

DRAFT, subject to revisions and/or amendments

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

University of Louisiana Lafayette – Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise
Thursday, August 10, 2006

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Landry, acting chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. in Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE) Facility in the University of Louisiana Lafayette Research Park in Lafayette, Louisiana. It is noted for the record that notices to the public and news media of the time and place of the meeting had been given in compliance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

II. PRAYER

Rev. Keith Milligan of Vermilion Faith Community of Care in Abbeville, LA led the board in prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. John Landry led the board in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ROLL CALL

Ms. Robyn Cockerham called the roll.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman
Ms. Dale Atkins
Sen. Diana Bajoie
Rev. Harry Blake
Ms. Kim Boyle
Mr. Tim Coulon
Mr. Rene Cross
Mr. James Davison
Rep. Yvonne Dorsey
Ms. Donna Fraiche
Mr. Tom Henning
Ms. Sibal Holt

Board Members Present:

Mr. John T. Landry
Mrs. Laura Leach
Mr. Walter Leger, Jr.
Mr. Chet Morrison
Mr. Sean Reilly
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Rep. Joe Salter
Mr. John E. Smith
Mr. Matt Stuller
Mr. David Voelker
Mr. Rod West
Mr. Mike Woods

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Walter Isaacson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Boysie Bollinger
Ms. Donna Brazile
Sen. Don Hines

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Andy Kopplin, Executive Director
Mr. Dave Bowman
Mr. Miles Bruder
Ms. Ella Camburnbeck
Ms. Robyn Cockerham
Mr. Hal Cohen
Ms. Jessica Dardenne
Mr. Pat Forbes
Mr. Ramsey Green
Ms. Ann Guissing
Ms. Sandra Gunner
Mr. Jeff Hebert

Witnesses Present (in order of appearance):

Dr. Carolina Cruz-Neira
Mr. Mike Byrne
Ms. Susan Hughes
Mr. Randy Noel
Ms. Pamela Bingham
Mr. Will Belton
Mr. Sherman Copelin
Dr. Ramesh Kolluru
Mr. Bill Tucker
Mr. Tony Duplechin
Mr. Jack Stolier

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Linda Johnson
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Ms. Mary Matalin
Ms. Susan Taylor

Staff Members Present:

Ms. Catherine Heitman
Ms. Desiree Honoré
Ms. Kim Jupiter
Ms. Robin Keegan
Mr. Adam Knapp
Ms. Melissa Landry
Mr. David Moore
Mr. Paul Rainwater
Ms. Christina Stephens
Mr. Kris Van Orsdel
Ms. Natalie Wyeth

Ms. Jennifer Jones
Mr. Ehcene Beh
Ms. Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Mr. Charles Steele, Jr.
Mr. M. Sanyika
Rev. Lois Dejean
Mr. Louis Harding
Mr. Gene Sullivan
Mr. Carol Broussard
Mr. George Dupree

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

The acting Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 06, 2006, LRA Board meeting. There being no comments or corrections, upon motion duly made by Mr. Matt Stuller and seconded by Mr. Walter Leger, Jr. the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approval of the minutes and ratification of actions taken at the July 06, 2006, meeting of

the LRA Board.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the LRA Board held on July 06, 2006, 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: Bajoie, Blake, Coulon, Cross, Dorsey, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West, and Woods.

VI. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

A. Chairman of the Board Report

Acting Chairman, Mr. John Landry welcomed the LRA to the LITE facility and spoke briefly about the functions and specifics of the building. He then recognized Dr. Ray Authement, President of ULL, as well as Mr. Gregg Gothreaux, President and CEO of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority. The chief scientist of the LITE Facility, Dr. Carolina Cruz-Neira, spoke briefly about the facility and introduced her staff.

Dr. Norman Francis thanked Mr. Andy Kopplin and Mr. John Landry for starting the meeting without him and for the work they have done during the past month. He also thanked the additional board members for their continued dedication.

B. Executive Director Report

Mr. Kopplin began his report by thanking and recognizing the contributions and dedication of the McKinsey & Co. He then presented members of the organization with commemorative bricks to express the gratitude of the LRA. Mr. Kopplin continued his report by publicly recognizing the LRA staff. He introduced each staff member and spoke briefly about their background as well as their responsibilities within the organization. Mr. Kopplin then continued his report with a Powerpoint presentation (Attachment A) that gave a brief reminder of the budgets within the different programs that have been established by the LRA. During this presentation, Mr. Kopplin updated the board on any developments that had occurred since the last board meeting. He also commented on the time line surrounding the different programs in regard to approval from the legislature as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Mr. Kopplin spoke shortly about the status of local municipalities' Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) repair applications.

Mr. Walter Leger inquired whether there was an incentive for the local governments to push FEMA for rebuilding funds. Mr. Kopplin responded that members of the LRA staff have been in contact with local officials and have explained that FEMA money is needed to insure that the LRA match money does not have to pay unnecessarily for projects which would be covered by FEMA.

Ms. Dale Atkins questioned whether local governments are going through the FEMA process. She also inquired whether any local government had received any money, and if not, is there anything that the LRA can do to speed up the process. Mr. Kopplin responded that local governments are indeed still going through the FEMA process. He continued by explaining that there have been worksheets approved. Mr. Kopplin concluded his remarks by stating that he would check into the status of local government worksheets and update the board at the next board meeting.

Sen. Diane Bajoie questioned whether it would take up to two years to receive funds from the Road Home Program. Mr. Kopplin responded that the timeline is much shorter than two years and noted that there is false information being spread about the program. Sen. Bajoie suggested revising some of the information that is with the public and clarifying that it will not take multiple years to receive funding.

VII. TASK FORCE REPORTS – DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

A. Housing Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis called upon Mr. Walter Leger to lead the discussion concerning the Housing Task Force.

I. Report on Road Home outreach

Mr. Leger reminded the board of actions previously taken on the Road Home program. He then introduced Mr. Mike Byrne. Mr. Byrne noted that it would take much less than two years to receive funding. He also noted that due to each homeowner scenario being unique, the interviews could take a longer than originally thought; however, people would not be left not knowing where in the program they are. Mr. Byrne then introduced Ms. Susan Hughes to report on the outreach program. Ms. Hughes presented a Powerpoint presentation (Attachment B) that gave an overview of the upcoming advertising and media campaigns to inform residents about the Road Home Housing Assistance Centers (HACs).

Dr. Francis questioned whether the board members would be able to get access to the information that would be distributed to the media so that they could be informed and aware of the information. Ms. Hughes assured him that such information would be distributed to the board members.

Mr. Rene Cross inquired how many (total) HACs would be opened. Mr. Byrne responded that originally as many as twenty were planned to be opened; however, due to the centers being larger than originally planned, the true number would be closer to fifteen or sixteen. He noted that as lessons are learned from day to day operations, a more solidified operation plan could be formulated. Mr. Cross expressed his concern with being able to get individuals from the hardest hit areas to the housing assistance centers. He especially noted his concern for individuals from St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish, as well as the east side of the Lake Charles area, due to the devastation in the area. Ms. Hughes explained that there would be HACs located in Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermillion, Terrebonne, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, St. Bernard and Jefferson Parishes as well as New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

Mr. Rod West inquired whether the locations for the HACs had been determined. He additionally inquired where the New Orleans location would be. Mr. Byrne responded that the locations for the HACs had been determined. He also noted that the New Orleans location would be at 1555 Poydras Street.

Dr. Francis requested that the board be given a listing of all of the HACs.

Ms. Sibal Holt questioned why more nonprofit builders were not involved. Mr. Byrne responded that the desire to work with everyone is present and that there would be additional effort put into bringing as many organizations together as possible. Mr. Kopplin also responded that there was indeed a need to do better outreach with nonprofit organizations. He noted that the Office of Community Development (OCD) was working on a grant program for nonprofits. Ms. Holt added that many of the organizations need basic information on when and how to access applications.

Sen. Diane Bajoie noted that many individuals need counselors to advise the homeowners of what information/documents needs to be brought to the HACs.

Mr. Tim Coulon noted the need for backup plans in regard to the logistics of the HACs. He expressed his concern in regard to getting individuals from the most devastated areas to the HACs. Mr. Byrne responded that thanked him for his suggestions and noted that they would be taken into consideration.

Ms. Donna Fraiche expressed her desire to see an informational packet that clearly explained the necessary documents that would be required when applicants attend their interviews at the HACs.

Mrs. Laura Leach inquired whether there was an available list of HAC locations. Mr. Byrne responded that there was a list and it would be given to the board members.

Mr. Chet Morrison expressed the willingness of the Terrebonne Parish officials to work with the HACs.

Mr. John Landry expressed his belief that the employees of the HACs must possess empathy. He thanked Mr. Byrne and his staff for the hard work they have done.

Ms. Dale Atkins inquired whether the HACs could be combined with the mortgage centers of the various parishes. Mr. Byrne responded that that particular idea is something that is being investigated for feasibility.

Mr. Tom Henning inquired whether the acceptance/rejection rate could be figured by area and circulated to the board members. He explained that this would show areas where the program may need to be amended.

Mr. Leger explained to the board that while there were a substantial amount of amendments to the Road Home Action Plan, the amendments were not substantive in nature. He then yielded to Mr. Kopplin for a Powerpoint presentation (Attachment C). This presentation focused on thoroughly clarifying the amendments to the Road Home Action Plan that the Housing Task

Force sought approval of from the board. There was also a lengthy description of the Road Home Corporation, the agency that will be responsible for developing properties by packaging for redevelopment and overseeing redevelopment of properties consistent with local and regional plans. In addition, the Road Home Corporation will be responsible for transferring properties to local redevelopment agencies that take into account local land use guidelines. Thirdly, the Road Home Corporation will maintain properties as green space based on decisions by local authorities.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to questions regarding the resolution.

Sen. Bajoie questioned whether the legislative intent should be included in the wording of the portion of Action Plan No. 1 that concerns the Road Home Corporation. Mr. Kopplin responded that rather than the LRA adding that language, he would recommend that once the members of the Road Home Corporation are appointed, they research the legislative intent and use it as a procedural guide. Mr. Sean Reilly also engaged in this conversation and recommended adopting the wording as proposed so that the action plan could be submitted for HUD approval.

Ms. Kim Boyle requested clarification on a scenario of an elderly homeowner who has paid off his mortgage. She further inquired what the procedure for compensation would be as well as how the compensation would be disbursed. In addition, Ms. Boyle inquired whether individuals who sold their property post-Katrina at a much reduced rate would be eligible for the program. Mr. Kopplin responded that payments for non-mortgaged individuals would be made in installments but that the final details of the program are still being worked out to expedite the payments. He explained that due to the transferability clause, he encouraged homeowners to go through the program, make repairs and then transfer the home to the new owners who will be responsible for living in the home for three years. Mr. Kopplin answered the third question by reading the following paragraph from the Road Home Action Plan:

“Owner-Occupants Who Have Already Sold Their Principal Residence: Some homeowners may have chosen to sell their homes prior to launch of the Road Home Homeowner Assistance Program. It is the goal of The Road Home to ensure that damaged properties qualifying under the Homeowner Assistance Program do not remain blighted and undeveloped. If the development goals of the Program are met for the damaged property, and a homeowner that can demonstrate that he or she remains in a loss situation after selling the damaged property to another party, such homeowner may receive assistance under the Program to compensate for remaining losses accordance with the Program requirements.”

Mr. Coulon spoke in regard to the Road Home Corporation language. He advocated using the strongest language possible to be consistent with the legislation and including the legislative intent. Mr. Coulon also noted that many of the concerns of the LRA in regard to the Road Home Corporation will be addressed due to fact that the operational plans must be approved by the LRA. Mr. Kopplin concurred with this statement.

Mr. Kopplin explained to the board the reasoning behind the last paragraph of the resolution (BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED....). He noted that this paragraph would expedite the HUD approval process because non-substantive amendments could be made without having to go before the board and legislature.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Walter Leger and seconded by Mr. Sean Reilly, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Amend Action Plan Amendment No. 1 with non-substantive revisions; authorize the LRA Executive Director and Chairman of the Housing Task Force to provide written approval to the Office of Community Development for future non-substantive amendments that may be necessary for successful program implementation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby approve revisions to the Proposed Substantial Changes and Clarifications to Action Plan Amendment No. 1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority does hereby authorize its Executive Director and Chairman of the Housing Task Force to provide written approval to the Office of Community Development for amendments that may be necessary for successful program implementation that are in conformity with the policy direction of the LRA and which are deemed “non substantive” by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Voting: Atkins, Bajoie, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Dorsey, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Holt, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Salter, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West and Woods.

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Adam Knapp for a report on the Rental Programs Funding. Mr. Knapp gave an abbreviated version of a pre-prepared Powerpoint presentation (Attachment D). This presentation explained the Piggyback Program funding approach which is to be utilized as part of the Road Home Program. The Piggyback Program seeks to reconstruct/rebuild a significant share of rental housing lost in the hurricanes, where it was lost, provide deep affordability for Louisianans with the lowest incomes, create workforce housing in mixed-income communities, avoid replicating the pre-storm excessive concentrations of poverty, and help special-needs populations achieve stable housing and successful lives. The creation of affordable rental units is a major key to the entire rebuilding effort. Mr. Knapp explained that working in collaboration with the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) could save a significant amount of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies. He noted that HANO may apply for future CDBG funds to modernize their facilities.

Mr. Leger read and introduced a resolution that authorized the development of an action plan for the expenditure of the additional \$4.2 billion in CDBG funds and provide for the reallocation of funding related to rental programs.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Walter Leger and seconded by Ms. Donna Fraiche, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

To authorize the LRA staff and OCD staff to prepare an Action Plan for the expenditure of the additional \$4.2 billion in CDBG funds and provide for the reallocation of funding related to rental programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LRA Board hereby directs LRA and OCD staff to develop an Action Plan for the second appropriation of CDBG Disaster Recovery Funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LRA Board also endorses that the second Action Plan may include a reallocation of funds from the LIHTC Piggyback Program and the Small Rental Property Repair Programs to the Flexible Subsidies for Mixed Income Developments program.

Voting: Atkins, Bajoie, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Dorsey, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Holt, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West, and Woods.

Mr. Reilly questioned whether the issue could be revisited to obtain a better understanding of the information. He then sought clarification between four percent and nine percent monies. Mr. Kopplin responded that they are four percent and nine percent tax credits for housing developers. He then briefly explained the difference between the two programs in comparison to the GOZone legislation.

Mr. Kopplin explained the third resolution to the board. He reminded the board that the funding for code enforcement had already been approved in the Road Home Program. Mr. Kopplin noted that this resolution was not an action plan but rather a request for board guidance and directions to allow the LRA staff to work with the OCD and local parishes to design funding streams for how the program will work. He stressed the desire to work cooperatively and on the behalf of the LRA.

Mr. Leger requested Mr. Paul Rainwater to explain further information concerning the resolution. Mr. Rainwater explained that the goal is to work with the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council to meet the compliance issues in the parishes and cities.

Mr. Randy Noel, Chairman of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council, gave a brief history and explanation of the new Construction Code as well as its subsequent Council. He further explained the need for additional code enforcement officials.

Mr. Leger introduced the resolution and clarified non-substantive language. Dr. Francis opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Coulon inquired whether the money would be used to assist those parishes that have no code enforcement officials. He also questioned how quickly the funds would show effects. Mr. Noel noted that the goal is to make wait times as short as possible. He explained that the problem is not centered on issuing permits as much as having the proper inspections

performed.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Walter Leger and seconded by Mr. John Landry, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

To set goals for the usage of Code Enforcement funding provided in the Road Home Housing Program Action Plan Amendment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LRA hereby endorses guidelines for the code enforcement funds provided through the Road Home Housing Program Action Plan Amendment No. 1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LRA supports that the code enforcement funds be directed to achieve four program goals:

- 1. Funding to support the operating capacity shortfalls of most severely impacted parishes for code enforcement activities, especially in areas where this capacity could limit the ability of homeowners and businesses to get permits;**
- 2. Support the Efforts of the Uniform Construction Code Council to implement the new state building code through regional code compliance offices;**
- 3. Training for code enforcement officials; and**
- 4. Assist the State Fire Marshall's office to adapt to new needs caused by the new statewide building code.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby authorize its Executive Director and Chairman of the Housing Task Force to provide written approval to the Office of Community Development for amendments that may be necessary for successful program implementation that are in conformity with the policy direction of the LRA and which are deemed "non substantive" by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Voting: Atkins, Bajoie, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Dorsey, Francis, Henning, Holt, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, West, and Woods.

Mr. Landry noted that during times of recovery, even simple tasks are complex

Mr. Kopplin explained that in the course of implementing the program design, the Road Home Program is to assist homeowners in elevating homes to the advisory base flood elevations (ABFEs). He explained that homeowners had thus far been grandfathered in due to parishes being slow to adopt the ABFEs however, that grandfathering would be ending soon.

Ms. Holt inquired what consequences would be faced by those homeowners that began rebuilding before the adoption of the new code. Mr. Leger assured her that they would not be adversely affected but rather, would be assisted as much as possible.

Mr. Leger concluded the Housing Task Force report by noting that before the next board meeting, the largest homeowners' redevelopment plan in the history of the world would be launched thanks to the hard work and dedication of the LRA.

Dr. Francis thanked Mr. Leger for all of his hard work. He then opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. Pamela Bingham vocalized her concern regarding the operation of the HACs. She questioned the availability of childcare, security, and transportation. She also suggested being open twenty-four hours a day and having a staff that is sensitive to the issues surrounding homeowners. Additionally, Ms. Bingham questioned the diversity of those staffing the HACs. Dr. Francis thanked Ms. Bingham for her comments and noted that her concerns would be forwarded to the ICF officials.

Mr. Leger explained that there will be no lines at the HACs. They will operate by appointment only. He also thanked Ms. Bingham for her comments.

Mr. Will Belton recommended and explained his reasoning behind increasing the cap of the private activities bond portion of the Road Home Program. He also questioned whether the four percent tax credit piggyback was underutilized.

Mr. Sherman Copelin noted his concern about private investors potentially not approving bonds for the State of Louisiana. He noted his negative feelings toward the levee system in New Orleans.

Mr. Kopplin noted that the top three bond companies had visited Louisiana and are positive that bonds are still available.

VIII. LUNCH

Dr. Norman Francis recessed the meeting at 12:35 p.m. for lunch. He reconvened the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

IX. Guest Presentation - Demonstration of the LITE facility

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. John Landry who gave a brief introduction to the LITE facility. He then introduced Dr. Ramesh Kolluru who gave a more detailed introduction of the LITE facility and gave a presentation of the supercomputer and its capabilities. Much of the presentation provided examples which emphasized the ability of the supercomputer to process many layers of information.

X. TASK FORCES - DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS (CONTINUED)

A. Economic and Workforce Development Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Matt Stuller for an update from the Economic and Workforce Development Task Force.

Mr. Stuller reminded the board of a previous presentation that was given on the implementation of the Recovery Workforce Training Program. He had a prepared Powerpoint presentation (Attachment E) which he had for the board to reference.

Mr. Stuller read and introduced the resolution.

Mr. Andy Kopplin clarified language in the resolution.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to questions. He noted the importance of economic redevelopment in the affected areas as quickly as possible. Mr. Stuller explained the time line associated with the resolution.

Dr. Francis noted the importance of getting the training opportunities information out to those in affected areas as quickly as possible so as to encourage individuals to stay in Louisiana.

Mr. Sean Reilly questioned the role of the community and technical colleges in the program. Mr. Stuller explained that they are critical stakeholders in the process.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Matt Stuller and seconded by Mr. David Voelker, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approve the use of \$38 million in Community Development Block Grant for the Recovery Workforce Training Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature the approval of Proposed Action Plan No. 3 for the use of \$38 Million in Community Development Block Grant funds for the Recovery Workforce Training Program.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby authorize its Executive Director and Chairman of the Economic and Workforce Development Task Force to provide written approval to the Office of Community Development for amendments that may be necessary for successful program implementation that are in conformity with the policy direction of the LRA and which are deemed “non substantive” by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Voting: Blake, Bollinger, Boyle, Brazile, Cross, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Johnson, Landry, Leach, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Reilly, Smith, and Voelker.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to public comments.

Mr. Bill Tucker spoke to the board about the problems facing medium-sized businesses in post-Katrina New Orleans. He questioned whether the Long-Term Recovery Loan Program would be able to be broadened to include medium-sized businesses. Dr. Francis thanked him for his comments and referred the question to Mr. Kopplin. Mr. Kopplin responded that the situation would be further investigated and hoped that a suitable compromise could be reached. Mr. Tucker noted that Mr. Stuller and LRA staff had spent much time speaking with him and he thanked them for their work and dedication.

B. Education Task Force

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Andy Kopplin for a report from the Education Task Force. Mr. Kopplin explained that Mr. Pat Forbes and Mr. Ramsey Green would be guiding the discussion of the criteria developed to prioritize the allocation of CDBG funds to schools. He noted that this was the same Powerpoint presentation (Attachment F) that they presented to the Legislature. Mr. Kopplin further noted that they would move much more quickly than they did in the original presentation in the interest of time.

Mr. Forbes' and Mr. Green's presentation highlighted the school repair allocation process, timeline and a review process flow chart. There was also a graphical representation of the school damage measured by number and size of project worksheets. Additionally, the eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria both at the district and school level as well as the evaluation criteria were included in the presentation.

Dr. Francis read the resolution and opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Tim Coulon inquired whether there was a monetary cap on the program. Mr. Forbes responded that there was not due to having previously budgeted enough money to do all of the repairs according to the estimates from the Department of Education.

Mr. Walter Leger questioned whether the criteria would apply to St. Bernard Parish. Mr. Ramsey responded that the criteria would not apply to the current situation. However, with the building of the new community-based school, the criteria would apply.

Mr. Kopplin clarified that the resolution would include both significant forms of green building.

Upon motion duly made by Rep. Joe Salter and seconded by Mr. Walter Leger, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

To adopt the criteria developed by the LRA, OCD, and Department of Education to prioritize the allocation of CDBG funds to school districts for infrastructure repairs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby adopt the below criteria developed by the Louisiana Recovery Authority, the Office of Community Development, and the Department of Education in order to prioritize the allocation of CDBG funds to school districts for infrastructure repairs.

CDBG Disaster Recovery Funds - Eligibility Criteria

Level I – District

- 1. The school district's parish must have been declared eligible for FEMA Public Assistance for Rita and/or Katrina.**
- 2. The school district's parish must have adopted the latest available base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance, unless exceptions have been granted**

to the parish by the LRA.

3. The school district's parish must have adopted, implemented, or be in the process of implementing, the new statewide building code standards adopted in the 2005 1st Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

4. The school district must be able to demonstrate that it has conducted or participated in a planning process that is integrated with parish, community, and/or neighborhood recovery planning efforts.

5. The school district must be able to demonstrate that its plans for school repair/reconstruction are based on the best available enrollment estimates for that district for the school years '06-'07, '07-'08, and '08-'09, considering population shifts since the storms. This demonstration must include a list of the schools to be reopened and a plan for how these particular schools will meet the needs of the estimated enrollment.

6. The school district will provide assurances and certificates testifying to its adoption of the following: all CDBG and FEMA regulations; all federal and state laws relative to procurement and ethics; agrees to accept CDBG signoff on any insurance settlements or judgments, or to assign litigation rights to CDBG; maintain appropriate documentation; provide timely updated information required by CDBG relative to rebuilding costs; maximize other sources of funding; and provide other assurances as required by CDBG funding regulations.

Level II – School

1. The school at which the project is proposed must be listed as one of the schools to be reopened to meet the needs of the estimated enrollment in its school district.

2. Applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have pursued FEMA Public Assistance grants for the proposed project(s) to the maximum practical extent and that those applications have been determined to be ineligible for such assistance. Applicant must also be able to demonstrate that they have pursued insurance reimbursement to the maximum extent practical.

3. Plans for school repair/reconstruction must consider and/or propose a mitigation plan to minimize damage in the event of future floods or hurricanes.

4. Applicant must demonstrate that the project is the most efficient and cost effective way to repair/reconstruct the school, or that the applicant has considered alternate methods of rebuilding to achieve the greatest efficiency of the school in serving the educational needs of the students as well as other public service needs of the community.

5. Applicant must demonstrate that the following school design best practices, which are detailed under the "Evaluation Criteria" section, have been considered, and included to the extent practical, in the design of the repair/reconstruction project:

a. Design Schools that Support Students and Learning as the Primary Consideration

b. Enhance Learning by Integrating Technology

c. Foster a Small School Culture

d. Support Neighborhood Schools

e. Create Schools as Centers of Community

f. Engage the Public in the Planning Process

g. Make Healthy, Comfortable, and Flexible Learning Spaces

h. Consider Non-Traditional Options for Schools Facilities and Classrooms

Applicant must commit to an ongoing maintenance plan for this facility and

demonstrate how this maintenance plan will be funded

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Dorsey, Francis, Henning, Holt, Landry, Leach, Leger, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West, and Woods.

Mr. Kopplin complimented the work of Mr. Green and Ms. Linda Johnson for the work they have done in securing hotel rooms for teacher applicants in Orleans Parish. Dr. Francis echoed this appreciation and also thanked the hotel participants.

C. Infrastructure Task Force

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. John Landry for a report from the Infrastructure Task Force.

Mr. Landry briefly explained the resolution. He introduced Mr. Forbes and Mr. Tony Duplechin for a more thorough explanation. Mr. Forbes noted that the objective of the resolution was to recognize the potential danger that the aquifers are facing in the wake of the storm. He noted that 3,600 wells were flooded by either or both of the hurricanes from 2005. Mr. Forbes noted the urgency of the situation to fund the study so that damaged wells could be identified and capped. He further explained that CDBG funds would have to be utilized due to the wells being private property.

Dr. Francis inquired whether there were any legal aspects that needed to be explained. Mr. Forbes responded that there were not. Mr. Duplechin briefly explained the history of registering of wells. He noted that the Department of Natural Resources recently discovered that there are still some unregistered wells.

Mr. Kopplin explained that the reason this was before the board is due to the need for approval of non-FEMA eligible projects.

Mr. Landry read and introduced the resolution.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Stuller inquired whether there was a timeline available for implementation of the program. Mr. Duplechin explained that if one person was examining ten wells per day, it would take one year to examine every well. Mr. Forbes followed up that with additional people working on the project, it would take a significantly shorter amount of time. He further explained that the examiners could apply a temporary plug to prevent the well from being further polluted.

Dr. Francis inquired when it would be possible to start the program. Mr. Forbes responded that the program could begin as soon as HUD approved the action plan.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. John Landry and seconded by Mr. Rod West, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Allocate up to \$1 million in disaster recover funds to perform a study of the damage sustained by and the potential risk to water aquifers caused.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby approve a study of the damages sustained by and the potential risks to water aquifers caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as an addition to the eligible criteria for the Local Government Emergency Infrastructure Program, absent the identification of an alternative funding source.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Dorsey, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Holt, Landry, Leach, Leger, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West, and Woods.

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Coulon for consideration of a resolution concerning the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mr. Coulon noted that the resolution would free local governments from having to provide matching funds. He also explained the need for a ninety day extension.

Mr. Coulon read the resolution with the ninety day extension. Dr. Francis opened the floor to questions.

Ms. Donna Fraiche questioned whether the additional deadline would affect any other funding deadlines. Mr. Paul Rainwater explained that the original deadline set by FEMA had been extended and had added a ninety day extension. He noted that an additional extension could be sought, however, it was important to get the process moving.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Tim Coulon and seconded by Mr. David Voelker, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approve that match costs for the HMGP funds will be provided where possible through Community Development Block Grant funds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority requests the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to provide a 90 day extension to grant applications through FEMA grant application guidelines.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LRA hereby approves that the LRA's Executive Director may communicate to GOHSEP the state's intention to provide for the HMGP match costs through the Local Government Emergency Infrastructure Program contingent upon the approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 2 by the Legislature and HUD.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Dorsey, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Holt, Landry, Leach, Leger, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Voelker, and Woods.

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Kopplin for an explanation of the Infrastructure Task Force resolution which concerns public rural hospitals. Mr. Kopplin briefly explained the resolution and the circumstances surrounding it.

Mr. Jack Stolier gave a brief history and explanation of the role that the South Cameron Memorial Hospital plays in Cameron Parish. He further explained the need for the resolution.

Dr. Francis inquired as to when the hospital was originally built. Ms. Jones responded that it was built in 1962. She also added that it was the only elevated hospital in Louisiana.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Tom Henning and seconded by Ms. Donna Fraiche, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Designate damage to public rural hospitals as a criterion for funding under the Local Government Infrastructure Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the LRA approves public rural hospitals that sustained damages as a result of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita as an addition to eligibility criteria for Local Government Infrastructure projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, should South Cameron Memorial Hospital be approved by the Office of Community Development for funding of FEMA ineligible repair costs under the Local Government Infrastructure Program, the funding will be contingent upon favorable passage of proposed maintenance taxes designed to support sustainable hospital operations on the September 30, 2006 Cameron Parish ballot.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Dorsey, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Holt, Landry, Leach, Leger, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Voelker, and Woods.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to public comments.

Mr. Ehcene Beh questioned where the hazard mitigation funds for schools would come from. Dr. Francis responded that CDBG funds will cover those projects.

D. Long Term Community Planning Task Force

Dr. Francis recognized Ms. Fraiche for a report and resolution from the Long Term Community Planning Task Force.

Ms. Fraiche updated the board on the regional planning process. She noted that many of the neighborhood planning committees had finalized their reports and would soon be made public. She thanked the LRA board members and staff for their attendance and participation at the planning workshops. Ms. Fraiche noted the positive impacts that the stakeholder workshops would have on the unveiling of the planning design.

Ms. Laura Leach spoke positively of the planning workshop in Lake Charles. She thanked Ms. Fraiche and those involved with coordinating the event.

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. David Voelker for a report on the New Orleans planning process.

Mr. Voelker noted that New Orleans is delayed in its planning process in some respects but ahead in other aspects of the planning process. He noted that the unified plan would take longer in New Orleans as compared to other areas of the state. Mr. Voelker suggested that possibly his position on the LRA and within the New Orleans planning committee may be slowing the process. He apologized for any confusion and noted his desire to see the city come back stronger than before. Mr. Voelker further explained the difference between LRA funding and funding received from the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF).

Ms. Kim Boyle noted that many New Orleanians were unable to return to their city/home to participate in the planning process until after other communities had begun. She went on to explain that the GNOF was committed to seeing the recovery of New Orleans. Ms. Boyle explained that the thought behind the stipulations surrounding the Rockefeller and GNOF funding was due to the desire to see all participants working together. She concluded her comments by noting her optimism for the New Orleans planning process.

Mr. Voelker spoke briefly of the timeline surrounding the publishing of the unified plan of New Orleans. He explained that the public comment period could add significant time to the finalizing of the document. Mr. Voelker noted his desire to see the mayor and city council work together to shorten that comment time.

Dr. Francis sought clarification on a press conference which was previously advertised. Mr. Voelker assured him that at the press conference the planning process documents were not signed due to holdouts.

Ms. Fraiche noted that the second planning workshop scheduled for New Orleans was a result of the unified planning process requesting being included in the regional planning process. She took that as a positive sign and noted that the regional aspect of the planning was moving forward.

Mr. Leger reiterated that the planning process has nothing to do with homeowners' ability to participate in the Road Home Program. He also questioned whether the LRA would approve/reject city planning processes. Mr. Voelker responded that the LRA does not approve/reject city planning processes. Dr. Francis noted that the only reason the LRA was involved in the New Orleans planning process was due to FEMA rejected New Orleans' request for planning funds.

Ms. Fraiche recommended that homeowners not neglect the *Planning Book* which the LRA published when rebuilding their homes.

Dr. Francis noted the importance of communicating accurate information and the people of Louisiana receiving that information. He also noted the difficulty that some individuals have when attempting to obtain information. Mr. Voelker reiterated this sentiment and assured the board that there were plans in place to utilize different forms of media to get the planning process word out.

Ms. Fraiche explained the need for the resolution and then subsequently introduced the resolution.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to questions.

Mr. John Smith inquired whether the funds in the resolution were previously approved. Mr. Kopplin responded that indeed the funds had previously been approved and that the resolution was needed to provide guidance for the use of the funds.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Donna Fraiche and seconded by Ms. Dale Atkins, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Provide guidance to the LRA staff and Long Term Community Planning Task Force on the goals for the use of planning funds provided through the CDBG funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LRA hereby directs the Executive Director and the Long Term Planning Task Force Chair to work with the Office of Community Development on a process for implementing programming to assist parishes and municipal governments with staffing, outreach, and other planning activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LRA hereby directs that the criteria for planning funding shall be allocated according to the following priorities:

- 1. To increase the recovery planning staffing capacity in the severely impacted parishes (targeted to those parishes most affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita) according to a formula based on population and the levels of damage related to the storms;**
- 2. To fund grant-writers to support parishes who are seeking grant funds for recovery planning projects;**
- 3. To fund the needs of communities to provide outreach in conjunction with their planning activities; and**
- 4. To fund LRA staffing and operating needs for LRA related planning activities.**

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Dorsey, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Holt, Landry, Leach, Leger, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Voelker, and Woods.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to the public comment.

Mr. Sherman Copelin, Ms. Cynthia Willard-Lewis, Mr. Charles Steel, Jr., and Mr. M. Sanyika spoke at length in regard to the planning process in New Orleans. Mr. Copelin suggested obtaining the planning documents which FEMA paid to create. Dr. Francis briefly touched on the history of New Orleans in regard to the planning process. Ms. Boyle spoke in regards to the history of the Bring New Orleans Back Committee. Ms. Willard-Lewis emphasized the need for rebuilding rather than excessive planning. Mr. Steel gave a historical perspective of the planning process in New Orleans. He also spoke of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's desire to help New Orleans recover.

Dr. Francis reiterated the fact that the LRA is not the authority to do New Orleans planning. He also explained that the LRA is not involved in local municipalities due to the mission of the LRA being to work on a statewide recovery level.

Rev. Lois Dejean vocalized her frustration and confusion with the New Orleans planning process.

Mr. Kopplin reviewed the financial information he shared earlier in the meeting and reiterated the fact that Road Home money for homeowners is not dependent upon localities.

E. Health Care Committee

Dr. Francis recognized Ms. Boyle for a report from the Health Care Committee. Ms. Boyle explained that the committee membership was still being finalized and would have its first meeting soon. She then spoke briefly about the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative.

Ms. Fraiche commented on her role as the LRA representative on the La. Health Care Redesign Collaborative. She noted her honor to be a member of the authority.

Dr. Francis requested a monthly update from the committee.

Ms. Sibal Holt questioned whether the data yielded from the La. Health Care Redesign Collaborative could be made available for future use. Dr. Francis noted his support for the concept.

F. Audit Committee

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Virgil Robinson for a report from the Audit Committee. Mr. Robinson updated the board on the fifth meeting of the Audit Committee. He reported receiving reports from the Division of Administration, Legislative Auditor's Office, Attorney General's Office, and the firm responsible for putting internal controls into the Road Home Program. Mr. Robinson highlighted the goals of the Audit Committee.

Dr. Francis inquired whether there were any concerns with the process. Mr. Robinson responded that plans were in place and the accompanying partners are in place and the processes are being tested to assure accuracy.

G. Southwest Louisiana Task Force

Dr. Francis recognized Mrs. Leach for a report from the Southwest Louisiana Task Force. Mrs. Leach explained the formation and goals of the Southwest Louisiana Task Force. As well, she announced the membership of the task force. Mrs. Leach concluded her remarks by briefly mentioning the next meeting and its itinerary. She thanked the LRA staff for their assistance during the previous meeting.

Mrs. Leach recognized the co-chair of the committee, Mr. John Landry. Mr. Landry introduced Mr. Gene Sullivan, Mr. Carol Broussard, and Mr. George Dupree for an update from Erath and Delcambre. The gentlemen passed out two handouts that focused on the improvements of the respective towns. They then explained the visuals in the handouts as well as the proposed improvements to the board.

Mr. Kopplin explained to the board that originally it was thought there would be additional hazard mitigation funds. He reminded the board that a large chunk of those funds had to be put into the Road Home Program. Mr. Kopplin thanked the gentlemen for their presentation and assured them that the issue would be researched to determine if funding was available.

Mr. Landry thanked the gentlemen for their presentation and noted the importance of their towns. He noted that the plans are ready to be moved upon on the locality level.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no unfinished business items for discussion.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Louis Harding. Mr. Harding informed the board of the work he does to diminish the crime in New Orleans. He emphasized reducing the crime rate in New Orleans by working with those who were previously incarcerated along with youth.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Kopplin, Executive Director

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Date approved: _____