost; Dirt work/Excavation; Project Management; Foundation construction; Utilities installation; Administrative costs for both ARTCo and JEDCO.

Following discussion and comments by Joseph Meerman of ARTCo, Mickal Adler motioned to approve the resolution as presented with amendments, seconded by Teri Tucker. The motion passed unanimously.

- **A resolution approving a contract with The Vault Collective for development of marketing and brand strategy for Churchill Technology and Business Park – Kelsey Scram**

In February 2024, the JEDCO Board of Commissioners approved a Strategic Business Plan for Churchill Technology and Business Park, which outlines actionable strategies to transform the 480-acre property into a recognized regional center of industry innovation and collaboration. The Strategic Business Plan calls for the development of a comprehensive communications and marketing strategy, brand refresh, updated website, and creation of new marketing tools to attract business prospects and raise awareness about the opportunities available within the site.

JEDCO seeks to enter into a contract with a local marketing firm, The Vault Collective, for \$58,500 which will cover the cost of the marketing strategic plan, new website, photography and videography, updated visual identity and brand standards, and collateral materials.

Paula Polito motioned to approve the resolution as presented with amendments, seconded by Brian Heiden. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Report – Jennifer Wollfarth

Ms. Wollfarth presented the monthly financial reports which included budget-to-actual comparisons for February 2025, March 2025, and April 2025. Included were reports for the general fund, EDGE, Forward Jefferson Corporation, JEDCO Development Corporation, and the loan funds. Each fund details actual expenses for the respective month and year-to-date totals comparing these amounts to the approved budget for the year 2025.

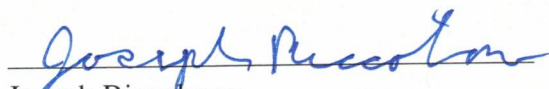
V. President and CEO Report – Jerry Bologna

- JEDCO submitted a letter of support to the U.S. Corps of Engineers urging the Corps to approve a permit for the Louisiana International Terminal proposed by the Port of New Orleans in Violet, Louisiana.
- Mr. Bologna met with Councilman Tim Kerner and his Chief of Staff, Paul Rivera, to provide an overview of JEDCO services and updates for District 1.
- Ruth Lawson, Jim Martin, and Jerry Bologna are members of the Parish Permitting Advisory Committee. The mission is to identify the “Gold Standard”. Commissioners were provided with a link to the Parish Permitting survey and encouraged to share the survey with their prospective memberships.

VI. Other Updates or Comments from the JEDCO Board of Commissioners

There were no other updates or comments.

VII. Adjournment Lynda Nugent Smith motioned, seconded by Gene Sause, to adjourn the meeting.



Joseph Riccobono

JEDCO Secretary

Minutes for May 29, 2025