

DRAFT, subject to revisions and/or amendments

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
Belle Chasse, Louisiana – Belle Chasse Auditorium
Thursday, September 14, 2006

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Norman Francis, chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m. at the Belle Chasse Auditorium in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. It is noted for the record that notices to the public and news media of the time and place of the meeting had been given in compliance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

II. PRAYER

Father Otis Young of Our Lady Perpetual Health in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, led the board in prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Norman Francis led the board in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ROLL CALL

Ms. Robyn Cockerham called the roll.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman
Mr. Walter Isaacson, Vice Chairman
Ms. Dale Atkins
Sen. Diana Bajoie
Mr. Boysie Bollinger
Ms. Kim Boyle
Mr. Tim Coulon
Mr. Rene Cross
Ms. Donna Friache
Mr. Tom Henning
Ms. Sibal Holt

Board Members Present:

Ms. Linda Johnson
Mr. John T. Landry
Mr. Walter Leger, Jr.
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Mr. Sean Reilly
Mr. David Richard
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. John E. Smith
Ms. Susan Taylor
Mr. David Voelker
Mr. Mike Woods

Board Members Absent:

Rev. Harry Blake
Ms. Donna Brazile
Mr. James Davison
Rep. Yvonne Dorsey
Sen. Don Hines

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Laura Leach
Ms. Mary Matalin
Mr. Chet Morrison
Rep. Joe Salter
Mr. Matt Stuller

Staff Members Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

Ms. Catherine Heitman
Ms. Desirée Honoré
Mr. Wil Jacobs
Ms. Kim Jupiter
Ms. Robin Keegan
Mr. Adam Knapp
Ms. Kristen Parnell
Mr. Paul Rainwater
Mr. Kris Van Orsdel
Ms. Alesia Wilkins
Ms. Natalie Wyeth

Witnesses Present (in order of appearance):

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Mr. Benny Rousselle
Dr. Kari Davison
Dr. Laura Levy
Dr. Gene D'Amour
Mr. Calvin Parker
Mr. Donald Valet
Ms. Janette Howard
Ms. Elizabeth Cook

Mr. Robert Billiot
Mr. Kurt Clement
Ms. Judy Mulla
Mr. Andre Villere
Mr. Jeff Entwisle
Mr. Dan Loar
Mr. Dan Packer
Ms. Tracy Kuhns
Dr. David Curole

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

Dr. Norman Francis called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2006, LRA Board meeting. There being no comments or corrections, upon motion duly made by Mr. David Voelker and seconded by Ms. Donna Fraiche the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approval of the minutes and ratification of actions taken at the August 10, 2006, meeting of the LRA Board.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the LRA Board held on August 10, 2006, as presented at this meeting, are hereby approved and all actions taken by the board presented at such meeting, as set forth in such minutes, are hereby in all respects approved as actions of the LRA Board.

Voting: Bajoie, Bollinger, Coulon, Cross, Fraiche, Francis, Isaacson, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Reilly, Richard, Robinson, Smith, Taylor, Voelker, and Woods

VI. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

A. Chairman of the Board Report

Dr. Norman Francis thanked the board members for their continued dedication and work. He also thanked LRA board member Mr. Rene Cross, and Plaquemines Parish President Mr. Benny Rouselle, for hosting the LRA meeting. Dr. Francis then introduced Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and allowed her to make a brief statement.

The text of Governor Blanco's remarks is as follows:

Thank you, Dr. Francis. Good morning! I want to begin by thanking the LRA Board for meeting in Plaquemines. Just yesterday, I was speaking to the Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry about the good work of LRA Board Member Rene Cross. The location of today's meeting is proof that with Rene on the Board, Plaquemines is at the forefront of our recovery.

In just a few minutes, Parish President Benny Rouselle will discuss the recovery efforts underway. I'll give an update on The Road Home, and offer my two cents about the important agenda items before the Board. But first, let me reiterate a promise.

As long as I'm Governor, I will accept nothing less than a full and robust recovery for Plaquemines Parish. The work you do is far too important to our state, our region and this nation. You are the heart of the domestic oil and gas industry. You hold the key that drives our nation's economy. Your fishermen and shrimpers are the pulse of this nation's seafood industry.

I've instructed the state to make significant investments in your infrastructure. This includes devoting funding to see the Peters Road Bridge and Extension Project to completion. We'll better service the oil and fishing industries by opening up this streamlined route to the Venice Area. Not to mention relieve traffic here in Belle Chasse.

We're going to do whatever it takes to reel in a victory for our commercial fishermen and shrimpers. Their catch is up, but dealers and sales are down. I've instructed my Economic Development Department to work to expand our processing capacity and bolster our fishing infrastructure.

The vitality of Plaquemines is crucial to our recovery. The state will be your partner and the LRA is here to help you.

It's my honor to provide an update on progress with The Road Home housing program. If anyone doubts the importance of this program, listen to this. A few weeks ago, I visited a classroom full of second graders at the Port Sulphur School here in Plaquemines. I asked the students to raise their hands if they lived in a FEMA trailer. The hands of all but one or two of the thirty plus students shot up. They are why The Road Home program is so

important.

I want to thank the Board Members who joined me as we opened all 10 of the Housing Assistance Centers across the state. Just listen to our progress report:

- *Ten centers throughout the affected areas are up and running and serving homeowners;*
- *Over 23,000 applications are being processed, with more pouring in by the minute;*
- *More than 190 award notices have been sent to homeowners who completed the process;*
- *Disbursement allocations totaling more than \$4.6 million comprise these awards;*
- *Applications have been mailed to the more than 100,000 homeowners who enrolled in our housing registry; AND*
- *We're ramping up operations throughout our centers. In no time at all I expect us to service at least 1,000 appointments per day. And this number will keep growing.*

Earlier this week, I hosted a Road Home Town Hall in Erath. More than 350 local residents packed a local firehouse. Turnout was so huge we were forced to move to an outside area without air condition. People braved the heat for hours to have their questions answered.

I SAW relief register across their faces as we gave them real answers. Applause burst out when we assured them this is NOT another frustrating FEMA program. This is NOT another worrisome loan program. This IS a solution oriented grant program that will give people the relief they need. We're going to hold more of these Town Halls, and I hope all Board Members will participate.

- *In the coming weeks we'll move into Phase 2. This means that we'll move housing counselors throughout the state and into states with high concentrations of displaced homeowners. We'll also tackle our rental program and our commitment to affordable housing.*

This brings me to today's agenda and the important items we are working on together. One of the greatest legacies we can leave for our recovery is affordable housing. We must build mixed-income communities. Mississippi has received a lot of grief for not having a true plan for affordable housing. We do.

Congratulations to the LRA, the Office of Community Development and the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency for partnering on an action plan that envisions affordable housing mixed-income communities that do not concentrate poverty. These communities provide the tools to climb the ladder out of poverty.

Together, let's move forward with the Action Plan Amendments that will fast track and leverage Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and CDBG dollars to increase affordable housing.

Let's also move forward with the amendment that will allow ALL owners of mobile homes to be eligible for assistance. This is and always has been a MUST in my book.

Next, today you will consider important education and workforce development amendments. We are entering the most robust construction economy this state has ever known. We need to take this opportunity to grow our economy in new and innovative ways that draws on the best technology available.

An investment of CDBG dollars in research and educational and workforce development enhancements is money well spent. We know that economic development – good jobs – and a strong education system are linked.

Let's increase our capacity for attracting and retaining research talent and rebuilding our labs and facilities. Let's show the world that our colleges and universities are coming

back stronger than ever. Let's leverage our investment to grow a knowledge economy with technology-based industries.

Everything we do in our recovery is based on strengthening and improving our infrastructure. This conversation continues today. We're moving forward on rebuilding our critical public infrastructure, including sewer and water systems, police and fire stations and public schools. And I'm going to keep the heat on FEMA so they will stop low-balling our projects and give us a good return on the dollar.

Now for an infrastructure issue that hits consumers in the wallet. I hope you will explore our options to keep utility rates affordable. Any CDBG dollars allocated to keep utility costs low MUST go directly to offsetting rates. Together, let's work to assure that we avoid catastrophic rate increases for our citizens who are struggling to recover.

We will hear an update on our efforts to secure Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues. You know I'm committed to securing the resources and tools needed to rebuild our wetlands as part of a comprehensive hurricane protection and coastal restoration plan.

I'm taking the feds to task in federal court on November 13th for their continued refusal to conduct an adequate environmental assessment of our coastline before conducting new lease sales.

Let me encourage all of you to get out and vote on September 30th for a series of coastal protection amendments. Please vote "YES" to the first four amendments on the ballot. The first and most important amendment would constitutionally dedicate offshore revenues to hurricane protection and coastal restoration. Passing this will send a strong message that we are serious about our fight for our fair share of revenues.

In closing, later today you will honor members of the National Guard for their role in helping develop community recovery plans. These heroes proved themselves in the aftermath of the hurricane. They have once again demonstrated their commitment to their state. They have my absolute gratitude.

I hope all of you will join us over the next two weeks as we mark the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Rita. I will be participating in a series of events that remember our losses, mark our progress, and advance our fight for a comprehensive hurricane protection and coastal restoration system. We have lost so much, but we have come so far. Together, we will rebuild a safer, stronger and smarter Louisiana. Thank you.

Dr. Francis thanked the governor for her comments and her continued work for the state.

B. Executive Director Report

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Andy Kopplin for the monthly executive director report. Mr. Kopplin began his report by thanking the governor for her continued work and effort in rebuilding the hurricane affected areas. He continued the report by announcing events to commemorate the anniversary of Hurricane Rita. Mr. Kopplin concluded his report by reviewing the rebuilding fund amounts received from Congress.

VII. Guest Presentation – Plaquemines Parish Recovery Overview

Dr. Norman Francis called upon Mr. Benny Rousselle, Plaquemines Parish President, for an update on the rebuilding of Plaquemines Parish. Mr. Rousselle enlightened the board members on the destruction that Plaquemines Parish sustained due to Hurricane Katrina. He then explained the role that Plaquemines Parish plays in protecting New Orleans during times

of hurricanes. Mr. Rouselle questioned the necessity of the adoption of the available base flood elevation (ABFE) maps. His questioning stemmed from his opinion that possibly the best science had yet to determine the necessary figures for Plaquemines Parish. Mr. Rouselle concluded his comments by introducing a theory on rebuilding the barrier islands by using pipeline sediment. He noted that this would be one alternative for protection from future hurricanes.

Dr. Francis thanked Mr. Rouselle for his comments. He then opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Walter Isaacson also thanked Mr. Rouselle for his comments and dedication to rebuilding Plaquemines Parish.

Mr. Tim Coulon sought clarification on the procedure surrounding the ABFE maps and questioned whether the LRA or FEMA mandated the adoption. Mr. Kopplin responded that FEMA required the adoption of the ABFE maps.

Ms. Donna Fraiche noted that the Corps of Engineers would be reporting the findings from a study concerning coastal restoration in the near future. She questioned how much the project Mr. Rouselle was proposing would cost in comparison to the study the Corps of Engineers was conducting. Ms. Fraiche reminded Mr. Rouselle that the Long Term Planning Task Force is responsible for regional infrastructure projects. Mr. Rouselle responded that the estimated cost of the project would be \$100 million. He further explained that it would contribute to economic development in the area.

Mr. Rene Cross noted that there have been numerous studies done and no outcome produced from these studies. He questioned whether any more money should be spent on studies.

Mr. Walter Leger congratulated Mr. Rouselle for the rebuilding of Plaquemines Parish. He further reiterated the need for coastal restoration to protect from future hurricanes.

Ms. Linda Johnson questioned whether the Stafford Act could be interpreted to determine whether or not some of the damages would be covered. Mr. Rouselle responded that no clear judgment had been obtained due to different interpretations. He questioned whether new individuals needed to be involved in decisions concerning the Stafford Act.

Mr. John Smith explained the ideology behind the federal standard. He encouraged the LRA to support a change to this ideology. Mr. Rouselle noted that he was for anything that would provide a positive change.

Dr. Francis further thanked Mr. Rouselle for his presentation.

VIII. TASK FORCE REPORTS – DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

A. Federal Legislative Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis called upon Mr. Walter Isaacson for a report from the Federal Legislative Task Force. Mr. Isaacson updated the board on pieces of Congressional legislation that regard coastal restoration and hurricane protection. He expressed his appreciation to the

Louisiana Congressional delegation for their work on these pieces of legislation. Mr. Isaacson expressed the desire from the White House to see rebuilding efforts become less bureaucratic on all levels.

Ms. Donna Fraiche questioned whether a list could be compiled of proposed amendments to the Stafford Act. Mr. Isaacson assured her that one would be compiled and distributed. He noted that the Stafford Act is quite generous in times of destruction and therefore, amendments should be substantially studied before being adopted.

Dr. Francis thanked Mr. Isaacson for his presentation. He then publicly recognized State Rep. Ernest Wooton and the City Council of Plaquemines.

B. Economic and Workforce Development Task Force

Dr. Francis called upon Mr. Andy Kopplin for a discussion regarding the Economic and Workforce Development Task Force. Mr. Kopplin led this discussion with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation (Attachment A) focused on the Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program. This is a program designed to increase the amount of technological/scientific research being done in Louisiana by colleges and universities. Mr. Kopplin explained the importance of the program and the different aspects it would cover. He concluded his remarks by introducing Dr. Kari Davison.

Dr. Davison spoke in support of the resolution. He explained that full participation between public and private institutions was expected. Dr. Davison also noted that funds to universities would only be allocated through a competitive review process.

Dr. Laura Levy, representing Tulane University, spoke in support of the resolution. She noted the positive economic impact that this program would have on the research community of the Orleans area. Dr. Levy noted that the most effective strategy to capitalize on economic impact in research is to make large investments in focused areas. This involves identifying the focus areas and having long term commitments of investors. She cited the stem cell research at Tulane as an example of this success. Dr. Levy concluded by reiterating that Tulane and its' sister universities were in support of the resolution.

Dr. Gene D'Amour, representing Xavier University, spoke in support of the resolution. He noted that research at Xavier brings "hundreds of millions of dollars" into the Orleans area. Dr. D'Amour noted the need to keep the researchers who secure federal grants at universities within the Orleans area. He noted that while there is grant money available, it does not typically cover the cost of rebuilding destroyed laboratories. Dr. D'Amour also commented on the lack of a scientific and technologically savvy labor force in Louisiana. He also spoke of the hardships being endured by the faculty of Xavier.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Sean Reilly expressed his support of the program. He also expressed his desire to see the program expand at a future date to include Baton Rouge. Mr. Reilly moved to introduce the motion.

Dr. Calvin Mackie expressed his support of the program as well. He continued by noting his familiarity with the Georgia Research Coalition. Dr. Mackie questioned how the program would work in conjunction with other Board of Regents programs. Dr. Davison responded that that would benefit the programs already in place.

Ms. Linda Johnson questioned how the program would be competitive and what meaning that word conveyed. Dr. Levy responded that “competitive” would necessitate the participants’ proposals being peer-reviewed. Subsequently, only the best proposals would be selected.

Mr. John Landry inquired whether the LRA was supporting/formulating a program to assist the technical colleges. Mr. Kopplin responded that the governor had \$15 million allocated to workforce training. He continued that the prior recommendations from the Economic and Workforce Task Force included \$38 million in workforce training that is to be administered to technical colleges.

Dr. Francis questioned the procedure that the recommendations/resolutions must go through before being finalized. He further questioned how the application process would work for this program. Mr. Kopplin responded by explaining the process and encouraging citizens to join together in community groups.

Sen. Diane Bajoie questioned why there was not a representative from LSU. Mr. Kopplin explained that due to schedule conflicts, the representative was not able to attend. He noted that Tulane was speaking for all of its partner universities, which included LSU. Sen. Bajoie expressed her support for the program and seconded Mr. Reilly’s motion.

Mr. Walter Leger expressed his support for the resolution.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Sean Reilly and seconded by Sen. Diane Bajoie, the following resolution was adopted:

Request the LRA Board approve, and recommend to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval, the Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program Action Plan Amendment No. 5 for Disaster Recovery Funds. Action Plan Amendment No. 5 provides Community Development Block Grant Funds to the Louisiana Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program that will be used to restore and expand the economic impact of the science & technology research programs within Louisiana higher education institutions in the areas most severely impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby approve the Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program Action Plan Amendment No. 5 for Disaster Recovery Funds.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend the Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program Action Plan Amendment No. 5 for Disaster Recovery Funds to

the governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval.

Voting: Atkins, Bajoie, Bollinger, Coulon, Cross, Fraiche, Henning, Holt, Isaacson, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Reilly, Richard, Robinson, Smith, Taylor, Voelker, and Woods
Abstaining: Francis and Mackie

C. Housing Task Force

Dr. Francis called upon Mr. Leger for a discussion concerning the Housing Task Force.

Mr. Leger reminded the board of actions previously taken on the Road Home program. He also briefly spoke about a previous meeting of the Louisiana Housing Authority and the positive actions taken during that meeting. Mr. Leger then asked Mr. Kopplin who gave a brief discussion and reminded board members of the history and necessity of the rental housing program. Additionally, Mr. Kopplin introduced Mr. Calvin Parker who lead the in-depth discussion and presented a Powerpoint slideshow (Attachment B). Mr. Parker’s slideshow focused on fully explaining the program and the amendments that were being presented to the board. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Kopplin and Mr. Parker discussed minor changes to the wording of the action plan that were neglected during the drafting. They requested that this clarifying wording be considered when voting on the resolution.

Mr. Leger introduced the resolution and recommended it be approved by the board.

Dr. Francis thanked the gentlemen for their presentation and opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Landry noted that the idea for the changes stemmed from Vermilion Parish. He recognized and thanked the governor for her dedication to change the action plan. Mr. Landry requested that “site-built homes” be included in the amendment wording along with manufactured and mobile homes. Mr. Kopplin explained to the board the previous way that the action plan had dealt with mobile homeowners. He requested time to consult with Mr. Parker before further amending the action plan. Mr. Landry requested that the board be given statistics on the amount of people registered, as well as on the number of individuals that have applied to the program. Mr. Leger noted that the data could be misleading without supporting figures.

Mr. David Voelker thanked Mr. Parker for his work.

Sen. Bajoie expressed her concern over the flexibility of the program. She questioned whether there were incentives/advantages for local developers. Sen. Bajoie also questioned whether the amount of money forgiven in three years was possibly too low. Mr. Parker explained that the rental program will prioritize by not only the size of the developer but also by the number of units and the income. Sen. Bajoie concluded her comments by noting her concern over public hearings and by urging the LRA to continue to work in-sync with the legislature.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to public comments. He recognized Mr. Donald Vallee, Ms. Janet Howard, and Ms. Elizabeth Cook.

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Mr. Donald Vallee, Chairman of the Section 8 Landlords Association of New Orleans, spoke in support of the resolution. He noted his involvement with the amendment and concern about the wording of the previous version of the action plan. Mr. Vallee expressed his concern that the funds go to Louisiana builders and stay within specific devastated parishes. He also noted the desire to see additional funding go to the program.

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Mr. Kopplin and Mr. Landry continued their discussion regarding the eligibility of site-built homeowners in The Road Home Housing Program.

Ms. Johnson noted her concern that subsidized housing be available to those that require it. Mr. Parker explained that the amount of rent will be geared to be at an affordable level. He noted that the amount would be based upon local estimates.

Mr. Reilly inquired how much rental housing stock would be re-created. He expressed his desire to see 10,000 to 12,000 units. Mr. Reilly further inquired whether funds could be reallocated to different parishes. Mr. Kopplin responded that the goal is to produce 12,000-18,000 in small rental units and 18,000+ through the Piggyback Program. He explained that final figure is dependent upon production cost and the bidding for tax credits.

Dr. Francis and Mr. Parker discussed the procedures of the Piggyback Program.

Ms. Janet Howard, representing the Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR), explained the criticisms that BGR has of The Road Home Rental Housing Programs. The concerns that BGR had include:

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- Resources are being reallocated away from mixed-income to spending more dollars on low-income housing subsidies
- The Road Home Rental Programs have a possibility of concentrating poverty instead of alleviating it.
- The programs target too many of their resources on Orleans Parish.
- Funding for the Small Rental Property Repair Program is inadequate and further rent restrictions are harmful.

Ms. Howard concluded that BGR believes that The Road Home Rental Program design will not enable development of mixed income communities that will produce the results espoused by the LRA and expressed concern about the future of the region. She encouraged caution in the final implementation of the programs so as to avoid blighted properties and further concentrations of poverty.

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Mr. Kopplin summarized the LRA response to the BGR criticisms. This summary was based upon a memorandum that Mr. Kopplin had distributed to the board members (Attachment C).

Mr. Parker explained the hierarchy of public housing. He continued his discussion by explaining that tax credits need to help very low-income families are in a setting with moderate and working families. He noted that the mixed-income model is very aggressive and that limits on rents will prevent owners from altering prices. Mr. Parker concluded his remarks by noting that the federal government mandates many of the requirements of the program.

Dr. Francis noted the delicate balance required to achieve true mixed-income communities.

Ms. Dale Atkins sought clarification on whether BGR thought that the LRA should tell people where they will live. She further inquired whether BGR would bring families back to where they were living. Ms. Howard responded that BGR suggests taking a regional planning approach to the development of mixed-income communities.

Sen. Bajoie questioned whether there were federal guidelines on the development of rental programs for low- to moderate-income families. She continued by expressing her gratitude to Mr. Kopplin for his work in developing and presenting a program that not only follows the federal mandates but goes beyond to optimally utilize the CDBG funds to bring as many families home as possible. Mr. Kopplin responded that indeed there are federal guidelines that the program has had to meet. He noted that an outside company has assured that these guidelines have been met.

Ms. Elizabeth Cook expressed her objection to the resolution and the Rental Program. She expressed her belief that the programs would not allow individuals to return to their homes.

Ms. Susan Taylor questioned whether there is an opportunity for those in the lowest economic rungs to be housed. She further questioned whether this housing was being mandated. Ms. Taylor concluded her questions by inquiring what percent of those displaced are wanting or are able to come home through the program. Mr. Kopplin assured her that with the rental programs there was a mandate to assure low-income housing. He noted that without the LRA program this mandate was nonexistent. Mr. Kopplin continued that as many families as possible are going to be able to come home through the LRA program. He also noted that other entities are providing housing assistance and that the total would be aggressive once finalized. Ms. Taylor encouraged people to organize together and make sure that their opinions are heard.

Dr. Francis called the question.

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

Request the LRA Board approve, and recommend to the governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval, the Road Home Affordable Rental Housing and Eligibility of Mobile Home Owners Action Plan Amendment No. 4 for Disaster Recovery Funds. Action Plan Amendment No. 4 clarifies and updates several rental housing program descriptions published in previous action plans, including the Small Rental Property Repair Program, Piggyback Program, Services for Supportive Housing Program, and Flexible Incentives for Mixed Income Developments. Action Plan Amendment No. 4 also provides and clarifies which mobile home owners will be eligible for assistance under the Homeowner Assistance Program

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby approve The Road Home Affordable Rental Housing and Eligibility of Mobile Home Owners Action Plan Amendment No. 4 for Disaster Recovery Funds.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend The Road Home Affordable Rental Housing and Eligibility of Mobile Home Owners Action Plan Amendment No. 4 for Disaster Recovery Funds to the governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval

Voting: Atkins, Bajoie, Bollinger, Coulon, Cross, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Isaacson, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Reilly, Richard, Robinson, Smith, Taylor, Voelker, and Woods

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. Tim Coulon for a discussion regarding the Housing Mitigation Grant Program resolution.

Mr. Coulon spoke briefly about the Housing Mitigation Grant Program and then introduced the resolution.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to questions and public comment.

Mr. Robert Billiot, mayor of Westwego, addressed the board and questioned what the process for obtaining Hazard Mitigation funding was. Mr. Paul Rainwater explained the program and process to Mr. Billiot. Mr. Billiot questioned whether there was an appeals process for when a parish turns down a city project. Mr. Rainwater explained that the program is flexible and that the LRA and parishes can work together. He noted that each parish has different procedures.

Mr. Coulon requested that a discussion of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be held at the October board meeting.

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

Request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board to authorize the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to use Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds to provide assistance to local governments in each parish within the state to implement the new statewide building code.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby authorize the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to use Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds in the amount of \$14 million to provide assistance to local governments in each parish within the state to implement the new statewide building code.

Voting: Atkins, Bajoie, Bollinger, Boyle, Coulon, Cross, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Isaacson,

Johnson, Landry, Leger, Mackie, Reilly, Richard, Smith, and Taylor

IX. LUNCH

Dr. Norman Francis recessed the meeting at 12:50 p.m. for lunch. He reconvened the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

X. Recognition of the Service of the National Guard Liaison Officers

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Andy Kopplin for comments on the National Guard Liaison Officers (LNOs). Mr. Kopplin explained the role that the soldiers of the La. National Guard have played in recovery efforts.

The following individuals (in alphabetical order) were introduced and received certificates of appreciation.

COL John Angeloz	2LT Tobin Johnson
SMSgt Rickey Ashley	MAJ Leroy Kennair
SGT Jeffrey Bohne	CMSgt Glenn Kirby
SFC David Bonin	SFC Kenneth Landry
CPT Kevin Burch	1LT Barrett Lancon
SSgt Micah Collins	SFC Darrell Manning
1LT Kevin Cowan	SFC Judith Merritt
CPT Christian Dean	SMSgt Mark Paxton
SFC Marvin Finley	SSG Chadwick Primeaux
CSM Ricky L. Griffin	SSG Darby Quinn
SSG Benjamin Guillory	SSG Dennis Stephan
1LT David Haydellon	SMSgt Jeffrie Sutton
SSG Paul Hiestand	SFC Stedman Tiedeman
SSG Daniel Himel	1LT Jaye Townsend
COL Arthur Hyatt	1LT Ramona Williams
SSG Robert C. Jenkins	

XI. TASK FORCES - DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS (CONTINUED)

A. Infrastructure Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. John Landry for an update from the Infrastructure Task Force.

Mr. Landry instructed the board members on the location of the information in their binders. He then requested that Mr. Pat Forbes and Mr. Andy Kopplin lead the discussion and presentation of the Powerpoint slide show (Attachment D). This presentation showcased the budgets of The Road Home, Economic Development, and Infrastructure Programs. It also focused on those projects already included in infrastructure commitments as well as those items not yet included in the infrastructure commitments.

Dr. Francis inquired about the funding of the medical center. Mr. Kopplin responded that the

\$300 million in CDBG funds are allocated in addition to the \$550 million that Veterans' Affairs received from Congress to rebuild their hospital. Mr. Landry noted that the medical center could require up to \$300 million in LRA funds. He also explained that he had yet to see a plan and therefore, no plan had been approved to spend these funds. Mr. Isaacson stressed the fact that the LRA has not approved a plan for a medical center in New Orleans using CDBG funds. Mr. Landry informed the board that Dr. Fred Cerise estimated that the LSU side would house an estimated 590 beds.

Ms. Donna Fraiche noted that Secretary Levitt and Governor Blanco formed the Health Care Redesign Collaborative on the basis of goals. She further explained that the waiver system will report by October. Ms. Fraiche continued that the goal of the Health Care Redesign Collaborative is to look at a new approach to delivery of health care and to assure that patients are given opportunities to be seen at the most qualified settings.

Dr. Francis questioned whether the funds could be placed into a trust fund. Mr. Kopplin explained that the money could be set aside and could assist in negotiations. Mr. Landry added that the wording "up to depending upon plan" was the integral statement.

Mr. Forbes continued the presentation by explaining and discussing the infrastructure items not included in the current commitments.

Mr. Landry noted his concern for the ESF-14 process and the lack of action taking on the plans that the parishes developed. Mr. Leger echoed the sentiments of Mr. Landry.

Ms. Fraiche explained that Orleans Parish is still trying to put together their list for ESF-14 funding. She noted that there is no way that the LRA could possibly fund all projects. Ms. Fraiche encouraged working together to find grants and alternative sources of funding. Mr. Forbes explained that there are plans for a resource fair which will bring parishes and federal agencies together to work to find funds.

Mr. Landry introduced Mr. Kurt Clement, Undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), for a discussion of infrastructure projects. Mr. Clement spoke about improvements to La. 1, an inter-city rail between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, as well as working with local governments on recovery projects.

Mr. Tom Henning inquired whether La. 1 was currently operable. Mr. Clement assured him that it was; however, it was in need of much repair.

Ms. Fraiche inquired whether OCS revenue sharing could help fund some of the infrastructure projects. Mr. Forbes responded that those monies are dedicated to levees and coastal restoration. He noted that what monies were currently in the trust could possibly fund some infrastructure projects.

Mr. Kopplin informed the board of upcoming court dates concerning Entergy and the New Orleans City Council. He noted the importance of studying the documents in the members' binders for a future meeting regarding these entities.

Mr. Tim Coulon expressed his desire to have more information before making a decision

about funding projects. He requested all members receive the information that the Infrastructure Task Force receive. Mr. Coulon concluded his remarks by commending Mr. Landry for the work he has done with the Infrastructure Task Force. Mr. Kopplin responded that there are external pressures that mandate a strict timeline.

Ms. Kim Boyle questioned whether staff could help prioritize the infrastructure projects and if there would be additional monies to utilize. Mr. Kopplin responded that the hope is that The Road Home budget will be sufficient but it would take several months to receive that information. Dr. Francis noted that to prioritize and make a final decision more information would be needed. Mr. Landry requested that the LRA staff break the infrastructure categories down further.

Mr. Tom Henning expressed his belief that while the Infrastructure Task Force members are good, the board members need to receive the same information so that they are able to make unbiased decisions. Dr. Francis requested that if the information is available it be distributed to the board members as well. Mr. Landry noted that the recommendations came from the DOTD.

Sen. Diane Bajoie expressed her concern because New Orleans was not included in the infrastructure list. Mr. Kopplin assured her that while their project sheets are not finalized, they are included in the list of projects to be funded.

Mr. Walter Isaacson opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. Judy Mulla, Mr. Andre Villere, Mr. Jeff Entwisle, and Mr. Dan Loar, representing the Archdiocese of New Orleans, spoke in support of including their schools in the ten percent FEMA match program.

Ms. Linda Johnson adamantly denied that the LRA is discriminating against parochial schools. She noted her discontent at receiving communications and seeing advertisements to the contrary.

Mr. Sean Reilly noted that the LRA is doing as much as it can for everyone affected by the hurricanes. He cautioned against groups having a sense of entitlement.

Ms. Dale Atkins clarified to the Archdiocese representatives that this was indeed the first time that the board members were receiving the information and that they had not taken any vote on the matter.

Ms. Sibal Holt questioned where the dollar figures for repairs were obtained. Ms. Mulla responded that the figures were obtained from the affected schools.

Dr. Francis also clarified that this was the first time that the issue had been brought before the LRA board. He questioned whether private schools could receive aide. Mr. Kopplin responded that CDBG funds have been used for private organizations before and that it appears to be eligible. He noted that written response from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was pending. Mr. Kopplin noted that there was an infrastructure action plan published on June 9. This action plan obtained public comments and subsequent

approval in July. He noted that there was no request from the Archdiocese of New Orleans on the table when the action plan was considered.

Dr. Francis explained that the problem was the board members were receiving communications about actions that had not occurred. He noted that upon a legal decision a recommendation would be forthcoming.

Mr. Boysie Bollinger, Dr. Calvin Mackie, Mr. Leger, and Ms. Atkins discussed and questioned how the damage estimates were derived. They cited similar damage in the area as a basis of concern. Mr. Entwisle and Ms. Mulla responded that the figures were derived from property damage. Mr. Kopplin explained that an action plan would cover the ten percent match for FEMA-funded projects. He continued that no money would be transferred without the proper documentation.

Ms. Fraiche inquired whether it would be possible to see where all of the schools are in the application process.

Ms. Johnson inquired as to the status of the funds in the previous presentation. Mr. Kopplin responded that the figures are unallocated.

Mr. Coulon inquired whether there would be a monitoring process once the monies were allocated. Mr. Kopplin responded that there would be a monitoring process because it is mandated of CDBG programs.

Mr. Dan Packer, representing Entergy-New Orleans, presented a Powerpoint slide show (Attachment E) to the board. The presentation focused on Entergy's problems in the New Orleans area, the damages sustained, and its' bankruptcy status.

Mr. Landry explained that at the October LRA board meeting there would be a decision regarding Entergy.

Ms. Atkins questioned whether money would be returned to the LRA when Entergy began to show a profit. Mr. Packer explained that profits would be returned to customers.

Sen. Bajoie questioned whether LRA money would offset the costs that rate payers are experiencing. Mr. Packer explained that Entergy has no control on the fuel adjustments or market costs for electricity. He further explained how Entergy works to control the volatility of rates. Mr. Packer noted that CDBG funds could only be used to cover hurricane damage and prepare for future storms.

Dr. Mackie inquired how much funding ConEd in New York received. Mr. Kopplin responded that ConEd received a separate appropriation. He noted that Louisiana applied for a similar appropriation but was denied by Congress.

Mr. Isaacson noted that this issue would be difficult to resolve in a month. He recommended designating Sean Reilly to work with Don Powell and Entergy to work out a compromise. Mr. Packer was agreeable to this idea.

Mr. Leger inquired whether the estimates were for physical damage and if so would stakeholders assist in rebuilding. Mr. Packer explained that the damages were due to physical damages to the gas and light systems. He explained that saltwater had damaged many of the pipes. He noted that additional monies would be paid by non-LRA entities. Mr. Packer explained that there may have to be rate increases to cover the cost if funding was not secured.

Dr. Francis noted that a decision would be made before or at the next board meeting. Mr. Packer concluded his remarks by congratulating and thanking Mr. Landry for all the work he has done with the Infrastructure Task Force.

Mr. Robert Billiot reiterated the infrastructure problems that Jefferson Parish is experiencing.

B. Health Care Committee

Dr. Francis recognized Ms. Kim Boyle for a report from the Health Care Committee. Ms. Boyle explained that the work of the Health Care Redesign Collaborative must include Southwest Louisiana. She noted the importance of unified efforts in the planning process. Ms. Boyle also informed the board that there would be a joint meeting during which there would be a presentation on the LSU/VA Collaborative.

C. Education Task Force

Dr. Francis recognized Ms. Linda Johnson for a report from the Education Task Force. Ms. Johnson reported that a housing deal had been worked out to house teachers in New Orleans. She also commented on the status of the development of a charter school at Jackson Barracks. Ms. Johnson informed the board that the Education Task Force would be dissolved and a sub-committee would be formed consisting exclusively of LRA board members.

D. Long Term Community Planning Task Force

Dr. Francis recognized Ms. Fraiche for a report from the Long Term Community Planning Task Force. Ms. Fraiche informed the board that the final charette reports were in their binders. She noted that the reports were well received. Ms. Fraiche also informed the board that Mr. Peter Calthorpe would be attending the October LRA board meeting in person and would give an update at that time.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Norman Francis asked Mr. Andy Kopplin to respond to a question from Sen. Diane Bajoie. She inquired how the penalty process of the Road Home Program would apply to senior citizens who chose not to remain owner-occupants. Mr. Kopplin responded that it is a sixty percent penalty if you leave the state. He explained that Sen. Bajoie asked that Mr. Leger and the Housing Task Force work to explore the possibility of an exception for those seniors that have remained Louisiana residents but have moved to nursing homes/assisted living communities.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Norman Francis opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. Tracy Kuhns of La. Bayoukeeper spoke to the board about the problems faced by the commercial fishermen in the hurricane affected areas. She also explained the need for commercial fishing vessels and spoke about the economic impact of the fisheries infrastructure.

Dr. David Curole spoke to the board about the need for distributed health care and more clinical training for doctors within Louisiana. He suggested health care unity to educate more doctors.

Dr. Francis thanked both Ms. Kuhns and Dr. Curole for their comments.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Kopplin, Executive Director

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Date approved: _____