2-DOC-3-9-1-11

2003

ANNUAL

CEDS REPORT

Revised: August 2003

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING

AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 1870

GRAY, LOUISIANA 70359

985-851-2900

www.scpdc.org

SCPDC
South Central Planning & Development Commission
5058 W. Main Street; Houma, LA 70360-4900 • Post Office Box 1870; Gray, LA 70359
Phone: (985) 851-2900 • Facsimile: (985) 851-4472

Serving:
Parishes: Assumption • Lafourche • St. Charles • St. James • St. John • Terrebonne
Municipalities: Golden Meadow • Gramercy • Lockport • Lutcher • Napoleonville • Thibodaux

August 18, 2003

Mr. Pedro Garza
Regional Director
U. S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
Austin Regional Office
327 Congress Avenue, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78701-4037

Dear Mr. Garza:

We are forwarding a revised copy of our Annual CEDS Report for the Year 2003. An omission in the report was brought to our attention and we have corrected it. Please disregard the report previously submitted on June 30th.

Sincerely,

Kevin P. Belanger
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Ms. Pamela Ehlers

Wayne Thibodeaux
CHAIRMAN
Council Member
Terrebonne Parish Council

Dale J. Hymel, Jr.
VICE CHAIRMAN
President,
St. James Parish Council

Gerald "Buzz" Breaux
SECRETARY-TREASURER
President,
Lafourche Parish Council

Kevin P. Belanger
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
"CEDS"

2003
ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3
ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT 4
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 7

APPENDICES 18

A. COMMITTEES 19
B. MINUTES 31

INTRODUCTION

Every year the South Central Planning and Development Commission's Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan is reviewed and updated as part of the CEDS continued eligibility process. This is a regional strategy that identifies an action plan to meet the goals and objectives spelled out in the CEDS that are necessary to achieve a sustainable economy in the region. The CEDS is prepared every five years and in the interim Annual Reports note the progress and setbacks in implementing the Action Plan. Changes in local conditions that affect the implementation of the CEDS are noted and if necessary the strategy is modified to adapt to the changes. This is the first Annual Report to the five year CEDS strategy adopted in June 2002.

The CEDS is a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of those concerned with economic development. The CEDS comprises four main elements:

- ***Analysis.*** The strategy *analyzes* the regional economy and looks at external trends and forces. It identifies partners and resources for economic development.
- ***Vision.*** The *vision* is a statement of the region's goals; "Where do we want to be?"
- ***Action Plan.*** An *action plan* is developed as a way to attain the goals.
- ***Evaluation.*** Finally, an ongoing *evaluation* of the CEDS is made to determine what improvements or changes should be made in the strategy.

Following are the goals identified for the South Central Planning and Development District.

- **Goal One**: Improve the public infrastructure of the region in order to support and sustain a viable economy and environment.
- **Goal Two**: Create and retain quality jobs and foster a more diversified economy.
- **Goal Three**: To improve the overall capacity of the Region to make efficient land use decisions.
- **Goal Four**: To improve the overall capacity of the Region to make economic development decisions.
- **Goal Five**: To improve the fiscal capacity of local government and to make the Region financially attractive for economic development.
- **Goal Six**: To protect and conserve the natural resources of the Region and to promote more equitable use of these resources for business and recreation.

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 are included in the Appendices.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

LEGAL STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

SCPDC is one of eight (8) sub-state regional planning and economic development districts within the State of Louisiana. The district was created in 1972 when each member parishes and municipalities adopted ordinances to create and participate in the SCPDC. At that time the Commission was established as an Economic Development District (EDD) with assistance from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). In 1977 the State of Louisiana formalized the eight sub-state planning districts with the passage of Act 472. SCPDC was established under the act as Planning District 3. Additionally, SCPDC is incorporated as a non-profit organization as provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes 12:201 et. seq., as amended, provided however, that such activities shall be consistent with those necessary to accomplish the purpose of a regional planning or economic development district and are for charitable, educational and scientific research purposes. The Commission currently operates under Articles of Incorporation, Commission By-Laws, Administrative and Personnel Policies.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The CEDS process in the South Central District is coordinated at a Regional level and operates at the parish level. Each of the six (6) member parishes have opted to maintain their development status and eligibility for EDA assistance by participating in a coordinated CEDS process conducted by South Central Planning. Each member parish maintains an independent CEDS committee and formulates their own economic development concepts. The South Central Planning Region has a collective Regional CEDS Committee made up of representatives from each of the Regional Parishes. Once the individual parish CEDS committee has formulated individual economic development goals, they then submit this information to the Regional CEDS Committee for incorporation into the Regional Economic Development Plan and then into the CEDS document. This information is also used in the yearly CEDS Update Report.

To monitor progress and update strategies, each year South Central Planning conducts an annual review with each individual parish economic development department and their CEDS committee. The annual review process includes the review of last's year's goals, identification of accomplishments, updating the goals, discussion of constraints, and potentials for development within the parish and the region, and updating of the parish and regional implementation strategy and annual work programs. SCPDC's implementation strategy and annual work program is established by the Regional CEDS Committee. The SCPDC Board of Commissioners sits as the Regional CEDS Committee.

SCPDC compiles the aforementioned information and prepares annual updates or reports. A report is submitted to each parish committee review and comments and the final draft is submitted to the SCPDC Board of Commissioners. Upon review and approval by the Board of Commissioners, the report is submitted to EDA.

LOCAL CONTACT

For more information on the CEDS process or specific economic development programs contact:

Mr. Kevin Belanger
Chief Executive Officer
South Central Planning and Development Commission
P.O. Box 1870
Gray, LA 70359
985-851-2900

AREAS INCLUDED IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The area included in the CEDS process is co-terminus with the geographic jurisdiction of the South Central Planning and Development Commission which Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne Parishes along with the municipalities of Golden Meadow, Gramercy, Lockport, Lutcher, Napoleonville, and Thibodaux. The City of Houma was consolidated with Terrebonne Parish in 1983 to form one government called the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government. Appendix A contains the SCPDC's Board of Commissioners.

BOARD MEMBERS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Appendix A contains a list of the Parish CEDS Committee members and Appendix C provides minutes from recent meetings of the SCPDC Board.

LETTERS OF CONCURRENCE

Appendix B contains letters of record from each parish acknowledging their concurrence with the economic development planning process.

LOCAL ECONOMY UPDATE

The Houma Metropolitan area continues to be one of the fastest growing in the State. The unemployment rate for the Houma MSA in February 2003 was 3.5% compared to 4.1% for the same month during the previous year. Unemployment rates between February 2002 and 2003 dropped in St. James, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes but increased in St. Charles, St. John and Assumption.

The Louisiana Department of Labor has published projected employment by industry for the years 1998 through 2008. The South Central Planning and Development Commission has three of its parishes comprising RLMA 3 while the other three St. John St. James and St. Charles, have been moved into the larger eight parish RLMA 1 which also includes Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Plaquemines parishes. RLMA 3 is projected to have growth in every major industry area save one. The largest growth is anticipated in the construction sector with a projected increase of 34.34%, in particular in the Heavy Construction category. Nondurable Goods are expected to find declines in jobs in particular in Food and Kindred Products. This may be due to changes in technology and other changes as this small region moves away from an agrarian to a more industrial landscaped. Growth in RLMA 1 is not as great and the category with the most new jobs is expected to be Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing with a 28.25% rate of growth. This may be due to the addition of St. Charles, St. John and St. James Parishes which still have large farms to the more heavily developed urban parishes. Losses are anticipated in the Mining sector, no doubt due to many oil and gas exploration companies reorganizing their staffs and shifting operations from New Orleans to other cities.

Residential building construction showed an increase in numbers of buildings, units and construction cost between July 2001 and 2002 in Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne and St. Charles. Information was unavailable for St. John and St. James Parishes.

The report, the "Louisiana Economic Outlook 2003 and 2003" by Loren Scott, et al, noted that the Houma MSA can expect further economic growth due to the continued revival of the mineral extraction industry. This in turn increases activities at area fabrication and ship yards. It was also noted that the decline between peaks of exploration and valleys of soft oil markets has gotten shallower since the 1980's. This was attributed to diversification in the region's shipyards which have developed a list of clientele that is no longer exclusive to the mineral exploration and production industry. Growth in number of jobs was projected due to the extraction sector and shipyards.

The River Parish Region is included in the New Orleans MSA. In Scott's report, it is noted that the New Orleans MSA can expect an increase in jobs due to increased work at Avondale, refinery upgrades and tourism revivals. During the past year, Dow Chemical laid off 300-400 workers at three plants in St. Charles Parish due to company mergers. Throughout the River Region, chemical plants and two steel plants suffered from increases in natural gas costs. This resulted in temporary shut downs and curtailed expansion plans.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Following is an overview of accomplishments during the past year in meeting the goals and objectives of the CEDS.

GOAL ONE: Improve the public infrastructure of the region in order to support and sustain a viable economy and environment.

Movement of goods and people within the region remains a top concern. Improved transportation will help to move people to and from job centers and essential services. Considering the importance of the areas maritime ports and airports, transportation infrastructure is of enormous concern.

The State's Louisiana Airport Authority made a recommendation to locate a major cargo airport on the Westbank of the Mississippi River in Ascension Parish near Donaldsonville. Part of the site would be located in Assumption Parish. Plans for further analysis of this site area on hold as the State tries to deal with other pressing issues. However, the proposal has caused communities in the area to take stock of their local infrastructure, land use and housing situations and begin engaging in more proactive debate over the future of their communities.

The Region continues to support efforts to bring Highway 90 up to interstate standards between Lafayette and I-310 in St. Charles Parish. Houma is the last Louisiana urbanized area without a direct interstate link. Interstate 49, when complete, will provide Louisiana with its only north south interstate corridor.

SCPDC and member parishes and municipalities have taken on the work of seeing a connection from the Thibodaux area to the Mississippi River Bridge in Gramercy crossing by putting forth a commitment of local funds to help the State pay for local match on the EIS necessary to complete planning of the access path.

St. Charles and St. John Parishes joined the New Orleans MPO which is staffed through the Regional Planning Commission for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany Parishes. As a result, that MPO has scheduled road improvements in St. Charles Parish including reconstruction of La. 48, sidewalks on Paul Mallard Road, bicycle path, and increased capacity along Destrehan Avenue and its extension, and Cousins Extension.

The Houma MPO continues to make transportation improvements in the region and is undertaking planning for an intelligent transportation system. Due to the current and projected growth patterns, the MPO chooses to be proactive in making use of every available technology and program that will help to improve traffic. Thus it was fortunate in receiving a grant to plan for and build an Intelligent Traffic System for the Houma metropolitan area.

The Houma Airport continued its long range planning and implementation in order to accommodate the growing pressure for a full service commercial airport in the region. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission took over the operation of an underutilized South Lafourche Airport in Galliano with plans to provide service and access for its many port operations that rely on air transport.

Outside of transportation, several parishes completed new library construction including new main libraries in St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne Parishes. Others including Lafourche undertook research to determine their capacity needs and are exploring alternatives to improve library facilities.

The region continued to look for ways to improve sewage treatment. This is a major public infrastructure issue, along with drainage and flood protection, due to region's geography, high water table and soils. Growth in some areas has taken place at rates faster than the Parish's ability to keep up with the provision of municipal sewerage. In the coming years this will no doubt become a problem if not addressed now. Many communities, including St. James, St. Charles and Terrebonne, are actively looking for ways to pull together various funding sources in order to accomplish this goal.

Flood protection is critical to the substance of the region. Terrebonne Parish adopted a milage that will help pay for a hurricane protection levee that will tie into that in existence in St. Mary and Lafourche Parishes. Local drainage systems are constantly maintained and improved in order to handle the runoff from the increased growth.

Within the Region the State has completed improvements to U.S. Highway 90, thus providing a vital link to Lafayette on the west and New Orleans on the east. The Environmental Impact Statement for the construction of a north-to-south access road for the Veterans Memorial Mississippi River Bridge between Gramercy and Thibodaux is ongoing and the outcome is anxiously awaited.

Louisiana Highway 1 project planning has made progress. The feasibility study for highway improvements from Larose to U.S. Hwy. 90 was 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, land loss, and voluminous traffic. Replacement of the Leeville Bridge with an overpass has been identified as a high priority for improvements to LA Highway 1.

As are all of Louisiana's marine ports, the ports in the South Central Region are directing efforts toward meeting the import/export demand of the fast growing economies of Central and South America. The region's three ports made progress in their ongoing infrastructure improvements. The Greater Lafourche Port commission received a grant from the Economic Development Commission to undertake a major expansion encompassing 1700 acres at Port Fourchon. The Port's location directly on the Gulf of Mexico and in the center of the Gulf of Mexico has made it the prime staging area for offshore facilities and services related to petroleum exploration.

The Port of South Louisiana continues to develop its Globalplex Intermodal Terminal. This Port is the third largest tonnage port in the world. In the coming year the Port plans to improve rail spurs that provide service into the Port site.

The Terrebonne Port Commission continued improvements to its site at the intersection of the Houma Navigation Canal and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). Annually some 69 million tons of goods pass through Houma on the GIWW. By offering improved port facilities Terrebonne is hoping to capitalize on its location along the GIWW and become a key support and service center along this inland water route.

These Ports are monitoring and participating in the development of the State's Millennium Port Plan. The State is evaluating sites that can be developed as a State Port to handle the larger ships that are dominating the overseas shipping industry. Regardless of the site chosen, the general opinion is that all of the ports in the State will need to coordinate their efforts and offer the full range of services that the Plan will call for in order to keep Louisiana at the forefront of port activity in the United States and the world.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- St. Charles Street, Hollywood Road, Tunnel Blvd., Country Drive, and Westside Blvd. were upgraded within the Houma MPO area.
- Sidewalks on La. 24 and La. 20 in Schriever,
- Sidewalks were provided around the Acadia Elementary School.
- Bridge replacement at Hollywood Canal.
- Expanded the Terrebonne Parish Public Transportation System to previously underserved portions of the Parish.
- Construction of a bicycle path was started along a portion of the Mississippi River Levee in St. Charles Parish.
- Sidewalks were installed in the community of Pierre Part.
- St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne Parish completed the construction of modern main library facilities and opened these to the public.
- Lafourche Parish Library System continued to explore alternatives for the location and construction of a new main library facility.
- Supported Port Fourchon Dock Facility.
- Completed dredging of slip for Port of Terrebonne.
- The Lafourche Parish School Board undertook a facility assessment and prepared student enrollment projections to help plan for building improvements.
- Completed construction of sewer system for Belle Rose and Blackwell Lanes in Assumption Parish.
- Completed construction of additions to Assumption Parish Library.
- Started construction of Pierre Part Library.
- Began construction water system improvements in the City of Thibodaux through an EDA Grant that will result in the maintaining a John Deere manufacturing facility.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Rail spur for the Port of South Louisiana.
- Improvements to the South Lafourche Airport.
- Continue to improve facilities at the Houma Airport.
- Continue to implement Port Fourchon and Port of Terrebonne Master Plans.
- Continue program of street and road improvements throughout the region.
- Assist St Charles Parish in developing a drainage canal bank stabilization plan.
- Begin construction of a community sewerage system for Morristown neighborhood in Lafourche Parish.
- Consider annexation and infrastructure improvements for the City of Thibodaux.
- Complete construction of community sewage system for Rita in Lafourche Parish.
- Continue infrastructure improvements at the Port of Terrebonne facility.
- Complete EIS and Feasibility Studies for North-South Corridor connecting Port Fourchon to I-10.
- Complete sewage upgrade for Napoleonville.
- Construct a bike path and walking trail in Thibodaux.
- Construct conveyor from docks to service lay-down areas at Globalplex.
- Construct Northern Expansion project for Port Fourchon.
- Construct Thibodaux East-West Corridor Project.
- 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.
- Continue efforts to ensure the planned Houma Navigation Canal and lock system are designed for medium draft vessels at 200 feet wide and 20 feet deep.
- Continue efforts to gain support and funding for I-49.
- Continue efforts to gain support and funding for improvements to LA. Hwy. 1.
- Continue parish wide sewage efforts in St Charles and Terrebonne.
- Continue planning for Belle Rose and Bayou L'Ourse Assumption Branch libraries.
- Continue plans to expand and improve airport facilities in St John Parish.
- Continue preliminary design of LA 1 and LA 308 Couplet system in Thibodaux.
- Continue sidewalk improvements throughout St James Parish.
- Continue to explore alternatives for improvements to Reserve Sewage Treatment Facilities in St John Parish.
- Upgrade water system throughout Assumption Parish, in particular the lines serving industrial areas, Louisiana Highway 70, and on Belle River Road.
- Continue to provide road overlay and improvement programs in all parishes and municipalities.
- 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.
- Deepen the existing east-west channel connecting the Houma Navigation Canal to Bayou LaFourche to 12-feet to facilitate flow of traffic between the Ports of Terrebonne and Fourchon.
- Develop a regional airport to better serve the South Central Region.

- Develop a transportation loop around Thibodaux.
- Investigate the feasibility of a public transit system for Thibodaux.
- Develop Parish Wide Recreation Plan with the Atchafalaya Basin Committee in Assumption Parish.
- Develop plan and design for St Charles Civic Center/Fairgrounds.
- Explore feasibility of establishing rail service to Port Fourchon.
- Gas, sewage, and water system improvements in Thibodaux.
- Improve and upgrade Thibodaux Municipal Airport.
- Increase warehouse and distribution capacity at the Port of South Louisiana.
- Investigate adequacy of LA Highways 1 and 308 as alternate hurricane evacuation routes in Assumption Parish.
- Monitor plans for creation of North-South Access Road between LA Hwy 3127 and US Hwy 90.
- Prepare design and engineering work for update of St James Parish-wide Sewage System facilities plan.
- Investigate feasibility of funding for St James Parish drainage canal improvements.
- Provide citywide drainage improvements in Thibodaux, including Rienzi Canal improvements.
- Support efforts to reconstruct St Patrick Highway.
- Support Governor's LA 1 Task Force plans for hurricane evacuation route from Grand Isle to Alexander.
- Support initiatives to improve public facilities and access to Port Fourchon beaches.
- Upgrade fire protection facilities throughout the Region.
- Receive construction bids and let same for Agriculture Center in Assumption Parish.
- Plan and design a new building for the Council of Aging in Assumption Parish.
- Planning for Tunnel Blvd. Sidewalks
- Complete Houma Civic Center Hotel feasibility study.
- Complete East Bank Bike Path in St. Charles Parish.
- Complete design and fund West Bank bicycle path and the remainder of the East Bank path in St. Charles Parish.
- Begin construction of a deepwater dock and related facilities on the West Bank of St. Charles Parish.
- Continue constructing, designing and funding of East bank and West Bank Hurricane Protection Levees.
- Identify and draft a plan to redevelop brownfield sites in parishes throughout the region.

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

High-quality jobs that earn a higher high-pay require better education and training. Higher quality, higher paying jobs, and higher quality education and training bring with them a higher quality life style. All of these are major goals of the CEDS for the South Central Region.

Nicholls State University continues to expand its program and offers internship/externship courses in many of the degree programs. These kinds of programs are valuable in developing

work experience and work habits for the students and can be, and are, of extreme value to any business that participates. NSU recently expanded its Marine Biology curriculum with the addition of a Master's Degree program. The university Nursing and Allied Health Center programs have been expanded with the opening of a new nursing classroom facility on campus and an Allied Health training facility off campus in Houma. The NSU marine program works closely with the Louisiana University Marine Consortium and recently acquired its own research vessel.

Other areas of excellence include the John Folse School of Culinary Arts, Child Family and Social Services, Teacher Education and Accounting and Information Services. NSU offers a specialty program geared toward the normal work schedule within that industry on a special "seven days on/seven days" off schedule. Two Associate Degrees, petroleum services and petroleum safety, are conferred along with a Bachelor of Science Degree in petroleum services.

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System is a statewide program with campuses scattered at central locations throughout the State. These training facilities offer associate degree and certificates in a variety of fields including office systems, health care, industrial, petroleum and construction. There are three campuses in the South Central Region, the River Parishes Campus in St. John the Baptist Parish, the Lafourche Campus in Thibodaux and Cut Off and the L. E. Fletcher Campus in Houma. These training facilities are growing to meet the demand for training in programs that are not offered at traditional four year universities.

The SCPDC now has six small business loans made through its EDA Revolving Loan Fund Program. The two most recent loans were processed between July 2002 and June 2003. Bella Salon and Day Spa in St. Charles Parish will use loan funds to purchase equipment and for working capital. The day spa will create 5 new jobs. The second loan is to Information Technology Systems, also in St. Charles Parish, which develops database programs. The RLF loan will be used for working capital and to create a data center (equipment, furnishings, etc.)

SCPDC continues to look for programs that offer training for public officials and business. Each year a regional workshop on Economic Incentives is offered. This is geared toward business and industry and helps to spread information about the States business incentive programs such as the Enterprise Zone program. A train the trainer program geared toward highway safety issues is being developed along with continued training opportunities in issues relevant to local governments. The SCPDC modeled this after the recently completed OSHA shipyard training program sponsored through a Department of Labor grant. The SCPDC for the second year sponsored its local government workshop on State budget, open meeting, fair housing and ethics laws. This program has been well received and is planned to be continued. The SCPDC is also looking into the possibility of creating a training program that will help to educate both the public and government officials on the issues of environmental justice.

The South Central Region needs to continue its diversification efforts to become less reliant on an industry driven by factors beyond its control, the energy industry. In order to do this the Region must continue to improve the education and skills of its labor force, improve transportation, and step up efforts to attract the kinds of industry that offer quality jobs.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Began planning for a traffic planning workshop for area decision makers.
- Conducted the second annual traffic summit.
- Continued planning efforts for construction of the Assumption Parish Vocational School.
- Continued Incumbent Workers Training Program.
- Maintenance of community and parish profiles by utility Companies.
- Continued cooperative partnerships with other economic development agencies.
- Continued economic development planning and technical assistance.
- Implemented the St James Parish Strategic Plan.
- Maintained Parish Economic Development Offices.
- Monitored changes in industry and affect on local economy.
- Completed St Charles Parish Strategic Planning effort.
- Supported continued efforts of the Workforce Investment Board to improve skills and job access of the workforce.
- Continued funding of the River Parish Economic Development Program through the South Louisiana Port Commission.
- Continued operations of St James Business Incubator.
- Terrebonne Parish continued to work with local business and religious community to develop a business incubator in Houma.
- Continued with Enterprise Zone Assistance.
- Creation of stock race car track in Pierre Part in Assumption Parish.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Implement St. James Technology Grant providing a mobile workshop.
- Implement a Farmers Market for local and area producers in St. Charles Parish.
- Develop distribution, manufacturing, technology and tourism clusters for St. Charles Parish.
- Develop a Proposal for an R V Campground on Spur 70 in Assumption Parish.
- Expand the current racetrack in Assumption Parish to include bike motor-cross and campground.
- Work to bring a NASCAR sanctioned and supported racing and research facility to St. John or St. James Parishes.
- Continue regional economic diversification and new business recruitment efforts.
- Create a technology based business incubator center in Thibodaux.
- Develop warehousing, light industrial and high technology clusters in St Charles Parish.
- Investigate feasibility of a warehouse distribution center in St John Parish.
- Expand tourism efforts throughout the South Central Region.
- Monitor and support efforts of the new River Parish Tourism Commission.
- Promote the culture and heritage of the entire region.

Goal Three: To improve the overall capacity of the Region to make efficient land use decisions.

Many of the communities in the SCPDC region are updating their comprehensive planning and local land use tools. Terrebonne Parish is updating its Comprehensive Plan as a first step to address future growth needs. Lutcher undertook an update of its subdivision and zoning ordinances. Assumption Parish is considering reactivating its long dormant Planning Commission. St. Charles Parish is updating its local land use regulations. Both St. James and St. John are actively addressing issues in their land use regulations and working toward updating local codes. Finally the Lafourche Parish Planning Commission is exploring the idea of updating its Comprehensive Plan. Many area School Boards have undertaken similar efforts in order to better plan for future facility needs as student enrollments grow. Other activities during the past year include the following.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued traffic studies for more efficient transportation problem resolution.
- Supported efforts of local school boards to expand, upgrade, and construct new educational facilities.
- Continued work on developing a regional geographic information system.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Organize an educational workshop for area planning, zoning and adjustment boards and their staff concerning State laws and the planning process.
- Start Master Transportation Plan for the River Region.
- Continue to interact with the RPC in order to coordinate highway planning along the St. Charles--Jefferson boundary.
- Continue to assist Parishes and municipalities in their land use planning efforts.
- Continue to support school districts in their planning efforts.
- Improvements to Lafourche Parish Tourism Center
- Development of a GIS system for Lafourche Parish
- Update the St Charles Parish land use plan.
- Investigate feasibility of creating a Reserve Historic District.
- Revitalize the Thibodaux CBD and Historic District Area.
- Completion of Terrebonne Comprehensive Plan.

Goal Four: To improve the overall capacity of the Region to make economic development decisions.

The SCPDC region has a range of economic development issues from exceedingly high unemployment rate in St. James Parish to a very low unemployment rate in Lafourche. St. Charles Parish has one of the highest per capita incomes in the State and Assumption has one of the lowest. The fact is each Parish needs to determine its assets and know how best to market itself. It needs to determine what kind of industries will create the jobs its workforce can fill and what training must be provided to this. Four of the Parishes, St. Charles, St. John, St. James and Terrebonne, full time economic development staff that try to keep on top of development issues in order to put the community in the best light for potential new industry and business. The State's Workforce Investment Board is working toward creation of training programs in order to

increase the area's skilled workforce. Several of the region's communities have updated their economic development plans including St. Charles and Terrebonne Parishes. These two communities continue to work on additional facets of economic development planning. For example, Terrebonne is now in the midst of studying the structure of the Terrebonne Economic Development District (TEDDCO) in an effort to determine how best to make this group work with the new economic development strategy.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Assisted U.S. Census Bureau with complete count outreach program.
- Assisted in community relations activities.
- Continued Census 2000 coordination efforts including review of preliminary map and address information.
- Development of new websites and upgrade of existing sites for towns and parishes.
- Complete Terrebonne's Strategic Plan for Economic Development.
- Update the Terrebonne Public Golf Facility Study.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Continue to support and participate on the Workforce Investment Board.
- Conduct an economic development incentive workshop.
- Develop a Community Strategic Plan for Thibdodaux.
- Implement St. James Parish Technology Grant that will provide a mobile training facility.
- Continue Enterprise Zone Assistance.
- Document and portray OCS impact on Lafourche Parish.
- Completion of Phase II of the Terrebonne Economic Development Plan which will address organization and funding for implementation.

Goal Six: To protect and conserve the natural resources of the Region and to promote more equitable use of these resources for business and recreation.

SCPDC continues to work with its member communities on issues such as nonpoint source pollution, preparing funding requests for recreational grants and enhancement grants. In addition it continues to be a member of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program Management Committee and actively participates in the program. Environmental issues reached a forefront recently in St. James Parish when a controversy erupted over the location of plant. The project became an environmental justice issue and was withdrawn. The International City Managers Association is looking at this as one of several case studies under an EPA grant to help that agency understand how to better handle environmental justice issues in the future. As a result SCPDC applied for an EPA grant to set up a series of regional workshops on environmental justice. That outcome of that application is pending and ICMA is seeking other sources of funding in a potential partnership with SCPDC to conduct such training should the EPA grant not be funded. SCPDC feels that education and training for local officials is important in dealing with such issues as much as is educating the general public as to the problems and potential solutions. SCPDC also recently received a grant from the Louisiana Department of

Environmental Quality to conduct additional nonpoint source outreach and expand that effort to include education on private sewage treatment plants. Sewage treatment is an environmental issue that is of concern in this area. The fast pace of residential development has surpassed the ability of local government to finance sewer improvements. Also many municipal plants have reached a maximum capacity. Something needs to be done to address the proliferation of private treatment that is largely unmonitored. In areas of high water tables like the SCPDC region, this is a potential problem as the untreated or improperly treated effluent can easily enter the waterways causing pollution problems. Many of the parishes are seeking ways to improve the municipal systems and have taken over private community plants in order to ensure proper maintenance.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Began work on the St John the Baptist Parish Coastal Zone Management Plan Update.
- Assisted Terrebonne Parish in organization of a new committee that will address the problem of coastal erosion.
- Conducted outreach and education on nonpoint source pollution.
- Began implementation of EPA Brownfields Pilot Project which will inventory potential brownfields sites for redevelopment.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Continue to support and participate in the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.
- Provide education and outreach on non point source pollution and private sewage treatment facilities.
- Provide an outreach program on Environmental Justice.
- Develop a Thibodaux Brownfield inventory, conduct assessments and cleanup for economic development.
- Begin conducting Phase I and II Assessments for selected brownfield sites.
- Maintain the FEMA Community Rating System Programs.
- Implement Barrier Island Restoration Projects.
- Implement the Coast 2050 Ecosystem Strategy.
- Support efforts to create a Comprehensive hurricane Protection Plan for Coastal Louisiana.
- Investigate alternative fuels use with the Regional Planning Commission through their Greater New Orleans Clean City Coalition Alternative Fuels program.
- Assist in the creation of a coastal permitting process for St. John the Baptist Parish.

Goal Five: To improve the fiscal capacity of local government and to make the Region financially attractive for economic development.

The SCPDC continues to assist its member communities in exploring methods of financing public improvements. During the past this has included not only grant research but also exploring alternatives such as development or other fee increases and local tax efforts. The Parish and municipal governments work closely with their bonding attorneys on such matters. In

these times of low interest rates on Certificates of deposit and other usual savings methods and the general unwillingness of local residents and businesses to increase taxes, governments are trying to be more creative in the provision of public facilities and services. Cost cutting methods are employed and joint enterprises are undertaken. Regional cooperative efforts are helping communities by sharing limited resources and equipment. One example of regional coordination is the creation of the South Central Solid Waste Commission. Given the nature of the region and limited land suitable for a landfill, the Commission is exploring alternative means of transporting waste to approved landfills. It is hoped that by taking a regional approach there may be some cost savings in transportation. The Region also has taken steps to improve the overall quality of life thereby making the area more attractive through activities like the Safe Community Program. This is a highway safety programmed funded through the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission that address driver behavior issues. All of the parishes, municipalities and school boards have completed their reapportionment efforts in connection with the release of 2000 Census data. In so doing one, the Terrebonne Parish School Board reduced its number to a more manageable size. Discussions in St. Charles Parish were developed as to increasing the number of representatives to develop an equal representation on each side of the Mississippi River.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ongoing implementation of Safe Community Program to improve highway safety through education of drivers.
- Continue to implement the Terrebonne and SCPDC Revolving Loan Funds.
- Continued to plan for a River Region Public Transportation System.
- Helped to organize a regional mutual aide assistance network.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Continue efforts to create a Regional Criminalistic Laboratory.
- Develop a notification system for Homeland Security in Assumption Parish.
- Develop a Regional Response Team to respond to multiple-hazards including terrorism.
- Continue efforts of Weed and Seed Programs in Lafourche and Terrebonne.
- Continue to investigate feasibility of a public transit service for Assumption Parish.
- Support state efforts to obtain a portion of OCS revenues to be utilized consistent with said goal.
- Upgrade 911 to include mapping for locations of residents and cell phones in Assumption Parish.
- Implementation of an ITS for Houma Urbanized Area

APPENDICES

A. COMMITTEE MAKEUP
B. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE MAKEUP

COMMITTEES

The makeup of the CEDS committees for the parishes and the regional working committee follow.

REGIONAL CEDS COMMITTEE

NAME/ADDRESS	AFFILIATION	RACE/SEX
Martin Triche P.O. Box 520 Napoleonville, LA 70390 (985) 369-6168	Government	W/M
Alvin Sylvester 3359 Hwy. 1 Napoleonville, LA 70390 (985) 369-2956	Education Minorities	B/M
Calvin James 128 Jacobs Street Napoleonville, LA 70390 (985) 369-2843	Government Minorities	B/M
Dale Hymel, Jr. Vice-Chairman P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70723-0106 (225) 562-2300	Government	W/M
Howard Jones 3414 Ash Street Vacherie, LA 70090 (225) 265-4334		B/M
James Mitchell 8207 Kingview Street St James, LA 70086 (225) 783-5824	Industry Minorities	B/M
Nickie Monica 1801 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068 (985) 652-9569	Government	W/M

Ann Tatje 134 Natli Drive LaPlace, LA 70068 (985) 652-5556	Business Woman	W/F
Charles Caillouet P.O. Box 5418 Thibodaux, LA 70302 (985) 446-7218	Government	W/M
Darrell Jupiter P.O. Box 6 Napoleonville, LA 70390 (985) 369-6365	Government Minorities	B/M
Joey Bouziga Town of Golden Meadow Golden Meadow, LA 70357 (985) 475-5163	Government	W/M
Ronald St Pierre P.O. Box Drawer 340 Gramercy, LA 70052 (225) 869-4403	Government	W/M
Troas A. Poche P.O. Box 456 Lutcher, LA 70071 (225) 869-5823	Municipal Government Utilities	W/M
Richard Champagne 710 Church Street Lockport, LA 70374 (985) 532-3117	Government	W/M
Robert Bergeron P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361 (985) 873-6401	Government	W/M
Wayne Thibodaux Chairman P.O. Box 990 Gray, LA 70359-0990 (985) 872-3237	Government Minorities	B/M

Gerald "Buzz" Breaux Secretary Treasurer P.O. Drawer 5548 Thibodaux, LA 70302 (985) 446-8427	Government	W/M
Jerry Jones 1132 Louisa Street Thibodaux, LA 70301 (985) 448-2627	Unemployed Utilities	B/M
Chris T. Bollinger P.O. Box 250 Lockport, LA 70374 (985) 532-7225	Industry Business	W/M
Albert D. Laque P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (985) 783-5000	Government	W/M
Dee Abadie 237 Ormond Village Drive Destrehan, LA 70047 (985) 764-1794	Government	W/F
Edmond J. Blanchard, III 102 Mason Drive Bourg, LA 70343 (985) 580-2424	Industry	W/M
Cleveland Farlough P.O. Box 528 Reserve, LA 70084-0528 (985) 535-1880		B/M

REGIONAL CEDS WORKING COMMITTEE

NAME/ADDRESS	AFFILIATION	RACE/SEX
ASSUMPTION		
Harriet Blanchard Grant Writer P.O. Box 520 Napoleonville, LA 70390	Government	W/F
LAFOURCHE		
Ted Falgout Greater Lafourche Port Comm. P.O. Drawer 490 Galliano, LA 70354	Transportation	W/M
Bonnie LaFont Grants Writer City of Thibodaux P.O. Box 5418 Thibodaux, LA 70302	Government	W/F
ST. CHARLES		
Corey Faucheux Dept. of Economic Development P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057	Business/Industry Development	W/M
Bob Lambert Dept. of Planning & Zoning P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057	Community Development	W/M
ST. JAMES		
Edie Michel Office of Economic Development P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70723	Business/Industry Development	W/F
Bedar Warren Dept of Human Resources P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70723	Low Income/Minorities	B/F

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Julia Remondet Dept. of Economic Development 1801 W. Airline Hwy LaPlace, LA 70068	Real Estate	W/F
Patrick Dufresne Port of South Louisiana P.O. Box 909 LaPlace, LA 70069-0909	Ports/Waterways	W/M

TERREBONNE

Mart Black, AICP Dept. of Cultural Resources & Economic Development P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361	Business/Industry Development	W/M
Ed Watson Terrebonne Port Director P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361	Ports/Waterways	W/M
Patrick Gordon Dept. of Planning & Zoning P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361	Floodplain Management	W/M

St. Charles Parish Economic Development Council
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

NAME/ADDRESS	AFFILIATION	RACE/SEX
Neal Ayme, Jr. First American Bank P.O. Box 521 Boutte, LA 70039 (985) 785-8901	Financial Institutions	W/M
Karen Bergeron St Charles Parish Hospital P O Box 87 Luling, LA 70070 (985) 785-6242	Health	
Richard Border P.O, Box 502 Boutte, LA 70030 (985) 758-2059	Emergency Services	
Ricky Bosco Bosco Brothers, Inc. 711 Apple St. (985) 764-1235	Small Business/East Bank	W/M
Roy Breaud Monsanto Company P.O. Box 174 Luling, LA 70070 (985) 785-8211	Major Industry/West Bank	
Stan Dufrene DOW St Charles Operations P O Box 50 Hahnville, LA 70057 (985) 783-4472	Major Industry/West Bank	W/M
Jim Foley Orion Refining Corporation P O Box 537 Norco, LA 70079 (985) 471-4724	Major Industry/East Bank	

Lily Galland Shell Oil Co P O Box 10 Norco, LA 70079 (985) 465-6811	Major Industry/East Bank	W/F
Bob Harrison Southern Coffee P O B ox 1272 Destrehan, LA 70047 (985) 764-9900	St Charles Business Association	W/M
Betty Haydel River Road Historical Society 1 Rosedown Drive Destrehan, LA 70047 (985) 764-6361	Tourist Attraction	W/F
C J Jones Bunge Corporation P O Box 156 Destrehan, LA 70047 (985) 764-6516	Grain Industry	
Debbie Kinler Timeless Images 131 Lakewood Drive Luling, LA 70070	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 Rathborn Land Co P O Box 157 Harvey, LA 70059 (985) 368-6355	Real Estate-Land Development West Bank	W/M

Luther McCracken CCI Computer Services 114 Lakewood Drive Luling, LA 70070 (985) 331-0742	Technology Representative	
Alan Ray La. Gas Service Co. P O Box 158 Luling, LA 70070 (985) 785-6276	Utilities/Gas Representative	W/M
Doug Rhodes Entergy P O Box 61000 New Orleans, LA 70161-1000 (504) 840-2655	Utilities/Electric Representative	W/M
Carole Schonberg Latter & Blum, Inc,/REALTORS P O Box 1299 Boutte, LA 70039 (985) 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 Drive Destrehan, LA 70047 (985) 764-7373	Retirement Community	W/M
Debra Dufresne Vial Esperanza Restaurant P O Box 980 Luling, LA 70070 (985) 785-1399	Small Business/West Bank	W/F
Patrick Dufresne Port of South Louisiana P O Box 909 LaPlace, LA 70069 (985) 652-9278	Port of South Louisiana	W/M

Dennis Murphy Director LA Technical College River Parish Campus P O Drawer AQ Reserve, LA 70084	Technical College	W/M
Randy Smith Regional Chamber 601 Poydras Street, Suite 1700 New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 527-6949	Regional Chamber of Commerce ..	W/M
Rochell Touchard St Charles Parish Schools P O Box 46 Luling, LA 70070 (985) 785-6289	St Charles Parish Education System	W/F
George Williamson United Way of St Charles P O Box 1027 Hahnville, LA 70057 (985) 783-6322	United Way of St. Charles	W/M
Cressend Schonberg 19 Patricia Court Luling, LA 70070 (985) 785-0535	Past Chairman	
Billie Simoneaux P O Box 395 Luling, LA 70070 (985) 785-6857	Past Chairman	W/F

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Albert Laque, Parish President	W/M
Corey Faucheux, Director of Dept. of Economic Development & Tourism	W/M
Bob Lambert, Director of Planning	W/M
Stephen Fall, Director Dept. of Public Works/Wastewater	W/M
Robert Brou, Director, Dept. of Waterworks	W/M
Sharon Simpkins, Director, JTPA Program SDA #32	B/F
Kevin Belanger	W/M

2003 ST. JAMES PARISH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN
PAUL AUCOIN
134 Goodwill Plantation Road
Vacherie, LA 70090
(225) 265-7906 (work)
(225) 206-0371 (cell phone)

MAC BORDELON
P. O. Box 512
Lutcher, LA 70071
(225) 869-3841
(225) 869-8156 Work/869-5962 Fax

JOHN DOUCET
443 North Montz Street
Gramercy, LA 70052
(225) 869-8575

LLOYD BECNEL
21440 Hwy 20
Vacherie, LA 70090
(225) 265-2309

BETTY WILLIAMS
P. O. Box 128
Paulina, LA 70763
(225) 869-5454

JANET JOHNSON
P. O. 1062
Vacherie, LA 70090
(225) 265--2474

RICKY KLIEBERT
5550 Hwy 44
Convent, LA 70723
(225) 562-7383

JASON AMATO
1168 Marquette Drive
Lutcher, LA 70071
(225) 869-8347
Pager: 352-9133

KENNETH WINCHESTER
3190 Ann Drive
Vacherie, LA 70090
(225) 265-2515

CAMELLA LANDRY
P. O. Box 486
Lutcher, LA 70071
(225) 869-6272

VICE-CHAIRMAN
BLAISE GRAVOIS
13395 Redbud Street
Vacherie, LA 70090
(225) 265-2437
(985) 688-4280 (cell phone)

SECRETARY
BRENDA MELANCON
3381 South Angelle
Paulina, LA 70763
(225) 869-4670 (work)
(225) 869-8087

ZEB MAYHEW
3645 LA 18
Vacherie, LA 70090
(225) 265-2151 Work/265-7035 Fax

DOLORES FLORENT
1225 Luther King Street
Vacherie, LA 70090
(225) 265-7903

LOUIS KLIEBERT
3955 M & P Road
Paulina, LA 70763
(225) 869-9072

DON MELANCON
P. O. Box 63
Lutcher, LA 70071
(225) 869-8441

ROWDY SCOTT
1596 Cabanose Avenue
Lutcher, LA 70071
(225) 869-9762

CHARLENE D. WILLIAMS
2244 Church Street
Vacherie, LA 70090
(225) 235-7685 (cell phone)

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

NAME/ADDRESS	AFFILIATION	RACE/SEX

David Beadley
105 Marmillion Loop
Reserve, LA 70084
(985) 536-3840

Vernon Bailey, Vice Chairman
P O Box 116
LaPlace, LA 70069
(985) 651-0983
pager 468-0737

Chris Eichhorn
20 Country club Drive
LaPlace, LA 70069
(985) 652-5434/734-1863

Dave Millet
1117 W. Airline Hwy
LaPlace, LA 70068
(985) 652-6261

Sean Roussel
225 Somerset
LaPlace, LA 70068
(985) 651-9971/653-4248

Roland A. Troxier, Chairman
2143 Pinehurst
LaPlace, LA 70068
(985) 652-3777

Allen Weber
P O Box 141
LaPlace, LA 70069
(985) 652-5171

Edgar Jochum
1913 Van Arpel
LaPlace, LA 70068
(985) 652-2698

Lori Burke Colas
590 Hwy 18
Edgard, LA 70049
(985) 497-8436

MINUTES FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, October 24, 2002

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2002, at the Ellendale Country Club, Houma, Louisiana. Chairman W. Thibodeaux called the meeting to order, and requested roll call. Members present or represented by proxy were A. Sylvester, G. Breaux, R. Champagne, T. Vial representing A. Laque, N. Monica, H. Jones, W. Thibodeaux, and J. Palmisano. Members absent were M. Triche, C. James, D. Jupiter, J. Jones, C. Caillouet, J. Bouziga, D. Abadie, C. Farlough, A. Tatje, D. Hymel, J. Mitchell, R. St. Pierre, T. Poche, R. Bergeron. Staff members present were K. Belanger, M. Menuet, J. Boudreaux, R. Hutchinson, R. Poché and K. Ghirardi.

Chairman Thibodaux introduced the Corporate Sponsor, Mr. Oneil Malbrough, Coastal Engineering & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

K. Belanger introduced SCPDC's architect, Mr. E.A. Angelloz and Louisiana Airport Authority representatives, Ms. Glenda Jeansonne and Winfield Beyea, Project Manager, URS Corporation.

Sylvester moved, Jones seconded, to ratify the appointment of Joey Palmisano to the SCPDC Board. Motion carried.

Champagne moved, Breaux seconded, to accept the minutes of June 27, 2002. Motion carried.

Champagne moved, Sylvester seconded, to ratify the minutes of the October 21, 2002 Management Committee meeting. Motion carried.

K. Belanger reviewed the unaudited financial statements ending June 30, 2002. N. Monica asked K. Belanger about payment for services by non member agencies. Discussion ensued.

A presentation was made on the Louisiana Airport Authority site selection process by Ms. Glenda Jeansonne and Mr. Winfield Beyea.

Chairman Thibodaux welcomed Ms. Ann Perry, Regional Representative for the LA Department of Economic Development.

K. Belanger introduced E.A. Angelloz, Architect for SCPDC's building project. K. Belanger explained the progress that has taken place over the past three (3) months. Mr. Angelloz provided a copy of the advertisement for bids. He said that he is scheduling to advertise for bids and that the plans will be available for contractors on

November 6, 2002. Bids will be received on December 10, 2002. A pre bid conference is scheduled for November 20, 2002.

Kevin briefly reviewed the Agency Activity Report.

Oneil Malbrough of Coastal Engineering & Environmental Consultants, Inc. made a presentation to the Board on the services provided by the company.

Chairman Thibodaux requested that SCPDC communicate with the individuals appointed to the Board who never attend meetings or send proxies. He asked that SCPDC find out how the individuals are appointed and offer the governments an opportunity to replace them. He stated that it is very important that there is active participation by the members.

K. Belanger stated that on November 21, 2002, Col. Champagne of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission will be at the Louisiana State Police Troop C office. He will be discussing the 2003 proposed legislation.

There being no further business to discuss, Monica moved, Sylvester seconded, to adjourn.

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 October 24, 2002.

Wayne Thibodeaux, Chairman
South Central Planning and Development Commission

Gerald "Buzz" Breaux, Secretary-Treasurer
South Central Planning and Development Commission

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, January 30, 2003

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 30, 2003, at the Ormond Plantation, Destrehan, Louisiana. Chairman W. Thibodeaux called the meeting to order, and requested roll call. Members present or represented by proxy were L. Bell representing D. Jupiter , G. Breaux, R. Champagne, A. Laque, D. Vial, A. Tatje, D. Hymel, J. Mitchell, E. Louque, P. Gordon representing R. Bergeron, W. Thibodeaux, and J. Palmisano. Members absent were M. Triche, C. James, A. Sylvester, J. Jones, C. Caillouet, J. Bouziga, D. Abadie, N. Monica, C. Farlough, H. Jones, and T. Poche. Staff members present were K. Belanger, M. Menuet, J. Boudreaux, and R. Poché.

A prayer was led by L. Bell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Thibodeaux introduced Mr. Dan Toepfer and Ms. Deanna Zeringue of Bourgeois Bennett, LLC.

Mitchell moved, Champagne seconded, to accept the minutes of October 24, 2002. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on January 29, 2003 was presented to the Board for ratification.

Champagne moved, Mitchell seconded, to ratify the minutes of the January 29, 2003 Management Committee meeting. Motion carried.

K. Belanger reviewed the financial statements ending December 31, 2002. He informed the Board that as of December 31, 2002, SCPDC had total assets of $2,044,588.41, total liabilities of $859,284.46, total fund equity of $1,185,303.95, and total Liabilities and fund equity of $2,044,588.41 including the RLF. He then stated the numbers without the RLF which the total assets are $693,980.36, total liabilities of $139,178.85, total fund equity of $554,801.51, and total liabilities and fund equity of $693,980.36. K. Belanger stated that on page 6 of the financial statement is a more accurate depiction as to how the financial statement compares to the budget. He said that total revenues in FY 2003 were $1,008,216.00 of which to date $355,667.99 was actually billed. He said that Total expenditures are $1,334,693 and as of December 31, 2002 only $502,209.40 was spent. He said that year to date there is a deficiency of $146,541.41. He said that of that deficit SCPDC has spent approximately $61,614.79 on the new office building so the deficit is literally around $78,000.00.

Hymel moved, Gordon seconded, to approve the financial statement ending December 31, 2003. Motion carried.

K. Belanger discussed the FY 2002-2003 Budget Adjustments. He said that by the end of the year SCPDC should probably be able to get $924,346 into our revenues. He said that several contracts have been entered since the original budget was adopted, those being a rational speed study, Brownfields, and Safe Communities. He said that a lot of the money from the added grants will not be apportioned to this fiscal year.

K. Belanger said that if you look at total expenditures you will see that SCPDC is expecting with the current budget adjustments $1,083,807 of expenditures which will equate to a deficit of $159,461. K. Belanger said that he has frozen all salary increases inside the agency for a period of one year. He said that projected salaries are $443,000 and that he does not think that the entire amount will be needed because pay raises were included in that amount. K. Belanger said that the agency has actually had an increase in legal fees due to an RLF loan in Terrebonne Parish. K. Belanger informed the Board that some pending work that is not within the current budget that may come in within the next two weeks to a month is $22,000 for a Lake Pontchartrain Wastewater Project, $15,000 for an OEP effort in order to facilitate all of their meetings ($30,000 total), $25,000 for a Terrebonne Parish School Board Project ($40,000 total), $350,000 study for a Master Transportation Plan for all three river parishes of which $40,000.00 would go into this years budget, $240,000 for an NPS contract with DEQ. He stated that he is very confident that the deficit will be eliminated.

A. Tatje asked Mr. Belanger to elaborate on the conservative measures which will be taken to correct the deficit. K. Belanger stated that staff changes will be made, probably one or two people will be let go, and he will freeze salaries for one year.

Laque moved, Hymel seconded, to approve the FY02-03 Budget Adjustments. Motion carried.

South Central Planning's FY01-02 Annual Audit was presented by Mr. Dan Toepfer of Bourgeois Bennett, LLC. Mr. Toepfer said that there was one compliance finding which was due to the RLF not equaling the percentage loan requirement. He said that the finding has been corrected.

K. Belanger stated that he researched the historical ending financial statements since 1990 and found that the variations are similar.

Breaux moved, Laque seconded, to accept the FY 01-02 Annual Audit prepared by Bourgeois Bennett LLC. Motion carried.

Chairman Thibodeaux stated that the next item up for discussion is the election of officers for 2003. He said that he has served as the chairman for the past year and that he would enjoy serving an additional year.

The Chairman opened the floor for nominations of Secretary Treasurer. R. Champagne moved, A. Laque seconded, to nominate Gerald "Buzz" Breaux for Secretary Treasurer. There being no other nominations, G. Breaux was nominated by acclamation.

The Chairman opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chairman. R. Champagne moved, J. Mitchell seconded, to nominate Dale Hymel, Jr. for Vice Chairman. There being no other nominations, D. Hymel was nominated by acclamation.

The Chairman opened the floor for nominations of Chairman. G. Breaux moved, R. Champagne seconded, to nominate Wayne Thibodeaux for Chairman. There being no other nominations, W. Thibodeaux was nominated by acclamation.

R. Champagne moved, A. Laque seconded, that nominations be closed. Motion carried.

K. Belanger showed a slide presentation that he brought back from the EDA Annual Conference in New Mexico which shows where the investments have occurred over the past year and how the region should be looking to better ourselves. He said that Louisiana is not getting its fair share of EDA money. He asked that the members work collectively with South Central Planning to think of new projects that the agency can go after.

K. Belanger stated that he received an email that states that congress is considering slashing $77 million from the current funding source to EDA which will drastically cause a lack of investments to be disbursed. He said that it is imperative that South Central Planning be notified when there is an area that is in distress.

K. Belanger stated that the North/South Interstate Corridor project is at a point where the Region is in a position to move forward with the environmental study. He explained that in July 2002, several parishes requested the agency to take the project on for the Region. He said that the Board did approve that action to be taken. Since that time the agency has put together a pro-rata basis of funding that each parish will be asked to pay in order to be able to get the environmental study off of the ground. He said that the LA Department of Transportation has no money to put into this project. He said that the uniqueness of this is that it is a $350,000,000 project that will affect every parish of the south central region whether directly or indirectly through hurricane evacuation. He said that in 2004 the Legislature is going to introduce to the public an option to increase the gasoline tax by around $.04. If the tax passes, Louisiana will still be below the national average of gasoline tax. He said that he believes that the residents of Louisiana will approve the tax if it is marketed right. He said that when this tax gets approved, this project will be included in those projects to be funded by that increase in gasoline tax. Each Parish will need to put up their pro-rata share to pay for the $400,000 of local match in order to get the $2.3 million allocated to pay for the environmental study. He said that SCPDC has created resolutions for each particular Parish to introduce at each of the council meetings. He said that SCPDC will need Resolutions from each Parish Government as well as budget amendments to be included to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement. The State will not let the project until all of the money for the study is in place. A flyer was distributed to the Board which gives an overview and summary of the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan.

G. Breaux informed the Board that construction for the new 4 lane bridge from Leeville to Port Fourchon should begin in 2008.

Chairman Thibodeaux pointed out an email included in the meeting packets from Ms. Pamela Ehlers regarding training for disaster resistance jobs.

K. Belanger gave an update on the progress of the new office building. He said that the agency went out for bid on the office building in December and received bids in January. The bids came in at $1,387,000, roughly about $250,000 over what the agency's allocation is. He said that a few large ticket items were taken out and the size of the building was scaled down in order to go back out for bid.

Chairman Thibodeaux stated that there are a couple of minor changes that need to be made to Article 3 of the SCPDC By-laws. In Section 3.6, on the second line, *shall* will be replaced with *can*, and in Section 3.8 *and* will be replaced with *or*.

Hymel moved, Laque seconded, to approve the proposed amendment to the SCPDC by-laws. Motion carried.

K. Belanger stated that Terrebonne Parish President Bobby Bergeron offered four nominations for the RLF Loan Administration Board. Those four individuals are Troy Johnson, Robert Charles, Kevin Thompson and Nolan Harris. K Belanger asked that if there are no other nominations from any other Parish that all four nominees be appointed. Chairman Thibodeaux stated that two of the nominees did provide resumes and two did not. K. Belanger stated that the RLF Board oversees the RLF and they take recommendations from the Loan Advisory Committee which is made up entirely of bankers. The Board makes the final approval on all money that is lent out. P. Gordon asked K. Belanger if he has had the nominations open for some time now. K. Belanger stated that the nominations have been open for approximately one year.

P. Gordon moved, D. Hymel seconded, to appoint all four members nominated by Mr. Bergeron to the RLF Loan Administration Board. Motion carried.

Chairman Thibodeaux asked that the Secretary make sure that the four individuals appointed to the RLF Board be notified.

Chairman Thibodeaux stated that the Agency Activity Report is included in the meeting packets for review by the members at their leisure.

K. Belanger recognized the corporate sponsor, Mr. Bill Sermon or River Birch Landfill. He thanked Mr. Sermon for agreeing to sponsor the meeting.

Councilman Brian Fabre of St. Charles Parish, District 2 introduced himself to the Board.

K. Belanger discussed the handout he provided on different scenarios for an increase in dues if it becomes necessary in the future. He said that the Board would need to approve the increase before it could happen but provided the handout so that the members would know what their responsibilities would be if an increase would need to be implemented.

Chairman Thibodeaux asked that the SCPDC staff make sure to poll the business and minority representative members before the next meeting to see if they are still interested in participating on the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Breaux asked if the members could appoint an alternate if they cannot make the meetings because of business reasons. Mr. Belanger replied yes.

There being no further business to discuss, Mitchell moved, Champagne seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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 30, 2003.

Wayne Thibodeaux, Chairman
South Central Planning and Development Commission

Gerald "Buzz" Breaux, Secretary-Treasurer
South Central Planning and Development Commission

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, April 24, 2003

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2003, at the Belle Terre Country Club, LaPlace, Louisiana. Vicë-Chairman D. Hymel called the meeting to order, and requested roll call. Members present or represented by proxy were A. Sylvester, L. Bell representing D. Jupiter, G. Breaux, R. Champagne, D. Vial, D. Abadie, D. Hymel, J. Mitchell, H. Jones, N. Monica, C. Farlough, E. Louque, P. Gordon representing R. Bergeron, and J. Palmisano. Members absent were M. Triche, C. James, J. Jones, C. Caillouet, J. Bouziga, A. Laque, A. Tatje, T. Poche, and W. Thibodeaux. Staff members present were K. Belanger, M. Menuet, J. Boudreaux, L. Williams, K. Ghirardi, and R. Poché.

Vice-Chair D. Hymel recognized the two (2) corporate sponsors; Buchart Horn, Inc. and Providence Engineering & Environmental Group, LLC. Those representing Buchart Horn, Inc. were Paul McNamee, Mark Grey, and Jim Joffrion. Those representing Providence Engineering were Rich Majors and Todd Black.

K. Belanger introduced SCPDC staff present.

R. Champagne moved, J. Mitchell seconded, to accept the minutes of January 30, 2003. Motion carried.

K. Belanger reviewed the financial statements ending March 31, 2003. He explained that including the RLF, total assets are $2,114,000.00, total liabilities are $1,136,633.07, total fund equity is $977,420.69 for a total liabilities and fund equity of $2,114,053.76. Next K. Belanger explained that without the RLF, SCPDC has total assets of $755,335.70, liabilities of $190,283.09, total fund equity of $565,052.61 for a total liabilities and fund equity of $755,335.70. K. Belanger then discussed the statement of actual vs. budget. He explained that the legal and accounting fees stand out because of a defaulter on an RLF loan which SCPDC has spent about $25,000 that was not actually budgeted for legal defense. K. Belanger discussed several contracts that were acted upon that are not included in the budget.

A. Sylvester moved, E. Louque seconded, to approve the financial statement ending March 31, 2003. Motion carried.

N. Monica, St. John the Baptist Parish President arrived at this time.

Discussion ensued on the engagement letter from Bourgeois Bennett for audit services for the next three (3) years.

D. Vial moved, G. Breaux seconded, to approve the engagement letter for audit services from Bourgeois Bennett. Motion carried.

K. Belanger discussed the equipment being requested to be declared surplus. He said that this equipment is broken but may be usable for parts.

R. Champagne moved, D. Abadie seconded, to approve a resolution declaring an HP LaserJet 6P printer, HP DeskJet 870Cse, and an IBM Correcting Selectric II Typewriter as surplus equipment.

K. Belanger updated the Board on the status of the North/South Interstate Corridor funding. He said that as of this date, all of the Parishes have agreed to pay for 20% of the Environmental Impact Statement that is estimated at $2.3 million. He said that he is waiting on Mr. Breaux to procure the budget adjustment that he needs to take care of in Lafourche Parish and he still needs signatures from Mr. Monica and Mr. Triche. P. Gordon asked when the project can be expected to be let. Mr. Belanger said that it cannot happen until we have all of the signatures in place.

K. Belanger said that at 2 p.m. today bids will be opened on the proposed SCPDC building. He said that the total allocation to the building project is $1.385 million and in October bids came in at about $1.385 million. He said that the problem is that this amount also includes engineering and architectural fees so the actual construction dollars is only around $1.5 million. He explained that SCPDC cut some items in order to get the costs down.

K. Belanger briefly discussed some of the regional activities listed on the Agency Activity Report, specifically the FHWA Speed Grant. E. Louque, Mayor of Gramercy, asked K. Belanger if the speed grant would include some road improvements such as turning lanes. K. Belanger said that the grant is mainly focusing on speeds of highways. D. Hymel informed Mayor Louque that he hopes that traffic counts taken will be made available which can be used to go to the State to ask that a turning lane be put in due to the amount of traffic.

D. Abadie asked K. Belanger if he has helped any of the parishes with railroad problems. K. Belanger said that SCPDC has not but he would be more than happy to look into it.

P. Gordon stated to Mr. Belanger that he mentioned SCPDC would look at speed limits on the different classifications of streets within the South Central District but also mentioned traffic devices. He asked if this includes unwarranted four-way stop signs. K. Belanger stated that when he said traffic control devices, SCPDC is trying to show that there is a methodology behind all aspects of signage along roadways which includes traffic control devices. He said that this is a prelude to trying to go back later and telling the parishes that when you put up a four-way stop sign there is a reason for that. He said that a four-way stop sign is usually a prelude to a signal light and not a permanent solution. He said that when a sign is placed an assumed liability is taken on by the parishes. He informed the Board that the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices regulates the use of these particular signs. K. Belanger said that the rational speed study will hopefully bring some attention and awareness to the methodology and procedures that are in place right now to create speed limits, which will hopefully evolve into other traffic control devices as well.

L. Williams of SCPDC gave a PowerPoint presentation on Brownfields. Discussion ensued.

D. Hymel introduced Mr. Paul McNamee of Buchart Horn and allowed him to make a presentation to the SCPDC Board. Mr. McNamee informed Ms. Williams that their corporate headquarters is a former Brownfields site. He said that they have a video put together on the process that he would be glad to furnish to SCPDC. Mr. McNamee introduced Mr. Mark Grey who gave a presentation on Buchart Horn.

Rich Major of Providence Engineering gave a presentation on his company.

There being no further business to discuss, J. Mitchell moved, D. Abadie seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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 24, 2003.

Wayne Thibodeaux, Chairman
South Central Planning and Development Commission

Gerald "Buzz" Breaux, Secretary-Treasurer
South Central Planning and Development Commission

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, June 26, 2003

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2003, at Nobile's Restaurant, Lutcher, Louisiana. Chairman W. Thibodeaux called the meeting to order, and requested roll call. Members present or represented by proxy were A. Sylvester, G. Breaux, B. Lafont representing C. Caillouet, D. Abadie, J. Lubrano representing D. Hymel, J. Mitchell, H. Jones, N. Monica, C. Farlough, J. Benoit representing R. Bergeron, and W. Thibodeaux. Members absent were M. Triche, C. James, D. Jupiter, J. Jones, R. Champagne, J. Bouziga, A. Laque, D. Vial, A. Tatje, E. Louque, T. Poche, and J. Palmisano. Staff members present were K. Belanger, M. Menuet, J. Boudreaux, P. Roussel, and M. Cazaubon.

K. Belanger welcomed Steve Nosacka of Holley, Tucker, Bossier and Nosacka who is the corporate sponsor for the meeting.

K. Belanger introduced Ms. Pamela Ehlers who is the EDA Representative for Louisiana.

J. Mitchell moved, C. Farlough seconded, to accept the minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2003. Motion carried.

K. Belanger discussed the financial statement ending May 31, 2003.

A. Sylvester moved, D. Abadie seconded, to approve the financial statement ending May 31, 2003. Motion carried.

G. Breaux entered the meeting at this time.

K. Belanger discussed the FY 2002-2003 budget adjustments.

D. Abadie moved, N. Monica seconded, to approve the FY02-03 budget adjustments. Motion carried.

K. Belanger presented the FY 2004 Proposed Budget. He explained that the projected revenues including the RLF are $1,474,955 and total expenditures of $1,554,995. K. Belanger informed the Board that the agency will put up an additional $198,385 toward the new building. He explained that the agency will have to re-bid on the building once again. K. Belanger explained that there is approximately $480,000 allocated to salaries. He said that inside of this amount he has included an across the board cost of living increase to all full time employees. He explained that in January 2003 he placed a freeze on all salaries but continued to evaluate the employees. He said that several employees received good evaluations. He asked that the Board allow a 5% maximum pay increase to those employees who receive good evaluations. He explained that the 5% would not be guaranteed across the board to all employees and that the CEO's salary is not included. He said that the merit increases would take place after January, 2004.

A. Sylvester asked Mr. Belanger if the increase included part-time employees. J. Boudreaux said that the 4% cost of living increase was included for the part-time employees also. K. Belanger said that part-time employees do not get evaluated as does a full time employee but occasionally when a part time employee's performance is excelling their salary is adjusted to accommodate the extra work.

J. Mitchell asked for clarification on what Mr. Belanger's asking for. K. Belanger stated that he is asking for a 4% cost of living increase to be given across the board. He said that he is also asking for consideration for a merit increase of up to 5%. He said that he is asking for the line item so that if he feels the need is there to give merit increases he has that ability. J. Mitchell said that there is a possibility for someone, if not everyone, to get up to a 9% increase. K. Belanger said that the Management Committee has some concern with this also.

K. Belanger stated that inside of the proposed budget there is no mention of several projects that the agency has pending. He said that the total deficit is projected at $223,933, and of that $198,385 is for the building. He said that the true deficit is around $25,000. K. Belanger named some of the pending projects for the agency.

N. Monica questioned the pay increases. He said that a possible 9% increase is kind of high.

N. Monica moved, C. Farlough seconded, to cap the merit increase at 3% and the cost of living at 4%.

Discussion ensued on what the increases would cost the agency. C. Farlough asked how many full time employees the agency employs. K. Belanger stated that there are 10 full-time employees and 8 part-time employees. He said that 5 of the eight part-time employees will be gone in approximately two months. C. Farlough asked Mr. Belanger if he has a particular evaluation instrument that he uses. K. Belanger replied that he does.

D. Abadie stated her concern on the amount of the cost of living increase. She asked K. Belanger where he came up with 4%. She said that St. Charles Parish uses the National CPI to get the cost of living which was 1.9% for St. Charles Parish. She stated that she did not have a problem with the 5% merit increases. K. Belanger said that he also used the National CPI.

A. Sylvester stated that the increase sounds like a lot but felt that we need to take care of good personnel. He said that he felt that the agency is doing a good job. He suggested that K. Belanger perform the evaluations and then come back to the committee with a figure and then the Board could decide what proposal to use.

A. Sylvester moved, N. Monica seconded, to offer a substitute motion that no action be taken by the Board today and to allow the CEO to take a look at his proposal and bring a dollar amount back to the Board.

N. Monica asked if the 4% would be effective July 1. K. Belanger said that the 4% cost of living increase was expected to take place in October, 2003. He said that he will not have a dollar amount for the merit increases until the end of 2004. He explained that the annual evaluations do not all take place on the same day.

J. Mitchell recommended holding a special management committee meeting for the committee to make a recommendation to the full board.

W. Thibodeaux asked K. Belanger to give the Board the amount it would cost the agency if everyone was given the 5% that way the Board will have a window of where the highest and lowest will be.

D. Abadie asked if the agency covers health insurance for the employee and what cost is the agency responsible for. K. Belanger said that the agency pays 95% of the cost for health insurance. D. Abadie said that cost of living is high and said that she is willing to give 3% cost of living and to allow for a 5% merit increase which could allow an employee to possibly receive up to 8%. She said that she is all in favor of this is you have a good employee that deserves this amount and knowing that you have some type of bell curve. She asked W. Thibodeaux what Terrebonne Parish received this year. W. Thibodeaux said that Terrebonne Parish did not have any cost of living increase this year and that they received 2% last year.

There was much discussion as to whether the budget should be approved with no action on salaries or to approve the budget as is.

N. Monica withdrew his original motion. A. Sylvester withdrew his substitute motion.

J. Mitchell moved, A. Sylvester seconded, to approve the budget as is and that the Management Committee meet to review salary increases (both Cost of Living and Merit) and that the Management Committee make a recommendation to the full board at the October, 2003 meeting.

K. Belanger stated that this year the agency failed to present the budget to the public via a notice in the newspaper. He said that the auditor was contacted and he was advised that the budget needed to be adopted. He said that the document will be published in the paper and if at the next meeting there are no comments from the public it will stand. K. Belanger cited the state law that requires this process.

W. Thibodeaux asked if there were any other questions on the above motion. There being no other questions, a vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

W. Thibodeaux recognized Representative Bobby Faucheux.

Discussion ensued on the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document.

D. Abadie moved, J. Mitchell seconded, to accept the CEDS. Motion carried.

D. Abadie moved, J. Benoit seconded, to adopt a resolution adopting the System Survey and Compliance Questionnaire. Motion carried.

A. Sylvester moved, H. Jones seconded, to adopt the resolution certifying that the RLF program is consistent with the current regional economic adjustment strategy; is being operated in accordance with the policies and procedures contained in the plan; and, that all loan portfolios meet plan standards. Motion carried.

J. Benoit moved, N. Monica seconded, to handle both items 8 and 9 on the agenda at the same time. Motion carried.

G. Breaux moved, A. Sylvester seconded, to adopt both resolutions authorizing the CEO to enter in to contracts for the Metropolitan Planning for FY 2004 with the LA Department of Transportation for transit funds and the continuing planning phase. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued on the Official Journal for SCPDC.

G. Breaux moved, D. Abadie seconded, to approve the Houma Courier as its Official Journal for the period of July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004. Motion carried.

K. Belanger discussed correspondence from the Louisiana Property Assistance Agency regarding the tagging of property. K. Belanger asked that the agency be allowed to amend the Accounting and Administrative Procedures Manual to change the tagging threshold on property from $500 to $1000.

J. Benoit moved, N. Monica seconded, to amend the Administrative Procedures Manual changing the tagging of property from $500 to $1000. Motion carried.

K. Belanger briefly updated the Board on the North South Interstate Corridor funding. He said that both he and N. Monica need to meet with Albert Laque to validate the costs on the Cooperative Endeavor Agreements. He said that the state has already let for Request for Statements of Qualifications in the environmental work to take place on the corridor. He said that G. Breaux will sign the Agreements today.

K. Belanger informed the Board that the second bid process failed for the new building. He said that a bid from Lamar Construction was received in the amount of $1,213,000. He said that the agency has allocated for the building $1,156,000. He said that part of that cost is supposed to include a parking lot. He said that when the process began, the architect expected that the cost would be around $100 - $110 per sq. ft. He said that the lowest bid received was at $138 per sq. ft the first round and $132 per sq. ft. the second. K. Belanger said that the building was cut drastically for the second bid. He said that the bid was good but we are still off by $50,000 - $60,000. He said that he has met with the contractor and negotiated in good faith. He said that he cut features of the building by almost $50,000.00 and when he asked the contractor to give further consideration on profit it was unsuccessful. K. Belanger stated that he did reject the bids. He informed the Board that he will begin to go out and meet with contractor to get them interested in bidding on the project. A. Sylvester stated his concern about our building funds being kept safe. K. Belanger said that he has contacted Barry Hickman at Facility Planning and was told that as long as the agency has a concerted effort to try to build the building he does not see any problem.

K. Belanger provided the Board with the Agency Activity Report.

W. Thibodeaux once again welcomed Steve Nosacka of Holley, Tucker, Bossier and Nosacka. S. Nosacka informed the Board that in January, 2002 the name of the firm changed to King, Bossier, Nosacka, and Holley. He briefly addressed the Board on the services of his agency. W. Thibodeaux thanked S. Nosacka for his time and generosity.

Rep. Bobby Faucheux updated the Board of the progress of the recent legislative session.

K. Belanger presented under other business the Management Committee minutes of June 23, 2003 for ratification by the Board.

N. Monica moved, G. Breaux seconded, to ratify the Management Committee minutes of June 23, 2003. Motion carried.

Also under other business, K. Belanger presented a Resolution for surplus equipment.

H. Jones moved, D. Abadie seconded, to adopt a resolution to authorize the CEO to dispose of equipment. Motion carried.

The last item presented under other business was a letter submitted by David Waitz regarding the selection process for LCDBG projects. K. Belanger said that he has tried to address the issue by the changes made inside of the criteria.

N. Monica moved, A. Sylvester seconded, to approve the changes to the Request of Qualification Statement for Engineering Services to be used for the FY 2004-05 LCDBG Program. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, N. Monica moved, D. Abadie seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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 June 26, 2003.

_____
Wayne Thibodeaux, Chairman
South Central Planning and Development Commission

_____
Gerald "Buzz" Breaux, Secretary-Treasurer
South Central Planning and Development Commission