

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
State Capitol - House Committee Room 1
Tuesday, March 14, 2006

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Norman Francis, chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m. in House Committee Room 1 of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. *(Note: Notices to the public and news media of the time and place of the meeting were given in compliance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.)*

II. PRAYER

Ms. Linda Johnson of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), Plaquemine, Louisiana, led the board in prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Francis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ROLL CALL

Ms. Fay Ayers called the role. *The absence of a quorum was noted.*

Board Members Present:

Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman
Mr. Walter Isaacson, Vice Chairman
Senator Diana Bajoie
Mr. Tim Coulon
Mr. Rene Cross
Mr. James Davison
Ms. Donna Fraiche
Senator Don Hines
Ms. Sibal Holt
Ms. Linda Johnson
Mr. John T. Landry
Mr. Walter Leger
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Mr. Sean Reilly
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Representative Joe Salter
Mr. Matt Stuller
Mr. Mike Woods

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Dale Atkins
Rev. Harry Blake
Mr. Boysie Bollinger
Ms. Kim Boyle
Ms. Donna Brazile
Representative Yvonne Dorsey
Mr. Tom Henning
Mrs. Laura Leach
Ms. Mary Matalin
Ms. Susan Taylor
Mr. David Voelker

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Andy Kopplin, Executive Director
Ms. Fay Ayers
Ms. Lynn Bankston
Mr. Dave Bowman
Mr. Miles Bruder
Ms. JoAnn Early
Ms. Angel Ellis
Mr. Pat Forbes
Mr. Ramsey Green
Ms. Ann Guissing
Ms. Sandra Gunner
Mr. Jeff Hebert
Ms. Catherine Heitman

Ms. Desirée Honoré
Mr. Wil Jacobs
Ms. Kim Jupiter
Ms. Robin Keegan
Mr. Adam Knapp
Ms. Melissa Landry
Ms. Kristen Parnell
Ms. Christina Stephens
Mr. Kris Van Orsdel
Ms. Alesia Wilkins-Braxton
Mr. Carl Williams
Ms. Natalie Wyeth

V. GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Governor Blanco's Remarks

The LRA Board has an important agenda in front of you today. We have an opportunity to support small businesses and help our fishing industry recover. I'm here in support of your agenda and to encourage you to adopt the amendment that would expand the small firm loan and grant program. I'm also asking you to approve funding to provide much needed assistance to our fisheries.

Our business sector suffered severe setbacks in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Over 81,000 businesses were initially affected, with the doors of as many as 18,000 still shut today.

Perhaps no sector suffered more than the small businesses that are the underpinning of Louisiana's economy. Many small businesses that survived the storms have been hanging on by a shoestring - or even less. Their doors were initially shut for weeks, if not months. They struggle on a daily basis with reduced operating capital, higher insurance and expenses, and the reduced cash flow that is a byproduct of an eroded customer base.

Many federal relief programs are geared towards businesses that suffered physical damages. More often than not, businesses with physical damages were insured, and were able to rely on insurance payments to make needed repairs.

It came to my attention early on that in areas like New Orleans' historic French Quarter, although most businesses were spared physical damages, they were still damaged. They have been left to fend for themselves to compensate for the dramatic economic losses that continue to this day.

After September 11th, the federal government adopted a generous grant and relief package geared towards small businesses in lower Manhattan. In spite of our protests, Congress passed no such small business relief program after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We are now pushing the new Congress to act on small business relief.

Last year I urged the LRA and the Department of Economic Development to create the Small Firm Loan and Grant program. Thank you for setting aside \$100 million in grants and \$38 million in loans to help our small businesses recover. This program allows us to provide businesses meeting the eligibility requirements with grants of up to \$20,000 each.

The need is great, as evident by the applications we've processed. I saw this first hand when I was in New Orleans announcing the program open for applications. A line of at least 500 business owners waiting to apply stretched down the block. These people had been standing in line for hours on one of the coldest days of the year.

When I was in Abbeville making a similar announcement with LRA Board Member Matt Stuller, the room was packed full of fishermen and other small business owners eager to submit an application. For many, this was the first real sign of hope they'd had since the storms. They urgently need an influx of cash.

By the first of next month, I'm confident that we will distribute relief to an estimated 4,700 businesses. Early estimates show that 75% of these awards will be going to businesses employing five people or less.

This is in lock step with my determination that this particular program prioritize saving our mom and pop businesses.

As I stated earlier, this is necessary because the smallest of businesses are less likely to be able to take out loans, and more likely to be left out of other relief programs.

We have an extremely competent and efficient team working on this small business program. I'd like to personally thank the LRA's Robin Keegan, and Michael Hecht with our Department of Economic Development, for their leadership in this effort. Their personal commitment to the survival of our small businesses is evident in their work.

Today you have an opportunity to expand on this program, and provide additional businesses with grants and loans.

I urge you to adopt the amendment that transfers \$68 million from the long-term loan program into the small firm loan and grant program. This is a smart transaction that moves funding from a program that has been underutilized, to a program where the need is great.

Adopting this amendment will allow us to accept a second round of applications for the small business program. This may give us flexibility to adjust the eligibility requirements for this second round. Our goal is to expand the universe of businesses we are able to help.

It will certainly give us additional resources to cover more businesses in the extensive need that still exists. Thank you in advance for your support for this amendment.

Next, I'm encouraging you to support the proposal before you to approve additional money for our fisheries. I specifically asked that the small firm loan and grant program reach out to our fisherman. Initial estimates show that several hundred fishermen will be among the businesses receiving grants. Although this is a huge step in the right direction, today you have the opportunity to do even more.

Please allocate the proposed \$20 million in funding to boost our fishing industry.

We must invest in saving this industry that is so important to the culture and heritage of our region. Your action today will allow us to make much needed infrastructure improvements, return fishing boats to service, and provide additional direct assistance to fishermen.

These two additional investments in our businesses and industries will put a needed spark in our recovery.

I'd like to give you a brief update on the good news coming out of Washington, DC. I know you will be hearing a full report from Walter Isaacson. As we discussed at your last meeting, in early February, I presented an agenda to the new Congressional leadership. I suggested ten quick steps the 110th Congress could take to boost Louisiana's recovery. I'm thrilled to report that the 110th Congress heard this request loudly and clearly, and is moving rapidly forward with this agenda.

I'd like to thank the members of the LRA and my Cabinet for your work to advance this agenda. It appears that the bill Majority Whip Jim Clyburn introduced authorizing 100% federal cost share is moving. This legislation has been marked up by Committee, and the Supplemental bill appears to be the vehicle to advance this measure.

Legislation is moving to allow forgiveness of the Community Disaster Loans, a step that will provide direct relief to our communities. Our team is working closely with Congress on the urgency of freeing \$1.2 billion in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for use in the Road Home Program. We're also seeing movement in our effort to extend the placed-in-service deadline for the Go-Zone Tax Credits.

I met with the Chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee. She is acting on her promise to enact legislation helping our small businesses. I'm counting on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Jim Oberstar to live up to his promise to move the WRDA bill and close the MRGO. We're continuing to work with his office on this urgent issue.

Finally, this Congress is acting on the need to reform FEMA, and the need for comprehensive insurance reform. Hearings are underway on these two important issues. FEMA reform and insurance reform will continue to be of particular interest to this nation as we better prepare for all future catastrophes.

In closing, I'd like to thank you again for your work. We're going to continue pushing at the federal level for legislation that will in turn free up more funding to assist our local communities. I support your actions today to help our small businesses and fisheries which will provide a boost to our recovery. Keep up the good work.

Additional board members arrived during the governor's speech and a quorum was noted as being present.

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

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2007, LRA Board meeting. There being no comments or corrections, upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approval of the minutes and ratification of actions taken at the February 12, 2007, meeting of the LRA Board.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the LRA Board held on February 12, 2007, as presented to 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: Coulon, Cross, Davison, Francis, Hines, Holt, Isaacson, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Reilly, Richard, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, and Woods.

VII. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Vice-Chairman of the Board Report

Mr. Walter Isaacson stated that the report of federal activity was covered by Governor Blanco. He said the key issue is to get the FEMA match waived by Congress, which the White House staff understands but is continuing to negotiate. If the match is waived, this will solve a short gap in funding for other programs. He pointed out that the governor's office and the LRA had done a good job in monitoring the federal legislation, and added that Rep. Clyburn's FEMA match waiver legislation is predicted to be passed by Congress before Easter. He commented that he had yet to see Congress meet a deadline.

Ms. Linda Johnson asked the status of the RENEWAAL legislation.

Mr. Isaacson said Congressman George Miller, Chairman of the Education Committee, had introduced legislation known as the RENEWAAL Act, and asked for support and assistance by BESE in urging Congress to get this legislation added into the Appropriations Bill.

Deleted: N

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Andy Kopplin, Executive Director of the LRA, referred to federal legislation filed by Congressman Melancon to include significant hurricane relief funding in the supplemental bill. Both Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reed committed to passing a supplemental bill that includes a waiver of the 10% match, agriculture and fisheries assistance, additional levee protection, gulf coast rebuilding, K-12 and higher education recruitment assistance in the RENEWAAL Act, forgiveness of community disaster loans, extension of the social services block grant and the education waiver, additional funding for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans, HUD tenant-based rental assistance, and HUD and FEMA inspector general offices.

Mr. Kopplin stated that the Louisiana Business Recovery Report had been released. The report showed that businesses continue to decline through the first quarter of 2006. The number of businesses in St. Bernard Parish remains at 54% below pre-hurricane levels, Orleans Parish is at 27% below, and Cameron Parish is at 24% below. Most parishes have rebounded to pre-storm levels and St. Tammany has shown a 10% increase in the number of businesses. This data is from the second quarter of 2006.

The LRA's recommended Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Medical Center of Louisiana New Orleans (MCLNO) failed by three votes in the House of Representatives. The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) held an emergency meeting to re-amend the Action Plan to request the full \$300 million that HUD had set aside for this program, but prohibit expenditure by the Division of Administration of \$226 million for construction until the business plan has been completed and submitted to the LRA Board for review, and the JLCB and the full legislature have approved the business plan. The new Action Plan will now go to the legislature for approval by mail ballot. Additionally, the Veterans Administration just announced that they will be issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for additional land for the MCLNO as a backup plan only.

Mr. Kopplin informed the members that President George W. Bush had visited a charter school in New Orleans. The president committed to continued support for the educational efforts in New Orleans. The Education Department in Washington, D.C. has been very supportive of the Recovery School District and the charter schools in New Orleans. Mr. Kopplin said the new Superintendent of Education, Mr. Paul Pastorek would be addressing the Board later.

The most important issue to remember is that the LRA mission is to expedite the expenditure of funds already appropriated by Congress. The proposed 10% match waiver is a response to two red tape issues: (1) use of HUD funds to pay the 10% match for FEMA public assistance projects, which did not come in the form of a check, but in authorization to use CDBG funds to pay the match, and (2) use \$1.2 billion in FEMA hazard mitigation funding for the Road Home Program. In order to get HUD funding to pay for the FEMA project, each project must comply with both HUD and FEMA rules. There are 20,000 construction projects with two required sets of documentation requirements. In order to get FEMA public assistance funding there are six pages that outline the documentation required. It is important to

document what we do, but is it necessary to do it for two agencies that are overseeing the same project?

The first LRA proposal was not for more money but for global match for a few of the largest construction projects that cover 10% of the total value where we would provide double documentation. FEMA did not approve the global match for this event even though FEMA could cover 100% of this disaster if they chose to. The second proposal was to ask Congress to waive the match as was done in 32 other disasters. In order to speed this program along, we need to cut through some of the red tape.

Mr. Tim Coulon stated that it is vital to have understanding from the parishes because delayed decisions from them cause delays in getting FEMA funding.

Mr. Kopplin said this could be a third paperwork requirement because applicants have to haggle to get correct estimates, with several thousand buildings being undervalued. He stated that the applicants have to decide if it is better to haggle or start with an undervalued project. Most people will haggle to get the correct price which is a key issue in the timeliness of the program. The Superdome has state employees helping them but most people are doing their own paperwork and they need a certainty that the projects will be paid for before they can start repairs.

FEMA anti-discrimination housing rules state there can be no advantage to seniors so we are proposing to move funding from FEMA to HUD to get around this roadblock. Congressman Baker offered a provision that the state not be required to offset insurance proceeds received by the homeowners. This is a great idea if it gets funded; however, the language needs to be permissive versus mandatory.

Mr. Kopplin pointed out some highlights. He stated that the Louisiana Speaks public outreach won a design award for its network. The results from this survey will be released shortly. The Road Home Program has held first appointments with 86,000 out of a total of 115,000 applicants. There have been 48,000 awards calculated with the average award being \$7,200. The majority of homeowners want to keep their homes but certain areas have opted for the buyout option. The first round of the buyout option closes March 15, 2007. A first time home buyer pilot program sponsored by the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) is getting underway.

There are recovery workforce training and tourism marketing programs underway and grants have been sent to applicants for signature. Phase two of the higher education program is underway, with funding going to the campuses from the Board of Regents by May, 2007. The Bridge Loan Program is closed, and unspent funds will be reallocated to the Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program (BRGLP). Orleans Parish received approximately 45% of the BRGLP awards, with 78% of the grants going to businesses with less than five employees. The fishing industry received 24% of the grants because staff did a good job encouraging people to apply, with 26% of the grants going to the service industry. This program was designed to help as many people as possible as quickly as possible, with a requirement of a 30% loss in gross revenue. There may have been some physical and operating cash losses where gross revenue was maintained, and the state is looking at a second round of grants for

these deserving small businesses that did not qualify in the first round. The technical assistance program to small business owners is being negotiated and will begin in April, 2007.

The current infrastructure budget includes the MCLNO which is out for mail ballot to the legislature, and fisheries assistance is pending LRA approval. Fifty million has been set aside for regional assistance and is still uncommitted. There is also \$775 million set aside in the budget in case the 10% match is waived, and an additional \$1.3 billion in public assistance funding has become available in the past six months. FEMA just approved a \$14 million program to help local governments implement the new statewide building codes. LRA will be working with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness on identifying problem areas in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

This concluded the presentation by Mr. Kopplin.

Mr. Walter Leger said he thought cutting the red tape on the 10% match would not be a problem. A comparison of funding received by Mississippi and Louisiana shows that Louisiana had to leverage the funding we received because we did not get enough. An example of this is the FEMA Pilot Program to use funds to develop permanent housing where Louisiana sustained four times the loss of Mississippi yet they got four times the funding. Mr. Leger commented that we are struggling every day in order to distribute limited funds to the parishes proportionate to the damage received. If we use the CDBG funding for the required match, then we are just returning the funds to Washington D.C. rather than using it where it is needed in Louisiana.

Mr. Kopplin pointed out that the Katrina cottages allocations were not appropriate because we were told we did not ask for the correct funding amounts from FEMA.

Dr. Francis asked the present status of the Katrina Cottage Program.

Mr. Kopplin stated that the LRA had met with FEMA and the LHFA last week on how to get funding for housing. As far as equity in the distribution of funds, Mr. Kopplin said Congressman Baker filed legislation where Fannie Mae and other government sponsored entities would have to invest in Louisiana with 75% of the funding, so the message is starting to get through.

Dr. Francis recognized Representative Ken Odinet in the audience.

Mr. Kopplin introduced Ms. Lynn Bankston as the new Intergovernmental Director for LRA and Ms. Natasha Anderson and Ms. Fay Ayers as new Executive Assistants. He also announced the departure of Mr. Pat Forbes, Director of Infrastructure and Hazard Mitigation, who will be joining the Office of Community Development in the Division of Administration. Mr. Kopplin thanked Ms. Angel Ellis, House of Representatives, Executive Assistant, Office of Budget, Policy and Disaster Recovery, for her assistance the past few months.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Infrastructure Committee Report

Mr. John T. Landry thanked Mr. Pat Forbes for his work while at LRA. Mr. Landry said we need to get the funding out to the people, and the fishing industry is a key to both large and small businesses and people getting back on their feet. He explained there had been a conference call with representatives from the fishing industry to discuss the proposed allocation of \$20 million in the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program.

Mr. Pat Forbes reiterated that 24% of the applicants for the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program were from the fishing industry, and said that 80% of those applicants would be awarded grants. This led to Amendment 3 to Action Plan 2, which allocates \$20 million of CDBG funds to restore the commercial and recreational fishing industry to long-term viability. A consensus was reached during the conference call that \$15 million would go to infrastructure needs and \$5 million would go to direct aid.

Mr. Landry asked the definition of infrastructure.

Mr. Forbes replied that “infrastructure” included public docks and wharves, economic development for processing facilities, ice machines, and other equipment or public investments needed to create a sustainable fishery market for long term effectiveness and resiliency.

Mr. Rene Cross urged the Board members to adopt the resolution.

Ms. Sibal Holt asked about the previous \$20 million that went to direct aid.

Mr. Cross explained that \$15 million in the first round of the loan and grant program went to direct aid to fishermen, and streamlining of the application process will assist those that were not eligible previously.

Mr. Pat Forbes said that fishermen will access \$15 million of the original \$100 million available in the first round of the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program.

Mr. Walter Leger stated that \$20 million in grants initially went to the fishing industry and now an additional \$15 million will be available for infrastructure.

Dr. Francis stated there were people present who wished to testify on the amendment.

Mr. George Barisich, representing the United Commercial Fishermen’s Association, said he is a third generation commercial fisherman and served as a board member of the Shrimp Association in Plaquemines Parish. He stated that he was thankful for the funds to help the small businesses recover as 90% of fishermen are small businesses. He pointed out that he has been working since September, 2005, to get help for the fishermen but he has received no assistance from the Small Business Association or FEMA. He explained that \$15 million dedicated to public infrastructure would not help with recovery as the only public dock is in

Plaquemines Parish. He stated that he would like to see the infrastructure funding expanded to cover private docks and go to public storm protection areas or shipyards.

Mr. Forbes clarified that the funds are not just for repair but also for construction and enhancement of infrastructure, and that private docks are not excluded. He said a ranking team consisting of members from the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (DED), the Office of Community Development (OCD), the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF), and the LRA would work together in reviewing the applications.

Mr. Andy Kopplin pointed out that the CDBG rules for economic development projects do not typically allow for payment for private property improvements. He stated that we need to be flexible, but CDBG rules may limit this effort.

Mr. John Smith offered a motion to remove the word “public” from the resolution, which was seconded by Ms. Sibal Holt and approved by a vote of 19 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Delete the word “public” from Amendment 3 to Action Plan 2 for the allocation of \$20 million of CDBG funds to help restore the commercial and recreational fishing industry to long-term viability in areas of the state that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

RESOLVED, that the word “public” be removed from Amendment 3 to Action Plan 2 for the allocation of \$20 million of CDBG funds to help restore the commercial and recreational fishing industry to long-term viability in areas of the state that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Voting: Coulon, Cross, Davison, Francis, Hines, Holt, Isaacson, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Reilly, Richard, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Stuller, and Woods.

Mr. Harvey Reed, representing the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, stated that the funding resolution should have been unveiled sooner than 24 hours before the Board of Directors Meeting. He explained that he had spoken at the February, 2007, Board of Directors Meeting and submitted a proposed budget for boat replacement/collateral, boat retrieval, gear and facility replacement, language translation of the forms, and outreach efforts. He indicated that DEQ, DWF, DED, OCD, and contractors should hold town meetings in fishing communities to advise people of the procedures. He stated that some of the contractors had their own application forms that they used rather than those required by the DED, and that fisheries are family owned with unique problems.

Dr. Francis asked Mr. Reed his recommendation on the distribution of the funding.

Mr. Reed said he had submitted his budget recommendations at the February, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting. His budget included \$11 million for boat replacement/collateral, \$1 million for boat retrieval from storage, \$5 million for the replacement of facilities including docks, \$2 million for gear and equipment replacement, \$1 million for contractors’ fees which include bilingual printing of applications and translators, bilingual outreach and literacy

support, staff to help with application processing, caseworkers to visit with applicants, advertising, town hall meetings, and surveys.

Dr. Francis stated that Mr. Matt Stuller would be addressing some of these items a little later using a different set of funding.

Ms. Sibal Holt asked about the language barriers.

Mr. Reed commented that this is a problem as some of the fishermen speak limited English.

Ms. Holt asked if any provisions were being made for those who do not speak English.

Ms. Robin Keegan explained that they worked with intermediaries specific to the communities and translators were provided both in the field and on the phones. She stated that this would also be provided in the second round of funding.

Mr. Rene Cross asked if the Road Home Program provided translators.

Mr. Kopplin and Mr. Leger both responded affirmatively.

Mr. Byron Encalade, representing the Louisiana Oystermen Association, and Ms. Rosina Philippe, representing the Grand Bayou Fishermen, were in attendance in support of the additional funding to fishermen.

Mr. John T. Landry offered a motion to adopt Amendment 3 to Action Plan 2, which was seconded by Mr. Sean Reilly and approved by a vote of 17 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Final approval of Amendment 3 to Action Plan 2 for the allocation of \$20 million of CDBG funds to help restore the commercial and recreational fishing industry to long-term viability in areas of the state that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

RESOLVED, that the Board is hereby authorized to allocate \$15 million to improve and expand infrastructure critical to the commercial and recreational fisheries industries, including but not limited to docks, icehouses, boat launches, processing and shipping facilities, boats and other necessary infrastructure; and to further allocate \$5 million to provide direct aid to fishermen through the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program.

Voting: Coulon, Cross, Davison, Francis, Holt, Isaacson, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Reilly, Richard, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, and Woods.

Economic and Workforce Development Committee Report

Mr. Matt Stuller said more money is needed to help small businesses, especially since 24% of the proceeds from the first round went to the fishing industry. He commented that he had a resolution to reallocate \$68 million from the Long Term Loan Guarantee Program to the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program and to recommend an Action Plan Amendment be sent to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval. This reallocation of funds will provide additional assistance to small businesses and those who were not eligible in the first round, and bring the funding available for small businesses in the form of low-interest loans and grants up to a total of \$211 million.

Mr. Rene Cross asked about the funding split between loans and grants. He stated that he would like to see more funding go into low-interest loans.

Mr. Mike Hecht commented that grants are very popular and the loans are used as an economic development tool.

Mr. Andy Kopplin asked if there was a preliminary recommendation for the funding split between loans and grants.

Ms. Robin Keegan commented that she would like to get some feedback prior to making a recommendation. She explained that she would like to wait until funds from the first round have been awarded to see if anything remains. Additionally, the governor had promised \$100 million in grants for business owners. The goal is to provide more loan capital for small businesses.

Mr. Hecht stated that it is important to ensure adequate funding of the program, especially if the criteria will be broadened for the second round of funding.

Ms. Sibal Holt asked if insurance payments are considered when awarding grants to applicants.

Mr. Hecht replied that we are working with the SBA on duplication of benefits.

Mr. Kopplin pointed out that there was a 30% loss of gross revenue requirement to be eligible for the \$20 thousand grant. Small business owners increased their debt and borrowed extensively while uninsured losses ate into their operating capital. The question is should we look at uninsured losses in the second round, which would require more extensive evaluation and would slow the process while we are trying to quickly meet the demands.

Mr. Stuller explained that the grants will be awarded in two segments with issuance of the first half of the grant initially going out the first two weeks of April, 2007, and issuance of the second half of the grant 90 days later. He agreed with Mr. Cross about business owners needing larger amounts of funding than what is offered in a grant. He stated that it is important to get businesses operating, and sometimes a \$20 thousand grant is the difference between survival and failure of a business.

Mr. Cross said there was only one breakdown from the outside sector where small loans would help, and that was in the case of Mr. Harvey Reed and his proposed budget of \$11 million for boat replacement.

Ms. Linda Johnson asked if someone could be eligible for a no-interest loan if they had also received a \$20 thousand grant.

Mr. Stuller replied that this is possible. He stated that the criteria for the second round of funding should be more lenient. Business owners have leveraged themselves and are economically deprived, but their business may not have suffered the required 30% gross revenue loss in order to be eligible for the initial round of grants and loans.

Mr. Tim Coulon said he felt there are some inconsistencies between the funding initiatives and asked for an analysis of the programs with a summary of the successes and failures in the delivery of both grants and funding to the parishes.

Mr. Sean Reilly commented that HUD considers flood insurance a duplication of benefits under the Road Home Program. He commented that flood insurance is typically a homeowner insurance issue and not a business issue; however, discussions on this subject will continue with HUD.

Mr. Stuller offered a motion to adopt the resolution to reallocate \$68 million from the Long Term Loan Guarantee Program to the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program and to publish an Action Plan Amendment to be sent to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval, which was seconded by Mr. Virgil Robinson and approved by a vote of 18 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Final approval of the resolution to recommend the reallocation of \$68 million of unused Long Term Loan Guarantee Program funds to the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program and to publish an Action Plan Amendment to be sent to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval.

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby recommends the reallocation of \$68 million of unused Long Term Loan Guarantee Program funds to the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program and to publish an Action Plan Amendment to be sent to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval.

Voting: Coulon, Cross, Davison, Francis, Holt, Isaacson, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Reilly, Richard, Robinson, Salter, Smith, Stuller, and Woods.

Discussion of Future CDBG Allocations

Dr. Norman Francis stated that the \$775 million needed for the FEMA 10% match has been set aside; however, he suggested that the board members be ready to make recommendations to the governor and the legislature on how this funding can be allocated in case the waiver of the match is approved by Congress. He said \$200 million had been allocated to the parishes. Mr. Landry had given a presentation on how to do some regional infrastructure projects. The Louisiana Speaks Program will address some regional transportation issues in order to manage our growth wisely. There is currently \$50 million reserved for regional issues. Additional funds are needed for the Small Firm Loan and Grant Program as well as for tourism, job training funds, housing, and for personal needs. Dr. Francis asked the task force chairmen to work with the LRA staff on a proposed allocation so we will be ready to act as soon as Congress makes the funds available.

State Legislative Update

Mr. Sean Reilly offered a motion to change the order of the agenda to hear the State Legislative Update. The motioned was seconded by Dr. Francis and was approved by a unanimous vote of the members.

Mr. Reilly stated there are four areas of concern that will be addressed by the Louisiana Legislature. First is a reported effort by some legislators to weaken the building code. This would affect mortgageability and insurability in Louisiana. The second area of concern is the Recovery School District and the new Superintendent of Education will address the Board later regarding this subject. Third is the issue of insurance, and Commissioner Donelon with the Department of Insurance and the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry sponsored a hurricane catastrophe fund analysis which would address the creation of a reinsurer for the insurer of last resort. The study is scheduled to be completed within the next two weeks. He explained that the creation of a catastrophe fund was not being endorsed; however, we are gathering data to see how Florida's catastrophe fund is working so we can make an informed decision on how the state of Louisiana should proceed. Lastly are budget items, such as fund categories A and B match requirements which total approximately \$150 million, unless the match is waived. He recommended using some of the state surplus funds for the Family Recovery Corp. He said it would help with the match waiver issue in Congress if the State General Fund would commit funding to the parishes.

Mr. Walter Isaacson stated that his worst nightmares are the weakening of the building code and the abolishment of the Recovery School District and the push for education reform.

Mr. Walter Leger stated that the most important issue in the Road Home Program and rebuilding homes is insurance. He said we need to consider any and every option available because we must have insurance but it needs to be affordable.

Audit Committee Report

Mr. Walter Leger offered a motion to change the order of the agenda to receive the Audit Committee Report. The motioned was seconded by Dr. Francis and was approved by a unanimous vote of the members.

Mr. Virgil Robinson presented the report of the Audit Committee, which met on March 13, 2007. He said the internal controls and fraud detection processes are working. There are contractor issues that need to be dealt with; however, fraud was not an issue. There have been 2,100 complaints lodged against contractors, with one contractor receiving 350 complaints which the Attorney General is investigating.

Dr. Norman Francis recessed the meeting at 11:50 a.m. for lunch. He reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Housing Committee Report

Mr. Walter Leger said an area of concern is homeowner's insurance as policies are being cancelled and it is almost impossible to get coverage and then the cost is exorbitant. A new issue is whether houseboats qualify for the Road Home Program. He said his thought is that if a houseboat is someone's primary residence then they should qualify for the program. We are trying to determine if houseboats were included in FEMA's calculations for the number of damaged housing units. Census tracts indicate there were 5,000 houseboats in the state of Louisiana prior to the storms. Additionally, we are awaiting guidance from HUD for homes that are not located on land.

Mr. Walter Isaacson stated that the program was set up with a tight budget, and every time we get some criticism we expand the guidelines and the criteria.

Mr. Leger commented that we have to look at the impact to the budget when changing the requirements and that is why it's important to know if FEMA included houseboats in their calculations.

Mr. Isaacson pointed out that the average award is \$68,000 and expressed his concern about what will happen at the opening of new mobile centers. There is not enough funding now.

Mr. Leger explained that staff always analyzes the budget impact. He stated that staff and board members had been meeting with bankers over the past year to discuss the availability of bridge loans and other loans when the grant from the Road Home Program is not sufficient. Some people used their insurance premiums to pay off their mortgages and now they have no funds to rebuild. The loan programs do not address all the needs and we may have to ask the legislature for help.

Mr. Mike Taylor, representing OCD, Ms. Isabel Reiff, representing ICF International, and Mr. John Casbon, representing First American Title presented statistics on the Road Home Program.

Mr. Mike Taylor stated that applications continue to come in, with total applications at slightly over 115,000. Over 105,000 appointment letters have been mailed; almost 80,000 appointments have been scheduled and with walk-ins added the total is almost 87,000 applications that have been entered into the system. A total of 48,000 benefits have been calculated and a total of 2,900 closings have been held. The goal for closings by the end of March is 6,200, with the eventual goal being 10,000 closings per month.

Ms. Linda Johnson asked about a 14,000 figure shown.

Mr. Taylor responded that 14,000 is the number of files transferred for closing.

Mr. Leger asked what happens when the files are transferred to closing.

Ms. Isabel Reiff explained that the applicants have selected their options. Applications are then reviewed and forwarded to First American Title to have the title work completed and the closing process is started.

Mr. Calvin Mackie said some applicants were told by ICF International that they were in the queue, where they have been for four to six weeks. Mr. Mackie asked why applicants cannot get a printout of their status.

Ms. Reiff stated that she would provide the board members with a contact name after the meeting. She said four pieces of information are needed to do the calculation for an application, then the application goes through a quality control process and it may need examination or the application could be put on hold if it is a mobile home. There are several scenarios that could cause a delay in the queue.

Mr. Taylor said the terminology needs to be changed because people are told their letter has been “generated” when the application has been sent for title work. This causes a miscommunication.

Mr. Mackie agreed that there needs to be a change to the nomenclature.

Mr. Tim Coulon said he understood that a large number of applicants are challenging the offer and asked what happens to ease the applicant’s frustration when people don’t accept the offer.

Mr. Taylor said the majority of the concerns have to do with pre-storm values. Broker price opinions (BPOs) are being done and First American Title has expanded its ability to complete closings and is moving quickly to erase the backlog.

Mr. Coulon asked the length of time from the challenge to closure.

Mr. Taylor stated that conflicts are typically resolved in a week, but there are times when the BPO and appraisals cannot be done that quickly.

Mr. Chet Morrison stated there was a good outreach effort in his area; however, there are bottlenecks when it comes to calculations and closings. He said there have been only 22

closings in Terrebonne Parish out of 1,500 applications. He asked if there are incentives and penalties in the contract with ICF International.

Mr. Taylor said the contract incentives and penalties have not been finalized but that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget should complete approval of the contract by March 16, 2007.

Mr. Morrison asked the process once the contract is in place and asked why there have been so few closings in his area.

Mr. Taylor explained that the contract includes a risk/reward system. He said he would do an analysis on the situation in Terrebonne Parish and get back to Mr. Morrison.

Mr. Morrison asked about the timing of ICF International going public with its stock and asked how their resources are distributed throughout the state.

Ms. Reiff stated ICF International had decided to go public with its stock prior to receiving the contract from the state of Louisiana. She said ICF International is the leader of a team of about 23 companies and all their workers have a sense of pride and are committed to doing a good job.

Mr. John Casbon said they do not get paid until closing, so that is their incentive. He said they are looking at having the majority of the closings completed before Thanksgiving, 2007. He pointed out that he lost his house during the storm and he wants to bring people home.

Mr. John Smith asked the procedure for the title search and examination of the property, and whether a clear title is required to close on rebuilding grants.

Mr. Casbon said the procedure for the title work had been streamlined and that First American Title had determined the risks they could take and eliminated the delays.

Mr. Smith asked why a clear title was required for a grant. Our emphasis should be getting funds to the people so they can get their homes repaired. This is not a mortgage program and we may need to liberalize the process for successions, liens, and other holds on the titles. He suggested that the process could move much quicker if we were not so rigid.

Mr. John Landry commented that there is frustration at the number of closings. He said people had a great experience at the Erath home center, but it's been two months and nothing more has been heard and there is no where to go to get the status of an application.

Ms. Reiff explained that ICF International has upgraded the software and increased the number of advisors. Now the advisor can look online to see exactly where an application is in the process. This includes whether the title search has been completed.

Mr. Landry asked why appraisers from California are being paid \$275 per appraisal when Louisiana appraisers are being paid \$150 per appraisal.

Mr. Casbon stated there was a concern about the use of outside appraisers and explained that there are hundreds of Louisiana appraisers working with First American Title who are doing a wonderful job.

Mr. Carl Bauchle, representing First American Title, explained that the total cost of each appraisal is \$275, with the appraiser getting \$150 and the balance going to processors, quality assurance, management, and training for HUD compliance. There is a methodology for streamlined placement of the appraisers by geography and zip code so more appraisals can be done in a shorter time. Additionally, the appraisers are provided with all the tools needed, including software, so the appraisals will be consistent.

Ms. Johnson stated that people had to get copies of their title for insurance purposes and asked if it would be necessary to obtain additional copies for the Road Home Program.

Mr. Bauchle said a copier had been installed just for copying paperwork for the Road Home Program. This is a service being provided by First American Title.

Ms. Johnson asked the reason for the delay from the time the benefits are calculated to the time the letter is sent.

Ms. Reiff said there could be various reasons why letters are delayed.

Ms. Johnson said she is concerned about the number of closings and asked what the problem is with the process.

Mr. Taylor responded that there are steps the applications must go through, such as quality control and quality assurance which take time. He pointed out that this is the most audited program in American history. The next month should show an improvement in the number of closings as the backlogs have just about been eliminated.

Mr. David Richard stated that people in the Southwest part of the state have been contacting their legislators and legislative aides to try to get answers from ICF International. They have been unsuccessful in getting any information, and he would like contact information for someone who can give him answers.

Ms. Reiff said she would provide contact information by the end of the day.

Mr. Richard commented that a policy for rural holdings has not been implemented yet in Cameron and Vermilion Parishes.

Mr. Adam Knapp explained that the LRA is working with the OCD and local leadership since September, 2006, on basic relocation options. ICF International recently signed off on an internal policy, but there are still some issues that need to be addressed.

Ms. Reiff said she would also provide information on this matter by the end of the day.

Mr. Morrison remarked that contract negotiations will accept liquidated damages and asked about forecasted milestones.

Ms. Reiff said there are measures and milestones in place and there are penalties when these milestones are not met.

Mr. Landry said rural area issues need to be resolved, such as when property belonging to the program is not rebuilt. The original owners should be given the right of first refusal with limitations, if necessary. He suggested that the Board may need a resolution to address this.

Ms. Suzie Elkins said there have been many policy changes in the past four months and it takes time to implement the changes. The policies for mobile homes and condos are still being worked on and have yet to be implemented. She said the Louisiana program was compared to the Mississippi program on a month by month basis from the time of signing of the contract and we are ahead of where they were at this point in time. Additionally, they experienced the same problems that we have experienced. She explained that Mississippi has a simple program and Louisiana's program is much more complicated. She urged the board members to please explain this when asked about the program.

Mr. Leger asked if the appraisers are familiar with the areas they have been assigned to appraise and asked about resolution to conflicts regarding the pre-storm value of homes.

Ms. Reiff responded affirmatively to the appraiser question and stated that ICF International had received 6,000 appraisals in the past 10 days, most of which are in the resolution process.

Mr. Leger asked if ICF International would be open to LRA staff doing a selective review of the appraisals.

Ms. Reiff replied that they would be open to and welcomed this review.

Mr. Leger asked the reaction of ICF International to a homeowners bill of rights proposed by the Citizens Road Home Action Team (CHAT).

Ms. Reiff stated that she had no formal position on the bill of rights but most people would agree with the proposed rights and would strive to provide them.

Mr. Leger reiterated the need for responses to the people and not just a contact number. The people need to be able to get information on where they are in the process.

Dr. Francis recognized Representatives Pinac and Frith and Senator Theunissen as being present at the meeting.

Ms. Holt asked how many contracts and the types of contracts that had been let by the Road Home Program, how many Louisiana companies received the contracts, the denominations of the contracts, and the number that went to African-American companies. She also asked how they advertise for the bids for contract.

Ms. Reiff stated that she would get the contract information to Ms. Holt. She explained that solicitations for bids are posted on their website in addition to being sent to legislators and various listing agencies.

Representative Ken Odinet and Mr. Dave Treen were present on behalf of Mr. Charles Fanz, who owns a mobile home park in St. Bernard Parish. Representative Odinet asked for an exemption to the federal regulations with regard to the small rental property program for Mr. Fanz.

Mr. Treen explained that Mr. Fanz had over 100 structures in his mobile home park, which was demolished by Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Fanz has replaced the electrical connections and utilities so mobile homes can return to the park. He explained that mobile homes are not eligible for the Road Home Program while modular buildings are, such as Katrina Cottages. He said the Katrina Cottages range in price from \$35,000 to \$70,000, but do not include heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) or provide for the cost of a contractor to install the HVAC.

Mr. Treen showed a photograph of a mobile home that is available for \$39,000 or less, which includes delivery of the home, setting it up on piers, removal of the wheels and axles, and it takes only three weeks for delivery of the mobile home. Additionally, the mobile home comes with all appliances. He explained that St. Bernard Parish had experienced the largest population loss and that there are jobs there but people need a place to live. He asked that the mobile homes qualify for the small rental property program.

Mr. Kopplin pointed out that the program guidelines for the small rental property program were set out as part of the Road Home Program and is now in the launch phase. The guidelines are for small property owners who own fewer than 20 properties for them to repair one to four unit structures. These guidelines presently exclude anything with a vehicle identification number. An applicant under this program can get up to \$7,500 per unit for repairs through a competitive process.

Dr. Francis tasked Mr. Leger and the Housing Committee to review the small rental property program guidelines to determine if we can include mobile homes in future funding rounds.

Ms. Vanessa Bower stated that mobile homes are allowed under HUD guidelines but she was not sure if they were allowed under the LRA guidelines.

Mr. Treen interjected that the mobile homes he was referring to are HUD approved.

Ms. Holt stated that she would need to know how many trailer parks would be affected and the number of trailers per park. She said she would like some information before making any decisions and that the guidelines would have to apply to all parishes and not just St. Bernard.

Senator Diana Bajoie stated that an issue arose during the Housing Committee meeting where one unit of a four-unit structure was occupied and therefore not eligible for the program.

Mr. Kopplin explained that the current round does not allow for a partially-occupied structure. In the interest of getting the program going quickly and due to federal requirements under the Uniform Relocation Act (URA), it was determined that occupied structures would not be expeditious or appropriate for the first round of funding. He stated that we would look at the

guidelines for future rounds of funding, but wanted to make sure no one violated the URA by evicting tenants.

Senator Derrick Shepherd congratulated the LRA on the progress of the rental program. He said the big test will be the three week turnaround time for letters to the applicants in the rental program. He then asked that a recovery center be opened on the West Bank of New Orleans.

Ms. Reiff said there were no plans to establish a new center; however, there is a flex team that can be deployed for additional accessibility.

Senator Shepherd said the flex teams are very responsive, but this is unacceptable and he reiterated his request for a recovery center on the West Bank. He asked the LRA Board to direct ICF International to open a recovery center on the West Bank by March 31, 2007.

Mr. Leger stated there is an assistance center in Belle Chasse and that the services required have evolved to a new level.

Senator Shepherd commented that the Belle Chasse center works by appointment only and one universal center is needed to service all the people.

Mr. Coulon said there was a recovery center proposed for Kenner, but it was not opened due to construction on the bridge. He suggested that we revisit the locations of the recovery centers.

Dr. Francis stated the issue would be taken under review and tasked Mr. Leger with this effort.

Mr. Kopplin pointed out that the contract with ICF International is held by the Division of Administration.

Ms. Bower stated the final contract with ICF International would be issued by April 1, 2007.

Mr. Walter Isaacson in the chair.

Mr. Joey DiFatta, representing the St. Bernard Parish Council, informed the members that the Corps of Engineers plan includes a two-to-three mile section of the levee that will not be raised. This causes the entire area to be vulnerable. He explained that the Corps could rebuild this section of the levee within four months if they chose to as they have the authorization and the funds to do so; however, the Corps is planning on building a water control structure at this location in 2010 so they have chosen not to raise the levee at this site. This decision endangers the people and the taxpayers.

Mr. Cross commented that this situation has been on the front page of the newspaper in St. Bernard Parish and stated that the area cannot wait until 2010 to be protected. He explained that the Board can send a letter to the Corps but not much more. He also stated that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority cannot get anything done with the Corps.

Mr. DiFatta asked the Board members to work with the congressional delegation to address the levees.

Mr. K.C. King and Mr. Ray Broussard, representing CHAT, distributed two handouts to the members. Mr. King explained that CHAT is requesting an independent review of the Road Home Program and the creation of a Citizen's Oversight Board. (Attachment A) He said this document compliments the CHAT proposed bill of rights. (Attachment B)

Mr. Leger said he was impressed by the bill of rights which he will propose to the LRA Board at a future date for adoption. He reiterated the goal of 6,200 closings for the month of March, and pointed out that the Road Home Corporation receives titles to property and how these properties get back to the local entities for redevelopment will be resolved at the Road Home Corporation level in the near future.

Mr. Broussard thanked the LRA for its efforts and the fairness in the Road Home Program. He said he has an engineering degree from the University of New Orleans, and his calculations show there will be a \$2 million shortfall in the Road Home Program and will not be able to serve the last 2,500 families. He stated the program needs additional funding and we need to address this situation before the funding is depleted. Mr. Broussard also expressed concern that there was not a quorum at the Housing Committee meeting.

Mr. Isaacson stated that we had requested projections on what the funding will cover, and this information should be received within the next two or three weeks. He said acquiring additional funding is easier said than done. We cannot count on the FEMA match going away or count on additional CDBG funding. Everything takes money and everyone wants to add to the items covered under the program.

Mr. Kopplin explained that elevations are included in the funding predictions and there may have been some over calculations in the amount of the awards as not everyone will choose the elevation option.

Education Committee Report

Ms. Donna Fraiche expressed her grief over the death of Superintendent Cecil Picard, and thanked Ms. Carol Wallen for her service as the interim Superintendent. She then introduced the new Superintendent of Education, Mr. Paul Pastorek, who will take over the position in two weeks.

Mr. Paul Pastorek said he was excited to be the new superintendent and that he is serious about education and what is best for the children of Louisiana. He will be focused on bringing Louisiana to the next level of reform in education as there are still more than 200 unacceptable schools. He stated that several of our schools were affected by the storms, and the task ahead of him will not be easy.

He explained that Superintendent Picard had laid out a plan for a world class education system, and he is going after this vision. The challenge is to recognize the obstacles. Louisiana opened 17 recovery school districts in the past year and 20 more schools need to be

opened this fall. There is no one employed within the school district with an expertise in facilities and we need to guide the contractors during the construction. He is looking to hire someone to coordinate our efforts and has reached out to sitting superintendents across the nation for suggestions on recovery.

Mr. Pastorek pointed out that community is a large part of a world class school system and he is asking New Orleans and other area residents for their advice while identifying the resources needed to proceed. He said he will be issuing a RFP for a planner for facilities construction for public schools with the cost being shared by the Recovery School District and the Orleans Parish School District. He explained that he will be working with representatives from the City of New Orleans on infrastructure for neighborhood schools, identifying locations where schools are needed, and additional resources needed such as social services and health care.

He stated that a contract will be let for modular construction to meet demands for students returning in September. He is working with the New Orleans City Council on this as well as looking for commercial space that could be converted into a school system.

Mr. Isaacson commended Mr. Pastorek on his commitment to Louisiana, and said he cannot wait for Mr. Pastorek to get to work since he is very familiar with education issues after serving for several years on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Mr. Pastorek said there is an assessment effort underway to gage the progress of the Recovery School District, the charter schools, the public schools, operations, and academics.

Mr. Mackie said the people of New Orleans felt as if they had lost control of their school system and upset that they had not been included in the decision making process.

Mr. Pastorek stated that we must respect everyone's views in order to reach our objective. He said he will listen with respect to the people and said he hoped they come to the table with suggestions and ideas on how to make this work and function. He added that some people only come to the table to be shrill and to be critical.

Mr. Mackie agreed that we need to build a coalition.

Mr. Pastorek said he would be looking for Mr. Mackie at the table, and he looked forward to working together.

Ms. Johnson explained to Mr. Pastorek that the LRA has an Education Committee and we need the Department of Education to bring its issues to the LRA Education Committee.

Ms. Holt asked when the assessment would be complete.

Mr. Pastorek responded that it would be complete by May, 2007.

Mr. Landry stated that most of the comments had been directed to the New Orleans area. He said he is looking forward to working with Mr. Pastorek in Cameron and Vermilion Parishes.

Mr. Pastorek replied that Southwest Louisiana would have a place at the table.

Mr. Isaacson stated there were no further comments.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Linda Johnson expressed concern over Board members who do not make it to meetings and she asked how members are added and removed.

Mr. Kopplin said some people had resigned their membership and he would issue a request for replacements. He pointed out that some Board members are from other states and cannot always make it.

Mr. Isaacson stated that Susan Taylor is a fantastic help in Washington, D.C. He suggested that some members serve as a non-voting advisory member so they do not count towards a quorum.

Ms. Donna Fraiche apologized for being late. She explained that she was in Washington, D.C. at an Energy and Commerce Subcommittee and Health Care Recovery hearing where she submitted testimony which was rejected. She said an extensive letter on health care issues was submitted by Mr. Andy Kopplin and Mr. Miles Bruder on behalf of the LRA. She added that the LRA is being blamed for the status of health care in Louisiana and that LRA is always in the forefront whenever there is an opportunity for blame. She stated that we need to respond to accusations and the blame game needs to end. We need solutions.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no other public comments.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Kopplin
Executive Director

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Date approved: _____