



**Minutes of the
DBE Creation and Expansion Committee of the SEDD
February 2, 2023**

The DBE Creation and expansion committee of the SEDD met on February 2, 2023, at 10:00 at Stubbs Hall Room 117 of Northeast Louisiana University.

Present were: Tony Little, chairman, and Roosevelt Wright, Jr.

Absent was: Preston Hopkins

Others present included: Advisory member Rev. Elijah Brass, III, and consultant Sonya Jacobs and her staff member Ayana Cooper.

Mr. Wright gave an invocation.

Chairman Tony Little gave an overview of the committee's objectives and welcomed Rev. Brass as a committee advisor. He announced that Mr. Anderson Jackson would no longer be able to serve because of health issues.

Mrs. Jacobs of JDS Consultants, the SEDD-approved consult, reported that she had toured the SEDD Arizona Street facility and found it in disrepair. A roof will be needed immediately. She also reported that she has targeted possible resources for the renovation of the building with verbal assurances through the Community Development Block Grant Program of the SEDD. She plans to pursue at least \$100,000 for the renovations.

In addition, Mrs. Jacobs said she had received a proposal from Dr. Dorothy E. Naime, an highly recommended international grant writer, who responded to the SEDD Grant Writer RFP. Dr. Naime submitted a proposal to pursue a \$3 million grant through the Minority Business Development Agency for three years to develop and operate a minority business training center in the Arizona Street Center. The deadline for the

applications is February 23, 2023. Her proposal is not for funds to renovate the building but to develop, staff, and operate programs.

Mrs. Jacobs said if all goes well, with a target date of September or October of this year, SEDD should have the resources to renovate the Headquarters and begin the operation of the DBE center.

She also encouraged members of SEDD and others to make plans to attend conferences outside of Monroe to tap into available to SEDD not encumbered by local politics and biases.

Actions Taken

Upon motion of Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Little, the committee unanimously agreed to recommend the following to the SEDD Board at the February 6, 2023 meeting:

1. To Authorize Dr. Dorothy E. Naime to submit a grant application to the Minority Business Development Agency for a minority business training center to be housed in the Arizona Street SEDD facility. Moreover, to authorize a contract for \$3,600 plus a one percent success fee to Dr. Naime for her services.

2. To Authorize JDS Consultant to prepare and submit a Community Development Block Application to the City of Monroe for the renovation of the Arizona Street Complex

3. To Authorize JDS Consultants to advertise to seek quotes for the immediate replacement of the roof of the Arizona Street Building and forward them to SEDD for approval at the March 6, 2023, meeting of the SEDD.

After one hour of deliberation, the committee meeting was adjourned.