

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

State Office Building Auditorium

Baton Rouge, LA

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

DRAFT MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Walter Leger, acting chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. at the State Office Building Auditorium in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. (Mr. David Voelker asked Mr. Leger to chair the meeting, as he was having problems with his voice.) *(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

Mr. Roy Martin led the members in prayer.

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. Rene Cross

Mr. Jas Gill

Mr. Ray Lasseigne

Mr. Walter Leger, Jr.

Mr. Roy O. Martin, III

Mr. Sean Reilly

Speaker Jim Tucker

Senator Reggie Dupre (Proxy for Senator Joel Chaisson, II)

Board Members Absent:

Senator Sharon Weston Broome

Mr. Tom Henning

Ms. Pat LeBlanc

Mr. John E. Smith

Staff Members Present:

Ms. Fay Ayers

Ms. Lynn Bankston

Ms. Krystle Beauchamp

Ms. Stacy Bonnaffons

Mr. Dave Bowman

Mr. J.C. Ceaser

Ms. Adrienne Duncan

Ms. Kimberly Durow

Ms. JoAnn Early

Ms. Amanda Guma

Ms. Sandra Gunner

Ms. Robin Keegan

Ms. Janice Lovett

Mr. Darin Mann

Ms. Kristen Parnell

Ms. Dana Henry-Pitts

Mr. Paul Rainwater

Ms. Marisa Robertson

Ms. Christina Stephens

Mr. Eric D. Shaw

Mr. Kris Van Orsdel

Ms. Angela Vanveckhoven

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

Mr. Jas Gill offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2009, LRA Board meeting. There being no comments or corrections, upon motion duly made and seconded by Senator Reggie Dupre, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approval of the Minutes and Ratification of Actions Taken at the March 18, 2009, Meeting of the LRA Board.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the LRA Board held on March 18, 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: Cross, Dupre, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, Leger, Martin, Reilly, and Tucker.

VI. PRESENTATION/UPDATES

Gustav/Ike Agriculture Program Update

Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, thanked Governor Bobby Jindal and the state leaders for their work on the Agriculture program. This is the first time in United States history that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be used for agriculture. Hurricanes Gustav and Ike resulted in \$1 billion in net losses, and the CDBG funds will be used for low interest loans and grants. The number one issue for the agriculture industry is lack of capital, and he expressed concern over the loss of acreage. Funds in the Farm Bill in Washington, D.C., will not be available until 2010.

Mr. Paul Rainwater, Executive Director of the LRA, thanked Commissioner Strain for his patience since CDBG funding is not the easiest to obtain. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is supportive of these efforts in Louisiana, and may rewrite the regulations.

Commissioner Strain noted that this concept will be used for other programs, such as \$27 million for fisheries. A total of \$90 million will be infused into the agriculture economy over the next three months. He pointed out that a solution to the bureaucratic red tape was found by working together.

Mr. Leger thanked Commissioner Strain for his aggressiveness and his creativeness. He commented that it was a notable achievement to get through the bureaucracy. Agriculture is also an urban issue and necessary for urbanites. There are new shipping facilities in both New Orleans and Lake Charles, and this is due to our federal partners – members of the House, the Senate, and the Congressional Delegation - working hard to get over the stumbling blocks.

Mr. Rene Cross asked if the aquaculture industry would be funded separately.

Commissioner Strain responded that aquaculture would be funded separately; however, he had not heard an exact figure from Washington, DC.

Mr. Cross pointed out that he had worked closely with staff to rebuild the fisheries infrastructure after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Commissioner Strain commented that we need to ensure that we have enough ice houses.

Federal Medical Assistance Percentage Briefing

Dr. Alan Levine, Secretary, Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), stated that Louisiana's per capita income had increased by 42 percent, a higher growth rate than any other state. This spike was attributed to recovery efforts, and is important because the Bureau of Economic Analysis bases its calculations for federal Medicaid match funds on per capita income, known as the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

Presently, Louisiana's federal match is at 80 percent due to stimulus funds. This will drop to 68 percent for the federal match in October, 2009, and to 63 percent in October, 2010. There is a \$700 million shortfall in the Louisiana budget to fund Medicaid for this Fiscal Year. Some contingency funding will be used to fill this year's shortfall; however, \$48 million of this will come from a one-time funding source. Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds received this year have been built into the Medicaid base funding, but we will lose \$100 million in disproportionate hospital share, and Louisiana will face a \$1.2 billion shortfall in budget year 2011.

Speaker Jim Tucker has proposed a resolution requesting Congress to enact legislation to prevent the unintended negative consequences to the Medicaid FMAP calculation on Louisiana's Medicaid program. This legislation will be offered to assist other states that have suffered the same problem, such as Florida and Texas.

Mr. Walter Leger asked if the spike in per capita income was due to Road Home and insurance payments.

Secretary Levine said the short answer was yes; however, the aggregate of per capita income is difficult to disaggregate.

Mr. Leger asked if rental subsidies were considered income.

Secretary Levine explained that all types of payments are considered expendable income. The proposed legislation is being drafted to create a threshold to trigger a different way of figuring the FMAP to be applied to states that have suffered a major disaster and results in a sudden and unintended spike in per capita income.

Mr. Roy Martin commented that the losses sustained by these states are not being considered, and to count only recovery funds makes no sense.

Secretary Levine noted that he was not an economist, but disasters lead to economic growth. The argument is that since the state's income grew, then the Medicaid population should have shrunk. Unfortunately, even though Louisiana has experienced a loss in population, the

Medicaid population has not shrunk. The reality is that there is a \$700 million shortfall in the Medicaid budget.

Speaker Tucker asked what the Board of Directors could do to help.

Secretary Levine said he would provide language for the resolution.

Mr. Paul Rainwater added that individuals could write to the Administration and to the Congressional delegation, and work outside the delegation lines.

Mr. Jas Gill stated that there are disconnects in the budget and the cash flow needs and the Board needs clarity on the issue. He asked what is needed for the one-time occurrence and what is needed for continued funding of FMAP.

Secretary Levine pointed out that economic activity will return to a normal level. The legislation will propose a lock in the FMAP for a period of three years so the formula will allow the per capita data to work through its normal cycle. The state would like to stay at the FMAP rate where we would have been without the hurricanes.

Mr. Leger noted that 2005 showed a drop in per capita income, and asked if we benefited from that drop.

Secretary Levine said a three-year average is used. Cash replacement stimulated the economy, but it was not income. He has been arguing that the formula is not correct, and it can easily be skewed.

Mr. Leger requested talking points on the FMAP issue.

Mr. Leger asked the status of the LSU Medical Center in New Orleans. There is a fear that LSU in Baton Rouge is partnering with Our Lady of the Lake Hospital to expand their teaching facility, and New Orleans is concerned that they will lose their hospital.

Secretary Levine explained that LSU in Baton Rouge is independent of what is happening in New Orleans. DHH supports closing the Earl K. Long Hospital in Baton Rouge, but are passionately committed to a learning hospital in New Orleans. He wants to bring Tulane University and LSU together for resolution; he expects both institutions will govern the academic teaching hospital in New Orleans. The best way to move forward is to build a facility that can capitalize itself in order to operate and attract talent, without having to wait for the government.

Mr. Walter Leger cited the Cancer Research Consortium as an example of fighting between LSU and Tulane.

Secretary Levine pointed out that the fighting could affect our ability to get federal funding. Governor Jindal has made it clear that he wants this resolved.

VII. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Paul Rainwater, Executive Director of the LRA, stated that HUD announced the second allocation of funding for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, resulting in just over \$1 billion total for Louisiana. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan included additional storms, which added weight to Louisiana for our allocations.

The LRA has a different role with the Gustav/Ike funding because it is up to the local governments as to how the funds are spent. We will be the coach and mentor for the parishes, and referee when there are disagreements. There have been over 80 outreach meetings with local governments, and 30 Cooperative Endeavor Agreements (CEAs) have been signed. There are 53 parishes that have different needs, so the community outreach effort will continue. We are also working with Southeast Texas as they have similar needs as Southwest Louisiana, and our economies are linked together.

Mr. Rainwater noted that there would be a kickoff meeting in Terrebonne Parish on June 26, 2009. Terrebonne Parish is the largest grantor and has faced many challenges due to four storms.

Mr. Rainwater informed the members that he met with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator, Mr. Craig Fugate on June 15, 2009, to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Mr. Fugate understands how HMGP should work, and he is working with his staff to determine where there are problems. Additionally, the Louisiana Congressional delegation and the Department of Homeland Security are visiting Louisiana, and the Inspector General is speaking to applicants to get their input as to the problem areas.

He has been to Washington, D.C. three times since the last Board meeting to testify before Congress. Senator Landrieu wants to ensure that funding is based on damages. We have learned lessons from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

FEMA announced reduced sales prices for park model trailers and mobile homes. There are still 500 people in trailers that need additional assistance. HUD is working with us to ensure there is a safety net. Our staff talks to the families every day to ensure that no one falls through the cracks. We are also working with the local government on zoning issues.

The Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) deadline is August 31, 2009. Outreach letters have been sent and a statewide hotline has been launched. The CEA with the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) has been signed. Several outreach fairs are scheduled for July and August, 2009, to link families with available resources.

We continue to work with local planners on the Office of State Planning. We secured 40 scholarships for state planning stakeholders to attend a national planning conference in Louisville, Kentucky in early June, 2009. Ms. Boo Thomas of the Center for Performing Excellence and Ms. Donna Fraiche will provide an update at a future Board meeting.

Debris removal from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike remains at 99% complete. FEMA has approved 677 Temporary Housing Units (THUs), and the V-Zone variance has been extended until 2010 to allow trailers in flood zone areas so residents will be close to work while they rebuild.

Over \$7 billion has been obligated for Public Assistance projects, and we are looking at the possibility of receiving an additional \$2 billion. We cannot afford late payments because the contractors need funding, and we want a seamless process with accountability. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate understands this.

Over \$8 billion has been disbursed in the Road Home program to 144,494 applicants, with an average award of \$64,000. There are approximately 4,000 people that continue to have problems with powers of attorney or family issues.

Mr. Sean Reilly asked about the original estimate of applicants.

Mr. Rainwater explained that elevations drove up the total, but the original projection was for 125,000 applicants. The ICF Road Home contract was broken up into four separate contracts, and some people may have fallen through the cracks, so there may be a total of 128,000 total applicants.

There are 209 applicants in the Road Home State Appeals process, and HGI has 351 applicants in their appeal process. Over 6,000 files are being processed for HMGP elevation grants. We are managing the elevation program ourselves, which slowed the process but saved the state some money. There will be a meeting at Dillard University on June 18, and a meeting with homeowners on June 19, 2009.

Mr. Reilly commented that we should move towards community mitigation versus individual mitigation because the individual awards take too long to be processed.

Mr. Rainwater pointed out that it typically takes two years for an individual mitigation award. He has spoken to Governor Jindal about community mitigation. There are some pilot programs that include FEMA levees and the coastal program.

Mr. Reilly stated that it is not fair to homeowners to wait two years to see if they can elevate.

Mr. Walter Leger said that Mississippi was getting a lot of criticism over the \$1.2 billion spent on their Road Home program. They have only gotten through one or two phases of their program and are having significant problems, including over 400 cases of fraud. There are allegations of misuse of \$600 million used for the Port of Gulfport. Louisiana has had some criticism, but people are thanking us for what we have done. There has only been one fraud prosecution in Louisiana that resulted in a conviction. Unfortunately, the media only publishes the negative experiences. He suggested that we start showing comparisons of Louisiana and Mississippi.

Mr. Rainwater noted that \$14 million is being held in reserve while staff works with the Louisiana Legislative Auditor on its review of the Road Home program records.

The Louisiana Land Trust has experienced some programmatic issues, but we should start to see quicker property transfers. St. Bernard Parish changed its mind about using 3,790 properties, which resulted in environmental review requirements having to be redone.

The Small Rental program has tripled in the past five months. The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Piggyback program has 20 projects that have closed or are under construction with over \$200 million expended. In some cases, the in-service date needs to be extended or some people will fall out of the program. We will find other uses for the funds rather than let the money sit idle.

Mr. Reilly asked if these funds can only be used for housing.

Speaker Jim Tucker said these funds will be spent on critical housing needs. Other funds can be used for local debt and infrastructure. As the recovery programs wind down over the next year, we will look at how the surplus will be used. Many areas took on debt after the storms to get up and operating, which has hampered the local governments in moving forward. LRA did a good job on the housing piece; however, infrastructure still needs work, especially in the most heavily impacted parishes. The surplus will most likely go to pay off local and state debt, and the remainder will go to infrastructure needs. He is interested in other ideas, but expressed concern about overbuilding of low-to-moderate income housing.

Mr. Reilly commented that we knew infrastructure was short when the original budget was submitted to the White House.

Speaker Tucker remarked that we have not had to pay interest on the bonds issued for the coastal piece of recovery, but this will be a huge issue next year for metropolitan and rural areas.

Mr. Reilly asked if the Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) funds were more flexible.

Mr. Rainwater explained that AHPP funds are used for critical housing in order to create capacity. Now there is concern over Chinese drywall and gap issues.

Speaker Tucker stated that we may have to ask for greater flexibility in the use of the funds.

Mr. Leger noted that Congress and the state legislature are committed to the Road Home program and that every homeowner gets every penny to which they are entitled. Funds will not be moved to any other programs until that obligation has been met.

Speaker Tucker said existing programs will be completed before any funds are reallocated.

Mr. Leger pointed out that he had met with several members of Congress to discuss the third allocation, and they are willing to work with us to loosen the restrictions on the funding. We need to be careful when we analyze the funds; some local governments manage their funding better than others, especially when it comes to infrastructure. Orleans Parish is still short between \$400 - \$500 million for their sewerage and water systems. St. Bernard Parish allocated over half of their funds to its sewer system. Many parishes continue to have infrastructure and long-term planning needs.

Mr. Jas Gill expressed concern over the spending in the Piggyback program. He said it looked as if more funding will be needed to complete the program.

Mr. Rainwater stated that we are working with the Louisiana Housing Finance Authority and Congress to get an extension to the Piggyback program. He said there would be an update in September, 2009.

AHPP was granted an extension through January 31, 2010, by FEMA, which will protect our funds. Presently, there are 287 units in New Orleans, 100 single-family units in Algiers, and 100 units on infill sites in various neighborhoods. Jackson Barracks has frames up, and units in Lake Charles are almost complete, with tenants expected to move in by the end of August, 2009.

Mr. Reilly commented that he had received several calls about slow payments in this program.

Mr. Rainwater said the process has been narrowed down, and now it's taking between 35 to 40 days for payments. The invoices have to go through FEMA, and that was causing delays.

Mr. Rainwater reiterated that the ICF contract had been broken into four separate contracts. He noted that the LRA will cease to exist as of July 1, 2010.

Mr. Roy Martin asked about the status of the V-Zones.

Mr. Rainwater explained that LSU had been retained to assist the parishes in making their case to FEMA, and to help gather the correct flood zone data. We will continue to work with the coastal parishes to help them make their case for rebuilding.

Mr. Reilly stated that we needed to give some thought to the function of government under our purview. We should not go back to the way things were previously. He suggested that the Public Assistance function could be moved to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). We should also think about where the Office of Community Development (OCD) is housed, and look at expanding this group.

Mr. Rainwater added that we should think about where the LRA staff goes. These people need to be disbursed into state government so their expertise can be utilized.

Mr. Reilly noted that OCD used to handle \$30 million, and they will be handling hundreds of millions of dollars over the next decade. Presently, OCD is located under the Division of Administration, and perhaps it should be under the Governor's office.

Mr. Rainwater remarked that OCD was administratively under the Division, but it answers to the Governor, and is considered to be cabinet level.

Mr. Reilly said that OCD is a funnel to the local jurisdiction. The Office of State Planning is envisioned as a resource for local jurisdictions, so perhaps these agencies should be married.

Speaker Tucker stated that the local government model used for Gustav/Ike funding should be the model utilized, and state involvement should be minimized. Some central planning is necessary, but not for all things.

Mr. Rainwater agreed that things are done better at the local level, where people know what is happening every week.

Mr. Reilly questioned if the Office of State Planning should be renamed. OCD is the fiduciary flow-through for funding.

Mr. Leger suggested that we avoid losing the expertise that has been developed in Louisiana. We are now experts and could develop educational programs on disaster management, including lessons learned and mistakes made, and provide these programs to the rest of the country.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

Resolution to Commend the Contributions of Alesia Wilkins-Braxton

Mr. David Voelker offered a motion to approve a resolution to commend Alesia Wilkins-Braxton for her contributions and service as counsel for the LRA Board of Directors. Ms. Wilkins-Braxton has accepted a job with the LHFA as Vice President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sean Reilly. Ms. Robin Keegan also presented Ms. Wilkins-Braxton with a beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers.

Approval of Resolution to Commend the Contributions of Alesia Wilkins-Braxton as Counsel for the LRA Board of Directors.

RESOLVED, that the Board approves the resolution commending the contributions of Alesia Wilkins-Braxton as counsel to the LRA Board of Directors.

Voting: Dupre, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, Leger, Martin, Reilly, Tucker and Voelker.

Ms. Wilkins-Braxton commented that she started with the LRA in 2006 one week before a Board meeting. She started at the LHFA one week before their Board meeting. She said she hasn't gone far away, and to call if there is anything she can do to help the LRA.

Plaquemines Parish Homeowner Rehabilitation Program, Action Plan Amendment No. 32 to Action Plan No. 1

Mr. David Voelker offered a motion to give final approval to Action Plan Amendment No. 32 to Action Plan No. 1, which allows Plaquemines Parish to use \$4 million of its Small Rental program funds for a Homeowner Rehabilitation program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rene Cross.

Final Approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 32 to Action Plan No. 1, Which Allows Plaquemines Parish to Use \$4 Million of Small Rental Program Funds for a Homeowner Rehabilitation Program.

RESOLVED, that the Board provides final approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 32 to Action Plan No. 1, which allows Plaquemines Parish to use \$4 million of Small Rental program funds for a Homeowner Rehabilitation program.

Voting: Cross, Dupre, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, Leger, Martin, Reilly and Voelker.

Nonprofit Construction Management Pilot Program, Action Plan Amendment No. 33 to Action Plan No. 1

Ms. Robin Keegan explained that the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program was originally going to be funded at \$5 million; however, during the public comment period additional funds were requested. The funding has now been raised to \$20 million for this program, which will be administered by the LHFA and run by nonprofit agencies. The program is scheduled to launch in July, 2009.

Mr. Paul Rainwater pointed out that the amendment will go to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and then the full legislature for approval, before being sent to HUD for their approval. Once approved, a compliance team has benchmarks for evaluation of the program.

Mr. David Voelker offered a motion to provide final approval to Action Plan Amendment No. 33 to Action Plan No. 1, which would create the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sean Reilly.

Final Approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 33 to Action Plan No. 1, Which Creates the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program.

RESOLVED, that the Board provides final approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 33 to Action Plan No. 1, which creates the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot program.

Voting: Cross, Dupre, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, Leger, Martin, Reilly and Voelker.

Rapid Re-housing Program, Action Plan Amendment No. 36 to Action Plan No. 1

Mr. Paul Rainwater stated that LRA staff had been working with nonprofit agencies to provide a housing safety net to ensure there is no homelessness. Small Rental funds in the amount of \$5 million will be used for this program.

Mr. David Voelker offered a motion to provide final approval to Action Plan Amendment No. 36 to Action Plan No. 1, which will provide \$5 million in additional funding to the Rapid Re-housing program. Following the public comment period, the Board recommends that Amendment No. 36 to Action Plan No. 1 be sent to HUD for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sean Reilly.

Conditional Approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 36 to Action Plan No. 1, Which Provides an Additional \$5 Million to the Rapid Re-Housing Program, and Authorize Staff to Publish the Action Plan Amendment for Public Comment.

RESOLVED, that the Board provides final approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 36 to Action Plan No. 1, which provides an additional \$5 million to the Rapid Re-Housing Program, and authorize staff to publish the Action Plan Amendment for public comment.

Voting: Cross, Dupre, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, Leger, Martin, Reilly and Voelker.

Louisiana Land Trust (LLT) Property Disposition Plans

Ms. Robin Keegan informed the members that a template had been prepared for the parishes to use when the LLT needs to dispose of property. A total of 15 parish Road Home Property Disposition Plans are presented for final approval. There are four remaining parishes, which will be brought before the Board at the next meeting. Lafayette Parish had only one property, which the LLT will dispose of through a public auction.

Mr. Ray Lasseigne offered a motion to provide final approval to the Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, St. Charles, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Vermilion, Vernon and Washington Parish Road Home Property Disposition Plans. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Voelker.

Final Approval of Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, St. Charles, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Vermilion, Vernon and Washington Parish Road Home Property Disposition Plans.

RESOLVED, that the Board provides final approval of Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, St. Charles, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Vermilion, Vernon and Washington Parish Road Home Property Disposition Plans.

Voting: Cross, Dupre, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, Leger, Martin, Reilly and Voelker.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Mr. Paul Rainwater presented the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program resolution, which addresses how \$177.6 million will be allocated between 53 parishes based on parish data. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) data was used to determine allocation of funding based on damages.

Mr. Roy Martin asked who will manage the funds on the parish level.

Mr. Rainwater responded that it would be emergency preparedness personnel or some parishes may contract out this function. Also, some parishes may join together for a regional application, as long as it is approved by GOHSEP.

Senator Reggie Dupre asked about combining HMGP and CDBG funding for common goals.

Mr. Rainwater said combining of funds is not prohibited, but CDBG funds require a 25% match.

Mr. Walter Leger asked if there was any chance of going to a 90/10 match.

Mr. Rainwater noted that legislation has been proposed for a 90/10 match.

Senator Dupre asked if warning systems, generators and pumps were included in this program. Some pumps located on access roads need to be elevated.

Mr. Rainwater remarked that these items are allowed in this program.

Mr. Roy Martin asked when the funds would be distributed.

Mr. Rainwater explained that \$300 million was distributed after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There is a very rigorous process involved, and we are working on making it leaner with some changes to the process; however, it typically takes two years.

Mr. Leger asked about safe housing and pump operator buildings.

Mr. Rainwater commented that you can harden a building to create a safe environment, but community facilities or recreation centers are commonly used as safe houses.

Senator Reggie Dupre offered a motion to approve the resolution to allocate \$177.6 million of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to the Traditional Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for use by parishes, state agencies, and other entities to continue recovery efforts and to protect against future emergencies across Louisiana. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roy Martin.

Final Approval of Resolution to Allocate \$177.6 Million of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds to be Used in the Traditional Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to Assist Parishes and State Agencies in Taking on Mitigation Measures to Protect Against Future Damages.

RESOLVED, that the Board provides final approval of resolution to allocate \$177.6 million of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to be used in the Traditional HMGP to assist parishes and state agencies in taking on mitigation measures to protect against future damages.

Voting: Cross, Dupre, Gill, Guinn, Lasseigne, Leger, Martin, Reilly and Voelker.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul Timmons, representing the Greater New Orleans Disaster Recovery Partnership (GNODRP), thanked the members for the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to provide input into the program.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rainwater informed the members that there would not be a Board meeting in July, 2009.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Rainwater
Executive Director

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Date approved: _____