

DRAFT, subject to revisions and/or amendments

**LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting**

Louisiana Boardroom – Louisiana Building – Baton Rouge Community College
Wednesday, May 17, 2006

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Norman Francis, chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. in the Louisiana Boardroom of the Louisiana Building at Baton Rouge Community College in Baton Rouge, 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

Reverend Harry Blake led the board in prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Norman Francis 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
Rev. Harry Blake
Ms. Kim Boyle
Mr. Tim Coulon
Mr. Rene Cross
Mr. James Davison
Ms. Donna Fraiche
Mr. Tom Henning
Mr. John T. Landry

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Laura Leach
Mr. Walter Leger, Jr.
Mr. Chet Morrison
Mr. Sean Reilly
Rep. Joe Salter
Dr. Mary Ella Sanders
Mr. John E. Smith
Mr. Matt Stuller
Mr. Rod West
Mr. Mike Woods

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Walter Isaacson, Vice Chairman
Sen. Diana Bajoie
Mr. Boysie Bollinger
Ms. Donna Brazile
Rep. Yvonne Dorsey
Sen. Don Hines
Ms. Sibal Holt
Ms. Linda Johnson
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Ms. Mary Matalin
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Ms. Susan Taylor
Mr. David Voelker

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Andy Kopplin, LRA Executive Director
Mr. Dave Bowman
Mr. Miles Bruder
Mr. Hal Cohen
Ms. Robyn Cockerham
Ms. Jessica Dardenne
Mr. Pat Forbes
Ms. Ann Guissinger
Ms. Kim Jupiter
Ms. Robin Keegan
Mr. Adam Knapp
Ms. Melissa Landry
Ms. Meg Mahoney
Mr. Daniel Nunes
Ms. Christina Stephens
Ms. Alesia Wilkins

Witnesses Present (in order of appearance):

Mr. Jerry McDougal
Dr. David Levy (via teleconference)
Mr. Dan Ferrell
Mr. Brian Costantino
Dr. Fred Cerise
Dr. William Jenkins
Dr. Pat O'Connor
Mr. Barry Erwin

Mr. Nick Gachassin
Mr. Steve Theriot
Mr. Shane Rauh
Mr. Peter Calthorpe (via videoconference)
Mr. Joe Distefano (via videoconference)
Ms. Linda Freeland
Ms. Marianne Lewis
Ms. Laura Drumm
Mr. Ellis Chapel
Mr. Scott Fischer
Mr. Blake Palmintier

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

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2006 and April 26, 2006, LRA Board meeting. There being no comments or corrections, upon motion duly made by Mr. Walter Leger and seconded by Mr. Matt Stuller the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approval of the minutes and ratification of actions taken at the April 19, 2006 and April 26, 2006, meetings of the LRA Board.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meetings of the LRA Board held on April 19, 2006 and April 26, 2006, as presented at this meeting, are hereby approved and all actions taken by the board presented at such meetings, as set forth in such minutes, are hereby in all respects approved as actions of the LRA Board.

Voting: Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Landry, Leger, Morrison, Salter, Sanders, Smith, Stuller, West, and Woods.

VI. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a. Chairman of the Board Report

Dr. Norman Francis thanked Speaker Salter for the instrumental work he accomplished in getting the Road Home Program through the legislature. He noted the importance of the state speaking with one voice and showing the country that it will recover. Dr. Francis welcomed the newest LRA board member, Ms. Kim Boyle.

b. Executive Director's Report

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Andy Kopplin for the Executive Director's report. Mr. Kopplin updated the board on the status of the Road Home Program. He thanked House of Representatives Speaker Joe Salter and Senate President Don Hines for the work they did in getting the Road Home legislation through the Louisiana Legislature. Mr. Kopplin noted that the legislation passed unanimously in both chambers. He then went on to speak about the status of federal monies. Mr. Kopplin noted that meetings with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) revealed that recovery funds would soon be made available. He noted the work that Mr. Walter Isaacson has been doing to continue these efforts. Mr. Kopplin concluded his report by updating the board on the status of the Division of Administration's solicitation for offers (SFO) in regard to the management of the Road Home Program.

Mr. Kopplin once again reviewed the necessity of including insurance payments in the formula for the Road Home Program. Speaker Salter reiterated the legislature's desire to see insurance not included in the housing formula. He noted however, that this may not be possible and would be an ideal scenario. Mr. Kopplin once again thanked the legislators on the board (Senator Hines, Senator Diane Bajoie, Speaker Salter, and Rep. Yvonne Dorsey) for the continued work they have done in the legislature in regard to the LRA.

VII. TASK FORCES - DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

Dr. Norman Francis moved to amend the posted agenda in favor of hearing the Health Care Task Force report before the Housing Task Force report. Ms. Robyn Cockerham took the roll-call vote.

Amend the Agenda of the April 26, 2006, LRA Board meeting to allow the Health Care Task Force report before the Housing Task Force report.

RESOLVED, that the agenda to the April 26, 2006, LRA Executive Board Meeting be amended to allow the Health Care Task Force report before the Housing Task Force report.

Voting: Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Landry, Leger, Morrison, Salter, Sanders, Smith, Stuller, West, and Woods

a. Public Health and Health Care Task Force

i. Presentation of PriceWaterhouseCoopers Report

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Dr. Mary Ella Sanders for an update on the work that the Public Health and Health Care Task Force had done during the previous month. Dr. Sanders noted that the work the task force was originally charged with were broader than the hurricane-affected areas. She continued with a brief introduction to the PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) report.

Dr. Sanders noted that the scope of the report was limited by the private dollars that paid for the research, however that the report should serve as a basis for the discussion of changes in the health care system of Louisiana. She then introduced the four representatives of PWC that would be presenting the report: Mr. Jerry McDougal, Dr. David Levy (via teleconference), Mr. Dan Ferrell, and Mr. Brian Costantino.

Mr. Jerry McDougal thanked the LRA for the opportunity to contribute to the recovery of Louisiana. Mr. McDougal noted that countless health care professionals were consulted during the formation of the report.

Dr. David Levy led the discussion of the report as well as the recommendations that PWC have set forth for the restructuring of the health care system in Louisiana. This presentation (Attachment A) was quite lengthy and detailed. It included both charts and graphs. The highlights of the report included the recommendation that the new system be safe, timely, equitable, efficient, effective, and patient centered. It was found that there are immediate infrastructure shortages related to mental health, trauma, ambulatory care, and nursing homes. The information technology infrastructure in Louisiana was found to be immature. Another key finding is that there is an immediate and urgent need for a statewide healthcare emergency preparedness system.

Dr. Francis thanked Dr. Levy and all the associates of PWC that have aided in the production of their report. He also noted that the recovery goal is to bring forward a smarter, stronger Louisiana. He then opened the floor to comments and questions from the board.

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. John Smith who noted that many hospitals are in crisis mode: unable to provide mental health care; emergency rooms inundated; in addition to staff leaving and/or not returning. He spoke in favor of a new hospital system model that would serve all constituencies throughout the state with high-quality healthcare.

ii. Comments on Short Term Recovery Actions

Dr. Francis further thanked Dr. Sanders as well as all the members of the Health Care Task Force. He then recognized Dr. Fred Cerise.

Dr. Cerise presented a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment B) that updated the LRA on the short-term health care priorities in regard to the work of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. This report noted that there has been \$382.9 million awarded to reimburse Medicaid providers for medical services from August 24, 2005, through January 31, 2006. Dr. Cerise stressed that \$41.9 million in invoices had been paid to the date of the meeting.

Mr. Tim Coulon inquired whether hospitals are receiving the monies and whether there is a database/visual of which providers have been paid. Dr. Cerise noted the \$41.9 million in bills from hospitals and gave a brief explanation of the claims/payment process. He noted that he

would inquire about a possible chart of paid providers. Dr. Cerise and Mr. Coulon engaged in a discussion in regard to the contractual relationships for January uncompensated care payments.

Mr. Walter Leger inquired whether the August 24, 2005 – January 31, 2006, claims had been paid. He then asked about the claims regarding February 1, 2006 – to the end of the fiscal year 2006 claims. Dr. Cerise responded that August 24, 2005 – January 31, 2006, claims have been paid. He noted that negotiations are still underway to pay the February 1 claims.

Dr. Cerise concluded his report by touching on the issues of long-term care, workforce, discharge planning survey findings, difficult patients to discharge, behavioral health, preventive and primary health services, emergency preparedness, pharmacy services for the uninsured and underinsured, health care workforce, and the status of health information technology in Louisiana.

Dr. Francis noted the importance of pharmacy services for the uninsured and underinsured. He then inquired whether technology coordination was a part of the previous proposal. Dr. Cerise assured him that it was.

Mr. Andy Kopplin noted that Dr. Cerise's presentation addressed many of the problems that the PWC report brought to light.

iii. Veteran's Affairs/Louisiana State University partnership

Dr. Francis thanked Dr. Cerise for his report on the short-term recovery actions. He then recognized Dr. Pat O'Connor and Dr. William Jenkins for a report on the Veteran's Affairs (VA)/Louisiana State University (LSU) partnership.

Dr. Jenkins noted that LSU is open to change and innovation. He continued that during the aftermath of the hurricanes, active deliberations began very early to rebuild the health care services in New Orleans. Dr. Jenkins noted that a preliminary report on the possibility of building a new hospital and trauma center in downtown New Orleans will be available June 1.

Dr. Pat O'Connor spoke of the similarities between the VA and the LSU hospitals. He gave a brief description of the collaborative process thus far. Dr. O'Connor continued with a discussion of the ideal scenario of the VA/LSU partnership.

Dr. Francis inquired about the timeline of the project. Dr. O'Connor noted that the initial report would be available June 1; however, the construction timeline has not been finalized and is an ongoing effort.

Dr. Jenkins assured the board that alternative sources of funding are actively being sought so that all monies do not have to come from the state budget.

Ms. Donna Fraiche inquired whether it was fair to note that the VA/LSU collaboration would be a response to Recommendation #6 (medical training positions) of the PWC report. She went on

to inquire whether the recommendations could be separated. Dr. Jenkins responded that it “is to some degree” however, there is still work to be done. He noted that the recommendations are co-dependent.

Mr. Rod West emphasized the underpinnings of LSU’s role in response to the hurricane crisis. He noted that LSU continues to meet its’ two goals: providing care to the uninsured and the underinsured; and providing education and training to the future doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. Mr. West reiterated that the health care for the indigent will continue. He noted his encouragement of the VA/LSU cooperation. However, in the short term, there are still patients to see and students to teach. Dr. Jenkins noted that the statutes require that indigent health care continue.

iv. Next Steps for Recovery and Reform

Dr. Francis re-recognized Dr. Cerise for a discussion of the long-term planning goals for the health care system of Louisiana. Dr. Cerise noted the commitment of Department of Health and Human Services (DHH) Secretary Michael Leavitt to the rebuilding of Louisiana. Dr. Cerise went on to speak about a collaborative effort between several doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to put forward a plan for moving an integrated health care system. The focus of this plan is the New Orleans area. It will be closely tied to the existing providers in the area with both public and private interests at work. Dr. Cerise also noted that there was legislation in the Louisiana Legislature to encourage the workgroup.

Mr. Kopplin added comments on the dedication of Secretary Leavitt. Dr. Cerise joined in this conversation with a discussion of statewide vs. local region waivers.

Dr. Francis inquired whether there was anything that the LRA could do to assist in moving the plans forward. Dr. Cerise responded that there will be continual communication with the LRA.

Mr. Kopplin inquired about the status of plans for southwest Louisiana. Dr. Cerise responded that there had been ongoing communication and local planning efforts are under way. He suggested maintaining a similar body of work for southwest Louisiana that is being undertaken for the New Orleans area.

Mr. Kopplin clarified several points in the PWC report.

Mr. Mike Woods emphasized that the mission of the LRA is to rebuild the entire state of Louisiana safer, stronger and smarter. He noted the importance of keeping a statewide perspective on healthcare. Mr. Woods further encouraged bringing all of the health care forces of the state together to bring forth a recovery plan.

Dr. Francis noted that local agencies would be responsible for the planning design on the local scale. He suggested that the plan be “coordinated” however, he was not sure if the LRA was the body to make the changes due to pre-hurricane problems that exacerbated the health care problems.

Ms. Fraiche recommended amending the agenda to include an action item that would show the support of the LRA for the recommendations of the PWC report.

Dr. Francis moved to amend the posted agenda in favor of including an action item to show the support of the LRA for the recommendations of the PWC report. Ms. Robyn Cockerham took the roll-call vote.

Amend the Agenda of the April 26, 2006, LRA Board meeting to include an action item to show the support of the LRA for the recommendations of the PriceWaterhouseCoopers report.

RESOLVED, that the agenda to the April 26, 2006, LRA Executive Board Meeting be amended to include an action item to show the support of the LRA for the recommendations of the PriceWaterhouseCoopers report.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Sanders, Smith, Stuller, West, and Woods

Dr. Francis then opened the floor for discussion on the motion.

Dr. Sanders raised her concern over taking pieces of agenda. She questioned whether the LRA was the place for health care reform.

Mr. John Landry, Ms. Fraiche, and Dr. Francis discussed the parliamentary procedures involved with the new action item.

Ms. Kim Boyle noted her anxiety of passing such a lengthy report without having had ample time to review it.

Mr. Kopplin explained that while the LRA may serve as a catalyst for change, the board can encourage the state leadership on issues if they so choose.

Mr. Landry expressed his concern for politically correct actions taken in a swift manner. Dr. Cerise noted the value of the PWC report and stated that reform will have to go through Secretary Leavitt's office.

Mr. Kopplin noted that health care reform in Louisiana is a multi-year approach.

Mr. Leger recommended the utilization of comprehensive report to design further recovery plans. He noted the need to read the full report and hear from those with criticism.

Mr. Leger, Ms. Fraiche, and Dr. Francis discussed the technical wording of the motion under

discussion.

Mr. Coulon inquired whether the report would come up for further discussion at a later date. Dr. Francis assured him that it would.

Mr. Kopplin noted that the bulk of the PWC report is statewide.

Mr. Tom Henning noted his desire to put the PWC report on the agenda for the next month so that ample time could be given to the issues involved. He also noted his desire to see a sweeping change of the health care system in Louisiana.

Dr. Francis noted that this report could be put on an upcoming agenda.

Dr. Sanders noted that the main question is what forum is appropriate to discuss the reform issue.

Mr. West inquired from Dr. Sanders about her expectations and future role of the PWC report. Dr. Sanders responded by noting to the board that the Health Care Task Force did not endorse the PWC report but rather passed it forward so that it may be used by those involved with the reform of the system. Dr. Sanders noted the complexity of the report and the importance of passing the report on in a usable format by authoritative figures.

Dr. Francis noted the desire of the board to keep the planning/rebuilding process moving along.

Mr. Leger indicated interest in “the utilization of the report in the development of comprehensive health care reform”.

There being no further comments or corrections, upon motion duly made by Mr. Walter Leger and seconded by Dr. Norman Francis the following motion was unanimously adopted:

The Board endorsed and recommended for immediate implementation Recommendations 4, 5 and 6 from the PWC report. The Board further committed to remain actively involved in the short term recovery and long term redesign of the devastated healthcare systems of Southeast and Southwest Louisiana and the board concurred that it would address the full report in comprehensive reform after members have had sufficient time to review the full reports findings.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Francis, Henning, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Sanders, Smith, Stuller, West, and Woods

v. **Public Comments**

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Barry Erwin of the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL) to speak before the board. Mr. Erwin noted the desire for the LRA to full back the PWC report and moves it (the report) forward as a framework to build from. He also noted his desire to see the report come back up before the Board. Before leaving, he distributed a handout to the Board

members (Attachment C). Dr. Francis thanked him for his comments. Mr. Sean Reilly thanked Mr. Erwin for his comments and noted that there are many questions and concerns about the health care system in Louisiana and he noted that the issue would come back up.

b. Audit Committee Report

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. James Davison for a report from the audit committee. Mr. Davison subsequently introduced Mr. Nick Gachassin and Mr. Steve Theriot. Mr. Gachassin explained the coordination that had gone into the formation of the resolution that the audit committee presented to the Board. Mr. Steve Theriot noted the activities that the Legislative Auditor's Office had been involved in along with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. He noted that all of the recipients of recovery money are required to provide documentation of what has transpired to lessen the opportunity of fraud.

Mr. Tom Henning inquired whether there would be an increase in the administrative cost to fund the group. Mr. Theriot assured him that his office is currently using internal resources to accomplish the task and that the program would not last for a prolonged period. Mr. Kopplin noted that in the Road Home Program, the administrative costs are included in the action plan.

Mr. Walter Leger noted that there is a broad range of reasons why this program is important. He noted the importance of preemptively striking against fraud in the Road Home Program.

Mr. Mike Woods noted that this is a limited amount of money and that stolen money is being restricted from those that would genuinely need the money.

There being no further comments or corrections, upon motion duly made by Mr. James Davison and seconded by Mr. Tim Coulon the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Create a working group to create a coordinated plan to identify potential areas of fraud, create a mechanism to prevent fraud, investigate individual cases of fraud, to determine the method to prosecute those suspected of fraud, and to propose penalties for those convicted of fraud. The group will be led and staffed by the Office of the Attorney General and will consist of representatives of the LRA Audit Committee, the State Inspector General's Office, the HUD Office of the Inspector General, the U.S. Attorneys' Office, the Division of Administration's Office of Community Development, and the Office of the Legislative Auditor. The group will report their findings by June 14, 2006 to the LRA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board create an interagency working group called the Fraud Prevention and Investigations Task Force; that the purpose of the Task Force is to create a coordinated plan to identify potential areas of fraud; create a mechanism to prevent fraud and investigate individual cases of fraud; to determine the method to prosecute those who are suspects of fraud; and to propose penalties for those individuals or corporations who are convicted of fraud.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall be led and staffed by the Office of the Attorney General and shall be comprised of representative(s) of the LRA Audit Committee, the State Inspector General's Office, the HUD Office of the Inspector General, the U.S. Attorneys' Office, the Division of Administration's Office of Community Development, and the Office of the Legislative Auditor. This Task Force shall report their findings and plan of action to the Louisiana Recovery Authority no later than June 14, 2006.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Francis, Henning, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Sanders, Smith, Stuller, West, and Woods.

c. Infrastructure and Transportation Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. John Landry for a report from the Infrastructure and Transportation Task Force. Mr. Landry introduced Mr. Pat Forbes who explained that the resolution was being put forth to clarify previous wording. The intent is for the LRA to pay 100% of the public assistance match as well as to clarify for local governments to know that fix-it programs will be covered by the LRA as much as possible.

Dr. Francis, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Andy Kopplin, and Mr. Tom Henning discussed and clarified the meaning of the lettering of the resolution.

There being no further comments or corrections, upon the motion duly made by Mr. John Landry and seconded by Mr. Rod West the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Request preliminary recommendation of an amendment to the Action Plan for allocation of up to a total of \$950 million of the first CDBG supplemental appropriation to repairs to infrastructure damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority does hereby recommend that the nonfederal match of all FEMA Public Assistance Grants to local and parish governments associated with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita be paid from Community Development Block Grant funds, the extent those funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that parishes shall demonstrate that their approach is the most cost effective and efficient use of the resources, and that they have considered regional solutions in rebuilding damaged infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority directs LRA staff to work with the State Office of Community Development to ensure that allocation of these funds to local governments adheres to the following guidelines.

A) That the funding be provided for cases of emergency need.

B) That the funding be provided as match for projects eligible for FEMA Public

Assistance;

C) That the funding be provided to parishes which have adopted the latest available base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance.

D) That the funding be provided to parishes or communities which have adopted, implemented, or are in the process of implementing, the new statewide building code standards adopted in the 2005 1st Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

E) That the funding be provided to communities for projects recommended through a broad community planning process.

F) That a project demonstrate that it is the most efficient and cost effective way to rebuild the infrastructure, or that the applicant has considered alternate methods of rebuilding to achieve the greatest efficiency of the infrastructure to serve the local as well as regional needs of the community as a result of the PA repairs or reconstruction.

G) That the projects receiving funding follow the best design for delivery of services in light of the population shifts and changed faces of many Louisiana communities.

H) That each infrastructure project must contain a mitigation plan to minimize damage in the event of future floods or hurricanes.

I) That the projects have been assigned a FEMA field project number by the project officer on, or before August 29, 2006.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Francis, Henning, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Sanders, Smith, Stuller, West, and Woods.

VIII. LUNCH

Dr. Norman Francis recessed the meeting at 12:15 p.m. for lunch. He reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

IX. TASK FORCE – DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS CONTINUED

a. Hazard Mitigation Liaison report

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Tim Coulon for a report from the Hazard Mitigation liaison. Mr. Coulon updated the board on previous actions regarding the hazard mitigation process. He then introduced Mr. Shane Rauh, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer.

Mr. Rauh presented a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment D). This presentation focused on a brief history of the program, short-term and long-term implementation plans, as well as a discussion of acquisition and demolition plans. Mr. Rauh spoke on the key points of the white paper that will be presented to FEMA. The presentation additionally presented a list of letters of intent that had been received to date.

Mr. Coulon noted that additional/alternative monies would be geared toward other projects that had not been determined to be priorities in the past. He also spoke briefly on the process implementation of the program. Mr. Coulon thanked Mr. Rauh for the work that he and his

office have put into the program.

Mr. John Landry inquired whether municipalities should apply now or wait for possible future monies. He also questioned whether monies would be available to individuals to raise home. Mr. Landry concluded his questions by asking whether individuals would be reimbursed for work they had already completed. Mr. Rauh recommended waiting due to the high cost of the design aspect of the application process. He noted that some additional mitigation procedures would not be funded. Mr. Rauh continued that reimbursement is still an implementation process that was being worked out.

Mr. Kopplin noted that Mr. Rauh had worked with the LRA to set forth strategies to use different pools of money for recovery. He noted that the goal is to set up an invisible process that will get homeowners the most amount of money with clear rules. Mr. Kopplin stressed that many pools of money have restrictions that must be considered before being used.

Mr. Rene Cross inquired as to who would make the determination whether funds are cost-effective. He noted his concern about those in uncertified levee areas and asked whether hazard mitigation dollars would be available for those individuals. Mr. Rauh responded that a FEMA computer program is used to determine cost effectiveness. Mr. Coulon further clarified this statement and noted that there are additional options available to homeowners. Mr. Rauh addressed the second question by explaining that rebuilding is applicable but new construction is not covered.

Rev. Harry Blake inquired whether individuals themselves in addition to local governments apply for the hazard mitigation grants. He continued by inquiring what individuals could do to aid in the process. Rev. Blake then inquired whether New Orleans is considered local. He concluded his questions by inquiring about the application deadlines. Mr. Rauh explained that individuals go through local government agencies to apply for hazard mitigation dollars. He continued that individuals are encouraged to work with their local governments to aid in the hazard mitigation process. Mr. Rauh explained that the New Orleans program is run through the mayor's office. Mr. Coulon clarified that each local government has been provided a list of eligible properties from FEMA. Mr. Rauh explained that individuals are still eligible to apply for the program. Mr. Kopplin explained that the application dates that had been set thus far are for the local governments to apply. He continued that the Road Home registration would cover individuals that qualify for the hazard mitigation grants.

Mr. Sean Reilly inquired whether there was a standard level for elevation models. He noted that he fears that hazard mitigation dollars will not be maximized for utilization. Mr. Reilly then inquired whether more money would be available to individuals under the hazard mitigation program than in the Road Home Program. Mr. Rauh responded that there was not a standard model. He explained that each property must be cost-effective and had to be examined on an individual basis. Mr. Rauh explained that hazard mitigation grants are not capped as long as the project is proven cost-effective. The reconstruction program however is capped at \$150,000.

Mr. Walter Leger noted that if there was a standard formula available it would be beneficial. Mr.

Rauh explained that there have been ten coordination meetings which have focused on discussions concerning global benefit costs.

Mr. Landry inquired how many people had registered for the Road Home Program. He then explained to the Board that there were fliers available to advertise the program if anyone was interested in circulating those. Mr. Landry additionally noted the caution that individuals have about the Road Home Program. Mr. Kopplin responded that 70,000 individuals had registered at last count. He then responded to the legitimacy of the program and spoke about future advertising/informational programs to inform the public about the program. Mr. Leger noted that while the stability of the program has been in question, those concerns have been reduced. Mr. Kopplin noted that the density of those applying for the program has been equally spread out over the devastated regions.

Mr. Henning noted that there are individuals staunchly against the Road Home Program.

b. Economic and Workforce Development Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Matt Stull for a report from the Economic and Workforce Development Task Force. Mr. Stuller gave a brief history of the Gulf Opportunity Zone Program (GOZone). He noted that the program is being tweaked and suggested the board members read the suggestions that were passed out (Attachment E). Mr. Stuller reminded the board of the previous actions that had been taken in regard to grant monies.

Dr. Francis noted the importance of the board becoming familiar with the changes before a thorough discussion could be held. Mr. Stuller responded that the explanations were as to the point as possible.

c. Long Term Community Planning Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Ms. Donna Fraiche for a report from the Long Term Community Planning Task Force. She thanked Mr. Hal Cohen for the work he does for the task force. She then introduced Mr. Peter Calthorpe (via videoconference) for a presentation.

Mr. Calthorpe gave a brief reminder of the previous work that the task force had done. He also introduced Mr. Joe DiStefano, the project manager at Calthorpe Associates. Mr. Calthorpe then presented a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment F). This presentation discussed the time lines and possible program structures, an explanation of workshops as well as noting the degree of collaboration. Mr. Calthorpe stressed that business and housing shifts are dependent upon community development. His presentation also showcased different scenarios of land use and the possible outcomes of such uses.

Ms. Fraiche noted that the existing action plans as well as developing plans will be ongoing and will not be affected by the long-term planning process.

Dr. Francis inquired whether there had been much communication between the local

governments and Calthorpe. Mr. DiStefano responded by noting that spending time explaining the process and regular contact with the local governments are extremely important during the planning process. Mr. Calthorpe noted the difference between the detailed work that the local governments are doing and the long term planning designs.

Mr. Chet Morrison inquired whether Terrebonne Parish had been included in the plans. Mr. Calthorpe responded that they had been to Terrebonne and noted that the CPRA is in charge of those types of systems. Mr. DiStefano clarified the collaboration efforts. Mr. Calthorpe stressed the importance of the upcoming workshops. He then further explained the role that they play.

Mr. Andy Kopplin noted that workshops in June will stress collaboration between the Board and Calthorpe. In July, workshops will be launched for public input.

Dr. Francis thanked Mr. Calthorpe and Mr. DiStefano for their presentation and hard work.

d. Additional Task Force reports

Dr. Francis called for additional task force reports.

Mr. Sean Reilly reported that the Legislative Task Force has been working with the legislature and things have been “going smoothly.” Mr. Andy Kopplin explained several of the legislative instruments that concern the LRA. He stressed Rep. Charmaine Marchand’s House bill that dealt with rebuilding.

Dr. Francis inquired whether there are proportional numbers of minority contractors receiving business in relation to hurricane rebuilding. Mr. Adam Knapp explained that there are several initiatives that have been launched. However, he noted that he would get more information in regard to the number of participants in the program. Dr. Francis encouraged advertising what work is available. Mr. Kopplin noted that information in regard to available employment has already been put on the web site (<http://www.lra.louisiana.gov>).

Mr. Mike Woods inquired whether funding for the Emergency Response Network would be available for the upcoming hurricane season. Mr. Kopplin noted that he was not aware of the status of the funding but would gather the necessary information.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Norman Francis opened the floor to public comments. He recognized the members of the Second Wind NOLA organization for their comments. Ms. Linda Freeland, Ms. Marianne Lewis, Ms. Laura Drumm, and Mr. Ellis Chapel spoke to encourage giving additional grants to small businesses. They noted the importance of these grants and gave statistics as well as

personal accounts to justify these grants. They presented the board with a packet (Attachment G) which included a response letter to the Economic and Workforce Development Task Force resolution passed at the April LRA Board meeting.

Mr. Matt Stuller responded to their comments by explaining that the money that has been allocated for Louisiana in regard to the small business grants has already been allotted. He stressed that it is a small amount. Mr. Stuller advocated further discussions with the Second Wind group as well as taking their stories to Washington to plead for more money.

Mr. Sean Reilly noted that during discussions with Chairman Don Powell for more money, the efforts were restricted. He noted that there were still options available and that there is still time to request additional funds from Congress.

Mr. Stuller noted the importance of attaining funding for small businesses soon to assure their recovery.

Mr. Walter Leger noted the complication due to “housing for employees and employees for housing”. He also noted the differences between New Orleans and New York in regard to the tragedies that have occurred.

Mr. Andy Kopplin continued the discussion of differences between New Orleans and New York in regard to the priorities to recover.

Ms. Kim Boyle inquired how the economic development grant money had been applied in Mississippi. Mr. Kopplin responded that he does not believe that they applied for any economic development grant money.

Ms. Donna Fraiche noted that the LRA also serves as a communication resource that can assist bring money back to Louisiana for various causes.

Dr. Francis thanked the Second Wind NOLA group for their presentation.

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Scott Fischer and Mr. Blake Palmintier. These gentlemen presented the board with information concerning the design of concrete blocks specifically, those used in the construction of new homes. Mr. Fischer and Mr. Palminitier noted their interest in aiding in the rebuilding of Louisiana. They also presented the board with drawings of homes that could be built with the use of the concrete blocks (Attachment H).

Mr. Sean Reilly noted the work that Mr. Andres Duany has been doing in regard to the rebuilding process and suggested that Mr. Fischer and Mr. Palminitier get in contact with him.

Mr. Walter Leger also spoke of the work that Mr. Duany has done. He concentrated his comments on the work done in St. Bernard Parish. Mr. Leger explained that construction is underway of a block of homes built specifically with hurricane recovery in mind. Mr. John Landry noted that there is a similar project in Vermilion Parish.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Kopplin, Executive Director

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Date approved: _____