CEDS

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSISON

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Long Term Community Recovery- Lafourche
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COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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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 third 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 parish and municipality 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 SCPDC. 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 Region's 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 to review and comment upon, 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:

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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 includes 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 B provides minutes from recent meetings of the SCPDC Board.

LOCAL ECONOMY UPDATE

The South Central Region continues to experience small but steady population growth. Between 2000 and 2004, the region grew by 1.65%. Most of the population growth seems to be occurring in the region's small municipalities. This could be for a variety of reasons including proximity to jobs and availability of public services. This is a positive trend in light of concerns in other parts of the nation about sprawl. However, there is a great need to improve the available services and infrastructure in these small municipalities and other unincorporated communities of the region.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Growth between 2000 and 2004
Assumption	**23,388**	**23,253**	**23,618**	**23,291**	**23,240**	**-0.63**
Napoleonville	686	686	729	729	729	6.27
Lafourche	**89,974**	**90,255**	**90,477**	**91,034**	**92,104**	**2.37**
Golden Meadow	2,193	2,193	2,271	2,304	2,313	5.47
Lockport	2,624	2,629	2,629	2,629	2,625	0.04
Thibodaux	14,431	14,792	14,955	14,853	14,854	2.93
St. Charles	**48,067**	**48,336**	**48,418**	**48,351**	**48,103**	**0.07**
St. James	**21,195**	**21,221**	**21,293**	**21,139**	**20,795**	**-1.89**
Gramercy	3,047	3,066	3,175	3,191	3,239	6.30
Lutcher	3,735	3,743	3,757	3,730	3,729	-0.16
St. John the Baptist	**43,049**	**43,492**	**43,267**	**44,053**	**44,268**	**2.83**
Terrebonne	**104,503**	**104,892**	**105,935**	**106,823**	**107,127**	**2.51**
Regional Total	**330,176**	**331,449**	**333,008**	**334,691**	**335,637**	**1.65%**

The most recent annual unemployment reports show that changes in the region between March 2002 and 2003 were for the most part modest. Assumption and St. Charles Parishes both experienced a .5% increase in unemployment and St. James Parish experienced a .5% decrease over the year. Following is a summary of the most recently available monthly differences between 2004 and 2005.

	MARCH 2005	MARCH 2004
Assumption	7.3	6.8
Lafourche	4.3	4.3
St. Charles	4.3	3.8
St. James	7.7	8.4
St. John the Baptist	5.1	5.2
Terrebonne	4.8	4.8

In 2003, the largest numbers of jobs in the South Central Region were found in manufacturing, mining, transportation and warehousing and healthcare sectors. Retail trade was the leading industry sector in Regional Labor Market Area 3 (Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes) in 2003, with 12.4% of the total employment. Transportation and warehousing was the largest employment sector in Lafourche. In there parishes, wages increased by 2.9% over 2002 resulting in an average weekly rate of $597.16. Assumption parish had the highest average weekly rate of $608.81. In the three River Parishes, the construction sector was by far the largest employer. In the three River Parishes (part of Regional Labor Market Area 1) construction and manufacturing dominated the job market. St. Charles had the highest average weekly wage in the six parish SCPDC region at $820.15 while Lafourche had the lowest average weekly wage of $580.35. Per capita income increased somewhat throughout the region between 2002 and 2003. While the per capita incomes of Lafourche and St. Charles Parishes exceeded the State per capita income of $26,312 all six parishes fell far short of the National per capita income of $31,472.

	Average Weekly Wage in 2003	**2003 Per Capita Income**
Assumption	$608.81	$25,903
Lafourche	$580.35	$26,847
St. Charles	$520.15	$26,470
St. James	$711.18	$21,487
St. John the Baptist	$641.53	$22,592
Terrebonne	$607.21	$23,851

In 2003, the highest paid occupations in the Nation, Louisiana and the Houma and New Orleans MSAs were medical fields. Other high earning fields in the South Central Region were engineering, advertising, legal and managerial fields. La. Department of Labor Employment Projections for years 2000 to 2010 indicate retail trade is expected to continue to dominate the job market in Region 3. Services will dominate the job sectors in Region 1 which includes the City of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish.

The report, the "Louisiana Economic Outlook 2005-2006" by Loren Scott, et al, forecast 2,200 new jobs for the Houma MSA over 2005-2006. The forecast that this would be the fastest growing MSA in 2004-2005 turned out to be a failed prediction as the MSA actually lost 900 jobs. In 2005 – 2006, Scott, et al, expect most of the new jobs to be associated with shipbuilding as Bollinger and its competitors continue to bring in new contracts. In the New Orleans MSA< St. Charles Parish lost jobs when DOW terminated 300 to 400 workers at three of its locations as a result of its acquisition of Union Carbide. Other chemical firms have cut back on employment as a result of high natural gas prices. Scott et al forecast 12,700 new jobs for Region 1 which covers an eight parish area, again with many of the jobs expected in shipbuilding. Jobs are also anticipated in construction projects.

Following these trends on where jobs are anticipated to be in the coming years helps economic developers in the South Central region focus their efforts to bolster growing employment sectors while tracking opportunities for creating diversity in employment.

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. This includes the provision of public transit services, too, as such has been deemed essential to providing opportunities for the unemployed to reach job training and skill development programs, and work locations.

The Region continues to monitor developments related to the State's Louisiana Airport Authority (LAA) recommendation to locate a major cargo airport on the Westbank of the Mississippi River in Ascension Parish near Donaldsonville. Much of the impact of such a development would be felt within Ascension, Assumption, St. James and Iberville Parishes. Other impacts follow:

The Region continues to support efforts to bring U. S. Highway 90 up to interstate standards between Lafayette and I-310 in St. Charles Parish and thus continue Interstate 49. Segments through Terrebonne Parish are now complete and work is now being conducted on alternative alignments through St. Charles and Lafourche Parishes. Parishes along the route are in need of assistance to plan for growth along the Highway 90 corridor.

The Houma MPO continues to make transportation improvements in the region and is undertaking planning for an intelligent transportation system (ITS). 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 improve transportation systems and services. The MPO has been successful in obtaining Congressional earmarks that will fund development of the ITS.

The Houma Airport continued its long range planning and implementation in order to accommodate the growing pressure for a full service general aviation airport in the region. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission has developed a Master Plan for development of the South Lafourche Airport (renamed the Leonard Miller Jr. Memorial Airport) in Galliano. Plans include improved access to the Airport as well as onsite facilities.

Provision of adequate sewage treatment remains critical to the South Central Region due to the area's geography, high water table and soils. SCPDC moved forward with its EPA funded grant program which will provide a comprehensive regional sewerage assessment in Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. This will allow the region to look at what is available and what if any opportunities exist for regional collaboration in addressing sewerage issues. Additional EPA funding has been received and this will allow the SCPDC to provide the same kind of analysis for the West Banks of the River Parishes. A similar program designed to

encompass the area surrounding Lake Pontchartrain has already addressed the East side of the Mississippi River in that area. Assumption Parish is currently looking into alternative means to provide sewerage in an area of Pierre Part scheduled for road upgrade. This State road widening project will force about 50 homes and businesses, a school and a church to switch their method of providing sewerage or be faced with potential closures.

As water systems age, communities have attempted to upgrade the facilities to keep up with the demand for water usage with growth and new businesses. Assumption Parish was able to upgrade a major water service line in order to provide adequate water capacity to two sugar mills through funding from the EPA. The Parish continues to research other potential funding sources for further upgrade in particular for service along a stretch of La. Hwy. 70 which presently has no water service. The Town of Gramercy has received a grant from EPA which will be used to refurbish its aging water treatment plant. St. James and Lafourche continue progress in updating and refurbishing community water systems in order to meet the standard of the day, the demand for additional capacity and afford improved fire protection to the region's residents and business.

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

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 tremendous progress. An Environmental Impact Statement for a critical stretch of highway between Port Fourchon and Leeville is now complete. 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. Bids are expected to be let soon for replacement of the Leeville Bridge and construction of a two lane elevated roadway between the Bridge and the Port Fourchon access road.

As are all of Louisiana's maritime 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 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 Port received a grant from the EDA which will help pay for the rail spur work. The Port is working on closing several abandoned sludge pits. These pits are situated in an area of prime real estate and closure will pave the way for an additional rail spur and business location.

The Terrebonne Port Commission completed 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.

All of the region's 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

- Completed construction of water improvements for Assumption Parish.
- Participated in monitoring and review of the North-South Corridor EIS.
- Received EPA funding for improvements to the Gramercy Water System.
- Received EPA funding to conduct regional sewerage feasibility analysis.
- Completed approximately $1 million worth of improvements to the Thibodaux water system.
- Completed Terrebonne Port dredging project.
- Complete $1.5 million in drainage improvements in the City of Thibodaux.
- Continued to construct improvements to the Thibodaux Airport.
- Lafourche Parish School Board continued its facility assessment and prepared student enrollment projections to help plan for building improvements.
- Continued improvements on the Lafourche Parish Library System and branches.
- Continue work on the Lafourche regional agricultural/multi-purpose building.
- Continued construction of rail spur funded by EDA and State EDAP funds for the Port of South Louisiana.
- Completed upgrade of South Fig and Beech Grove Streets in St. John Parish.
- Completed overlay of runway and apron at the South Lafourche Airport.
- Continued construction of 72,000 sq. ft. transit shed for the Port of South Louisiana using State Capital Outlay and Port money.
- Continued sewerage upgrade for Napoleonville.
- Completed construction of new raw water intact system for St. James Parish water system.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Continue to implement phases of the South Lafourche Leonard Miller Jr. Airport Master Plan including improvements for access to the airport.
- Continue to improve facilities at the Houma Airport.
- Continue to implement Port Fourchon and Port of Terrebonne Master Plans.

- Continue program of street, road and other infrastructure improvements throughout the region.
- Continue efforts to improve Lafourche Parish Library System and explore alternatives for the location and construction of a new main library facility and various branches.
- Increase the capacity of the St. Charles Parish East Bank water system.
- Continue the MPO planning effort to develop an Intelligent Transportation System for the Houma Metropolitan Region.
- Assist St Charles Parish in developing a drainage canal bank stabilization plan.
- Continue construction of a community sewerage system for Morristown neighborhood in Lafourche Parish.
- Continue to work on plans to develop a regional cargo air terminal through the Louisiana Airport Authority.
- Promote growth within the City of Thibodaux through annexation and infrastructure development.
- Complete sewerage infrastructure improvements and dredging of channel at the Port of Terrebonne facility.
- Continue work on EIS and Feasibility Studies for North-South Corridor connecting the Gramercy Wallace Bridge to the Thibodaux area.
- Movement of a utility servitude at the Port of South Louisiana in order to allow for internal roadway from dock to industrial properties.
- Continue to plans to close abandoned treatment ponds at the Port of South Louisiana.
- Begin construction of a marine lift system to transfer cargo over the Mississippi River levee on the West Bank of St. Charles Parish.
- Continue to construct sewerage improvements in Lafourche Parish.
- Complete sewerage improvements for Georgette and Grant Loop communities in Assumption pending receipt of LCDBG funds.
- Construct conveyor from docks to service lay-down areas at Globalplex.
- Explore the possibility of constructing a new four lane truck route connecting La. Hwy. 3235 to the South Lafourche Airport.
- Continue Northern Expansion project for Port Fourchon.
- Continue work on Thibodaux East-West Corridor Project.
- Continue construction of levee from Coteau Canal Boat Launch to Forrestal Street in St James Parish.
- Continue drainage improvements throughout the Region.
- Install a new pump station on Company Canal in Lafourche Parish.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. James, St. John the Baptist, St Charles and Terrebonne.
- Continue construction of 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.
- Upgrade water system throughout Assumption Parish, in particular the lines serving industrial areas, Louisiana Highway 70, and on Belle River Road.
- Upgrade water and fire protection infrastructure throughout the region.
- 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.
- Continue to explore alternatives for creation of a public transit system for Thibodaux.
- Promote transportation enhancement and bicycle path development in Thibodaux.
- Continue to work with the St. John the Baptist and St. Charles Parish and the River Parishes Transit Authority to address public transportation issues.
- Construct Recreation District No. 2 complex in Assumption Parish.
- Develop, plan and design St Charles Civic Center/Fairgrounds.
- Explore feasibility of establishing rail/container-on-barge transfer service along Bayou Lafourche 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 in Assumption Parish as alternate hurricane evacuation routes.
- Continue to design and engineer updates for the St James Parish-wide Sewage System facilities and being implementation.
- Construct water system improvements for the Town of Gramercy through an EPA grant.
- Continue efforts to find funding for St James Parish drainage canal improvements.
- Continue citywide drainage improvements in Thibodaux.
- Support efforts to reconstruct St Patrick Highway.
- Support Governor's LA 1 Task Force plans for hurricane evacuation route from Grand Isle to Alexandria.
- Continue to support the expansion of shipbuilding in the region and the infrastructure necessary to support it.
- Support initiatives to improve public facilities and access to Port Fourchon beaches.
- Upgrade fire protection facilities throughout the Region.
- Continue to work on plans for a new building for the Council of Aging in Assumption Parish.
- Repair sidewalks on the River Road in Edgard (La. Hwy. 18) and Reserve (La. Hwy. 44).
- Improve lighting on the St. Andrew Blvd. in LaPlace.
- Construct sidewalks on Tunnel Blvd. in Houma.
- Complete East and West Bank Bike Paths 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 in St. Charles Parish.
- Continue to identify and 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 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 and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System continue to expand programs that help ready the region's workforce for entering the local and regional job markets. In addition to the typical four year program degrees, these include a variety of associate degrees and technical training programs including those geared toward practical nursing and allied health fields, culinary arts, general business, paralegal and criminal justice fields, petroleum services and safety, office systems, industrial, construction and related trades. The Technical College System offers three campuses in the South Central Region, the River Parishes Campus in St. John the Baptist Parish, the Lafourche Campus in Thibodaux and the L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College in Houma. These training facilities are growing to meet the demand for programs that are not offered at traditional four year universities. The LCTCS remains flexible in the programs it offers in order to supply the local demand for skilled for labor in each region. The LCTCS will often build programs around industry needs. All of these schools also offer continuing education programs geared toward professions and businesses that require ongoing licensing and education.

St. James Parish continues to implement its pilot computer training program with in cooperation with the Parish Council on Aging through a grant from the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. This Van-Go program brings education and training to those who are unable to travel the distance to reach training centers.

The SCPDC now has seven small business loans and one pending application through its EDA Revolving Loan Fund Program. For the Terrebonne Parish revolving loan program has a total of 14 loans and one pending application.

SCPDC continues to look for programs that offer training for public officials and business. Each year two regional workshops on economic incentives are offered. Information presented provides business and industry with assistance in taking advantage of the States business incentive programs, such as the Enterprise Zone program. In 2005, six more train the trainer programs were presented through a grant from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission on the impact of drinking on driving and how it affects costs and employees in the workplace. Another traffic engineering workshop is planned for the coming year. The SCPDC continues to offer local government workshops on topics including planning commissioner training, budget, open meeting, fair housing, and ethics laws and environmental justice and the Americans with Disabilities Act. In partnership with BTNEP and the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council, the

SCPDC has and will be offering a series of workshops on smart growth and sustainable development.

The South Central Region strives to diversify its economy in order 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

- Conducted the annual Traffic Summit.
- Continued planning efforts for construction of the Assumption Parish Vocational School.
- Continued Incumbent Workers Training Program.
- Continued cooperative partnerships with other economic development agencies.
- Continued economic development planning and technical assistance.
- Continued targeted marketing efforts of the retail/restaurant and entertainment industries in St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Supported continued efforts of the Workforce Investment Board to improve skills and job access of the workforce.
- Terrebonne Parish continued to work with a local CHADDO to develop a business incubator in Houma.
- Continued operation of a Farmers Market for local and area producers in St. Charles Parish and Thibodaux.
- Continued with Enterprise Zone Assistance.
- Continued St. James Van-Go Program.
- Continued efforts to create a recreational vehicle campground on Spur 70 in Assumption Parish.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Continue to support efforts of the Region's Ports to attract new business and industry.
- Develop distribution, manufacturing, technology and tourism clusters for St. Charles Parish.
- Continue the St. James Parish Van-Gogh program.
- Secure funding for the St. James Transit Service to provide transportation to workforce development sites.
- Expand the practical nursing program at the River Parishes Technical College to meet the needs of the V. A. Home, which is currently under construction.
- Continue St. John business recruiting efforts by attending trade shows and trade association meetings.
- Develop a commercial retail center, The Cypress Center, off La. Hwy. 3125 in Lutcher.
- Expand the current racetrack in Assumption Parish to include bike motor-cross and campground.
- Continue to operate the Terrebonne and SCPDC Revolving Loan Fund programs.
- Work to bring a NASCAR sanctioned and supported racing and research facility to the three River Parishes.
- Continue regional economic diversification and new business recruitment efforts.

- Continue efforts to create a technology based business incubator center in Thibodaux.
- Develop warehousing, light industrial and high technology clusters in St Charles Parish.
- Expand tourism efforts throughout the South Central Region.
- Monitor and support efforts of the River Parish Tourism Commission.
- Promote the culture and heritage of the entire region.
- Continue efforts to expand and grown tourist industry in St. John the Baptist Parish, including development of a tourist information center.
- Implement the St. John Civic Center marketing plan.
- Continue to work for expansion of business and industry in St. John Parish.
- Develop a multiuse pavilion at the St. James Welcome Center.
- Develop a Farmer's Market in Napoleonville.
- Educate the region on the laws and programs that provide for and encourage economic development.

GOAL THREE: To improve the overall capacity of the Region to make efficient land use decisions.

Communities in the SCPDC region continue to seek technical advice and work on updates to their comprehensive planning and local land use tools. Terrebonne Parish is beginning implementation of its recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. Assumption Parish is working on updating its subdivision regulations. The Parish is seeking grant and other assistance to help it in this effort. St. Charles Parish is updating its local land use regulations and considering what kind of protection would be best for its many historic sites. Thibodaux and Houma continue their Main Street Programs as tools to generate interest in protecting and enhancing the downtown areas. 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 continues to review and make proposals to changes to its subdivision code. Many area School Boards have undertaken similar efforts in order to better plan for future facility needs as student enrollments grow. SCPDC is partnering with the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Program to develop a training program on sustainability for the region. This program will follow two other programs held in 2004, a workshop on incorporating green space and landscaping into project planning held in conjunction with the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council and a training program for planning commissioners in cooperation with the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association.

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.
- Completed and adopted Houma Thibodaux urbanized area Master Transportation Plan.
- Held a workshop on smart growth, landscaping and planning in cooperation with the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council.
- Began upgrade of St. John the Baptist website to be more user friendly by adding permitting and licensing online.

- Conducted a planning commissioners training program with the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Provide and annual workshop for area planning, zoning and adjustment boards and their staff concerning State laws and the planning process.
- Continue work on 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.
- Continue to work on creation of a GIS system for Lafourche Parish.
- Update the St Charles Parish land use plan.
- Continue ongoing investigation of creating a Reserve Historic District.
- Continue to operate the Main Street Program for Thibodaux and Houma.
- Continue implementation of Terrebonne Comprehensive Plan.
- Creation of historic preservation plan for St. Charles Parish.
- Seek out funding for development of comprehensive plans for each parish and town.
- Develop a regional comprehensive plan for access and development along major transportation routes, in particular along U. S. Highway 90.

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 an exceedingly high unemployment rate in St. James Parish to low per capita incomes in areas that do have high employment. 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. Each needs to determine what kind of industries will create the jobs its workforce can fill and what training must be provided to this. Then, as a group the Region can focus on how best to market its assets and work together to improve opportunities for the Region's workforce. Four of the Parishes, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. John, and St. James, have 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. Terrebonne is now in the midst of making a transition from a local government economic development department to a special district for economic development, the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority (TEDA). It is hoped that this will give the Parish greater flexibility in addressing economic issues. The municipal area of Houma also has a Downtown Development District which strives to retain and attract new business to the historic center of the town. The State's Workforce Investment Board is working toward creation of training programs in order to increase the area's skilled workforce. Communities continue to update their economic development plans and monitor progress.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued to provide Census and other economic data as needed.

- Assisted in community relations activities.
- Continued to work with towns and parishes to develop new websites and upgrade existing sites.
- Completed five year review of the St. John the Baptist Economic Development Strategic Plan.
- Continue collaboration between St. John Parish and the Department of Economic Development, Port of South Louisiana, Entergy and Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Maintained Parish Economic Development Offices.
- Monitored changes in industry and affect on local economy.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Continue to support and participate on the Workforce Investment Board in the Bayou and River Parishes.
- Conduct an economic development incentive workshop.
- Upgrade existing St. John the Baptist Parish marketing materials.
- Expand the CEDS committee to include other economic development groups from the Region, such as the Chambers and TEDA.
- Develop a Community Strategic Plan for Thibodaux.
- Continue Enterprise Zone Assistance.
- Continue to gather information to document and portray OCS impact on Lafourche Parish.
- Continue efforts of Lafourche Parish to develop parishwide connectivity and community access via an improved community website.
- Implement the scope of projects identified in the St. Charles Parish Strategic Plan.
- Implement plans for the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority.
- Create an economic development plan for Assumption Parish using Team City model.
- The Atchafalaya Trace Heritage program plans to conduct a tax incentive workshop.

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. Several regional initiatives that have continued during the past year include the Bayou and River Region Mutual Aid Task Force, River Parishes Transit Authority, the River Parishes Tourism Commission, the Regional Crime Lab, the South Central Safe Community Partnership and South Central Solid Waste Commission.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ongoing implementation of Safe Community Program to improve highway safety through education of drivers.
- Added 14,000 square feet to the James Business Park in St. Charles Parish.
- Reviewed and analyzed the results of the Specialty Chemical Study for St. Charles Parish in order to solicit potential cluster industries for "downstream" users of byproducts produced by local chemical industries.
- Developed a "Tourism Strategic Plan" for St. Charles Parish.
- Conducted a cooperative advertising campaign in St. Charles with area attractions to promote the region for tourism.
- Continue to implement the Terrebonne and SCPDC Revolving Loan Funds.
- Continue to plan for a River Region Public Transit System.
- Continue to support the regional mutual aide assistance network.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Continue efforts to create a Regional Criminalistic Laboratory.
- Continue efforts of Weed and Seed Programs in Lafourche and Terrebonne.
- Implementation of an Intelligent Transportation System for the Houma Urbanized Area.
- Continue Team City efforts for Assumption Parish.

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, and 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. BTNEP and the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Foundation are actively involved in promoting the economic development of sustainable natural resources in the region. St. John the Baptist Parish is in the midst of developing its own Coastal Management Program which will help to give direction in the conservation of the natural resources of that Parish. Lafourche, St. Charles St. James, and Terrebonne Parishes already have active local coastal management programs. Through its EPA Brownfields grant, SCPDC has been able to assist its communities in redevelopment of several sites. Most importantly the Parish is working with the Port of South Louisiana to close several abandoned sludge pits. This will open up new land for development of industry and water dependent activities at the Port facility. Programs like this will help to bring to the forefront what can be done when abandoned properties with real or perceived contamination are cleaned up and put back in the market place thus conserving open land and making the best use of existing resources. Parishes in the region continue to seek ways to improve municipal sewerage systems and have taken over private community plants in order to ensure proper maintenance.

PAST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued work on the St John the Baptist Parish Coastal Zone Management Plan Update.
- Conducted outreach and education on nonpoint source pollution.

- Continue implementation of EPA Brownfields Pilot Project/
- Provide an outreach program on Environmental Justice.
- Continued participation in the BTNE Program.
- Completion of a recreational walking and birding trail in the Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge in Terrebonne Parish.
- Developed a Cooperate Incentives Resource Guide that identifies incentives that encourage use of development methods and equipment that are less damaging to the environment for BTNEP.
- Continued improvements of the Lafourche Parish Tourism Center.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Investigate feasibility of constructing a new agricultural/multi purpose center to be used for community activities geared toward agricultural education and potential farmers/seafood marked for Lafourche Parish and the region.
- Restore historic Edgard railroad station for use as a St. John Parish tourism center.
- Continue to support and participate in the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.
- Continue the Keep St. John Beautiful Committee efforts moving forward to enhance the overall aesthetics of St. John Parish by expanding the Adopt-A-Road program and funding of the "Trustee Cleanup" program.
- Promote creation of a Bayou Lafourche Corridor Program which will enhance the sustainable development of the Bayou region.
- Implement coastal and wetland restoration projects throughout the SCPDC and the BTNEP region.
- Development of a State recreational vehicle campground within or adjacent to the State Maurepas Wildlife Management area.
- Continue implementation of Atchafalaya Recreation Plan for Assumption and Terrebonne Parishes.
- Promote the restoration and reuse of historic buildings on the St. John River Road for business and commercial development.
- Provide education and outreach on nonpoint source pollution and private sewage treatment facilities.
- Continue conducting Phase I and II Assessments for selected brownfield sites.
- Maintain 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.
- Adopt a coastal permitting process for St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Continue to support national designation of the Atchafalaya Trace National Heritage Area.
- Development of a children's Wetlands Discovery Center in Houma.
- Continue efforts to develop a Children's Museum in Thibodaux.
- Creation of a regional military museum.

APPENDICES

A. CEDS COMMITTEE

B. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

APPENDIX A: CEDS 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
Willie S. Reed 180 Daggs Street Belle Rose La. 70341	Industry/Business	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) 562-2260	Government	W/M
Howard Jones 3414 Ash Street Vacherie, LA 70090 (225) 265-4334	Government	B/M
Elton Aubert 2740 South Bank Lane Vacherie, La. 70090 (225) 265-8610	Government	B/M
Nickie Monica 1801 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068 (985) 652-9569	Government	W/M

Cleveland Farlough P. O. Box 528 Reserve, La. 70084-0528 (985) 535-1880		B/M
Ann Tatje 134 Natli Drive LaPlace, LA 70068 (985) 652-9841	Business Women	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
Herman Bourgeois 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
Don Schwab 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	B/M
Charlotte Randolph P.O. Drawer 5548 Thibodaux, LA 70302 (985) 446-8427	Government	W/F
Albert D. Laque P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (985) 783-5000	Government	W/M
Debra Dufresne Vial 13979 River Road Luling La. 70070 (985) 331-0120	Community Organizations Tourism	W/F
Desmond Hilarie P. O. Box 11 Hahnville, La. 70057 (985) 783-3030		B/M
Joey Palmisano 1163 West Tunnel Blvd. Houma La. 70360 (985) 872-9823	Small Businesses/Tourism	W/M

REGIONAL CEDS WORKING COMMITTEE

NAME/ADDRESS	AFFILIATION	RACE/SEX
ASSUMPTION		
Kim Torres Secretary Treasurer Assumption Parish Police Jury 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 Director City of Thibodaux P.O. Box 5418 Thibodaux, LA 70302	Government	W/F
Gretchen Caillouet Grants Director Lafourche Parish Government P. O. Drawer 5548 Thibodaux, LA 70302		
ST. CHARLES		
Corey Faucheux Dept. of Economic Development P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057	Business/Industry Development	W/M
Philip Dufrene Dept. of Planning & Zoning P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057	Community Development	
ST. JAMES		
Edie Michel Office of Economic Development P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70723	Business/Industry Development	W/F

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

TERREBONNE

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

2005 ST. CHARLES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Chairman - Lily Galland (12/06) **Vice-Chairman - Neal Ayme', Jr. (12/05)**

Neal Ayme, Jr., First American Bank, P.O. Box 521, Boutte, LA 70039
Representing : **Financial Institutions** (785-8901) Term Expires: **12/06**

Karen Bergeron Guillot, St. Charles Parish Hospital, P.O. Box 87, Luling, LA 70070
Representing : **Health Care** (785-6242) Term Expires: **12/06**

Ricky Bosco, Bosco Brothers, Inc., 711 Apple St., Norco, LA 70079
Representing : **Small Business/East Bank** (764-1253) Term Expires : **12/07**

Roy Breaud, Monsanto Company, P.O. Box 174, Luling, LA 70070
Representing : **Major Industry/West Bank** (785-8211) Term Expires: **12/07**

Rochelle Cancienne, St. Charles Parish Schools, 13855 River Road, Luling, LA 70070
Representing : **St. Charles Parish Education System** (785-6289) Term : **Unlimited**

Brandt Dufrene, First National Bank U*S*A*, P.O. Box 508, Boutte, LA 70039
Representing : **Financial Institutions** (785-8411) Term Expires : **12/07**

Stan Dufrene, Dow St. Charles Operations, P.O. Box 50, Hahnville, LA 70057
Representing : **Major Industry/West Bank** (783-4472) Term Expires : **12/05**

Lily Galland, Shell Chemical Company, P. O. Box 10, Norco, LA 70079
Representing : **Major Industry/East Bank** (465-6667) Term Expires : **12/06**

Reginald Gaubert, Hahnville Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 213, Hahnville, LA 70057
(783-2002)
Representing : **St. Charles Fireman's Association President** Term Expires : **12/05**

Bob Harrison, Southern Coffee Service, P.O. Box 1272, Destrehan, LA 70047
Representing : **Small Business/East Bank** (504-738-0441) Term Expires : **12/07**

Betty Haydel, River Road Historical Society, 1 Rosedown Drive,
Destrehan, LA 70047 (764-6361)
Representing : **Tourist Attraction** Term Expires : **12/06**

C. J. Jones, Bunge North America, 12442 River Road, Destrehan, LA 70047
Representing : **Grain Industry** (764-6516) Term Expires : **12/06**

Jeff Jones, Valero Energy Corporation, P.O. Box 518, Norco, LA 70079
Representing: **Major Industry/East Bank** (764-4673) Term Expires: **12/05**

Debbie Kinler, Timeless Images, 131 Lakewood Drive, Luling, LA 70070
Representing : **Small Business/West Bank** (785-8473) Term Expires : **12/07**

Greg Lier, Rathborne Land Company, P. O. Box 157, Harvey, LA 70059
(368-6355)
Representing : **Real Estate and Land Development/West Bank** Term Expires: **12/07**

Jim Pierce, 31 Bocage Drive, Destrehan, LA 70047
Representing : **Retirement Community** (764-9336) Term Expires : **12/07**

Dan Poulin, Sealy and Company, 150 James Drive East, Suite 140
St. Rose, LA 70087 (504-463-5600)
Representing: **Real Estate and Land Development/East Bank** Term Expires: **12/07**

Doug Rhodes, Entergy, P.O. Box 61000 L-JEF-365
New Orleans, LA 70161-1000 (504-840-2655)
Representing : **Utilities/Electricity Representative** Term Expires : **12/06**

Carole Schonberg, Latter & Blum Inc./REALTORS, P.O. Box 1299,
Boutte, LA 70039
Representing : **Residential Real Estate** (785-8291) Term Expires : **12/07**

Rhonda Sigrist, A Stitch In Time, P.O. Box 998, Boutte, LA 70039 (331-9933)
Representing : **St. Charles Business Association President** Term Expires : **12/05**

Mike Thibodaux, Information Technology Systems, LLC,
13919 River Road, Suite 200, Luling, LA 70070 (331-0648)
Representing: **Technology Representative** Term Expires: **12/06**

Debra Dufresne Vial, 13979 River Road, Luling, LA 70070
St. Charles Hotel, LLC (785-8273)
Representing : **Small Business/West Bank** Term Expires : **12/07**

Conley Dutreix, 425 W. Airline Hwy., Ste. D, Laplace, LA 70068(652-7003)
Representing: **River Region Chamber of Commerce** Term: **Unlimited**

Dennis Murphy, La. Technical College/River Parishes Campus,
P.O. Drawer AQ, Reserve, LA 70084 (536-4418) Term : **Unlimited**
Representing : **Director of La. Technical College/River Parishes Campus**

Linda Prudhomme, Port of South Louisiana, P.O. Box 909, Laplace, LA 70069
Representing: **Port of South Louisiana** (652-9278) Term: **Unlimited**

George Williamson, United Way, 13207 River Road, P.O. Box 157, Luling, LA 70070
Representing : **United Way of St. Charles** (331-9063) Term : **Unlimited**

Cressend Schonberg (Past-Chairman)
19 Patrica Ct., Luling, LA 70070 (785-0535) Term: **Unlimited**

Billie Simoneaux (Past-Chairman)
P.O. Box 395, Luling, LA 70070 (785-6480) Term : **Unlimited**

St. Charles Parish

Ex-Officio Members:
Parish President Albert Laque (783-5000)
Economic Development Director Corey Faucheux (783-5140)
Assistant Planning Director Phil Dufrene (783-5060)
Public Works/Wastewater Director Greg Bush (783-5100)
Waterworks Director Robert Brou (783-5110)
Work Force Investment Act D.B. Mollaire (783-5030)
South Central Planning and Development Commission - Kevin Belanger (985-851-2900)
Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport - Roy Williams (504-464-3536)

ST JAMES PARISH 2005 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY
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Thibodaux, La. 70310

APPENDIX B: SCPDC MINUTES

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, June 30, 2005

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 30, 2005, at South Central Planning's Office, Houma, Louisiana.

Chairman C. Randolph called the meeting to order and requested roll call. Members present or represented by proxy were W. Reed, C. Randolph, B. Lafont representing C. Caillouet, R. Champagne, C. Lefort representing J. Bouziga, T. Vial representing A. Laque, N. Monica, D. Hymel, E. Aubert, H. Jones, D. Schwab, and W. Thibodeaux. Members absent were M. Triche, C. James, D. Jupiter, D. Hilaire, D. Vial, C. Farlough, A. Tatje, H. Bourgeois, T. Poche, and J. Palmisano. Staff members present were K. Belanger, L. Michel and J. Boudreaux. Guests in attendance were: Steve Price of Urban Planning, Kathy Doiron of the Louisiana Department of Labor, Barry Blackwell of Terrebonne Parish Government, Henry Richard, Chairman of TEDA, Joan Louque and Jody Chenier of St. James Parish, and A. Perry of LA DED.

C. Randolph recognized the sponsor, Acadian Ambulance.

D. Schwab moved, D. Hymel seconded, to accept the minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 2005. Motion carried.

D. Hymel moved, N. Monica seconded, to ratify the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on June 24, 2005. Motion carried.

K. Belanger discussed the financial statement ending May 31, 2005.

D. Schwab moved, R. Champagne seconded, to accept the financial statement as presented. Motion carried.

K. Belanger reviewed the FY 2005 Budget Adjustments.

D. Hymel moved, E. Aubert seconded, to approve the FY 2005 Budget Adjustments as presented. Motion carried.

K. Belanger discussed the 2005 Update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He asked for the Board's acceptance of the report to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

T. Vial moved, W. Reed seconded, to accept the 2005 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update. Motion carried.

K. Belanger asked for the Board's adoption of the System Survey Compliance Questionnaire which is needed to go forward with the annual audit.

W. Thibodeaux moved, N. Monica seconded, to adopt the System Survey Compliance Questionnaire. Motion carried.

K. Belanger asked for the Board's acceptance of the required resolution certifying that the RLF is consistent with the policies and procedures contained in the RLF plan. He informed the Board that the Commission is in the process of working with the Loan Committee and Loan Administration Board to revise some of the procedures and to take into consideration some of the issues brought up by W. Thibodeaux. He said that those revisions will be brought back to the Commission for full approval at the upcoming quarterly meeting.

W. Thibodeaux asked if there was some urgency about adopting the resolution today. He said that he felt that there were some things that the Commission was doing that were not necessarily consistent with the Revolving Loan Procedures. He asked what would be the detriment of postponing this resolution. Mr. Belanger stated that he thinks that the Commission is mandated to provide this resolution by the new fiscal year. K. Belanger stated that there are issues that have been raised that need to be tweaked and corrected. He spoke of the concern of W. Thibodeaux about why the appointments to the Loan Administration Board are not ratified by the SCPDC Board of Commissioners. Mr. Thibodeaux stated that after reading what the agency provided to him, the rules suggest that it should be done that way. W. Thibodeaux asked that K. Belanger make a genuine effort to have the amendments and changes for our next Board meeting.

D. Schwab moved, R. Champagne seconded, to adopt a resolution certifying the RLF. Motion carried.

K. Belanger discussed the resolutions required to enter into contracts for Metropolitan Planning funds for FY 2006.

W. Thibodeaux moved, E. Aubert seconded, to adopt the resolution allowing the CEO to enter into contract with DOTD for MPO Transit Funds. Motion carried.

N. Monica moved, R. Champagne seconded, to adopt the resolution allowing the CEO to enter into a contract with DOTD for the MPO Planning Phase. Motion carried.

W. Thibodeaux asked the CEO to have some further discussion with Mr. Forrest of the Courier to see if the Commission could get the same rate as the Parish Council and the School Board for publications in the Houma Courier. W. Thibodeaux suggested that the CEO call Paul Labat at Terrebonne Parish to see what rate the Parish pays. D. Hymel asked if the agency received any other bids. K. Belanger stated that he received a call from the person who runs the Business Weekly. He said that Mr. Guidry informed him that his paper was qualified at the time to bid but elected not to. He said that Mr. Guidry stated that he does plan to bid next year. K. Belanger said that the Official Journal must be a paper that is covered within your Domicile. There was discussion as to if Business News and the Tri-Parish Times are one in the same.

R. Champagne moved, E. Aubert seconded, to accept the Houma Courier as the Official Journal for the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Motion carried.

K. Belanger presented a Comparative Analysis of the Regional Planning Commission's Activities and discussed same. He stated that he has made presentations to the TEDA Board and the St. Charles Parish Economic Development Council over the past two (2) months. He said that there seems to be quite a bit of concern as to the efforts of the agency as to where the agency is heading with economic development. He said that the

resolution passed at the last meeting was to only request our legislators to help SCPDC to obtain more money for Economic Development. He said that it is pretty obvious to see that the agency is healthy financially and that it looks as if the future years will be good as well. He said that he feels that at this time the agency does not need to move forward with the dues increase. He said that the agency will continue along with the efforts to request funding from DED and will not place the burden on the parishes.

K. Belanger updated the Board on the North/South Corridor project. He said that the purpose and need is taking place at this time. He said that the Highway Department believes that hurricane evacuation should not be the main focus but instead focus on transportation linkage from Highway 90 to the Gramercy Bridge. He said that if you consider that issue of highway linkage, what could potentially happen through the environmental review process is that they may conclude that the capacities along the existing highway is adequate and that no funding will be allocated to the roadway. He said that the agency is very concerned about the verbiage. He said that the MPO will meet today and will discuss sending a letter to DOTD requesting that hurricane evacuation be included into the purpose and need statement.

R. Champagne moved, W. Reed seconded, to accept the Agency Activity Report. Motion carried.

N. Monica asked that a rear parking lot be constructed if there is money in the budget. K. Belanger stated that he does agree with Mr. Monica, but there are efforts to have the ITS efforts pay for the parking lot. Mr. Belanger added that he will inform the Board at the next meeting of the progress. Mr. Monica stated that was fine.

A. Perry provided information on the Southern Institute of Rural Development.

There being no further business to discuss, W. Thibodeaux moved, W. Reed 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 30, 2005.

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Charlotte Randolph, Chairman
South Central Planning & Development Commission

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Nickie Monica, Secretary/Treasurer
South Central Planning & Development Commission