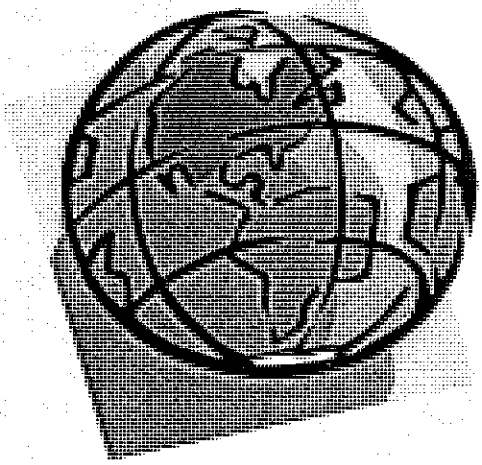
2000

ANNUAL CEDS REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

The South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) prepared an Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP) in 1997 and subsequently prepared an annual update to it in 1998. That OEDP was prepared in accordance with guidance of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). It provided an overall picture of the six parish regional economy and strategies for attaining goals spelled out in the plan. In 1998 Congress enacted the EDA Reform Act changing the landmark OEDP process to the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS process has much in common with its predecessor, it will be completely updated every five years and annual updates are prepared in the interim documenting progress on economic development activities undertaken in the region and reporting changing economic development conditions. While the Reform Act requires the approved CEDS in order to obtain further funding assistance through the EDA, the value of the process for economic development practitioners and planners should not be overlooked.

The Reform Act set as its objectives the creation of jobs, the fostering of more stable and diversified economies, and improved living conditions. The CEDS will thus be a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of those concerned with economic development. The CEDS will comprise four main elements, *analysis, vision, action plan, and evaluation.* The *strategy* analyzes the regional economy and looks at external trends and forces. It identifies partners and resources for economic development. The *vision* is a statement of the region's goals; "Where do we want to be?" An *action plan* is developed as a way to attain the goals. Finally, an ongoing *evaluation* of the CEDS is made to determine what improvements or changes should be made in the strategy.

The SCPDC 1997 Overall Economic Development Plan covered much of the content required by the new CEDS format. New to the CEDS program will be standards for evaluation. This 1999 Annual Report will be presented in a fashion to act as a transition between the OEDP and the CEDS. Thus it will contain features common to both and will provide an evaluation process for this and forthcoming years. The report is divided into the following sections.

1. *Adjustments to the CEDS.* Adjustments are made to the implementation strategy outlined in 1997 to account for unforeseen opportunities or unexpected problems. Changes in the structure or composition of local and regional economic development committees are reported.

2. *Report on the previous year's economic development activities and any significant changes in the region's economic conditions.* Activities undertaken in the previous year are documented in relation to the needs and objectives identified in the 1997 strategy and the objectives of the 1998 Reform Act.

3. *Annual Evaluation.* A proposed guide for evaluation of the effectiveness of the CEDS in meeting goals and objectives is provided.

4. *Next Year's Goals.* A program of achievable activities for the upcoming year is provided. A brief discussion is provided for each in order to show how it is related to the goals and objectives of the 1997 OEDP and the 1998 Act.

The State of Louisiana has also set new goals for economic development. Louisiana 2020 Goals has three goals that mirror those of the 1998 Reform Act.

> *Goal One: To be a Learning Enterprise in which all business, institutions, and citizens are actively engaged in the pursuit of knowledge, and where that knowledge is deployed to improve the competitiveness of businesses, the efficiency of governmental institutions, and the quality of life of citizens.*
>
> *Goal Two: To have an economy driven by a diverse and thriving set of technology-intensive industries that actively utilize Louisiana's colleges and universities as a source of well-educated graduates as employees, a source of expertise for problem-solving, and a source of technology for commercialization.*
>
> *Goal Three: To have a standard of living among the top ten states in America and safe, healthy communities where rich natural and cultural assets continue to make the State a unique place, to live, work, visit, and do business.*

In developing and refining goals and objectives, the SCPDC remains cognizant of the general purposes established by the EDA and the State's 2020 Goals.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 1997 OEDP

The goals of the 1997 OEDP were changed in order to better present an overall strategy for achieving a sustainable economy. It was felt that 22 goals is cumbersome and that in order to better evaluate progress in achieving these goals, they could be better stated in five very broad goals that the entire district is attempting to achieve. The adopted goals for the South Central Region are those of the State of Louisiana and two others particular to this region as follows:

Goal One: *To be a Learning Enterprise in which all business, institutions, and citizens are actively engaged in the pursuit of knowledge, and where that knowledge is deployed to improve the competitiveness of businesses, the efficiency of governmental institutions, and the quality of life of citizens.*

Goal Two: *To have an economy driven by a diverse and thriving set of technology-intensive industries that actively utilize Louisiana's colleges and universities as a source of well-educated graduates as employees, a source of expertise for problem-solving, and a source of technology for commercialization.*

Goal Three: *To have a standard of living among the top ten states in America and safe, healthy communities where rich natural and cultural assets continue to make the State a unique place, to live, work, visit, and do business.*

Goal Four: *Improve the public infrastructure of the region in order to support and sustain a viable economy and environment.*

Goal Five: *Create and retain quality jobs and foster a more diversified economy.*

The SCPDC Board of Directors acts as the Regional CEDS Committee. The staff of SCPDC remains in touch with local economic development committees and staff throughout the year through periodic attendance at local meetings and through a working committee of the region's economic development specialists. In this way SCPDC can provide support for local efforts and help move forward regional goals. Current membership lists for each of these committees is included in Appendix A.

1999-2000 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The goals set forth in this report illustrate the commitment of the South Central Region to achieve both a sustainable economy and environment. As mentioned in last year's report, a major theme repeated throughout the region in achieving these goals is the condition of transportation infrastructure. The lack of adequate surface transportation has been identified as a major hindrance to economic diversity. Several important regional efforts that began or continued during the past year will to improve regional transportation.

First is the designation of SCPDC as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Terrebonne, Thibodaux and part of Lafourche Parish. This will greatly improve regional efforts to improve transportation by creating a regional forum for the prioritization of transportation projects and funding of improvements through federal and state means. Through the auspices of the MPO designation, SCPDC will be developing a Transportation Improvement Program and a Unified Work Program for Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes and the city of Thibodaux. These two documents will help to prioritize planning and implementation efforts for highway and transit projects in the two parishes.

The second event is the funding of a Federal Highway Administration Transportation, Community and Sustainability Program grant for the River Parish Transit Authority. This project will develop a coordinated transit plan for the Parishes of St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist. This project may well become a springboard for other collaborative efforts to improve transportation in the River Parish area. The Authority has been appointed and has had several preliminary organizational meetings. Work under the grant is expected to begin in July 2000.

Major infrastructure improvements are now underway that will improve access to and from the region. U. S. Highway 90 which traverses St. Charles, Lafourche, Terrebonne and Assumption is proposed for redesignation as Interstate 49. The State is constructing improvements to U. S. Highway 90 between Raceland and Des Allemands in order to improve traffic safety. The improvements include widening of the median and turning area and elevation of the roadway. Elevation of the roadway will improve the highway's ability to be maintained as an evacuation route during times of high water. Beyond the boundaries of the South Central District, the State is constructing other improvements to Hwy. 90, such as overpasses, that will bring the road up to interstate highway standards.

Completion of a north to south access road for the Veterans Memorial Mississippi River Bridge between Gramercy and Wallace will provide a major route linking the growing west and east bank communities of St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes. The project will result in the creation of a new corridor that will eventually connect that Bridge to Highway 90 (the future I-49) in the Houma/Thibodaux area. The Environmental Impact Statement is now underway and alternatives for the proposed route are now under consideration.

Project planning for improvements to Louisiana Highway 1 has made progress. The feasibility study for highway improvements from Larose to U.S. 90 should be completed during the summer of 2000. An Environmental Impact Statement is underway for a critical stretch of highway between Port Fourchon and Golden Meadow. This portion of the highway is a vital commercial, recreational and hurricane

evacuation link and is extremely vulnerable to destruction as a result of erosion and land loss. Replacement of the Leeville Bridge with an overpass has been identified as a high priority for improvements to Highway 1.

In other transportation matters, the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission continues to make needed improvements to its runways and taxiways and to build additional aircraft parking and access roads. These improvements are necessary for the airport to maintain current cargo handlers and to be able to attract any additional tenants. The Commission received a grant from the EDA to install sewerage and a short roadway that will serve the East Ramp area of the airport. St. John the Baptist Parish completed a new 1,300 feet long taxiway during the past year. Future plans include the construction of additional hangars.

The region's three ports made progress in their ongoing infrastructure improvements. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission is working on plans for a major expansion at Port Fourchon encompassing 1700 acres. Phase I of the expansion is under construction and will provide approximately 5800 linear feet of additional bulkheaded waterfront and 150 acres of lease space at an estimated cost of $13.8 million. The Port's location directly on the Gulf of Mexico and its central location to offshore oil and gas exploration activity has made it a prime location for onshore facilities and services related to petroleum exploration.

The Port of South Louisiana has begun a $30 million improvement program with the installation of two cargo cranes at the general cargo dock. The addition will allow the Port to serve larger draft vessels and barges. Other phases of the program underway include the installation of mooring dolphins, access ramp and truck turning improvements and provision of an open lay-down storage area. In the coming year the Port plans to build transit sheds.

The Terrebonne Port Commission began the next phase of its improvement plan, actual dredging of a mile long slip off of the Houma Navigation Canal to be completed in approximately one year. Upon completion this will be a full service, shallow draft port facility serving the Houma Navigational Canal and Gulf Intracoastal Canal.

Another major event separate from transportation issues occurred during early 2000, the announcement that Nicholls State University will be the training camp location for the New Orleans Saints NFL football team. Improvements to the University campus and football facilities are underway so as to begin service in the summer of 2000. Terrebonne Parish is providing its new Civic Center as an alternate indoor facility in the event of bad weather. The location of the training camp in Thibodaux is expected to become an important factor in the local economy, generating $2 million or more annually.

The Region's parishes and municipalities continued their individual efforts to sustain and attract new small businesses through a variety of programs. St. James opened its business incubator in an old hospital facility with the start-up of three small businesses. Terrebonne continued to operate its Revolving Loan Fund, as did SCPDC. The SCPDC approved one new loan during the past year and has one pending approval at this time.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Following are 1999-2000 accomplishments in attaining the revised CEDS goals as presented in this annual update.

Become a Learning Enterprise

Assisted in community public relations actives.
Assisted U.S. Census Bureau with complete count outreach program.
Completed additional classroom building for the Lutcher Headstart Program.
Continue St. James High School Career Fair.
Continued Census 2000 coordination efforts including review of preliminary map and address information.
Continued cooperative partnerships with other economic development agencies.
Continued economic development planning and technical assistance.
Continued Leadership Training Program in Lafourche Parish.
Continued planning efforts for construction of the Assumption Parish Vocational School
Coordinated with Bayou Vision and Metrovision planning efforts.
Dissemination of St. James Parish Annual Report to all Parish households
Implementation of the St. James Parish Strategic Plan.
Implemented OSHA assisted job safety training program for the Region's shipyards.
Maintenance of community and parish profiles by Utility Companies
Maintenance of parish Economic Development Offices.
Participation in economic development training.
Provided Regional workshop on Economic Incentives.
Provided support to local school boards in environmental and governmental curriculums.
Supported efforts of local school boards to expand upgrade and construct new educational facilities.
Updated regional and local economic development strategic plans.
Updated student enrollment projections for St. Charles Parish School Board in order to prepare future facility needs.

Diverse and Technology-Interactive Economy Utilizing Louisiana Colleges and Universities

Assisted efforts to encourage expansion of shipbuilding through expansion of a Foreign Trade Subzone.
Assumption Parish continued its plans for construction of an Agricultural Center that will house Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service operations
Continued funding of the River Parish Economic Development Program through the South Louisiana Port Commission
Continued work on developing a regional geographic information system.
Development of new websites and upgrade of existing sites for towns and Parishes.
Monitored changes in industry and affect on area economy.

Create a High Standard of Living

Administration of HUD entitlement program in Terrebonne and Thibodaux
Built new Houma Tourist Commission building on future I-49 corridor
Completed construction of Terrebonne Waterlife Museum.
Completed Wildlife Nature/Walking Trail and started construction of a new Tourist Information Center
Continuation of Beautification and Anti-Litter Campaigns throughout the District
Continuation of implementation of the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program Plan.
Continuation of the historic structure survey.
Continued coastal protection planning in St. Charles, Lafourche and Terrebonne.
Continued efforts to revitalize the Thibodaux CBD.
Continued maintenance of the FEMA Community Rating System Programs.
Continued promotion of culture and heritage throughout the region.
Implementation of Barrier Island restoration projects.
in St. James Parish.
Investigated ways to promote Nature Based Tourism.
Maintenance of Tourist Information Center in Raceland.
Ongoing construction of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Program.
Provided Non-point Source Pollution presentations to students and civic groups.

Improve Infrastructure

Assisted in preparation of State Capital Outlay Requests.
Assisted in the development and implementation of the State's long-range highway plan.
Completed Port Fourchon E-Slip Development; 7,000 feet long slip and construction of landside improvements on 650 acres for deeper draft vessel access at Port Fourchon.
Completed Feasibility Analysis for a Regional Criminalistics Laboratory.
Completed improvements to Municipal Water Systems in Gramercy, and Des Allemandes.
Completed road overlay and improvement programs in the different Parishes.
Completed water system improvements in Gramercy and Des Allemands.
Completion of Dickson Road.
Completion of Tigerville Sewerage System.
Conducting an EIS for an elevated four lane highway from Golden Meadow to Port Fourchon
Constructed road improvements in Assumption, Lafourche, St. James and St. John the Baptist Parish.
Construction of Palm Ave Extension.
Continued drainage improvement efforts throughout the Region.
Continued efforts to create a regional solid waste authority.
Continued Parishwide sewerage efforts in St. Charles and Terrebonne.
Continued planning for creation of a St. Charles Parish Civic Center.
Continued plans to expand and improve airport facilities in Houma and St. John the Baptist Parish.
Continued slip construction for Terrebonne Port Commission
Continued work on the Vacherie Canal Backwater Prevention Project.
Created new Recreation District in Assumption Parish to serve Pierre Part.
Established a Public Marina in Terrebonne Parish.

Improvements to La. Hwy. 1.
Napoleonville sought Rural Utilities Service assistance for purchase of a new police vehicle.
Prepared applications for and administered Louisiana Community Development block Grants.
Prepared Rural Development Applications.
Started Sidewalk Improvement program in St. James Parish

Create High Quality Jobs

Continued administration of SCPDC and Terrebonne Parish Revolving Loan Funds.
Continued efforts to create business development incubator in Terrebonne Parish.
Participation in an "Industry Appreciation Gala" by St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and the Port of South Louisiana.
St. James Parish opened its business incubator with three clients.
St. James Parish participation in the State Department of Economic Development Matchmaker Program.

Changes in the Region's Economic Conditions

The total estimated population for the South Central Region for July 1999 was 326,523, an increase of 5.7% over the 1990 population of 308,907. St. Charles Parish experienced the largest growth rate in the region and the 7th largest rate for the State between these two years at 12.18%. Overall employment has remained high although not quite as high as the same time last year. The Department of Labor unemployment rates for February 2000 and 1999 follow:

PARISH	Feb 2000	Feb 1999
ASSUMPTION	5.3	8.8
LAFOURCHE	4.1	4.4
ST. CHARLES	4.2	5.5
ST. JAMES	9.2	12.2
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	5.8	7.4
TERREBONNE	4.3	5.5

While most of the area faired well, St. James retained a comparatively high unemployment level. This may be tied to the seasonal nature of the primary agricultural crop, sugarcane, a mainstay in the economy of that parish. Another reason may be a plant closure. Agrico, a major employer in St. James Parish laid off 250 workers in 1999. New ownership at the facility may rehire a very small amount of workers. On the plus side CF Metals of Louisiana hired an additional 65 new employees.

In the Department of Labor's "Statewide Occupational Forecasting Focus Meetings Executive Summary" it was noted for the Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne area that medical services in general are strong and although shipyards are laying-off marginal jobs skilled workers are being hired. A need for high school apprenticeship programs for welder and fitters was foreseen.

In recent years, the South Central Region experienced substantial economic growth as the price of oil climbed and oil and gas exploration and production activity increased. However, changes during the past two years in the price per barrel of oil caused a slump in activity that eventually led to layoffs throughout Louisiana. However, the current oil downturn seems to be less drastic than that of the 1980's as evidenced by the still low unemployment rates.

Growth in industry and warehousing continues in the River Parish area. A 250,000 square foot warehouse is under construction in St. Charles and another 78,000 square foot warehouse was recently completed. Another developer is pursuing a potential warehousing and distribution center on the St. Charles West Bank near Killona.

Another growth sector of the economy is the shipbuilding and repair industry. Shipbuilding interests have diversified their clientele and thus are picking up many of the skilled workers laid off by more petroleum dependent concerns.

The Louisiana Department of Labor forecast of top demand occupations in the South Central District for the years 1996 to 2006 showed the four occupations with the highest annual percent of growth to be

systems analysts, home health aides, medical assistants and shipfitters. This is good news for the South Central Region as these sectors of the economy generally offer higher wages. The South Central Region has enjoyed excellent employment but still has lower that State and National per capita income levels.

Evaluation of Effectiveness in Meeting Goals

During the past year, EDA conducted a performance evaluation of SCPDC. Three recommendations were made as a result of that evaluation as follows:

- A clearer description of the areas of interest represented by individual Commission members is needed.
- District members and the general public should be better educated about the District's activities.
- There should be one designated EDA contact person who would devote at least 50% of his or her time to accomplishing the work program and being knowledgeable about EDA and other economic development programs.
- Reports filed under the District planning grant should describe specific activities and accomplishments in relation to the CEDS in order to clarify the District's strategic outlook. The current practice has been to report activities by community.

It was felt that these changes would improve the CEDS documents and create a more effective CEDS planning process while resulting in better developed EDA projects and better quality EDA applications.

The District has taken steps to follow-up on these recommendations by appointing its Chief Executive Officer as the EDA contact. The District staff is becoming more aware of informing both members and the general public of its activities through memorandum and media announcements. Future planning grant reports will be prepared in the recommended matter.

A review of the past year's activities and accomplishments was undertaken in partnership with the local economic development committees and regional CEDS task force. Comments and direction for improvements have been included in this report.

The region's emphasis continues to be diversification and stabilization of the economy, improvement of training and educational opportunities, creation of quality jobs and improvement of regional transportation.

WORK PLAN FOR 2000-2001

After review of the 1997 OEDP with the various local committees, task force and OEDP Committee, the following work plan was established for 2000-2001. These were determined based upon the identified CEDS goals, ongoing need in the various communities, and the current status of the local economies in relation to the EDA Reform Act of 1998.

Completion of new or upgrade of aging infrastructure, in particular those pertaining to transportation, remain a top priority for the South Central Region. Movement of goods and people within the region is a top concern. Improved transportation will help to move people to and from job centers and essential services and provide a much needed improved network for shipment of goods.

The creation of quality jobs remains an issue. Much of the South Central Region has maintained a high level of employment. However, per capita incomes remain well below the State and National averages. The Region hopes to attract the kind of industries and commercial activities that offer stable, higher paying wages. In order to accomplish this goal, emphasis is placed on improving the skills of the labor market, maintaining the quality of life and upgrading public services.

2000-2001 WORKPLAN

Become a Learning Enterprise

Assist Community Public Relations Activities and Maintenance of Community and Parish Profiles by Utility Companies.
Conduct economic development seminars.
Conduct trade shows in St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes.
Construct a Distance Learning Center at SCPDC Facilities.
Continue cooperative partnerships with other economic development agencies, Bayou Vision and Metrovision Strategic Plans.
Continue Leadership Training Programs in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.
Continue St. John the Baptist Parish School to Career Programs.
Create and disseminate parish information packages.
Develop education and training programs to improve the skills of the local labor force.
Develop or update Strategic Plans for St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist Parish.
Develop working onsite model of Nonpoint Source Pollution Best Management Practices to be used by schools and other interested parties.
Improvements to local and regional websites with links to demographic, economic and geographic information systems.
Inventory products and services available in the River Parishes
Investigate feasibility of creating Lafourche and Assumption Parishes economic development offices.
Monitor and assist in preparations for Census 2000.
Participate in student programs concerning government.
Present Non-point Source Pollution information to kindergarten and primary students.

Provision of funding by the Port of South Louisiana for River Parish economic development programs.
Support efforts of local school boards to expand, upgrade and construct new educational facilities.

Diverse and Technology-Interactive Economy Utilizing Louisiana Colleges and Universities

Continue work on development of a regional geographic information system.
Begin work on the Nicholls State University EPSCOT grant.
Investigate Feasibility of Job Training Programs

Create a High Standard of Living

Administration of HUD entitlement program in Terrebonne and Thibodaux.
Attract commercial enterprises to Napoleonville.
Complete construction of St. James Tourist Information Center
Complete the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Program.
Construct a bike pat and walking rail in Thibodaux.
Continue coastal protection planning in St. Charles, Lafourche and Terrebonne.
Develop a Children's Museum in the Thibodaux area.
Develop a St. Charles Parish Historical Museum.
Develop Home Place Plantation in St. Charles Parish as a State Park tourist attraction.
Develop Whitney Plantation as a tourist attraction and center for African American studies.
Document and portray OCS impact on Lafourche Parish.
Expand tourism efforts throughout the South Central Region.
Implement the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program Plan.
Implement Barrier Island restoration projects.
Implement the Coast 2050 Ecosystem Strategy.
Inventory and assess brownfield sites.
Investigate the feasibility of website autoresponse for St. Charles Parish.
Investigate feasibility of creating a Reserve Historic District.
Maintain the FEMA Community Rating System Programs.
Marketing of Houma Downtown Development District
Monitor and support efforts of the new River Parish Tourism Commission.
Promote the culture and heritage of the entire region.
Revitalize the Thibodaux CBD.
Support initiatives to improve public facilities and access to Port Fourchon beaches.
Support state efforts to obtain a portion of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues to be utilized consistent with said goal.
Update of historic structure inventory.
Update parish and municipal Codes.
Update the St. Charles Parish land-use plan.
Update Terrebonne Parish Comprehensive Plan and investigate feasibility of parishwide zoning.
Update the Lutcher Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances

Improve Infrastructure

Provide for improvements to the region's ports and waterways.

- Construct Northern Expansion project for Port Fourchon.
- Develop a public dock on the West Bank of St. Charles Parish.
- Continue efforts to ensure the planned Houma Navigation Canal lock system is 200 feet wide and 20 feet deep.
- Continue survey and study for construction of an east-west channel connecting the Houma Navigation Canal to Port Fourchon.
- Continue to pursue general cargo opportunities to better serve the maritime industry.
- Convert Golden Meadow and Larose Floodgates into locks in order to facilitate waterborne commerce during high water stages.
- Dredging of 5,200 feet long section per construction of landside improvements on 400 acres for shallow draft Terrebonne Port facility.
- Explore feasibility of establishing rail service to Port Fourchon.
- Increase warehouse and distribution capacity at the Port of South Louisiana.
- Rail spur rehabilitation and extension with warehouses for Globalplex Intermodal Terminal.

Continue efforts to improve roadways within the District including the following:

- Complete E.I.S. and Feasibility Studies for North South Corridor connecting Port Fourchon to I-10.
- Complete Palm Avenue Extension.
- Complete road overlay and improvement programs in all parishes and municipalities.
- Conduct a Traffic Study for St. John Parish.
- Construct La. Hwy. 20 Expansion and 40 Arpent Road Project in Thibodaux.
- Construct Thibodaux East/West Corridor Project.
- Continue efforts to gain support and funding for I-49.
- Continue efforts to gain support and funding for improvements to La. Hwy. 1.
- Continue preliminary design of La. 1 and La. 308 Couplet system in Thibodaux
- Continue to develop and implement Safe Community Action Plan for the South Central Region to address ways to reduce traffic crashes.
- Develop a transportation loop around Thibodaux.
- Expand La. Hwy. 20 to a four-lane roadway in Thibodaux
- Investigate feasibility of designating La. Highways 1 and 308 as alternate hurricane evacuation routes in Assumption Parish.
- Monitor plans for creation of North to South Access Road between La. Hwy. 3127 and U.S. Hwy. 90.
- Reconstruct St. Patrick Highway.

Construct improvements to the region's airports.

- Construct sewerage, taxiway, ramp and runway improvements at the Houma Terrebonne Airport.
- Continue plans to expand and improve airport facilities in St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Improve and upgrade Thibodaux Municipal Airport.
- Develop a regional airport to better serve the South Central Region.

Provide drainage and flood protection

- Continue construction of levee from Coteau Canal Boat Launch to Forrestal Street in St. James Parish.
- Continue construction of Vacherie Canal Backwater Prevention Project.
- Continue drainage improvements throughout the Region
- Investigate feasibility of funding for St. James Parish drainage canal improvements.
- Provide citywide drainage improvements in Thibodaux, including Rienzi Canal improvements.
- Support efforts to create a Comprehensive Hurricane Protection Plan for Coastal Louisiana.
- Assist St. Charles Parish in developing a drainage canal bank stabilization plan.

Provide improvements to public utilities including the following:

- Construct Tigerville community sewerage in Assumption Parish.
- Continue Parishwide sewerage efforts in St. Charles and Terrebonne Parishes.
- Continue to explore alternatives for improvements to Reserve Sewerage Treatment Facilities in St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Gas, sewerage and water system improvements in Thibodaux.
- Prepare design and engineering work for update of St. James Parishwide Sewerage System facilities plan.
- Sewerage improvements for Lockport.
- Sewerage upgrade for Napoleonville.
- Water system improvements in Lewistown, Lafourche Parish.

Complete sidewalk improvements throughout St. James Parish.

Construct West Bank Library Branch and relocate and construct larger LaPlace Library in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Continue efforts to create a Regional Criminalistics Laboratory.

Continue Regional Solid Waste Authority efforts to address solid waste disposal and transportation issues.

Continue working with the U. S. Corps of Engineers to improve the Attakapas Landing Boat Launch.

Develop a facility plan for Lafourche Parish Library.

Develop coordinated inter-parish transit service with the River Parish Transit Authority.

Develop design and engineering for a new Vacherie Branch Library and improvements to the Lutcher Library in St. James Parish.

Develop plan and design for St. Charles Civic Center/Fairgrounds.

Establish a neighborhood park in Baytree area and improve existing parks in St. James Parish.

Upgrade Fire Protection Facilities throughout the Region.

Create High Quality Jobs

Administration and expansion of SCPDC and Terrebonne Parish Revolving Loan Funds.

Continue Enterprise Zone Assistance

Continue regional economic diversification and new business recruitment efforts.

Create a technology based business incubator center in Thibodaux.

Create a business incubator in Terrebonne Parish.
Develop warehousing, light industrial and high technology clusters in St. Charles Parish.
Investigate feasibility of a warehouse distribution center in St. John the Baptist Parish.
Operation of St. James Parish Incubator program.

CONCLUSION

As illustrated herein, the South Central Planning and Development Commission has taken steps to achieve the goals outlined in its 1997 OEDP. It has updated the goals originally identified in the 1997 plan and developed a work plan for the coming year that will help to achieve the goals.

APPENDIX A

COMMITTEE ROSTERS

Regional CEDS Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Martin Triche P.O. Box 520 Napoleonville, LA 70390 (504)369-6168	Government	W/M
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Ann Tatje 134 Natalie Drive LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)652-5556	Business/Women	W/F
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Darrell Jupiter P.O. Box 6 Napoleonville, LA 70390 (504)369-6365	Government Minorities	B/M
Joey Bouziga P.O. Box 307 Golden Meadow, LA 70357 (504)475-5163	Government	W/M
Ronald St. Pierre P.O. Drawer 340 Gramercy, LA 70052 (504)869-4403	Government	W/M
Troas A. Poché P.O. Box 456 Lutcher, LA 70071 (504)869-5823	Municipal Government Utilities	W/M
J.B. Townsend, Jr. Secretary-Treasurer 710 Church Street Lockport, LA 70374 (504)532-3117	Government	W/M
Robert Bergeron P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361 (504)873-6401	Government	W/M
Wayne Thibodaux P.O. Box 990 Gray, LA 70359-0990 (504)872-3237		B/M

Buzz Breaux P.O. Drawer 5548 Thibodaux, LA 70302 (504)446-8427	Government	W/M
Jerry Jones 1132 Louisa Street Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)448-2627	Unemployed Utilities	B/M
Chris Bollinger P.O. Box 250 Lockport, LA 70374	Industry Business	W/M
Albert D. Laque P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-5000	Government	W/M
Darnell "Dee" Abadie 237 Ormond Village Drive Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-1794	Government	W/F
Debbie Dufresne Vial P.O. Box 25 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-8273		W/F
Edmond J. Blanchard, III Vice-Chairman 102 Mason Dr. Bourg, LA 70343	Industry	W/M

Regional CEDS Working Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Jennifer Cedotal Assumption Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 718 Napoleonville, LA 70390	Business	W/F
Kim Torres Secretary/Treasurer Assumption Parish Police Jury P.O. Box 518 Napoleonville, LA 70390	Government	W/F
Ted Falgout Greater Lafourche Port Comm. P.O. Drawer 490 Galliano, LA 70354	Transportation	W/M
Corey Faucheaux St. Charles Parish Dept. of Economic Development P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057	Business & Industry Development	W/M
Bob Lambert St. Charles Parish Dept. of Planning & Zoning P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057	Community Development	W/M
Edie Michel St. James Parish Office of Economic Development P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70723	Business & Industry Development	W/F
Rachel Louque St. James Parish Office of Human Resources P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70723	Low Income/Minorities	W/F

Julia Remondet Economic Development Director St. John the Baptist Parish Dept. of Economic Development 1801 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068	Real Estate	W/F
Steve Windham Port of South Louisiana P.O. Box 909 LaPlace, LA 70069-0909	Ports and Waterways	W/M
Patrick Gordon Terrebonne Parish Dept. of Planning & Economic Development P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361	Floodplain Management	W/M
Karen Stevens Terrebonne Parish Dept. of Planning & Economic Development P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361	Business Development	W/F
Bonnie Lafont Grants Director City of Thibodaux P. O. Box 5418 Thibodaux, Louisiana 70302	Government	W/F

St. Charles Parish Economic Development Council
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Neal Ayme, Jr. First American Bank P.O. Box 521 Boutte, LA 70039 (504)785-8901	Financial Institutions	W/M
Richard Bordner P. O. Box 502 Boutte, La. 70039 (504) 58-2059	Emergency Services	
Ricky Bosco Bosco Brothers, Inc. 711 Apple St. Norco, LA 70079 (504)764-1253	Small Business/East Bank	W/M
Ron Cooley Monsanto Company P.O. Box 174 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-8211	Major Industry/West Bank	W/M
Jerry Desselle St. Charles Parish Hospital P.O. Box 87 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-6242	Health Care	W/M
Stan Dufrene Union Carbide Corporation P.O. Box 50 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-4472	Major Industry/West Bank	W/M
James Foster Orion Refining Corporation P. O. Box 537 Norco, Louisiana 70079 (504)764-8611	Major Industry/East Bank	

Lily Galland Shell Oil Company P.O. Box 10 Norco, LA 70079 (504)465-6811	Major Industry/East Bank	W/F
Emile Garlepied Garlepied Transfer P.O. Box 427 Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-9900	St. Charles Business Association	W/M
Betty Haydel River Road Historical Society 1 Rosedown Drive Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-6361	Tourist Attraction	W/F
C.J. Jones Bunge Corporation P.O. Box 156 Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-6516	Grain Industry	M/F
Debbie Kinler Timeless Images 131 Lakewood Drive Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-8473	Small Business/West Bank	W/F
Quinn Landry Legg Mason 1100 Poydras Suite 1900 New Orleans, LA 70163 (800)526-5578 or (504)582-2766	Financial Institutions	W/M
Greg Lier Rathborne Land Company P.O. Box 157 Harvey, LA 70059 (504)368-6355	Real Estate and Land Development/ West Bank	W/M
Alan Ray La. Gas Service Company P.O. Box 158 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-6276	Utilities/Gas Representative	W/M

Doug Rhodes Entergy P.O. Box 61000 New Orleans, LA 70161-1000	Utilities/Electricity Representative	W/M
Carole Schonberg Latter & Blum, Inc./REALTORS P.O. Box 1299 Boutte, LA 70039 (504)785-8291	Residential Real Estate	W/F
Arthur Smith A.M.E., Inc. P.O. Box 397 Norco, LA 70079	Small Business/East Bank	B/M
Herb Thurber 83 Rosedown Driv Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-7373	Retirement Community	W/M
Debra Dufresne Vial Esperanza Restaurant P.O. Box 980 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-1399	Small Business/West Bank	W/F
Steve Windham Port of South Louisiana P.O. Box 909 LaPlace, LA 70069 (504)536-8300	Port of South Louisiana	W/M
Dennis Murphy La. Technical College River Parishes Campus P.O. Drawer AQ Reserve, LA 70084	Technical College	W/M
Rochelle Touchard St. Charles Parish Schools P.O. Box 46 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-6289	St. Charles Parish Education System	W/F
George Williamson United Way of St. Charles P.O. Box 1027 Hahnville, LA 70057	United Way of St. Charles	W/M

(504)783-6322

Charles Mullin — Past Chairman — W/M
Mullin McLellan, L.L.C.
11 James Boulevard
Suite 120
St. Rose, LA 70087
(504)465-9345

Billie Simoneaux — Past Chariman — W/F
AM-PM Temporary Services
P.O. Box 186
Luling, LA 70070
(504)785-6857

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Albert Laque — W/M
Parish President
St. Charles Parish
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
(504) 783-5000

Corey Faucheux, Director — W/M
St. Charles Parish
Dept. of Economic Development & Tourism
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
(504) 783-5140

Bob Lambert — W/M
St. Charles Parish
Department of Planning & Zoning
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
(504)783-5060

Stephen Fall, Director — W/M
St. Charles Parish
Dept. of Public Works/Wastewater
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-5100

Robert Brou, Director W/M
St. Charles Parish
Department of Waterworks
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
(504)783-5110

Sharon Simpkins, Director W/F
JTPA Program SDA #32
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
(504) 783-5030

Kevin Belanger W/M
South Central Planning & Development Commission
P.O. Box 846
Thibodaux, LA 70302

St. James Parish Economic Development
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Mr. Mac Bordelon P.O. Box 512 Lutcher, LA 70071 (504) 869-3841 (504) 869-8156 (Work)	Real Estate/ Small Business Owner	W/M
Mr. Bennord Lee P.O. Box 144 Lutcher, LA 70071-0144 (504) 869-8430 (504) 562-3501 (Work)	Industry NAACP	B/M
Ms. Charlene Williams 2244 Church Street Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-8550	Teacher	B/F
Mr. Louis Celestine 7105 Tip Top Street St. James, LA 70086 (504) 265-2755	Industry	B/M
Mr. Zeb Mayhew 3645 LA 18 Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-2151 (Work)	Tourism	W/M
Mrs. Dolores Florent 1225 Luther King St. Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-7903	Retired	B/F
Mr. Herbert Jackson P.O. Box 381 Lutcher, LA 70071-0381 (504) 869-3295	Education	B/M
Mr. Ronald St. Pierre, Sr. P.O. Box 235 Gramercy, LA 70052-0235 (504) 869-3178	Tourism Plant Worker	W/M

Mr. Paul Aucoin 134 Goodwill Plantation Road Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-4451 (504) 265-7906 (Work)	Lawyer	W/M
Mrs. Brenda Melancon 3381 South Angelle Paulina, LA 70763 (504) 869-4670 (504) 869-8087	Small Business Owner	W/F
Jason Amato 1168 Marquette Drive Lutcher, La. 70071 869-8347 pager: 352-9133		
Carl Vichnair P. O. Box 108 Lutcher, la. 70071 869-8201 869-6504 (work)		
Brad Steib 13881 Clifford Vacherie, La. 70090 265-2303 265-2265 (work)		
Betty Williams P. O. Box 128 Paulina, La. 70763 869-5454		
Blaise Gravois 13395 Redbud Street Vacherie, La. 70090 265-2437		
Patrick Zeringue P. O. Box 155 St. James, La. 70086 265-3677		

Richard Bourgeois, Jr.
39550 Gravois Street
Paulina, La. 70763
869-3393

Larry Roussel
P. O. Box 29
Hester, La. 70743
869-5998

St. John the Baptist Parish Economic Development
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
John Adams, Entergy 233 Devon Road LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)651-2025	Utilities	W/M
David Beadle 105 Marmillion Loop Reserve, LA 70084 (504)536-3840	Education	W/M
Vernon Bailey P.O. Box 116 LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)461-7357	Education	B/M
Chris Eichhorn 216 W. Lakeview Dr. LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)734-1863	Small Business	W/M
Sean Roussel 225 Somerset LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)651-1499	Medical Services	W/M
Ronald A. Troxler 2143 Pinehurst LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)652-3777	Small Business	W/M
Edgar Jochum 1913 Van Arpel LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)652-2698	Retired	W/M
Lori Burke Colas 590 Hwy. 18 Edgard, LA 70049 (504)497-8436	Government	B/F

Judy Songy 8 Windsor St. LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)651-0021	Real Estate	W/F
Peter Jasper P.O. Box 2908 Reserve, LA 70084	Industry	B/M
Mike Norton 1036 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068	Small Business	W/M

MINUTES

The Regional OEDP (CEDS) Committee is composed of members from each of the six participating parishes and the six participating municipalities. The Committee meets quarterly. Each member community shares in the cost of the annual CEDS process through its membership dues. Dues are based upon the population of each community and all of the twelve communities are current with their dues.

Following are minutes of Committee meetings held between July 1999 and June 2000.

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, September 23, 1999
10:30 a.m.
Bayou Country Club
Thibodaux, Louisiana

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 23, 1999, at the Bayou Country Club, Thibodaux, Louisiana. Mr. Dale J. Hymel, Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order, and requested Ms. Melissa Menuet to call the roll. Those members present or represented by proxy were:

Mr. Alvin Sylvester, Assumption Parish;

Mayor Darrell C. Jupiter, Village of Napoleonville;

Mr. Norman Hebert, representing Mr. Aaron Caillouet, Lafourche Parish Council;

Ms. Bonnie Lafont, representing Mayor Charles Caillouet, City of Thibodaux;

Mayor J. B. Townsend, Town of Lockport;

Mr. Perry Bailey, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Mr. Dale Hymel, St. James Parish;

Mayor Ronald St. Pierre, Town of Gramercy;

Mr. Barry Bonvillain, Terrebonne Parish;

Mr. Wayne Ingram, Terrebonne Parish;

Those members absent:

Mr. Martin Triche, Assumption Parish;

Mr. Ronald Jones, Assumption Parish;

Mr. Jerry Jones, Lafourche Parish;

Mr. Boysie Bollinger, Lafourche Parish;

Mayor Leonard Miller, Town of Golden Meadow;

Mr. Chris Tregre, St. Charles Parish;

Mr. Ellis Alexander, St. Charles Parish;

Mr. Arnold J. Labat, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Mr. Leroy Labat, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Mr. Elton Aubert, St. James Parish Council;

Mr. Herbert Jackson, St. James Parish;

Mayor Troas Poché, Town of Lutcher;

Mr. Philip Fanguy, Terrebonne Parish;

Members of the staff of South Central Planning in attendance were: Mr. Kevin Belanger, Chief Executive Officer; Ms. Melissa Menuet, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Richard Poché, GIS Administrator; Ms. Elizabeth Breaux, Director of Operations and Ms. Pam Roussel, Project Manager.

Guest in attendance were Mr. Andrew Barron, LA Department of Environmental Quality; Ms. Pamela Ehlers, U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA; Ms. Michelle Gautreaux, Bourgeois Bennett, LLC; Ms. Deanna Zeringue, Bourgeois Bennett, LLC.; Representative Reggie Dupre; Representative Bobby Faucheux; and Mr. Pete Zeringue, Town of Gramercy.

Mr. Hymel introduced the corporate sponsors, Mr. Rickie Pitre and Mr. Mike Guidry of SLECA.

Acceptance of Minutes of June 23, 1999 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Bonvillain, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the minutes of September 23, 1999. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve FY 1999-2000 Budget Adjustments

Mr. Belanger stated that since the last meeting the agency was able to obtain several other grants/contracts, which increased the amount of revenues to $167,764.00. He stated that the budget was amended to reflect the increase in revenues. He stated that the agency has allocated for 5% salary increases. He said that as of this date, the agency has an excess of $3,501.00 in this year's budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sylvester to approve the FY 99-2000 budget adjustments. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of FY 1998-99 Audit by Bourgeois Bennett, LLC

Mr. Belanger introduced Ms. Deanna Zeringue and Ms. Michelle Gautreaux of Bourgeois Bennett, LLC. Ms. Zeringue presented the FY 1998-99 audit to the Board and she highlighted

the most important areas. She stated that the independent auditor's report states that the agency has an unqualified or clean opinion, which is the best opinion that is given.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Bonvillain to accept the FY 1998-1999 audit report. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to Personnel Policies and Administrative Manual

Mr. Belanger stated that the agency was awarded a grant from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, which requires that the agency Personnel Policies Manual be amended to include the following language regarding the Hatch Act:

> "Any employee of the SCPDC whose salaries are financed by Federal Government grants or loans may not be candidates for public office in partisan elections or use their positions with the SCPDC to influence public elections. A member of the SCPDC staff shall refrain from coercing other agency employees into making political contributions."

Also it is required that the Administrative Manual be amended to include the following:

> "Whenever in the course of travel for purposes related to their employment, employees and their passengers shall use seat belts."

A motion was made by Mr. Bonvillain, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the amendments to the Personnel Policies and Administrative Manual. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Status Report of SCPDC Building Project

Mr. Belanger stated that there have been discussions with Rep. Dupre, Rep. Hunt Downer, and Senator Mike Robichaux. He said that he has asked Rep. Dupre to come here to enlighten us on the progress that has occurred in regards to the highway department taking over the property that Mr. Donald Rouse owns.

Rep. Dupre stated that about three (3) weeks ago he had a meeting with Speaker Hunt Downer and Dr. Kam Movassaghi in Baton Rouge. He said that one of the topics discussed was about trying to move forward with having a DOTD district in Gray, Louisiana for primarily Terrebonne, Lafourche, and possibly Assumption and St. Mary Parishes. He said that Dr. Movassaghi is fully on board with the idea, but this will take a phase in process to complete. He said that the first phase was to buy the old Delta College building, which was done last year. The second phase will be to do the capital improvements for the other maintenance buildings, fencing, etc. The last phase will be the actual funding and the staffing to upgrade the Houma sub-district into a full DOTD district. Rep. Dupre stated that there are three pieces of property on the 22-acre tract. He stated that he and Speaker Downer would like to eventually put the entire 22 acres under the State umbrella and make it a State complex. He stated that several years ago the Department of Transportation purchased 8 ½ acres of property on the corner of Coteau and Park and has had the property appraised. He said that there have been some negotiations with Donald Rouse regarding a property swap of the Coteau/West Park property and the property in front of the Delta College building in Gray. The difference in price was only $3,000.00 on the two appraisals. He said that if Mr. Rouse is interested he could pay the State $3,000.00 and

get the 8-½ acres of property on the corner of Coteau and West Park. Mr. Dupre stated that on September 8, 1999, Mr. Rouse accepted the offer. He said that the title has not transferred yet, but should very shortly. He said that the empty piece of property would be the location that will be recommended to place the new SCPDC building.

Agency Activity Report

Mr. Belanger briefly discussed the Agency Activity Report, which includes all activity by the agency since the June 23, 1999 meeting.

The New Regionalism Plan of New Orleans

Mr. Belanger stated that Metrovision and downtown New Orleans entrepreneurs have realized that New Orleans is in a crunch for taxes, etc. and are trying to find out how to stop the flight out of New Orleans. He said that they have contracted with a person named David Rusk who is an Urban Planner, past federal representative, and Mayor of Albuquerque NM. Mr. Rusk identified in the plan that the three river parishes that SCPDC currently represents should be made a part of this new regional planning commission that would be mainly made up of the New Orleans area. Mr. Belanger stated that it also identifies growth development standards, which means that the committee could have the ability to be able to place build out restrictions. He said that the committee will also look at the river parishes land use and existing zoning patterns to be able to say where and what type of zoning should occur, and this could take away from the local planning commissions ability to be able to regulate within their own areas. Mr. Belanger stated that one of the problems that the Regional Planning Commission of New Orleans has always found is that they have never done a lot of soft planning (EDA Applications, CDBG Projects, etc.)., but has focused on transportation issues over the last 20 years, which they have done quite well. He said that the organization that is pushing this New Regionalism Plan is saying that these things have not been attended to. He said that South Central Planning has made great leaps and bounds of collaborating with Regional Planning Commission over the last year. Mr. Belanger said that he and Mr. Walter Brooks of RPC would like to put together a joint meeting between SCPDC and RPC to talk about transportation issues, environmental issues, and development issues that overlap one another to see if there are some things that could be worked on jointly.

Mr. Hymel stated that Mr. Belanger has the Board's authority to go to the meetings regarding the New Regionalism so that he may keep them on top of everything regarding this matter.

Census Complete Count Committee

Mr. Wayne Thibodeaux was to make a presentation regarding the complete count committee but was not present for the meeting. Mr. Bonvillain stated the importance of having a total count. He said that the national figure is $150.00 per person in state and federal dollars and if you miscount 1000 people in a 10-year period you would be looking at 1.5 million dollars. Mr. Bonvillain stated that Mr. Thibodeaux represents the Census Bureau for most of the parishes in the South Central Planning region.

Mr. Belanger stated that South Central Planning would act as a facilitator for the Complete Count Committee in Terrebonne Parish. He said that the agency is currently sending out

meeting notices to try to get the clergy, media, education system, and public/private organizations involved in getting the message out of how important the census is.

Mr. Belanger stated that he would get with Mr. Thibodeaux to get all of the information regarding the Complete Count Committee, and get a sample of the resolution that Terrebonne Parish passed to send to all of the parishes and towns.

Mr. Hymel also pointed out the importance of the Census for use with the reapportionment, which will be occurring shortly.

Presentation by Ms. Pam Roussel on Nonpoint Source Pollution

Mr. Kevin Belanger introduced Mr. Andrew Barron of DEQ and Ms. Pam Roussel, Project Manager, South Central Planning and Development Commission. Mr. Barron is the liasion at DEQ who Ms. Roussel frequently works with in preparing the Nonpoint Source Pollution presentations.

Ms. Roussel stated that the agency has made over 142 classroom presentations reaching 3,492 children. She said that in updating the database of schools in the six (6) parish region there is a total of 147 schools.

Ms. Roussel presented the adult presentation on Nonpoint Source Pollution to the Board.

Corporate Sponsor Presentation

Mr. Hymel introduced the corporate sponsor, Mr. Mike Guidry and Mr. Ricky Pitre of SLECA. Mr. Guidry spoke briefly about the organization.

Other Business

Letter of Engagement – Bourgeois Bennett, LLC

Ms. Elizabeth Breaux stated that the agency has used Bourgeois Bennett for many years. She said that the agency has always worked well with Bourgeois Bennett. She said that three years ago we signed a three-year engagement letter for $14,000.00 a year, which Bourgeois Bennett is again presenting.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mayor Townsend to accept the three-year engagement of Bourgeois Bennett, LLC. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Bailey to Adjourn. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously .

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on September 23, 1999.

Dale J. Hymel, Jr., Chairman
South Central Planning and Development Commission

Joe B. Townsend, Secretary-Treasurer
South Central Planning and Development Commission

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, January 27, 2000
10:30 a.m.
Belle Terre Country Club
LaPlace, Louisiana

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2000, at the Belle Terre Country Club, LaPlace, Louisiana. Mr. Dale J. Hymel, Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order, and requested Ms. Melissa Menuet to call the roll. Those members present or represented by proxy were:

Calvin James, Police Juror, Assumption Parish;

Alvin Sylvester, Assumption Parish;

J. B. Townsend, Mayor, Town of Lockport;

Albert Laque, Parish President, St. Charles Parish;

Dee Abadie, Councilwoman, St. Charles Parish;

Debbie Dufresne Vial, St. Charles Parish;

Cleveland Farlough, Councilman, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Ann Tatje, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Dale J. Hymel, Jr., Parish President, St. James Parish;

Ronald St. Pierre, Mayor, Town of Gramercy;

Willis Henry, representing Robert Bergeron, Parish President, Terrebonne Parish;

Wayne Ingram, Terrebonne Parish;

Edmond J. Blanchard, III, Terrebonne Parish;

Those members absent:

Martin Triche, President, Assumption Parish Police Jury;

Darrell C. Jupiter, Sr., Mayor, Village of Napoleonville;

Gerald Breaux, Parish President, Lafourche Parish;

Jerry Jones, Councilman, Lafourche Parish;

Donald "Boysie" Bollinger, Lafourche Parish;

Charles Caillouet, Mayor, City of Thibodaux;

Joey Bouziga, Mayor, Town of Golden Meadow;

Nickie Monica, Parish President, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Elton Aubert, Councilman, St. James Parish Council;

Herbert Jackson, St. James Parish;

Troas Poché, Mayor, Town of Lutcher;

Members of the staff of South Central Planning in attendance were: Mr. Kevin Belanger, Chief Executive Officer; Ms. Melissa Menuet, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Richard Poché, GIS Administrator; Ms. Martha Cazaubon, Project Manager; Ms. Julie Boudreaux, Finance/Accounting Manager and Ms. Pam Roussel, Project Manager.

Guest in attendance were Ms. Greta Nassar of Representative Bobby Faucheux's Office.

Mr. Hymel introduced the corporate sponsor, Mr. Steve Nosacka of Holley, Tucker, Bossier, and Nosacka.

Acceptance of Minutes of September 23, 1999 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Sylvester to accept the minutes of September 23, 1999. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Review Financial Statement Ending December 31, 1999

Mr. Belanger briefly reviewed the financial statement. He stated that as of December 31, 1999 South Central Planning had total assets of $443,302.52, total liabilities of $21,841.60, and a fund equity balance of $421,460.92. He said that as of December 31, 1999, the ending fund balance was $296,786.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Willis Henry, seconded by Mayor Townsend to accept the financial statement ending December 31, 1999. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Election of 2000 Officers

Mr. Hymel opened nominations for Chairman. A motion was made to nominate Dale J. Hymel, Jr. by Mr. Blanchard. Mr. Henry seconded the motion. There being no opposition or other nominations, Dale J. Hymel, Jr. was elected unanimously as Chairman.

Mr. Hymel opened nominations for Secretary-Treasurer. A motion was made to nominate Joe Townsend by Mr. Sylvester. Mr. Ingram seconded the motion. There being no opposition or other nominations, Joe Townsend was elected unanimously as Secretary Treasurer.

Mr. Hymel opened nominations for Vice-Chairman. A motion was made to nominate Edmond J. Blanchard, III by Mr. Willis Henry. Mr. Laque seconded the motion. There being no opposition or other nominations, Edmond J. Blanchard, III was elected unanimously as Vice-Chairman.

There being no other nominations, Mr. Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laque to close nominations and that everyone be elected by acclamation.

Resolution in Dedication to Ms. Elizabeth Breaux

Mr. Belanger stated that Ms. Elizabeth Breaux recently left the agency on good terms. He said that he would like to issue her a resolution in regards to the appreciation of the time that she worked for the agency.

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Henry to approve the resolution in dedication to Ms. Breaux. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing Kevin Belanger and Julie Boudreaux Access and Control Over Safety Deposit Box

Mr. Hymel explained that the resolution is necessary due to Ms. Breaux being replaced by Ms. Boudreaux. A motion was made by Mr. Laque, seconded by Mr. Ingram to approve the resolution. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: Establishment of the Southeastern Louisiana Regional Planning Council

Mr. Hymel explained that the resolution is to establish a cooperative endeavor agreement between South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) and Region Planning Commission (RPC). He said that this resolution would mandate that the two commissions meet jointly twice a year. Mr. Hymel said that there has been some talk for about a year and a half that some parishes may pull out of SCPDC to join RPC or vice versa. He said that he believed that this is a step forward to try to keep this from happening.

A motion was made by Mr. Sylvester, seconded by Mr. Ingram to adopt the resolution establishing the Southeastern Louisiana Regional Planning Council. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

EDA Performance Evaluation

Mr. Belanger stated that South Central Planning and Development was one of two planning districts in the State of Louisiana to be evaluated by EDA. He said that the report from the review is very positive. He stated that one of the areas noted in the review is that SCPDC operates on only 30% reoccurring revenues.

Mr. Hymel asked Mr. Belanger what were some of his ideas to bring in more revenue to the Commission. Mr. Belanger stated that of the eight planning districts in the State of Louisiana, all with the exception of SCPDC operate with at least 90% reoccurring revenues. Mr. Belanger stated that he has been pursing the possibility of SCPDC becoming the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He said that presently Houma is the designated MPO for strictly Terrebonne Parish. He said that the agency has the ability to expand the area to include parts of Lafourche and all of Thibodaux. He said that because it meets the population threshold, the State and the Federal Government will allow this to take place. Mr. Belanger stated that SCPDC becoming the MPO would give the agency the needed credibility to be able to pursue federal and state highway projects. Mr. Willis Henry stated that it is time that parishes begin to think regionally and this move is a step in that direction.

Status Report on SCPDC Property/Building Project

Mr. Belanger briefly updated the board on the status of the SCPDC building. He is currently working on a Capital Outlay Request and a joint use agreement with the LA DOTD.

Amendment to Personnel Policies

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Laque to amend the SCPDC personnel policies to include Martin Luther King Day as a paid holiday for all full time, permanent employees.

Agency Activity Report

Mr. Belanger briefly discussed the Agency Activity Report which includes all activity by the agency since the September 23, 1999 meeting.

Corporate Sponsor Presentation

Mr. Dale Hymel introduced the Corporate Sponsor, Mr. Steve Nosacka of Holley, Tucker, Bossier and Nosacka. Mr. Nosacka informed the Board of some of the activities his agency handles.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Sylvester, seconded by Mr. Ingram to adjourn. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on January 27, 2000.

Dale J. Hymel, Jr., Chairman
South Central Planning and Development Commission

Joe B. Townsend, Secretary-Treasurer
South Central Planning and Development Commission

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2000
10:30 a.m.
Hymel's Restaurant
Convent, Louisiana

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2000, at Hymel's Restaurant, Convent, Louisiana. Mr. Dale J. Hymel, Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order, and requested Ms. Melissa Menuet to call the roll. Those members present or represented by proxy were:

Lawrence Cole, Jr., representing Calvin James, Police Juror, Assumption Parish;

Alvin Sylvester, Assumption Parish;

Quencis Oliver, representing Mayor Darrell C. Jupiter, Village of Napoleonville;

Gerald "Buzz" Breaux, Parish President, Lafourche Parish Council;

Bonnie Lafont, representing Mayor Charles Caillouet, City of Thibodaux;

Joe B. Townsend, Mayor, Town of Lockport;

Albert Laque, Parish President, St. Charles Parish;

Dee Abadie, Councilwoman, St. Charles Parish;

Debbie Dufresne Vial, St. Charles Parish;

Nickie Monica, Parish President, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Cleveland Farlough, Councilman, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Dale J. Hymel, Jr., Parish President, St. James Parish;

James Mitchell, Councilman, St. James Parish;

Howard Jones, St. James Parish;

Ronald St. Pierre, Mayor, Town of Gramercy;

Mr. Robert "Bobby" Bergeron, Parish President, Terrebonne Parish;

Edmond J. Blanchard, III, Terrebonne Parish;

Those members absent:

Martin Triche, President, Assumption Parish Police Jury;

Calvin James, Police Juror, Assumption Parish Police Jury;

Darrell C. Jupiter, Sr., Mayor, Village of Napoleonville;

Jerry Jones, Councilman, Lafourche Parish;

Chris Bollinger, Lafourche Parish;

Charles Caillouet, Mayor, City of Thibodaux;

Joey Bouziga, Mayor, Town of Golden Meadow;

Ann Tatje, St. John the Baptist Parish;

Troas Poché, Mayor, Town of Lutcher;

Members of the staff of South Central Planning in attendance were: Mr. Kevin Belanger, Chief Executive Officer; Ms. Melissa Menuet, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Richard Poché, GIS Administrator; Ms. Julie Boudreaux, Finance/Accounting Manager and Ms. Pam Roussel, Project Manager.

Guest in attendance were Ms. Pamela Ehlers, U.S. Department of Commerce; Ms. Lori Couviller, Rep. Emma Devillier's office; Councilman Wayne Thibodaux, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government; Mr. Jerome Boykin, Terrebonne Chapter NAACP; Mr. Kelly Gleason, BP Amoco, Mr. Otis Logue, CAO of Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government; Mr. Elwyn Bocz, Councilman, St. James Parish Council; Mr. Elton Aubert, Councilman, St. James Parish; Rep. Bobby Faucheux; and Rep. Reggie Dupre.

Mr. Hymel introduced the corporate sponsor, Mr. John Adams and Mr. Harry Shields of Entergy. Mr. Adams spoke briefly regarding energy deregulation.

Acceptance of Minutes of January 27, 2000 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Lawrence Cole to accept the minutes of January 27, 2000. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Review Financial Statement Ending February 29, 2000.

Mr. Belanger stated that there are two separate budgets in the packets. He said that one copy includes the RLF money and the other does not. He explained that the reason for the separation is that the Revolving Loan Fund shows an additional $700,000.00 in the bank, which may be misleading.

Mr. Belanger stated that as of February 29, 2000, the agency had total assets valued at $582,982.89, total liabilities of $153,640.63, a total fund equity of $429,342.26, and a total liabilities and fund equity of $582.982.89. He also stated that the agency has a year to date total revenues of $315,021.89, total expenditures of $281,465.30, which gives an excess balance of $33,556.59. He said that the projected fund balance is $345,715.82.

A motion was made by Debbie Dufresne Vial, seconded by Alvin Sylvester to approve the financial statement ending February 29, 2000. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of SCPDC By-laws, Article 3 - Membership, Paragraph 3.6 in regards to minority representation.

Mr. Belanger explained that in early January he provided all of the Parish Presidents with the procedures as to nominating a private and minority representative to the South Central Planning Board of Commissioners. He further explained that Terrebonne Parish subsequently nominated a white woman to the minority seat, which was then contested by the NAACP. He said that Jerome Boykin of the NAACP reviewed the Commission's By-laws in which he noted some discrepancy as to the term and the meaning of minority community. Mr. Belanger stated that over the last three (3) months Terrebonne Parish has requested his attendance at their meetings to give them a legal understanding and definition of what is construed to be minority community. Mr. Belanger stated that he has corresponded with Mr. Alfred Garcia of EDA to get an interpretation of what EDA deems minority community. He said that Mr. Garcia's interpretation of minority is either a Black, Hispanic, American Indian or Asian Islander. Mr. Garcia has also given examples as to how to find minority representation if a Parish Council cannot find a representative of that nature. Mr. Belanger said that Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government is asking South Central Planning for an interpretation of the agency's By-laws, because the Parish Council felt that a woman could be considered a minority.

Mr. Belanger stated that in St. Charles Parish a woman was nominated to the minority seat. He said that he did not feel he could make the decision of not allowing the person to be appointed to the Commission. He asked the Board for their guidance on this issue.

Mr. Bergeron stated that room should be made in the appointing guidelines for someone from the minority community to have a voice. He believes that there is no way that the term minority community could be misinterpreted to mean a woman holding the appointment. He explained that there was conflict among the Council members at the time the appointment was made. He said he believes that room should be made for both minority and women on the Board. He also said that he thinks that there should be specifics, without any question, for a person who lives in a minority community to be able to serve on the Board, but at the same time within the region,

it should be mandated that an elected woman be represented. He said that he sympathizes with both sides, but felt it would be a step backward for the Board to deny an elected individual from the minority community from serving on the Board.

Mr. Belanger stated that in the course of speaking with EDA officials, he has come up with some suggested verbiage that could be included into our By-laws. The verbiage is as follows:

> This statement could be added to the existing verbiage: *"In making other appointments, appointing authorities are encouraged to consider the representation of women and the interest of the business, industry, and banking community."*
>
> This statement could replace the existing verbiage: *"Parish Councils are encouraged to appoint elected Minority Community Representatives, or representatives in accordance with EDA guidelines. However, they can appoint other members, but will be rejected by the Board when such makeup is not satisfactory to the Economic Development Administration."*

Mr. Belanger explained that the situation in St. Charles Parish is different. He stated that the only minority person on the Council decided not to be a part of our Commission. He said that Dee Abadie, the only woman on the council, was chosen to be the appointee. He said that as CEO of the Commission, he does not feel that he could deny her nomination to the Commission. He asked the Board to give some consideration to instances such as this.

Mr. Belanger stated that EDA is concerned with the overall representation. He said that if there is 25% minority representation on the Board, it should be equal to the total population of minorities in the region.

Ms. Pamela Ehlers of EDA stated that Terrebonne Parish has the largest minority population, so you would think that Terrebonne Parish should have a minority representative. Ms. Ehlers stated that EDA encourages female, handicapped, unemployed and underemployed to be represented on the Board. She said that if this is not possible with the current election, then EDA would suggest that the Board either look at adding a member from each parish, or maybe a couple of at-large representatives targeted toward a particular group that may be missing.

Mayor Townsend suggested creating a subcommittee to come up with the exact wording for the by-laws or to possibly create an at-large position.

Mr. Wayne Thibodaux explained that the Terrebonne Parish Council voted four (4) to three (3) to allow a white female to take the seat based on the by-laws. He explained that the Articles of Incorporation of SCPDC is clear. The Articles of Incorporation state that representation shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the by-laws. He said that as he looked at the three (3) ways in which to seat people on the Board, there was a third person, as a private citizen, that could have been a white female or any race or sex depending on the Chief Elected Official's choice. Mr. Thibodaux stated that he has no problems with the by-laws, but felt that we should ensure that women be a part of the process. Mr. Thibodaux said that the by-laws states *"a representative of the minority community"* and he believes that it needs to be taken together in

that context, and in his mind the four that voted for the white female were in error. He asked that the board ensure that each Parish has a chance to put a minority representative on the Board.

Mr. Laque said that in St. Charles Parish the one minority representative that is on the Council refused the seat on the SCPDC Board. Mr. Thibodaux replied that in that case the woman should have been offered the seat, and that he is happy that she was offered the seat. He felt that was an acceptable process. He further stated that if he would have not wanted the seat, he would have been fine with the appointment of the white female.

Mr. Blanchard said that he thinks that the problem lies with the definition of minority community and not the representative. He said that there is a need to set up a subcommittee to address some things within the by-laws. He said that as a Board we do not govern how the Parishes make their decision. He said that we need to get something to the Council that will give them clearer direction as to what SCPDC needs appointment wise.

Ms. Abadie asked if there was ever any female representation on the Board before. She said that if our objective is inclusion and not exclusion, you are missing out on a great segment. She said that she has worked in oil and gas for many years and that she is a minority. She said unfortunately the definition does not say that, but lack of women's input is not diversity. She explained that there is a minority person on the St. Charles Council, but he couldn't make the day meetings and decided that he wanted to take the Housing Authority. She said that certainly the minority community is absolutely important, but please don't lose out on the diversity of the inclusion that the agency could have from women of any race.

A motion was made by Mr. Sylvester, seconded by Mr. Laque to adopt the definition of minority representation as that which is outlined and defined by EDA (Black, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Hispanic). The motion also gives Mr. Belanger the authority to go before the Terrebonne Parish Council to say that this is the definition that should be followed when making an appointment for the minority seat. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

As suggested by Mayor Townsend, Mr. Hymel agreed to create a subcommittee to look at amending the By-laws of South Central Planning to encourage the participation of women on the South Central Planning Board. Those who will serve on the subcommittee are Ed Blanchard as Chairman, Dale Hymel, Jr., Kevin Belanger, Jerome Boykin, Dee Abadie, Alvin Sylvester, and a representative of EDA.

Ms. Lafont said that the problem may lie with the minority representative having to be an elected official. Mr. Blanchard replied that it is one of the matters the subcommittee needs to review.

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Ms. Lafont to form a subcommittee to review the by-laws. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Expansion

Mr. Belanger stated that the resolutions between Terrebonne, Lafourche and the City of Thibodaux are all signed, agreeing to include all of the City of Thibodaux and the periphery around Thibodaux into the Metropolitan Planning Organization. He said that the signed resolutions have been packaged along with a request to the LA Department of Transportation to allow South Central Planning to become the technical staff for the MPO. He said that he received a request from the La DOTD to formally put together an agreement to be signed by the Parishes of Terrebonne and Lafourche and also the City of Thibodaux.

Status report on SCPDC Property/Building Project

Mr. Belanger stated that the agency submitted a Capital Outlay Request. He said that hopefully we will get some money this year to help finish the accruing of all of the money needed to complete the building. He said that the agency roughly needs about $820,000.00 for the remaining funds. DOTD has purchased the property necessary for the SCPDC building, which is located on the Delta College site in Gray, LA. He explained that the Joint Usage Agreement cannot be completed until we know the actual date that we will be occupying the property.

Mr. Belanger said that he has discussed with Mr. John Evanco the possibility of an interim move from the agency's existing building to the Delta College facility, which now houses LA DOTD offices. He explained that with SCPDC becoming the MPO, there will be a need for more space than currently occupied.

Mr. Belanger explained that the Executive Committee will work to facilitate this move. Mr. Sylvester asked Mr. Belanger if there will be a rent agreement. Mr. Belanger replied that there would be a rent agreement. He said that SCPDC will probably pay a little less than the $1,600 currently paid.

Rep. Dupre suggested that during the first week of the regular session, Kevin, the Chairman and a couple of the Parish Presidents set up a meeting with Mark Drennan regarding the Capital Outlay Bill.

Rep. Faucheux asked Mr. Belanger if he had submitted the Capital Outlay Request by the November 1 deadline. Mr. Belanger replied that SCPDC had submitted later, but were told that it would be accepted. Rep. Faucheux said that it may be accepted by the Committee, but the Division of Administration will try to knock out all of the ones that were not timely submitted.

Agency Activity Report

Mr. Belanger briefly reviewed the Agency Activity Report.

Other Business

Solid Waste Authority

Rep. Dupre stated that Act 982 is enabling legislation, it is not mandatory He said that up to seven Parishes can join together to create the solid waste district. (Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, and Terrebonne) He explained that at least two Parishes must pass ordinances by July 1, 2000 to create the district or the bill will dissolve. He explained that each parish will have two (2) appointments. If there are municipalities within the Parish with separate governing authorities, then those municipalities can also join in for their solid waste needs. One of the two appointments will be a municipal appointment if there are municipalities participating within the Parish.

Rep. Dupre said that next year the bill may need to be tweaked a bit. He said that one suggestion he has is to allow all of the chambers and industrial associations within the parishes participating in the district to submit nominations to the Governor so that there will be one at-large member from the whole general district. He said that by creating the district the Parishes are not obligating any resources now. They can wait two (2) to three (3) years if they have to. A Parish can back out by ordinance if no debt is incurred, but once debt is incurred and the Parish is a part of the District, they are obligated to pay their share. Mr. Belanger pointed out that the two parishes need to be contiguous.

Rep. Dupre said that after the District is created, he would suggest that South Central Planning be the informal administrator of the District until there is some kind of funding source.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mayor St. Pierre to adjourn. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on April 13, 2000.

Dale J. Hymel, Jr., Chairman
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