

**LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**November 11, 2005**  
**Marriott Hotel, 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) Board, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. in the Mardi Gras Room of the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. Pastor Chris Gordon led the board in prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. It is noted for the record that notice 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. The roll was then called.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman  
Mr. Walter Isaacson, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Boysie Bollinger  
Ms. Donna Brazile  
Mr. Tim Coulon  
Mr. Rene Cross  
Ms. Donna Fraiche  
Mr. Tom Henning  
Ms. Linda Johnson  
Mr. John T. Landry  
Mrs. Laura Leach  
Mr. Walter Leger  
Mr. Sean Reilly  
Mr. Virgil Robinson  
Dr. Mary Ellen Sanders  
Mr. Matt Stuller  
Ms. Susan Taylor  
Mr. David Voelker  
Mr. Rod West  
Mr. Mike Woods

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Dale Atkins  
Rev. Harry Blake  
Mr. James Davison  
Ms. Sibal Holt  
Dr. Calvin Mackie  
Ms. Mary Matalin

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Joe Salter  
Representative Yvonne Dorsey  
Senator Don Hines  
Senator Diana Bajoie

**III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Andy Kopplin, LRA Executive Director  
Terry deBen, Documents Manager  
Gloria Angus-Bolds  
Dave Bowman  
Jessica Dardenne  
Dominique Duval-Diop  
Pat Forbes  
James Gilmore  
Kim Hamilton  
Catherine Heitman  
Belinda Kennedy

Adam Knapp  
Melissa Landry  
Meg Mahoney  
Alison Neustrom  
Sarah Usdin

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

Update from Louisiana Attorney General Charles C. Foti, Jr.

Mr. Foti explained that immediately after Hurricane Katrina, he assisted the Secretary of the Department of Corrections (DOC) Richard Stalder with removing prisoners and setting-up a booking station in the city of New Orleans also to serve Jefferson, Plaquemines, Orleans, and St. Bernard parishes. In addition, FEMA was consulted and advised that the attorney general's office and the DOC were working together so the court system would be able to begin operating again as soon as possible.

Mr. Foti explained that the court system is the fundamental hallmark of liberty and freedom and the protection of the rights of every citizen. Talks have been held with various state and local entities and the Louisiana State Bar Association to develop legislation for the 2005 First Extraordinary Session. Mr. Foti pointed out that in-house staff from the various departments was utilized to accomplish this task. As a result of this process, a commission was appointed to re-establish a system so trials could be held in the future. He added that since FEMA can pay only for overtime hours incurred by the attorney general's office, FEMA contends that the office must pay for regular hours out of its budget. However, the situation has presented a problem not only to the criminal justice system and the affected parishes but also to state government because of the way taxes are collected. Mr. Foti said that he and the attorney generals from Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas wrote to the United States Attorney General asking if certain monies could be transferred to the justice system. Mr. Foti said he also asked the governor to write the president regarding the same matter. Mr. Foti explained that the president could possibly transfer money from one department to another through the Stafford Act.

Mr. Foti said that after the prisoners were removed from their cells, the staff went back in along with DOC staff to try salvaging computer records. Without computer records there was no way to determine prisoners' charges and to determine who should be released and to provide for bonding.

In closing, Mr. Foti said that the Louisiana Supreme Court has appointed a temporary clerk to deal with bond issues and Orleans parish is now accepting prisoners every day. Mr. Foti said he has also sent a letter to Sheriff Harry Lee requesting that he reopen his office.

Ms. Susan Taylor asked how can the state ensure that New Orleans does not encounter the same problems with crimes it had prior to Katrina. She said there is an opportunity for rehabilitation and the city needs to be creative and hopeful in placing something into effect that helps people seek other options besides crime. Ms. Taylor asked Mr. Foti if he is heading up a task force to look into this matter. Mr. Foti replied affirmatively and stated that he believes in rehabilitation and that he and the office of the attorney general would work with her, churches, and other state entities to help people get away from drugs, crime, and to develop useful lives.

Mr. Reilly asked if Mr. Foti had an operating number regarding his budget. Mr. Foti replied that funds will be provided from a supplemental appropriation so different options must be exercised, but that he would be happy to work in conjunction with the authority to fulfill its goals.

## **Chairman of the Board Report**

Dr. Francis said that he wanted to affirm that one of the first priorities of the LRA is to make sure that Category 5 levees are built in New Orleans and to provide for coastal restoration. The LRA needs to reaffirm to the United States Congress that these two objectives are the most important goals of the state. Dr. Francis stated that homeowners will not return to New Orleans unless they understand and can be assured that there is a commitment to fix the problems that caused the flooding.

Mr. Isaacson added that the state in conjunction with federal agencies will look at both short-term and long-term solutions at the same time. He said that the LRA will study both long-term plans and packages in December to provide for initial aid. There are funds that need to be released and it needs to be determined how they would best help the people of Louisiana. Also, big policy items will also need to be developed.

Mr. Isaacson also stated that he had appeared before Congress at the Senate Small Business Committee chaired by Ms. Olympia Snow and members of the Louisiana Delegation. He explained that the hearings were brutal for the Small Business Administration (SBA). The head of the SBA was called to the carpet because loans have not been given out and that it was astonishing to watch how various officials could not get their act together on how to extend small business loans. Mr. Isaacson said that small business bridge loans are going to be an important component for the recovery of Louisiana businesses.

Dr. Francis then said that he has advised each chair and vice chair of the task forces to designate members and that the members should consist of a balanced group of critical stakeholder and subject matter experts. Up to fifteen members will be part of the task forces and that he, Dr. Francis, would approve and designate each of the nominees as official task forces members. In addition, the task forces will consist of legislative representatives, i.e. two senators and two representatives selected by the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Andy Kopplin discussed his report and explained that his power point presentation and report covered an overview of recovery and LRA accomplishments, an update on thirty day goals and an overview of the long-term planning process. He showed a map of displaced Louisiana residents and presented an updated number of fatalities. He explained that over 300,000 residents are still without communication, electricity, and/or gas. Mr. Kopplin added that while Orleans parish has not reopened its schools, some schools in St. Bernard parish had opened this week.

Mr. Kopplin compared the costs of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to other national disasters and recovery accomplishments and short-term tangible actions. He then provided an update on 30 days goals of the LRA, an overview of long-term planning process and an overview of the LRA Board decision making process.

Mr. Kopplin discussed hazard mitigation funds which are federal funds allocated and designed to reduce or eliminate future risk of lives and property from natural hazards. He explained that mitigation funds usually follow disastrous events by six to twelve months. However, because of the nature of the recent hurricanes those communities affected are working aggressively to identify how the funds could be quickly used to address the challenges being faced. Mr. Kopplin then explained a simple allocation method (See Exhibit #1) designed to release an initial \$250 million quickly for severe damages, direct support, and hazard mitigation planning.

Mr. Reilly reminded the members that the LRA would vote on authorizing the release of the \$250 million and encouraged the members to get comfortable with the allocation formula in preparation for the vote. Mr. Reilly said that the allocation of funds is the main charge of the LRA.

## **Update from Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu**

Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu appeared before the board and thanked the members for agreeing to serve on the LRA. He noted that the state is going through an unprecedented time and will require a tremendous amount of sacrifice in terms of time and money for many years to come.

Mr. Landrieu explained that Washington, D.C. and the rest of the country expect the state to speak as one voice and that includes the thirteen parishes affected by the storms, not just New Orleans. He said he was aware that the LRA has jurisdiction over the Orleans area, but the other parish presidents have an interest too.

Mr. Landrieu said his second point is that the entire deep-south has an obligation to commit to diversity because it is economically smart. He said that Mississippi and Alabama are ahead of Louisiana on this point and that Louisiana has to determine what they are doing right in order to duplicate their success.

Lt. Governor Landrieu said that the state must diversify its economy and that it cannot rely on tourism anymore; that it is not enough. However, tourism is a \$10 billion industry providing 126,000 jobs and must be kept and improved. He said that he thought an answer for diversification is through biomedical technology research and development. He added that regionalism is also important and that no competition should exist between parishes. Adding value to what the state has to offer is another way to improve and that the state succumbed to various standards based on the southern average instead of the national average.

Mr. Landrieu said that he and others have devised a "rebirth plan" that sets out very clearly where the tourism and cultural economy of the state stands and where it needs to go. He explained that what he would like the LRA to do is adopt a cultural economy plan and to work with the Louisiana Rebirth and Advisory Board.

Mr. Landrieu added the state has requested \$500 million in tourism small business recovery grants. He explained that this money would be used to assist the tourism business in mitigating the economic impact upon the state. He said that congress will soon start experiencing "Katrina fatigue" so it is important to solve certain issues such as budget concerns so that the state can be rebuilt.

Mr. Isaacson said that he agreed with Lt. Governor Landrieu with the need to act in Washington, but that priorities must be set. He said that to keep sending out letters asking for \$1.5 billion would not be enough. Mr. Landrieu said that shortly after the storms Senator Mary Landrieu and Senator Vitter asked for funds on behalf of the state which Congress did not receive well because it was not asked for in the right way. He said the state needs to figure out how to communicate in a way that is constructive.

Mr. Reilly commended Lt. Governor Landrieu for his work and offered a motion to create a task force on cultural economy and that Mr Landrieu be the chair of the task force and, that the task force be populated by the commission he has already implemented. He said through this mechanism the state could prioritize items immediately needed. Mr. Walter Leger seconded the motion.

Before a vote could be taken, Dr. Francis pointed out that creating a task force on cultural economy was not included in the agenda and that the agenda had to be amended. Dr. Francis offered a motion to amend the agenda and Mr. Walter Leger seconded the motion. The roll was called. There was no objection, and the motion to amend the agenda was adopted by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays.

**The vote was then taken on the preceding motion. There was no objection, and the motion to create the task force on cultural economy was adopted by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays.**

## **Situation Assessment - Levee Reconstruction and Coastal Restoration**

Appearing before the board was Brigadier General (BG) Robert Crear to discuss the status of levee repairs in Louisiana and to offer background information on the USACE (United State Army Corps of Engineers) water

resources authority, policies and governing laws. He added that along with coastal protection and integrating hurricane protection and coastal restoration he would discuss contracting and how Louisiana businesses were used in contracting.

BG Crear used a power point presentation (see Exhibit # 2) detailing the above mentioned items. He explained breach repair using a slide showing the 17th Street breach and how the USACE worked with FEMA and others including the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development which had to build a road to get to the breach. He then discussed restoring the authorized level of protection to the greater New Orleans area.

General Crear then explained that the reconstruction schedule calls for repairing all damaged levees and flood walls to pre-Katrina conditions of Cat, i.e. Category 3 by June 1, 2006. The estimated cost would be \$1.3 billion. He also explained that the purpose of the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force is to provide credible and objective scientific engineering answers to questions about the performance of hurricane protection and flood damage reduction in New Orleans. This group will also receive external review by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

BG Crear outlined authorizing laws, federal principles and guidelines, and environmental laws involved in planning, designing, and implementing civil works projects. He said that every project must be economically justified and that the USACE cannot do anything without congressional authority. Protection higher than the current level of Cat 3 level would require new authorizing legislation and funding.

The Energy and Water Appropriations and Conference Report was also discussed by General Crear along with the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Report. He explained that the plan consists of 15 projects and that the recommended plan is awaiting congressional authorization. The FY06 conference report includes \$10 million and the funds would be targeted to develop project details.

General Crear then said that possible options for coastal protection and restoration are to integrate wetland restoration features into the new hurricane protection study or, to continue to pursue separate authorities and integrate during design and construction.

Mr. David Voelker stated that it has been said that it will take 10 years to fix the levees. He asked BG Crear whom one would talk to so the process could be expedited. BG Crear replied that he needs to hear from the board's constituents.

Mr. Tim Coulon commented that Cat 3 would be a good start, but asked what is the best guess on how long it would take to build a Cat 5 levee. General Crear said that from the time of funding through getting the job done would take between 10 to 15 years.

Mr. Walter Leger asked if the USACE would be meeting with other organizations such as Louisiana State University and the Dutch who have been working on restoring the levees. General Crear replied affirmatively. Mr. Leger also asked if any authorization has been provided for dredging of the MRGO (Mississippi River Gulf Outlet). General Crear replied that there are no current plans to dredge.

Mr. Rene Cross stated that the LRA Board will request in writing some requests to USACE to obtain some insight into the process of coastal protection. Mr. Cross, on behalf of the board, asked BG Crear for the following:

- 1) Technical assistance on hurricane and storm protection and ecosystem restoration including design and construction of a comprehensive coastal project plan with integration of the coastal hurricane protection plan.
- 2) Technical assistance on recovery and construction activities so the USACE can design waste water facilities for specific areas.
- 3) A full-time liaison or advisor provided to the LRA from the USACE.

BG Crear said the board's requests would immediately be acted upon.

### **Governor's Coastal Advisory Commission**

Appearing before the LRA board was Ms. Sidney Coffee, Executive Assistant to the Governor's Office for Coastal Activity. Ms. Coffee said that she also works closely with the Coastal Advisory Commission. Ms. Coffee explained that about three years ago it was realized that public awareness of coastal erosion needed to be raised because of very dramatic wetland loss. She then showed a video on the loss of wetlands and its effect on Louisiana.

Ms. Coffee explained that there is a constituency for coastal restoration based on daily risks. These include the southeast winds, tidal action, small storms, and hurricanes. She said in meetings with congressional committees, environmental groups, and scientists they all agreed that hurricane protection and coastal protection need to be integrated.

Ms. Coffee also told the committee that congress has appropriated \$8 million for a comprehensive protection plan which will give the USACE 100% federal funding to create a comprehensive plan. She added that the plan should be done in coordination with the state and the Office of Coastal Restoration. Ms. Coffee said she thought the Louisiana Senators should write a letter of intent to the USACE making it clear that USACE and coastal restoration go hand-in-hand. She said that congress, science, and the state's shareholders need to meet together and discuss what sections of the Louisiana coast need to be saved.

Ms. Fraiche asked how much land mass was lost after Katrina and Rita. Ms. Coffee replied that about 100 square miles of land mass was lost. Some, but no all, of that land will come back. The cost to restore lost wetlands is difficult to estimate because the loss of coastal wetland is dynamic. The \$14 billion estimate has always been a rounded off estimate and is based on the 2050 Plan. Ms. Coffee noted that the more land that is lost or cannot be replaced, then the less money that will be needed.

Dr. Francis thanked Ms. Coffee for her report and stated that it is difficult to understand why others do not understand Louisiana's levee protection and coastal restoration needs.

### **Code of Ethics/Open Meetings Law**

Mr. Andy Kopplin explained that the members folders contain information on the Code of Ethics. He said as public servants, the code applies to all board members. Mr. Kopplin said that the board has tried to manage the meeting process to minimize potential conflicts because the state's departments are being utilized to implement the recommendations according to the Executive Order.

Mr. Kopplin explained that the task forces created by the board are also public bodies and are subject to the open meetings law. Each task force has a staff liaison who is familiar with the open meetings law and its implementation. The bottom line is that one must meet in public, post notice, and that conference calls are not acceptable substitutes for public meetings

A more detailed briefing will be held later.

### **Update on Legislative Progress - Federal**

Mr. Isaacson said he and Dr. Francis presented testimony to various congressional committees especially on small business loan problems. He said that there has been great cooperation between the Louisiana delegation in Washington, D.C. Mr. Isaacson said the LRA might need a legislative advisor to help track legislation in Washington.

Mr. Isaacson stated that Louisiana will get the pre-Katrina levees including not just the ones that were in existence, but also the levees that were authorized before Katrina. He said that everyone agrees that Cat 5 levees are priority one.

Mr. Isaacson said the only negative news is the small business loans the state has requested. He said he does not understand why the SBA (Small Business Association) cannot figure out how to implement loans in the next 90 days. He explained that the SBA is as slow as FEMA. Also, the SBA says that it is not an emergency agency, but it was pointed out that the situation in Louisiana is an emergency.

### **Update on Legislative Progress - State**

Mr. Reilly said he was encouraged by the progress made by the state legislature and said he would focus on four items. He explained that the four items are:

- 1) A single entity to oversee levees and coastal restoration. The bill has passed both houses.
- 2) The reform of the Orleans Parish School System which has also passed both houses.
- 3) The package of business investment tax incentives has passed both the senate and house commerce committees.
- 4) The statewide building code bill passed the house commerce committee.

Mr. Reilly said if the legislation described above is passed, the LRA is on the way to accomplishing its goal.

### **Reports of Task Forces**

**Levees and Coastal Restoration** - Mr. Rene Cross said a plan is needed that places coastal restoration and hurricane protection levees together to form a continuous barrier consisting of restored barrier islands, thriving marsh lands, and hurricane protection levees. An integrated responsibility must be established using existing state and local agencies to come up with a plan to set consistent standards and procedures. The plan will need to address the unique conditions of the state's coast. Mr. Cross then offered a motion on behalf of the task force to endorse the integration of the state's coastal program with a comprehensive hurricane protection program. Dr. Francis said that since the motion was on behalf of the task force there was no need to second the motion. There was no objection to the motion and it was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays.

**Economic and Workforce Development** - Mr. Matt Stuller said the task force has worked hard to develop a strong foundation and evaluation of the problems and opportunities that the state has. Mr. Stuller said the task force decided to break into two committees. One in economic development which will work in recovery, retention, and development of businesses. The second committee would be for workforce training and education.

Mr. Stuller said he wants to tell the world that Louisiana is open for business. However, he said if he were an outsider coming into the city as he did for Friday's meeting, he would run as fast as possible. Mr. Stuller said shut down rest areas and discarded refrigerators painted with profanity shout that "Louisiana is closed."

Mr. Stuller offered a motion on behalf of the task force to endorse a tax relief package designed to spur the economy. The package includes:

- 1) A sales tax exemption to repair or replace hurricane damaged manufacturing equipment in parishes affected by both hurricanes.

- 2) Remove taxes on business debt borrowed in the hurricane impacted parishes which would allow businesses the option of freezing their taxable amount of debt at pre-Katrina levels for existing companies located in parishes affected by Katrina.
- 3) A deduction in the state sales tax rate on electricity and natural gas for non-residential consumers.
- 4) A preservation of the Louisiana deduction for federal income taxes paid for those who receive federal disaster relief credits.
- 5) A one day sales tax holiday.

**The motion was adopted without objection by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays.**

**Infrastructure and Transportation** - Mr. John Landry said that he and board member Tom Henning met with the secretaries of DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and DOTD (Department of Transportation and Development) and found that there is an overlap between the three (3) Task Forces for environmental, infrastructure and transportation, and levees and coastal restoration. Landry suggested the three Task Forces meet jointly to maximize efficiency and minimize duplication of cabinet/staff interaction. Mr. Landry then introduced Mr. Scott Angelle, secretary of DNR who offered an update and a handout (See exhibit #3). Mr. Angelle said the need to integrate a coastal restoration program and a comprehensive hurricane protection system is a concept that everyone seems to support. He explained that the restoration authority would have the power to enforce the plan with oversight over levee districts in the coastal zone that would be part of a massive coordinated plan. The failure to comply with this plan would give state government the right to intervene in their operations. Mr. Landry said it was important to show the insurance, banking, and other industries that the state is serious about protecting the state coastal area. Mr. Landry said that it is also important that the state amend its building code. The adoption of statewide and enforcement of minimum standards for residential and commercial construction is fundamental in ensuring the safety of the state's citizens and the strength of what is rebuilt.

**Mr. Landry offered a motion on behalf of the task force to endorse Representative Pinac's house legislation which would provide for a statewide uniform building code. There was no objection, and the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays.**

**Education** - Ms. Linda Johnson explained that both higher education and K-12 members updated the task force members on reviving education in New Orleans. She said for K-12, the task force would like to develop a comprehensive, state-of-the-art education system to address the needs of all returning children, which would also be a model for reform. Adequate funding would be needed to develop this plan.

Ms. Johnson said that in the current extraordinary session, bills have been introduced to make one of the worst systems in the country, Orleans Parish, better. She told the members that offers have been pouring in from around the country to help Orleans Parish renew and re-shape education in New Orleans. Ms. Johnson stated that prior to Katrina 68, of the 170 schools in Orleans Parish were identified as academically unacceptable. She said that the education system is essential to recovery and she moved on behalf of the task force to support passage of the Recovery School District Bill by Representative Crane.

**Ms. Fraiche offered a substitute motion to endorse the concept of an expansion of the Recovery School District that would allow the state to take responsibility for schools that are below the state average in districts that are in "academic crisis." The vote occurred on the substitute motion and it was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays.**

Dr. Francis then stated that secondary education must also be improved. Louisiana now has the opportunity to not only meet the nation in education standards, but run past those standards in one of the state's most troubled systems.

Ms. Johnson said regarding post secondary education the following recommendations should be noted:

- 1) Viable options to re-establish and improve post secondary education programs.
- 2) Identify dislocated and displaced Louisiana college and university students and have them re-enroll in Louisiana schools.
- 3) Support the revitalization funds to restore Louisiana's colleges and universities.

**Dr. Francis offered a motion, on behalf of the board, to support the recommendations of the education task force regarding secondary education. There was no objection, and the motion was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.**

**Mr. Walter Leger then offered a motion to formally accept the reports made by the task forces. Mr. Isaac seconded the motion. There was no objection, and the motion was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.**

### **Hazard Mitigation Action**

Mr. Andy Kopplin explained that the hazard mitigation action plan was discussed earlier and that he had handed out copies (See Exhibit #3) of the simple allocation method proposal. He explained that he had just received a revised chart prepared by Mr. Tom Henning (See Exhibit #4). Represented in the numbers is what would be approximately 10% of available funds.

**Mr. Kopplin explained that the \$100 million in the first column total on the left (see #4) represents the opportunity to address the structures in Louisiana that have been flooded or damaged more than 4 times, and in 2 of those instances, created more than 50% damage to the structures. Louisiana has approximately one-third of such structures in America. The next \$136 million were re-divided at Mr. Henning's suggestion. These are listed as impact population funds and graduated impact funds. The degree of impact would be defined as high, medium or low. The allocations are to be used in accordance with local hazard mitigation plans. Also, the figures represent the mitigation funds that have been approved or will be approved. They also represent a portion of the total hazard mitigation fund.**

**Mr. Reilly offered a motion to authorize the release of \$250 million of hazard mitigation funding to parishes in need, and endorse a simple allocation that is designed to get initial funds out quickly to affected parishes. There was no objection, and the motion was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.**

The board also directed OHSEP (Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness) to encourage the application of cost effective hazard mitigation strategies as components of any and all public assistance projects.

### **LRA Bylaws**

Mr. Andy Kopplin noted that copies of the bylaws were in the members' notebooks and explained that they had been prepared by Ms. Bolds, counsel for the LRA, and Charlie Braud, Assistant Attorney General, on loan by the State Attorney General's Office. He said the bylaws are fairly standard and can be amended at any time.

**Mr. Henning offered a motion to adopt the bylaws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaacson. There was no objection, and the motion was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.**

## **Overview of Support Organization Foundation**

Mr. Voelker explained that the Support Organization Foundation is an independent foundation to support the mission of the LRA and is affiliated with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. The organization will be funded by private individuals and foundations and provide assistance to the LRA in such areas as hiring community planning firms to help state and local communities chart their future plans. The organization will consist of 5 independent board members to provide governance. Other states have created similar organizations after catastrophic disasters.

Ms. Fraiche then discussed the proposed criteria that the LRA would ask the support organization foundation to use in selecting community planning firms who would then work with the LRA. Proposed criteria consists of firms that are recognized in regional planning strength, experience with post-disaster planning, and experience working with local, state, and federal agencies.

**Mr. Isaacson offered a motion to endorse the organization and to recommend that the support organization foundation use the criteria outlined by Ms. Fraiche in selecting community planning firms to work with the LRA. Mr. West seconded the motion. There was no objection, and the motion was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.**

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Dr. Francis explained that a motion was needed to adopt the minutes from the meeting of October 26, 2005. However, a motion is needed to add adoption of the minutes to the agenda. Mr. West offered a motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Isaacson seconded the motion. The roll was called. The motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.**

**Mr. West offered a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 26, 2005 meeting. Mr. Isaacson seconded the motion. There was no objection, and the minutes were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.**

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Kopplin, Executive Director

Date Approved: