

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
Louisiana State Capitol
House Committee Room 1
Baton Rouge, LA
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. David Voelker, chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. at the Louisiana State Capitol in House Committee Room 1 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. *(Note: Notices to the public and news media of the time and place of the meeting were given in compliance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.)*

II. PRAYER

A moment of silence was observed.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Walter Leger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ROLL CALL

Ms. Fay Ayers called the roll.

Board Members Present:

Mr. David Voelker, Chairman
Mr. Jas Gill
Mr. Andy Guinn
Ms. Pat LeBlanc
Mr. Ray Lasseigne
Mr. Walter Leger, Jr.
Mr. Roy O. Martin, III
Mr. Sean Reilly
Mr. John E. Smith
Representative Jeff Arnold, designee for Speaker Jim Tucker

Board Members Absent:

Senator Joel Chaisson, II
Mr. Rene Cross
Mr. Tom Henning
Mr. Chet Morrison
Senator Sharon Weston Broome

Staff Members Present:

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| Ms. Fay Ayers | Ms. Kim Jupiter |
| Ms. Lynn Bankston | Ms. Robin Keegan |
| Ms. Krystle Beauchamp | Mr. Ty Larkins |
| Ms. Stacy Bonnaffons | Mr. Darin Mann |
| Mr. Dave Bowman | Mr. Paul Rainwater |
| Mr. J.C. Ceaser | Ms. Christina Stephens |
| Ms. JoAnn Early | Mr. Eric D. Shaw |

Ms. Amanda Guma
Ms. Sandra Gunner
Mr. Wil Jacobs

Mr. Kris Van Orsdel
Ms. Angela Vanveckhoven
Ms. Alesia Wilkins-Braxton

V. READING & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEEDING MEETING

Ms. Pat LeBlanc offered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009, LRA Board meeting. There being no comments or corrections, upon motion duly made and seconded by Mr. Jas Gill, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approval of the Minutes and Ratification of Actions Taken at the February 26, 2009, Meeting of the LRA Board.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the LRA Board held on February 26, 2009, as presented at this meeting, are hereby approved and all actions taken by the Board presented at such meeting, as set forth in such minutes, are hereby in all respects approved as actions of the LRA Board.

Voting: Arnold, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, LeBlanc, Leger, Martin, Reilly, Smith, and Voelker.

VI. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Chairman of the Board Report

Mr. David Voelker said there was no Chairman's report. He called on Mr. Paul Rainwater for the Executive Director's report.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Paul Rainwater, Executive Director of the LRA, stated that there would be two action items submitted for Board approval: final approval of the Gustav/Ike Action Plan Amendment No. 1, and final approval of \$30 million for a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide generators for hospitals and nursing homes.

Mr. Rainwater noted that the past month had been very productive. He spent the day with the new U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and the new U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan in New Orleans to brief them on Louisiana's recovery issues. Secretary Donovan got engaged with the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) the first week on the job. We had been arguing with the previous HUD administration about the number of people who would be impacted if the DHAP program was not extended. Secretary Donovan understood the situation after just one call, and his action was quick and decisive. Secretary Napolitano also understands the issues. While in New Orleans, she announced \$438 million for the first funding allocation for recovery from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Today, the Board is being asked to approve the eligibility and technical requirements for these funds. A \$50 million program for permanent

supportive housing (PSH) vouchers was launched, and \$23 million in rental assistance has been allocated to support the elderly and disaster victims.

Secretary Napolitano also announced full funding for fire stations #5 and #7 during her visit to New Orleans. The previous FEMA administration would only provide funding for repairs. Additional funding was announced for Ben Franklin High School and the St. Bernard Parish water treatment plant. The Relocation Assistance program was extended until May, 2009, and two review teams were sent to the FEMA office in New Orleans to look at their processes.

Mr. Rainwater informed the members that Mr. Craig Fugate had been named as the new FEMA Administrator. He comes from Florida, where he was the director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Secretary Alan Levine of the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Services has worked with Mr. Fugate through two hurricanes, and Mr. Rainwater has worked with him through the Army Reserves. Mr. Fugate is very decisive and we expect to see some changes in Public Assistance (PA).

The Department of Homeland Security created the Unified PA Project Decision Team. Mr. Charlie Axton will lead the Decision Team, and we can expect final decisions to be expedited. Mr. Tony Russell has also been selected as the new head of the FEMA Transitional Recovery Office (TRO). Mr. Russell advised his staff to look at the program through the eyes of the applicants, which is a different philosophy. He has nine years of PA experience, and used the term "customer service". Benchmarks have also been established.

HUD has provided a case management grant that will be managed by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO). In order to avoid duplication, we are realigning some FEMA funds for a construction management program, and FEMA supports this effort.

Mr. Rainwater explained that FEMA had disbursed \$160 million for housing assistance to those who suffered damages from Hurricane Gustav, and \$51 million to those who suffered damages from Hurricane Ike. Debris removal from these two storms is 99 percent complete. FEMA has approved 683 temporary housing units, and 424 housing units are already on the ground in 20 parishes.

We have been working on improvements to the PA Express Pay with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). Last month, only \$9 million was paid out for Hurricane Gustav, and \$110 has been paid out this month. The average payment time is eight days. A cursory review is performed on the front end of the process, and then an extensive search is conducted at the end of the process. No fraud has been detected to date.

There have been over 123,000 closings in the Road Home program. The average award is \$63,000. The program was never intended to make people whole again, but rather to compensate them for some of the damages sustained. The LRA will present a gap financing program to the Board in a couple of months. ICF has processed over 15,000 appeals, of which 333 cases remain. Over 3,000 state appeals have been received, with 680 still in progress. It is taking the state approximately 70 days to work through an appeal. There have been some reductions in awards, but 35 percent of the applicants have received additional funds.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Elevation program is nearing completion. Unfortunately, only 14 homeowners have received a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) elevation grant. Over 20,000 people have expressed interest in the HMGP elevation grants, but each home has to be inspected.

The Louisiana Land Trust (LLT) has 37 properties ready for transfer to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA). Another 3,800 properties have received environmental clearance. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) has been signed and the demolition management company is in place. The LLT will continue to demolish houses so parishes will have a clean piece of property after the transfer. Ms. Keegan is doing an outstanding job working with LLT to synchronize this complicated program.

The Small Rental Program has produced 1,073 housing units, and this number will continue to increase. Last year we were only at two housing units. In the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Piggyback program, 355 units have been completed. Two grand openings were held in the past week; one in New Orleans and one in Abbeville. We are anticipating that 1,800 units will be online by June 2009, with 3,200 units online by the end of 2009.

The Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) has been a disappointment due to delays. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor did a report on the delays in the AHPP. There will be a total of 287 AHPP units in New Orleans, with 100 of those units in Westwego and 93 units at Jackson Barracks. There will be 42 units in Baton Rouge and 82 units in Lake Charles. One continued delay is the environmental clearances; however, construction is scheduled to begin at every site by April, 2009.

The ICF Transition Team is procuring Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and recommending contractors for the areas of Information Technology (IT), Homeowners, Small Rental, Piggyback, HMGP, and Individual Mitigation Measures (IMM). The Transition Team felt that smaller contracts would be easier to manage. The IT contract has been awarded to CGI Technologies and Solutions, and is awaiting approval by the Office of Contractual Review. The Homeowners contract is being negotiated with Hammerman and Gainer, Inc. (HGI). This contract includes 21 benchmarks, and the goal is to have the contract signed by March 20, 2009. ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc. was awarded the Small Rental contract. Two proposals were received for the Piggyback contract, and the Transition Team is currently reviewing the proposals. The RFP deadline for the HMGP contract is March 9, 2009, and we are currently in the advertising phase for the IMM contract.

Mr. Rainwater pointed out that Secretary Alan Levine of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals would provide information to the members later in the meeting on the HVAC Generator program. This program would help hospitals and nursing homes to purchase HVAC generators to power air conditioning to the patients during major power outages, and could cut back on the number of people who would have to evacuate. This program is available statewide and is a 75/25 match program.

Mr. David Voelker asked who is eligible for housing vouchers, and whether FEMA would be the agency to distribute them.

Mr. Rainwater responded that those people who were in a FEMA trailer or received housing assistance are eligible for the PSH vouchers. He is working with Habitat for Humanity and Providence in Lake Charles to distribute the vouchers.

Mr. Walter Leger commented that the state is seeing a tremendous amount of progress. The Road Home program was criticized, but it met its goal, and over 126,000 citizens have received grants. Overall, the program has gone smoothly and is 98 percent complete. He congratulated Mr. Rainwater and staff for their hard work.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

Final Approval of Gustav/Ike Action Plan Amendment No. 1

Ms. Robin Keegan, Deputy Director of the LRA, stated that the Gustav/Ike Action Plan was approved two months ago, which provided the vision. The Action Plan was sent to HUD, and they were shocked at how quick we were. Louisiana was the first state to submit their Action Plan. The funds will be allocated to the parishes, but HUD needed more information. Now, Action Plan Amendment No. 1 will put the flesh on the bones. The parishes will have a template and will work with the LRA staff and consultants for delivery of the funds and development of the program. There is a statewide set aside of 10.6 percent for affordable housing. Immediate funding is needed for rental housing and repairs. There will be an agricultural grant and loan program, similar to what was done after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There will be a loan program for larger businesses to get economic development and infrastructure back up and running. Additional funds will be provided for fisheries programs and coastal restoration. We are looking at providing additional CDBG funds to Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes for mitigation efforts with their coastal restoration. There will be a Technical Assistance Workshop for the parishes on March 26, where they can discuss proposal outlines, how to submit the proposals, the necessary requirements and what they can do throughout the planning process. The public comment phase for the Gustav Ike Action Plan Amendment No. 1 ends today.

Mr. Sean Reilly asked if each parish would have to come before the Board of Directors to present their proposals.

Ms. Keegan explained that the parishes will have to go to the Office of Community Development to ensure CDBG compliance, but they will not have to come before the Board.

Mr. David Voelker offered a motion to approve Gustav Ike Action Plan Amendment No. 1.

Mr. Wil Belton, a developer from Baton Rouge, asked the Board to look at shovel-ready requirements for state housing. He suggested that the resources go to shovel-ready projects that already have zoning, environmental clearance and investors with a firm commitment. He also asked for clear directions for the use of the funds set aside for housing.

Mr. Walter Leger asked Mr. Belton if he knew of any projects that were shovel-ready but lacking capital.

Mr. Belton responded that he was fortunate to have projects that have committed investors; however, capital continues to be a challenge for his colleagues. They are working with the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) to figure out the stimulus funding, and how to integrate this into the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP).

Mr. Wil Jacobs, LRA Housing Policy Director, commented that many people cannot move forward without assistance from this program.

Ms. Keegan stated that some areas will not have projects that are ready to proceed, and the funds are only available to those who suffered damages from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Mr. Leger pointed out that there was a motion on the table by Mr. Voelker to approve the Gustav Ike Action Plan Amendment No. 1, which outlines the distribution of the recovery funds and defines the eligible program activities. He noted that the motion for approval also allows for changes due to public comment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roy Martin.

Final Approval of the Gustav/Ike Action Plan Amendment No. 1, Which Outlines the Distribution of Recovery Funds and Defines Eligible Program Activities.

RESOLVED, that the Board provides final approval of the Gustav/Ike Action Plan Amendment No. 1, which outlines the distribution of recovery funds and defines eligible program activities.

Voting: Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, LeBlanc, Leger, Martin, Reilly, Smith, and Voelker.

Ms. Dominique Duval-Diop, representing PolicyLink, said she wanted to highlight three concerns with the original Gustav/Ike Action Plan. She applauded the LRA staff for addressing PolicyLink concerns in the Action Plan Amendment No. 1. There is a need for additional housing resources. The amendment adheres to the 10.6 percent set aside for housing, and for the state to administer the funds from the parishes that do not want the funds. She recommended the housing funds be prioritized.

Ms. Duval-Diop stated that she felt the public comment period was too short. PolicyLink are experts; however, the citizens need time to digest what is contained in the Action Plan. Additional time would allow for the citizens to fully participate in the process.

Another major concern of PolicyLink is based on pushing the funds to the parishes and the potential for differences across parish lines. She asked that LRA monitor the parishes for disparate outcomes.

Ms. Keegan explained that we had been working with the parishes since November, 2008, and a minimum of three public hearings were required to be held in each parish. We are working with the parishes on their assessments and taking a regional approach so the parishes can learn from one another. The LRA staff has also been assigned on a regional basis so we can mitigate concerns.

Mr. Leger asked Ms. Duval-Diop how many hearings PolicyLink felt should be held in each parish.

Ms. Duval-Diop commented that she was very satisfied with three meetings in each parish, as long as there was sufficient time to notify the public of the hearings in advance.

Ms. Keegan said notifications were sent out 21 days prior to the meetings.

Mr. Paul Rainwater stated that there is great public interest at the public hearings. Even though we are taking a regional approach, there are different needs in different areas. Vermilion Parish is unique in that it is looking at relocating entire communities, as well as elevating. Cameron Parish can be completely rebuilt, and Terrebonne Parish is leading the pack on community outreach. We just need to ensure there is equity across the board. The difference will be the parish's ability to execute, but the LRA will monitor the situation. Some of the parishes have personnel that have run community programs or served in parish management, and they understand how the program is supposed to work. This is very different from the Katrina/Rita recovery because we now have the ability to build capacity at the parish level. We are decentralizing and allowing the communities to grow stronger and better.

Mr. Sean Reilly remarked that we were correct to centralize our response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita due to the scope and magnitude of the recovery. The federal funds touched so many individuals there could have been serious injustices, but history will show that we took the correct approach. During that process, the parishes created capacity. The scope and scale for the recovery from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike are different, and the local governments will be able to better facilitate the recovery in their areas.

Mr. Paul Rainwater introduced Ms. Stacy Bonnaffons, who was recently hired by the LRA to manage the Gustav/Ike recovery.

Final Approval of Generator Program

Mr. Paul Rainwater introduced Mr. Alan Levine, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), and Mr. Casey Levy, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for GOHSEP.

Secretary Alan Levine informed the members that heat became a problem as people were evacuated and lost power. Nursing homes require life safety functions, but not HVAC. A grant program was discussed during the middle of Hurricane Gustav that could help nursing homes and hospitals stay in place and eliminate the need to evacuate. Nursing homes are especially difficult to evacuate because many of the residents are elderly and vulnerable and may be on ventilators. This resolution requests \$32 million of HMGP funds to create a DHH Generator program to purchase generators to improve electrical power generating capabilities prior to and immediately following a disaster, allow facilities to power HVAC, operating suites, and other critical functions currently unavailable with existing generator capabilities.

Secretary Levine stated that \$19.6 million would go to nursing homes, \$2 million would go for a mega-shelter, \$2 million would go to the strategic national stockpile, and the remainder

would go to hospitals. The mega-shelter did not have a generator, and we used Associated Grocers as our stockpile because the strategic national stockpile did not have HVAC in their warehouse.

Mr. Rainwater said many people evacuated to Baton Rouge when warned that Hurricane Gustav was heading towards Louisiana, only to discover that they had electricity at home while there was none in Baton Rouge. We decided this needed to be fixed. This DHH Generator program will help us to be more strategic for future evacuations. In addition to the \$32 million for the DHH Generator program, the local governments will receive \$30 million for generators.

Mr. Casey Levy commented that the \$30 million for the local governments had been approved a couple of months ago. In 1998, FEMA policy allowed five percent of funding to go towards generator purchases in the event of tornadoes or other high wind events, so Katrina funds will be used to fund the DHH Generator program. FEMA headquarters is on board with this program.

Mr. Sean Reilly mentioned that he ran into Secretary Levine at the Unified Command about five days after Hurricane Gustav. He asked the Secretary if there was anything he needed, and he responded that he needed a generator for the nursing home in St. Francisville. Mr. Reilly said people's lives should not hang by such a circumstance, and the DHH Generator program will save lives.

Mr. Reilly offered a motion to approve the resolution to reallocate \$32 million of HMGP funds to create a DHH Generator program for hospitals and nursing homes to purchase generators to improve electrical power generating capabilities prior to and immediately following a disaster, allow facilities to power HVAC, operating suites, and other critical functions currently unavailable with existing generator capabilities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walter Leger.

Mr. Andy Guinn expressed his concern that generators would end up in Tensas or Madison Parish. He said areas south of Louisiana Highway 190 should be given priority because that is the critical area.

Mr. Levy pointed out that part of the application process to FEMA is that the program has to be equitable and statewide. The methodology is innovative, quantifiable and fair. Many critical points were included in order to provide a score for each facility.

Secretary Levine noted that there were four basic criteria: the sheltering region, the number of beds, ventilation care, and an acute facility with an emergency room. The scoring applied translated to the amount the facility was eligible for, and then 75 percent of that amount was applied because there is a 25 percent match requirement.

Mr. Jas Gill said this is a great program, but asked about the implementation, execution, distribution and maintenance. He suggested that local staff be trained on how to hook up the generators and how to maintain them. He asked if there was a process in place for this.

Mr. Levy replied that the individual nursing homes and hospitals will own the generators and they will be trailer mounted at the facility.

Secretary Levine explained that some generators were bought by the state after Hurricane Gustav, and these units will be offered for sale first.

Representative Jeff Arnold asked if an annual certification is required for the generators.

Mr. Rainwater stated that generator certification is included in the agreement with local governments, and it will also be included in the agreements with the hospitals and nursing homes. Random test samples will be conducted to ensure the generators are in working order.

Secretary Levine added that the facilities are responsible for the lives of their patients, and they will have to maintain the generators if they accept this funding.

Mr. Rainwater clarified that the state is responsible for generator inspections, and GOHSEP will perform this check under the compliance portion of the contract.

Mr. Walter Leger asked if five percent was the maximum that FEMA allowed for generator purchases. He also asked if this program was funded through another state agency, such as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Mr. Rainwater confirmed that five percent was the maximum allowed by FEMA for the generator purchases. During the storm, Secretary Scott Angelle of DNR and Governor Bobby Jindal pushed 236 generators out to the parishes. We are now working with Secretary Angelle and GOHSEP to get the state reimbursed through HMGP; however, we want to leave the generators out in the field. GOHSEP will keep the generators that are not purchased as a stockpile.

Mr. Leger said we need to ensure the first responders have generators.

Mr. Levy mentioned that the hospitals and nursing homes have first choice for the generators.

Secretary Levine commented that DHH spent a lot of time helping smaller facilities during Hurricane Gustav. The Baton Rouge General Hospital needed seven generators. If these facilities had their own generators, the Unified Command could better utilize their resources and focus on major issues during an event.

Mr. Roy Martin asked who would be left out.

Secretary Levine noted that assisted living facilities were not included due to the limited funds available. They targeted broader facilities, and they wanted to reach the most vulnerable patients.

Mr. Martin pointed out that the Baton Rouge General Hospital ran out of gasoline to run the generators. He said the criteria for the program should include the need for sufficient gasoline.

The motion was repeated.

Mr. Reilly offered a motion to approve the resolution to reallocate \$32 million of HMGP funds to create a DHH Generator program for hospitals and nursing homes to purchase generators to improve electrical power generating capabilities prior to and immediately following a disaster, allow facilities to power HVAC, operating suites, and other critical functions currently unavailable with existing generator capabilities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walter Leger.

Final Approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Reallocation of \$32 Million in HMGP Funds to Create a DHH Generator Program to Purchase Generators to Improve Electrical Power Generating Capabilities Prior to and Immediately Following a Disaster, Allow Facilities to Power HVAC, Operating Suites, and Other Critical Functions Currently Unavailable with Existing Generator Capabilities.

RESOLVED, that the Board provides final approval of the resolution to reallocate \$32 million of HMGP funds to create a DHH Generator program to purchase generators to improve electrical power generating capabilities prior to and immediately following a disaster, allow facilities to power HVAC, operating suites, and other critical functions currently unavailable with existing generator capabilities.

Voting: Arnold, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, LeBlanc, Leger, Martin, Reilly, Smith, and Voelker.

VIII. UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. David Voelker introduced Mr. Jerome Zeringue, who represents the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) of Louisiana, to present an update on the CPRA Digital Flood Insurance Maps (DFIRM).

CPRA DFIRM Update

Mr. Jerome Zeringue informed the members that a joint CPRA/LRA working group met last week to discuss the accuracy of the DFIRMs. FEMA gave a presentation to the working group to explain the development of the maps. FEMA is working on models to get the most accurate data and the DFIRMs are based on these models. They are also working with the local communities; however, many people feel the local communities should have been more involved in the development of the maps, especially Cameron, Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. The most critical need now is to work with FEMA on the application of the DFIRMs with regard to the location of temporary housing and the adoption of the maps.

The policy within the FEMA Transitional Recovery Office (TRO) is to use these maps to determine how funds are allocated for rebuilding. Some feel that FEMA is using these maps for social engineering in determining who can rebuild and to what degree. This issue is also affecting Texas, and the insurance industry in determining how coastal communities can be rebuilt. The CPRA/LRA working group is working with the coastal parishes and reviewing the proposals with LSU in order to challenge the DFIRM data. We are asking FEMA to develop more accurate maps and we would like to make recommendations. This is not a

duplication of efforts, but rather an augmentation of the plans for the coastal communities. Some parishes have already appealed the DFIRM maps, and want to organize a trip to Washington, D.C. now that FEMA has new leadership. Louisiana has requested a waiver of the use of the DFIRMs, especially for the PA program, until the maps have been adopted. GOHSEP is working on a list of the projects whose funding has been impacted due to the DFIRMs. This is a critical issue that affects the future of our coastal communities.

Mr. Andy Guinn asked about the map discrepancies, and asked what guidelines are used in the development of the maps.

Mr. Zeringue explained that some of the measurements in the maps are off by four feet where inches are critical, and some ridges were not shown. Four different models were used in the development of the maps. FEMA used the best information they had at the time, but when you put trash in, you get trash out. Our goal is to work with FEMA to update the maps. Some of the information FEMA used was from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from 1911. Information used for Lake Pontchartrain was from 1927.

Mr. David Voelker asked if we can get an extension.

Mr. Paul Rainwater pointed out that the Louisiana congressional delegation is taking an aggressive approach, and Secretary Napolitano has been advised about the potential de-obligation of funds. The maps have not been adopted, but our agencies need to have one seamless voice.

Mr. Jas Gill asked if anything is being done to protect the coastline. He also asked if the methodology to test the efficacy has been developed. We need to take immediate steps so people will not be moved from the coast as this will have a devastating effect on industry.

Mr. Zeringue commented that it costs to acquire the data needed. An ADCIRC model may show a levee or a drainage levee that provides protection, but any wetlands in front of those levees are considered as open water, which exacerbates the situation.

Mr. Walter Leger expressed his concern over the inaccuracies in the maps. The errors need to be corrected, and we need to use good science, not just the easiest to find. People used to believe the Earth was flat. What will happen with the levee certifications if bad science is used? Developers and planners need to know that we have intelligent information.

Mr. Rainwater mentioned that Orleans Parish will be taken out of commerce if the maps in Orleans Parish are adopted. There is talk of de-obligation of the HMGP elevation funding for areas that are not high velocity zones. If that is the case, what is mitigation funding for? People need to be close to their jobs. We will continue to push back so we can build smart. We just need the technology so we can do the detailed work.

Mr. Andy Guinn suggested that a delegation from the Board accompany Mr. Rainwater to Washington, D.C. There is strength in numbers.

Mr. Gill stated that it is apparent that industries count on access to the coastal areas. We have to protect our coasts or we will be transferring huge costs to industry, such as food, pipelines

and the petrochemical industry. There will also be a cost burden to the offshore industries and increased costs to the rest of the country. We need to put the economics on the table.

Mr. Rainwater remarked that one debate with FEMA was over the issue of temporary housing in Lafourche, Terrebonne and Cameron parishes. The strategic petroleum reserve is located in Louisiana. A 40-50 mile commute is a big deal, especially when gasoline prices were high. We may need to have an economist look at the situation.

Mr. Voelker suggested we use all assets at our disposal as this is a critical issue to our state.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Rainwater
Executive Director

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Date approved: _____