



JEDCO Executive Committee
March 26, 2026 @ 8:30 A.M.
JEDCO Administration Building
700 Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094
MINUTES

Call to Order: 8:30 a.m.

Attended: Chairman Jim Martin, Billy Douglass, Paula Polito, Joe Riccobono, Stephen Robinson, Gene Sausse, Bob Stevens

Absent: Mickal Adler, Josline Frank, Mike O'Connor, Mayra Pineda

Staff: Jerry Bologna, Lacey Bordelon, Anthony Catalanotto, Annalisa Kelly, Scott Rojas, Kelsey Scram, Penny Weeks

Attorney: None

Guest: Rich Collins – The Times-Picayune/The Advocate
Wana Ali – Global Professional Fellowship Program (Brunei)

I. Call to Order – Chairman, Jim Martin

- **Approval of absences for today – March 26, 2026** – The Chairman announced that Josline Frank requested to have her absence from the February 26, 2026 meeting excused. Stephen Robinson motioned, seconded by Gene Sausse, to excuse Josline Frank from the February 26 meeting, and to excuse Mayar Pineda, Mike O'Connor, and Josline Frank from today's meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of minutes for February 26, 2026** – Bob Stevens motioned, seconded by Billy Douglass, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

III. Unfinished and New Business

- **Approval of JEDCO's 2026 Strategic Operating Plan – Lacey Bordelon**
Ms. Bordelon provided a copy of the plan to each Executive Committee member.

JEDCO's Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) contains objectives and actions that support the following five overarching goals:

Goal I. Establish, manage and promote equitable and inclusive policies, programs and initiatives that support the creation and retention of quality jobs, businesses and investment.

Goal II. Foster a climate for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Goal III. Promote and facilitate Re/Development of Jefferson Parish's top economic development assets.

Goal IV. Leverage additional resources through partner organizations to advance JEDCO's mission.

Goal V. Maintain JEDCO as a premier economic development organization through operations, in addition to programming

The 2026 SOP includes 21 objectives and 120 actions in support of these goals. The plan's objectives and actions cover the full scope of JEDCO's core functions.

Following discussion, Stephen Robinson motioned, seconded by Bob Stevens, to approve the plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Review and discussion of HB 892 (the West End EDD) and authorizing JEDCO's President and CEO to take a position on behalf of the JEDCO Board of Commissioners – Jerry Bologna**

HB 892 creates the West End Economic Development District in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes to promote economic development, tourism, and infrastructure investment, establishes governance by a local board, and authorizes the district to levy a voter-approved sales tax to fund projects within the district. This bill is scheduled to go before the Committee of House Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs today (March 26). Mr. Bologna recommended the Board support this bill and authorize him to take a position on behalf of JEDCO. Gene Sausse motioned, seconded by Bob Stevens, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. President and CEO Report – Jerry Bologna

- Mr. Bologna introduced Wana Ali, a Global Professional Fellow from Brunei. Ms. Ali's fellowship will be from March 16 to April 10. During her visit with JEDCO, she will focus on Export – development of a self-assessment tool to evaluate business's export potential, and if there is a market for Louisiana-based products in Brunei.
- Mr. Bologna also introduced Anthony Catalanotto who recently joined JEDCO as the Facilities Coordinator.
- The Selection Committee will hold an interview next week with the respondent of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the development and operation of a branded hotel at Churchill Technology & Business Park. Mr. Bologna stated that hotel nights are up because of the activity associated with the John Alario Jr. Sports Complex, and having a hotel in Churchill Park will support the Sports Complex.

- The JEDCO Architectural Review Committee will meet today to review the Food and Beverage Incubator Plans presented by Eskew Dumez Ripple +.
- Avondale Global Gateway continues to see a lot of activity and will be making an announcement of another prospect in a few weeks.
- The International Economic Development Council's 2026 Annual Conference will be held in New Orleans – October 25 to October 28. During the Annual Conference, IEDC will celebrate their 100th Anniversary. Committee members are developing a list of Economic Development projects to tour that week.
- Commissioners were invited to the April 8 event at the Conference Center where JEDCO will present the final design of the Food and Beverage Incubator and Senator Cassidy will talk about additional funding for the project.

V. **Adjournment** – Paula Polito motioned, seconded by Bob Stevens, to adjourn the meeting.



Robert Stevens
JEDCO Secretary
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