



A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners

July 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM

401 Tower Road

Crowley, Louisiana 70526

Board Members Present:

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| Suzette Leonards - Chairman/City of Rayne | Valerie Myers - City of Crowley |
| Keith Henry - Vice Chairman/Village of Mermentau | Harold Fonte - Town of Church Point |
| Chellie Godeaux - Treasurer/Village of Estherwood | Nora Benoit - Village of Morse |
| Marietta Leonards - Secretary/Rayne Chamber/at Large "B" | Bart Wild - at Large "A" |
| Nicole DeJean-Broussard - Acadia Parish Chamber/at Large "C" | |
| Chelsey Gallow Hopkins - Church Point Community Development Corp/at Large "D" | |

Board Members Not Present:

Luke Dupré - Town of Iota

Call to Order: Suzette Leonards

Called the meeting to order with roll call, noting there is a quorum.

1 Prayer

2 Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome/Approval/Oath: Marietta Leonards made a motion to approve Nicole DeJean-Broussard as our new commissioner, representing Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce/at Large "C".

Harold Fonte second the motion. Motion carried. Honorable Luke Beslin administered the oath of office @ 9:05 AM and Nicole was added to the quorum.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Keith Henry made a motion to accept June 12, 2025, minutes as presented.

Second by Chelsey Gallow Hopkins. Motion carried.

Legislative Auditor: John Istre & Corey J. Hulin – Broussard Poche, LLC

Mr. John prepared a summarized report to make it quicker and easier for everybody to understand. He stated total assets for 2024 were \$1,134,081. "In 2023, it was \$1,193,331. You had a drop of \$59,250. Total cash at the end of 2024 was \$245,554. At the end of 2023, it was \$344,599. You had a drop of \$99,045. The primary reason is in 2023 you had an advance on the grant and that money was sitting in your checking account. In 2024 you spent the rest of the Revival Fund, or you would lose the money not spent at the end of 2024. Taxes are receivable, this is hotel motel tax, 2024 ended with \$42,390. At the end of 2023 it was \$17,800. You had an increase of \$24,590. Investments at the end of 2024 were \$117,127. At the end of 2023 it was \$149,963. You moved \$40,000 to money market (CD's) account. Total current liabilities - accounts payable/\$2,337, accrued expenses/\$666, at the end of 2024.

Total net position or equity in 2024 was \$1,127,380 versus 2023 was \$1,064,591, which was up \$62,789." He spoke to the commission regarding accounting changes and accounting standards which all governmental entities are required to adopt. We are also working on past audit issues in QuickBooks and addressing those right now. We had to get through this audit first. Nicole is helping Wendy with QuickBooks, and we are going to get it corrected.

Director's Report/New Business: Wendy

She introduces Chere, our new communication specialist. Chere is taking care of our Facebook and three other social media outlets we have. As well as helping me with grant research, writing and funding. We will be attending a grant writing class next week. The Lieutenant Governor's office provided this course to us, and we are excited about this opportunity. Building our community event center is on the list, but having a place to house the rice museum equipment is a must.

Rayne Louisiana - Three Part Series: Chere**Acadian Day in Rayne - the kickoff is August 15, 2025**

I've been working with Ms. Martha and Mr. William at the French table.

We're planning an Acadian Day on August 15th. We're going to have a Tintamarre, which is very exciting. It's an Acadian tradition of making noise with improvised instruments. Pots and pans, spoon, bring your own to join in. With this celebration we are hoping to bring media attention, because it's something you don't see every day. Going to have the French table. We'll have Acadian artifacts to show and discuss with people walking through what it is and how they came about having it and the history behind each item. We are working on a press release and writing a letter to send to dignitaries to invite them.

Rendezvous Downtown - October 9th and 23rd 2025 - Live Music**Grand Finale - November 8, 2025 - Live Music, etc.**

More information to come

GRAND REVEIL ACADIEN! GRA2025 - Wendy

Louisiana CODOFIL or from October the 11th through Saturday the 18th. I did talk to Mr. Ray Trahan about the schedule he sent. I also shared with him what Church Point was planning. They are having a meeting this coming week and the week after and he stated he would send us an updated schedule of events, so everybody was on the same page.

Revision to current By-laws & Employee Policies & Practices Manual - Wendy

Recommendations were made to correct and/or update the by-laws and the Policies and Procedure Manual, they were all approved by the board. We also discussed open meeting laws and practices regarding commissioners missing meetings. We want to make sure each area of our parish has a representative who faithfully participates in month meetings, so every area has a voice.

Reminder of the **2025** ETHICS & SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING.

Valerie Myers made a motion to accept the changes/updates to the *By-laws*. Second by Keith Henry. Motion carried. Keith Henry made a motion to accept the changes/updates to the *Employee Policies & Practices Manual* as presented. Second by Chelsey Gallow Hopkins. Motion carried.

Old Business: Nicole

LAMP is the Louisiana Asset Management Pool that enables local officials to pull and collect funds.

Their yields are very competitive because it's so many large entities investing in the funds. Some drawbacks.

LAMP is not a bank, it's similar to an investment brokerage company. Wendy asked if we could move some of our Charles Schwab to LAMP to see what it does. The board had several questions and which we are going to have the answers for the meeting in August.

Municipality Reports:

Church Point's First Responder's Day - Saturday, August 2, 2025, from 2PM-4PM - Church Point Depot

Church Point Back 2 School Bash - Sunday, August 3, 2025, from 12PM-6PM - MLK Park

Charlene Richard's Annual Mass of Commemoration - Monday, August 11, 2025, at 6PM - St. Edward Catholic Church. Rosary at 5:30PM.

Estherwood Park Fest - Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 9 AM-5 PM

Rayne's Old Spanish Trail Day - Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 9AM-PM

German Fest - Saturday, October 4th & Sunday, October 5, 2025 - German Museum in Robert's Cove

Chairman: Suzette Leonards

The next board meeting will be on August 14, 2025, at 9:00 am here at the Acadia Parish Visitors Center Office.

_____ made a motion to accept July 10, 2025, minutes as presented.

Second by _____. Motion carried. ***Signed on August 14, 2025***

Wendy Walker Harrington, Executive Director

Suzette Leonards, Chairman