

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA

Thursday, October 11, 2007

DRAFT MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Norman Francis, chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. at the Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, 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

Reverend Cliff W. Nunn of First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, 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 presence of a quorum was noted.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman
Senator Diana Bajoie
Mr. Boysie Bollinger
Ms. Kim Boyle
Mr. Tim Coulon
Mr. Rene Cross
Mr. James Davison
Ms. Donna Fraiche
Ms. Sibal Holt
Dr. Alex Johnson
Ms. Linda Johnson
Mr. John T. Landry
Mr. Walter Leger
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Mr. Chet Morrison
Mr. Sean Reilly
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. David Voelker
Mr. John E. Smith

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Walter Isaacson, Vice Chairman
Rev. Harry Blake
Ms. Donna Brazile
Mr. John Brewster
Representative Yvonne Dorsey
Mr. Tom Henning
Senator Don Hines
Ms. Mary Matalin
Mr. David Richard
Representative Joe Salter
Mr. Dennis Stine
Mr. Matt Stuller
Ms. Susan Taylor
Mr. Mike Woods

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Andy Kopplin, Executive Director
Ms. Fay Ayers
Ms. Lynn Bankston
Ms. Krystle Beauchamp
Mr. Dave Bowman
Ms. Laura Deslatte
Ms. JoAnn Early
Ms. Sandra Gunner
Ms. Catherine Heitman
Ms. Desirée Honoré
Mr. Wil Jacobs
Ms. Kim Jupiter

Ms. Robin Keegan
Mr. Adam Knapp
Ms. Melissa Landry
Mr. Ty Larkins
Ms. Kristen Parnell
Ms. Stasha Rhodes
Ms. Marisa Robertson
Ms. Christina Stephens
Mr. Kris Van Orsdel
Ms. Alesia Wilkins-Braxton
Mr. Carl Williams

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

Ms. Donna Fraiche offered a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2007, LRA Board meeting. There being no comments or corrections, upon motion duly made and seconded by Mr. Walter Leger, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approval of the minutes and ratification of actions taken at the September 11, 2007, meeting of the LRA Board.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the LRA Board held on September 11, 2007, as presented at this meeting, are hereby approved and all actions taken by the Board presented at such meeting, as set forth in such minutes, are hereby in all respects approved as actions of the LRA Board.

Voting: Bollinger, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Holt, Alex Johnson, Linda Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Robinson, Smith, and Voelker.

VI. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Chairman of the Board Report

Dr. Francis welcomed everyone back to New Orleans and to Jackson Barracks. He asked that no more than three microphones be on at once and that cell phones not be placed close to the microphones. He explained that we would conduct the Board meeting until noon when we would break for lunch, and the members will then board a bus to take a tour of St. Bernard Parish and parts of Orleans Parish.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Andy Kopplin, Executive Director of the LRA, said Louisiana cottages are being built in New Iberia. Governor Blanco went to New Iberia and Lake Charles for Hurricane Rita anniversary events on September 24, 2007. Also on hand at the Lake Charles event were Board members Mr. David Richard and Mr. Tom Henning, who announced the opening of a new workforce training program there.

Mr. Kopplin commented that the American Planning Association (APA) honored Ms. Donna Fraiche for her work as a citizen planner. The Louisiana Speaks plan also won three awards at the APA conference. The plan was put together by the LRA, LRA support organizations and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

Mr. Kopplin stated that Dr. Francis and Mr. Walter Isaacson had requested the Commission on Presidential Debates to schedule a presidential debate to be held in New Orleans.

The Government Accountability Office issued a report that revealed that the awarding of grants under the Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) was flawed, and that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shortchanged Louisiana because their process was not fair. An independent evaluation by the Nelson Rockefeller Institute of Government and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana published "*GulfGov Reports: Spending Federal Disaster Aid*" also showed that there was inequitable distribution of the community development block grant (CDBG) funding. An editorial clipping from the Times Picayune newspaper was shown to the members. The article urges FEMA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to issue a mission assignment for the removal of marine debris. Our sense of urgency is not shared by FEMA, but we will continue to push for this action.

Mr. Kopplin pointed out that another Times Picayune article on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) "Raising Hopes and Houses" states that Louisiana has worked with FEMA for a year to get the Louisiana HMGP application approved. FEMA recently stated that it will approve an HMGP program that will include homeowners who have already started elevating; however, the agency has not yet acted on this. Presently, both Senators Landrieu and Vitter have legislation pending in Congress to allow the pioneers to be eligible for this funding. We need to keep FEMA accountable to their promises.

Dr. Francis asked if the \$1.2 billion funding will cover those who have already elevated as well as those who are just starting the process.

Mr. Kopplin replied that we would like to use FEMA funding to pay for the elevations; however, FEMA said they would only pay for those who have not started the process. We have asked that they waive this requirement. Mr. Kopplin thanked the Times Picayune for its article, which pointed out the absurdity of the policy.

Dr. Francis asked if the \$1.2 billion in HMGP funding is still on the table.

Mr. Kopplin said Louisiana requested that the funding be moved to the CDBG program, or that Congress direct FEMA to pay the HMGP grants. He expressed his concern over this being a traditional HMGP program, which is very slow. The LRA suggested that FEMA follow the Road Home process or use an Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) claim process, which is also slow but is quicker than the traditional HMGP program. This would solve part of the Road Home budget shortfall.

Mr. Tim Coulon asked about the timeframe to apply for the traditional program. He commented that 30,000 people are waiting for a decision to be made and they are beyond frustration. He suggested that we choose a plan and move forward.

Mr. Kopplin explained that we are continuing to work on Capitol Hill for greater flexibility with the HMGP funding. Homeowners want to fix their homes now and they are moving forward. If Washington wants the homeowners to elevate, they need the funding now.

Mr. Walter Leger stated that we have been fighting this battle for the past year and a half. We were promised assistance from Chairman Powell, but FEMA action is dubious at best. He said we need to act quickly, and we need to develop a strategy for elevations now.

Mr. Kopplin pointed out that 60,357 Road Home closings had been held as of October 8, 2007. ICF has been holding 10,000 closings per month since April, 2007. He said the Road Home anti-fraud measures are working, and we have not experienced problems with fraud like the government did with FEMA. The current shortfall is projected to be \$3.324 billion, which includes the HMGP funding. The three major sources of the shortfall are the increase in the number of eligible homeowners, based on faulty FEMA estimates; actual damages per house were higher than the FEMA estimates; and lower than expected insurance payments to homeowners. ICF is predicting that 90,000 grants will be closed by the end of December, 2007, and the program will run out of money unless we get additional funding from Congress. Mr. Kopplin said the state has committed an additional \$1 billion to cover the shortfall, bringing the total state allocation to \$4.9 billion. Of the \$4.9 billion, 53% are committed funds and 47% have been spent or encumbered. The biggest difference between funds spent and those committed are in the insurance area.

Mr. Kopplin said that Board members and LRA staff spent a lot of time briefing the Congressional delegation, other members of Congress and organizations on our plight. Governor Blanco and Dr. Francis are planning to go to Washington, D.C. next week to make our case to the leadership. We have been informed that the Iraq spending bill will not move until January, 2008, which does not work for us, and may ultimately cause a hiatus in the program. The key issue to be addressed next week is if there is another appropriation bill that will pass this fall that could include the additional funding request for the Road Home program. This is of critical importance to Louisiana.

Dr. Francis asked the estimate of the shortfall with insurance figures included.

Mr. Kopplin explained that if you used estimates provided by industry sources and Chairman Powell, 80% of the losses were expected to be covered by insurance. In actuality, insurance only covered 69% of the losses. It is not known if this is due to underpayments or insufficient coverage. The Attorney General has filed suit to evaluate the insurance claims. The biggest

uninsured gap is for those whose homes were total losses; the owners may not have increased their coverage as the value of the home increased.

Ms. Donna Fraiche said the project worksheets were also underestimated by FEMA. She asked what happens next.

Mr. Kopplin said a key issue for Stafford Act reform is new versions of the project worksheets. An example of this is the City Council building in New Orleans, which will cost \$11 million to rebuild. The project was delayed because the project worksheet reflected a \$4 million cost. We continue to fight for Stafford Act reform both for our recovery and for future catastrophes.

Ms. Fraiche asked if we would have to go through another cycle to get more money in the project worksheets.

Mr. Kopplin responded that the FEMA Public Assistance program is automatic and we have statutory authority and rights to the funding without having to go back to Congress.

VII. FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Mr. Kopplin explained that he had updated the resolution on the federal priorities. Some items were added after feedback from the last Board meeting. Congress asked us to prioritize our recovery needs, and that is what the resolution does.

Dr. Francis offered a motion to give final approval to the resolution to endorse the federal recovery priorities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walter Leger

Final Approval of the Resolution to Endorse Federal Recovery Priorities.

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts and gives final approval to the resolution to endorse federal recovery priorities.

Voting: Bajoie, Bollinger, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Holt, Alex Johnson, Linda Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, and Voelker.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Long Term Community Planning Task Force Report

Ms. Fraiche explained that there would be four parish plans presented to the members for their approval: Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Tammany and Lafayette. She explained that the parish plans do not include all projects for the individual parishes.

Ms. Fraiche introduced Ms. Krystle Beauchamp, the LRA Assistant Planning Director.

Ms. Beauchamp introduced Mr. Don Schwab, Terrebonne Parish President, Mr. Pat Gordon and Ms. Leesa Forman, who would present the Terrebonne Parish Community Recovery Plan.

Presentation of the Terrebonne Parish Community Recovery Plan

Mr. Don Schwab, Mr. Pat Gordon and Ms. Leesa Forman, came forward to present the Terrebonne Parish Community Recovery Plan.

Mr. Schwab said they have five projects that are the top priority for Terrebonne Parish. The coastline is eroding and they need a long-term recovery plan. They received public input and insight in the development of their recovery plan, and their first priority is levees to provide flood protection from low to midlevel hurricanes. Levees are their first level of defense, but an inner ring of levees is needed in case of overtopping or tropical storm events. This would be the best solution for short-term recovery.

Additionally, Terrebonne Parish needs affordable housing. They need housing for the workforce and for those who want to relocate from low-lying areas. Most of the people that live in the low-lying areas earn below-average wages and they must have affordable housing alternatives. Currently, there is a need for 1,000 residential houses and an estimated \$50 million to address the housing issue. The parish also needs adequate infrastructure, new sewers, and hazard mitigation funding in order to minimize future damages.

Communications is also a major issue that was raised. It is essential that first responders, the Office of Emergency Preparedness, law enforcement, the Department of Public Works and elected officials be able to communicate during a disaster. They are going to work with the state on a broad-based communications system for all parishes.

Terrebonne Parish accepts the obligation and duty to help themselves, but they face challenges and they need assistance.

Ms. Donna Fraiche thanked the presenters for their presentation. She commented that Louisiana needs more funding.

Mr. Chet Morrison stated that Terrebonne Parish is lucky they are not getting much money because it means they did not have a lot of damage. The parish is vulnerable and most of the parish is wet. The Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection System project is critical as are the levees. He pointed out that Terrebonne Parish is important to the economic infrastructure of the United States because they employ the bulk of oilfield workers.

Mr. Morrison commended the Congressional delegation of Louisiana for championing the cause. Some of the Water Resources Development Act funding will go to levees and protecting the coast, and he asked everyone to lobby Congress if President Bush vetoes this legislation.

Mr. Tim Coulon said that Mr. Schwab would be missed as the Parish President. He commented that many of the parishes share the same issues, and he complimented the parish presidents for their patience. He urged the parishes to work together for the good of all.

Dr. Francis stated that the Louisiana Speaks plan spoke about regional needs and we need to support all the parishes for the future of Louisiana.

Mr. Sean Reilly commented that Louisiana Highway 1 is in the top ten priorities and it is critical that we keep the heat on for more funding.

Mr. Morrison thanked General Hunt Downer for hosting the Board meeting.

Ms. Fraiche explained that that the Board would vote in globo on the parish plans. She introduced Ms. Charlotte Randolph, Lafourche Parish President.

Presentation of the Lafourche Parish Community Recovery Plan

Ms. Charlotte Randolph, Lafourche Parish President, said her presentation would be the same as the Terrebonne Parish Community Recovery Plan, but scratch out Terrebonne and insert Lafourche. She said they cannot accomplish their goals without the assistance of their neighbors. Louisiana Highway 1 is important to both Terrebonne and Lafourche Parish because of Port Fourchon as most of the employees reside in these two parishes. Recovery needs to be successful with low unemployment and successful businesses. Coastal restoration and protection is vital, especially since Port Fourchon is so vulnerable. The fishing industry needs to recover, and they are looking at a storm harbor project. This will be a harbor in the storm to protect fishing vessels and investments so the industry can recover more quickly. Also, a master drainage plan was included in the Recovery Plan.

Ms. Fraiche thanked Ms. Randolph for her presentation.

Mr. Boysie Bollinger asked her about the Louisiana Highway 1 project.

Ms. Randolph stated there was a coalition to get this \$600 million highway built. The highway will be a toll road in order to repay the loan. It was disappointing that they had to borrow for this important project. Up to 1,800 18-wheelers and 5,000 employees travel Louisiana Highway 1 daily to get to the port. There was a minor disturbance in the Gulf of Mexico a week ago and there was six inches of water on this highway. She added that there are two phases of construction, but in the interim they are vulnerable.

Dr. Francis said Louisiana Highway 1 is critical. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and Port Fourchon provides so much to the United States.

Ms. Fraiche introduced Mr. Sid Fontenot and Mr. Kevin Davis. She pointed out that Mr. Fontenot assisted with the first long-term planning process.

Presentation of the St. Tammany Parish Community Recovery Plan

Mr. Kevin Davis stated that they have to look beyond traditional funding through the Louisiana Speaks plan. He said wastewater systems in Mandeville and Pearl River are needed. Also, housing and community development planning needs have to be updated.

Mr. John Smith said St. Tammany Parish was hit with a double whammy. First, the East side of the parish had 10,000 homes that flooded, but the officials rose to the challenge. The second whammy was the increase in population due to evacuees. He expects the population to continue to grow, but the population needs to be supported. Everyone worked together to improve the quality of life in the parish when they developed their recovery plan.

Dr. Alex Johnson thanked both Mr. Davis and Mr. Smith for their efforts with regard to providing educational services for the evacuees so students could continue their studies.

Ms. Fraiche thanked the presenters on behalf of the St. Bernard residents who relocated to St. Tammany Parish.

Mr. Walter Leger welcomed all the parish presidents. He said he had gotten to know them through the LRA as a result of the disaster. He said in Oak Harbor there were 100 feet of boats piled up and burning. He thanked the St. Tammany Parish presenters for taking care of his former parishioners.

Ms. Donna Fraiche said Ms. Krystle Beauchamp and Mr. John Landry would present the Lafayette Parish Community Recovery Plan.

Presentation of the Lafayette Parish Community Recovery Plan

Ms. Krystle Beauchamp said Lafayette Parish would get \$150,000 for infrastructure, drainage improvements, I-49, a multi-tenant center and bridge widening in promoting smart growth.

Mr. John Landry commented that Lafayette Parish was not terribly impacted by the storms, but they had experienced a huge influx of evacuees. He said the \$150,000 would not solve everything, but the funding is greatly appreciated.

Ms. Donna Fraiche offered a motion to give final approval to the Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Tammany and Lafayette parish community recovery plans. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walter Leger.

Final Approval of the Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Tammany and Lafayette Parish Long Term Community Parish Plans.

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts and approves the Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Tammany and Lafayette Parish Long Term Community Parish Plans.

Voting: Bajoie, Bollinger, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Holt, Alex Johnson, Linda Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, and Voelker.

Louisiana Speaks Update

Ms. Donna Fraiche introduced Ms. Elizabeth “Boo” Thomas, President and CEO of Center for Performing Excellence.

Ms. Thomas said it is a new day in Louisiana, even in North Louisiana. She presented a resolution that defines the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan priorities for 2008. She reviewed the ten priorities and pointed out that a grant is already in place for the creations of model developments and zoning codes.

Ms. Fraiche commented that communities are being revitalized and the Louisiana Land Trust is acquiring properties through the Road Home program. These properties will soon be ready for redevelopment.

Ms. Donna Fraiche offered a motion to give final approval to the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan priorities for 2008. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sean Reilly.

Final Approval of the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan Priorities for 2008.

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts and approves the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan Priorities for 2008.

Voting: Bajoie, Bollinger, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Holt, Alex Johnson, Linda Johnson, Leger, Mackie, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, and Voelker.

Infrastructure Task Force Report

Mr. Kopplin informed the Board members that there had been several meetings organized by LRA staff to meet with fishermen to discuss the items needed for their recovery. Mr. Rene Cross has been active and involved in the discussions and there is a broad consensus. He explained the resolution to approve Amendment No. 17 to Action Plan No. 1, which will reallocate \$4 million in CDBG funding from the Direct Assistance for Fishermen for Fisheries Infrastructure and Repair to the Fisheries Infrastructure and Assistance Program.

Mr. Kopplin said the resolution redirects all Small Firm Loan and Grant Program income, including repaid loans, from the Disaster Recovery CDBG Program to the lenders contracted to implement the program so that the funds may be used as loan capital within the damaged parishes. An additional \$547,382 of unallocated funds will be reallocated to the Homeowner Assistance Program.

Dr. Alex Johnson asked if we could split the resolution into three different plans.

Mr. Kopplin explained that Amendment No. 17 to Action Plan No. 1 was one plan with three different topics. HUD allocated the funds to us and we are putting the funds into infrastructure. He pointed out that Amendment No. 17 must go to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) for approval.

Mr. Walter Leger offered a motion to give final approval to Amendment No. 17 to Action Plan No. 1, and to authorize the LRA and the Office of Community Development (OCD) to publish an Action Plan Amendment to be sent to the Governor and the JLCB for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chet Morrison.

Preliminary Approval of Amendment No. 17 to Action Plan No. 1 to Reallocate \$4 Million in CDBG Funding to the Fisheries Infrastructure and Assistance Program; to Redirect all Small Firm Loan and Grant Program Income to the Lenders Implementing the Program; and, to Reallocate Unallocated Funds to the Homeowner Assistance Program. Further Authorizes the LRA and OCD to Submit the Amendment to the JLCB for Approval.

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts and preliminarily approves Amendment No. 17 to Action Plan No. 1 to reallocate \$4 million in CDBG funding to the Fisheries Infrastructure and Assistance Program; to redirect all Small Firm Loan and Grant Program income to the lenders implementing the program; and, to reallocate unallocated funds to the Homeowner Assistance Program. Further approves that the Amendment be submitted to the JLCB for approval.

Voting: Bajoie, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Holt, Alex Johnson, Linda Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, and Voelker.

Mr. Morrison thanked the LRA for holding a meeting with the fishermen in Terrebonne Parish.

Mr. Kopplin thanked Mr. David Voelker and Mr. Sean Reilly for their help in Washington, D.C. with the request for additional funding. This also provided a backdrop to the Louisiana Speaks plan. Planning work will bring \$500 million to the parish plans. He asked that everyone support the Road Home Program request for additional funds to cover the shortfall.

Mr. John T. Landry expressed his gratitude to the LRA for the whirlwind tour for the fisheries industry.

Mr. Tim Coulon commented that we are still waiting on the additional funding for the Road Home Program and approval to use the HMGP funds. He asked what the HMGP funds would be used for if there were any leftover at the end of the day.

Mr. Kopplin replied that we have unallocated funds set aside for the parishes and it would not be appropriate to undo those commitments. He said we would like to use \$1.2 billion of the HMGP funds for the Road Home Program.

Housing and Community Development Task Force Report

Mr. Walter Leger commented that the Jackson Barracks look better than they did when the Board previously met there. He pointed out that the Housing Task Force had met twice since the last LRA Board meeting. Mr. Kopplin previously gave a report on the estimated shortfall to the Road Home program and an update on the number of closings. Mr. Leger said we are organizing a large number of groups to lobby Congress for additional funding, and we have received assurances from Congress. He thanked the groups that have helped the Housing Task Force.

Mr. Leger said more people are happy, but there are still problems. There have been two Housing Task Force meetings and there have been many working group meetings via teleconference with representatives from OCD, ICF and the LRA to work through the difficulties. Some problems have been solved but some problems are still being addressed. He commented that OCD had requested an audit. The Legislative Auditor had expressed concern about under and overpayments at the beginning of the program. There was a single grant that was given to someone who was not eligible, but the level of fraud has been non-existent. The program is very clean; we have conducted the program with integrity.

KPMG also conducted an audit of OCD at their request. KPMG said they need two more weeks for their final report to be ready. Mr. Leger explained that the Housing Task Force will hold another meeting to receive the final report and to discuss their findings. Also, Rand Corporation is performing an in-flight review. Things are moving forward with the program, and we are correcting problems immediately while the program continues. The GAO and GulfGov have independently reviewed the funds, and we continue to assert that there has been an inequitable allocation of funding between Mississippi and Louisiana.

Mr. Leger recognized Mr. Randy Noel, a member of the LRA Housing Task Force, who wanted to bring an issue to the attention of the Board.

Mr. Randy Noel, Chairman of the Louisiana Code Council, said he oversees the opening of building code offices and they are having great success. He pointed out that \$11 million was spent to hire certified inspectors for the hurricane-damaged areas. FEMA and Congress want us to rebuild stronger, smarter, and safer, and the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS) sent 84 inspectors to assist in 11 parishes in Louisiana. Their contract will end in December, 2007; however, there are still many applicants that have not received grants and we are anticipating a need for approximately 42 of these inspectors to remain in Louisiana to assist the code offices. St. Bernard Parish is rebuilding 67,000 structures and we are anticipating that over 200,000 buildings will need inspection.

Mr. Leger stated that we need to find a way to keep the IBTS personnel in Louisiana. Additionally, the Small Rental program will be announcing the availability of \$375 million to restore 10,000 rental properties. Letters were sent out between September 16 and October 6, 2007, to restore 9,500 units. Of these, 8,200 are rental units with the remainder being owner-occupied. He pointed out that the rental assistance awards were based on damages per parish.

Mr. Leger introduced Mr. Ernie Broussard as the new president of the Louisiana Land Trust (LLT), formerly known as the Road Home Corporation.

Mr. Ernie Broussard stated that the LLT has a Herculean effort to engage and resolve their assigned mission of receiving properties from Options 2 and 3 from the Road Home program. It is anticipated that the LLT will have 9,000 properties by the end of 2007. They are presently at 1,200 properties and the full-time staff is working diligently at assembling and disposing of these properties to the local governments.

Mr. Tim Coulon asked if Mr. Broussard was the person to contact with a grass cutting problem.

Mr. Broussard responded that upkeep is part of the LLT mission. He reiterated that the LLT is working diligently at preparing the properties for redistribution.

Mr. Leger pointed out that every LLT property has had the grass cut and the property has been secured. Other properties with grass issues are privately owned or are a parish problem.

Mr. Broussard added that the LLT is trying to be transparent with their operations. They are maintaining only the properties that they have title to.

Mr. John Landry stated that he had heard comments that Louisiana may be looking at a government buyout of the coast.

Mr. Broussard said they have not gotten that far.

Mr. Kopplin explained that the Corps of Engineers had announced in a Mississippi trial balloon that a \$40 billion buyout of the coast will not happen without more work being done. He added that there may be a buyout associated with certain projects, but he doubted there would be much public support for this.

Mr. Leger said this completed the Housing Task Force report.

Mr. Broussard said he will continue to support the LRA and encouraged the support of marine fisheries recovery as this is essential.

Ms. Donna Fraiche commented that she is excited to have Mr. Broussard in his new position. He will be a great asset with his planning background, and he can assist with getting properties back to commerce. She expressed concern about parishes with only one or two properties, with not much of a land mass to restore a coast line or a community. Additionally, we need to make sure plans are in place for rebuilding large land masses so we don't continue to make the same mistakes.

Mr. Broussard pointed out that the LRA and Southwest Louisiana are already working on a model.

Dr. Francis thanked the presenters. He recognized Mr. K.C. King.

Mr. K.C. King, Citizens Road Home Action Team (CHAT), said he received his Road Home grant in May, 2007, but he has not received any elevation funds. He thanked Mr. Kopplin for continuing to emphasize elevations. It looks like FEMA is finally beginning to come around and this is only happening because of task force meetings and board members explaining the importance of the elevations.

Dr. Francis introduced Major General Hunt Downer, who will provide an update on the reconstruction of the Jackson Barracks.

Presentation on Jackson Barracks Construction

General Hunt Downer explained that the Jackson Barracks were built in the 1930's. In 1912, the Corps of Engineers realigned the Mississippi River and they had to tear down the garrison. Only one wall remains today and it is part of the new headquarters building. He explained that the room we were in had received 10 feet of water, and the Barracks flooded within 90 minutes of the breach in the Industrial Canal. They received water from three sides and every building in the Jackson Barracks flooded. The Main Exchange building can be reused, and they are presently up to two buildings two years after the storm. He stated that our forefathers knew something about construction. When they rebuild, the electrical will be run from the second story down to the first floor in order to minimize future damages.

General Downer commented that Jackson Barracks are on the Orleans/St. Bernard Parish line, and they presently have 200 employees working at the facility. Approximately 3,000 soldiers are rotated through the barracks, and the economic impact is in excess of \$100 million annually. The military is big business for the New Orleans area. He showed some slides of the planned rebuilding of the barracks. He said close to \$600 million federal dollars will be spent statewide on structures, and \$200 million will be spent at Jackson Barracks. The National Guard is meeting weekly with FEMA on the recovery to keep the recovery moving.

Dr. Francis asked how many are presently in the complement at the barracks.

General Downer replied that there are presently 50 people at the barracks, but there will be 600 people once the facility is back up and running in order to support the 3,000 rotating troops. Everyone is facing housing shortages with at least a 30% increase in costs. The military is facing the same challenge. They are looking at how to reoccupy the barracks, and the Louisiana Cottages will provide some of this housing. He explained that if the military does not come back, the community will not come back. In the master plan, the military is the catalyst.

Ms. Kim Boyle thanked General Downer for his presentation and for his dedication and commitment to the Veteran's Administration (VA) building a hospital in downtown New Orleans.

General Downer suggested a VA clinic by Jackson Barracks. He said the military would donate the land for the clinic.

Mr. Kopplin explained that the Board members would be getting on buses after lunch to tour parts of St. Bernard and Orleans Parish. Part of the tour will include a visit to the Thurgood Marshall School, which is part of the Recovery School District in New Orleans.

Ms. Donna Fraiche thanked General Downer for the partnership and the spirit of the mission in working with the LRA. She said she would like it noted for the record that recovery takes time if things are going to be done the correct way.

General Downer said people had to get over the shock, and then it all comes down to attitude. You have to get up every day. He said information is power if you share it. They focused their energy into synergetic mass; they made decisions and moved forward. He said it took 4-

5 months to assess the situation before they started making decisions. He invited the Board to come back next year to see what they have accomplished.

Dr. Calvin Mackie asked for a list of the contractors unions being used for the reconstruction.

General Downer said he would provide the list to Dr. Mackie by the end of the day. He added that everything had to be under bid by September 6, 2007, or they would have lost the \$600 million in federal funds.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no other public comments.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Kopplin
Executive Director

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Date approved: _____