1999 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

South Central Planning and Development Commission

Thibodaux, Louisiana

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COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

FOR THE

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING REGION

June 30, 1999

Submitted by:

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thibodaux, Louisiana

Submitted to:

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

1. *Adjustments to the CEDS.* Adjustments are made to the implementation strategy outlined in 1997 to account for unforeseen opportunities or unexpected problems. Changes in the structure or composition of the CEDS (OEDP) committees are reported.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In developing and refining goals and objectives, the SCPDC remains cognizant of those established by the EDA and State.

Adjustments to the 1997 OEDP

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 1997 OEDP

A minor adjustment was made in the presentation of the 1997 OEDP goals to better illustrate how the South Central Region goals compare to those of the Reform Act and Louisiana 2020.

The strategy for implementation of the 1997 OEDP was outlined in stated objectives for each goal. A list of programs and projects was then provided on a regional and parish basis. Responsibility for implementation was noted. The strategy for implementation will remain the same. There will be some projects better suited for local implementation and those that the regional economic development district is better suited to handle. Some projects or programs are actually being conducted under the auspices of other local, state or federal agencies or private concerns. These are identified and tracked regardless of the implementing concern because of their importance to and support by SCPDC and its member communities.

The structure of the CEDS committee will be the same as that for the OEDP. Three of the individual parishes have active local Economic Development Committees. SCPDC will remain in touch with the local committees through their parish representatives and periodic attendance at meetings. Input from the committees will be obtained in setting the goals and implementation strategies. In parishes without active committees, SCPDC will work with the appointed Parish staff and other groups, such as chamber of commerce, port commissions, etc., to obtain information necessary for the development of the CEDS.

A regional task force composed of members of these local committees and staffs acts as a working group to help the SCPDC staff prepare and update the CEDS. In this manner, SCPDC ensures it is addressing the concerns and priorities of each member community. Finally the SCPDC Board of Directors acts as the Regional CEDS Committee giving final review and approval to the comprehensive strategy prior to submission to EDA.

Current membership lists for each of these committees is included in Appendix A.

1998-99
Economic Development Activities

1998-99 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The goals set forth in the 1997 OEDP illustrate the commitment of the South Central Region to achieve both a sustainable economy and environment. One issue at the forefront in reaching these goals is the condition of transportation infrastructure. A summation of major steps in addressing these the problem follows.

The lack of adequate surface transportation has been identified as a major hindrance to economic diversity. During the past years great effort has been made toward improvement of major transportation routes throughout the region. The success of these efforts is about to reached fruition with the completion of a four-lane U. S. Highway 90 from I-310 in St. Charles Parish westward to Lafayette. Groups and individuals of the region have joined with those communities to the west in an organized effort to obtain interstate status for the new U. S. Highway 90. The efforts of these groups have resulted in support by the State Governor as apparent from the "FUTURE I-49 CORRIDOR" signs dotting the highway. The closure of a two-mile stretch of Highway 90 between Raceland and Bayou Des Allemands following three tropical storms focused attention on the need for highway improvements in the region. The result was a commitment from the State to elevate that section of roadway in order to secure it during evacuation situations and ensure ongoing commerce under normal circumstances.

Another major project is the completion of a north to south access road for the Veterans Memorial Mississippi River Bridge between Gramercy and Wallace. This route will link the growing west and east bank communities of St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes. The region is monitoring State plans for the creation of this new corridor that will eventually connect that Bridge to Highway 90 in the Houma/Thibodaux area. The corridor study is complete and several alternative routes are being considered. Regardless of the route chosen the road will traverse an environmentally sensitive area and its design will have to be one compatible with the land.

Another major infrastructure project underway involves the LA 1 Corridor. Numerous initiatives are ongoing on this corridor. Congress authorized in its TEA 21 legislation, over $6 million for LA 1 under its high priority funding. The Governor created the Louisiana Highway 1 Project Task Force by Executive Order MJF 98-46, which is charged with recommending highway improvements from Port Fourchon to Alexandria along the LA 1 Corridor. the LA 1 Coalition, a Coalition of private and public stake holders in support of highway improvements from Port Fourchon to U.S. 90 has been successful in conducting a toll road study from Port Fourchon to Golden Meadow, and along with the DOTD is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed elevated highway in this reach. A feasibility study for highway improvements from Larose to U.S. 90 is also underway. Stretches of this vital commercial, recreational and hurricane evacuation link are extremely vulnerable to destruction as a result of erosion and land loss. The recent explosion in deepwater oil and gas activity has resulted in unprecedented growth of Port Fourchon and greatly increased its significance as an intermodal facility for support of this nation's energy needs. State of the art facilities such as "C Port" located at Port Fourchon have revolutionized servicing of oil field needs.

In other transportation matters, the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission is seeking FAA assistance to improve its runways and taxiways and to build additional aircraft parking and access roads. These improvements are necessary for the airport to maintain current cargo handlers and to be able to attract any additional tenants. St. John the Baptist Parish has taken steps to review and prioritize needs at its Parish airport. The Parish is requesting FAA assistance for construction of a taxiway that will improve safety for airport users.

The region's three ports made progress in their ongoing infrastructure improvements. Port Fourchon announced in February 1999 the completion of a new deep draft berthing facility capable of accomodating the new generation of deepwater support vessels. A new operation building was also completed in early 1999. An $11 million E-slip Project is now underway and a 650 acre expansion project is being planned. The Port of South Louisiana completed a master plan that will guide future decisions regarding improvements to the Globalplex facility. Plans include expansion of docking facilities, and transit sheds, installation of upstream mooring dolphins and upgrade of additional railroad facilities. In the immediate future, the Port plans to expand its promotion campaign and marketing of industrial sites in its service area. Construction of a waterline that will improve water pressure and flow throughout Globalplex facility will be completed in the very near future.

The Terrebonne Port Commission completed Phase I, site preparation, of its plans for creation of a mile long slip off of the Houma Navigation Canal. The next phase, actual dredging of the slip is expected to begin in July 1999 and be completed in approximately one year. Upon completion this will be a full service, shallow draft port facility serving the Houma Navigational Canal and Gulf Intracoastal Canal.

The Three River Parishes have united in order to improve public transit service between the river communities. The Parishes plan to establish a transit authority whose goal will be the interfacing of existing parish transit operations in order to move passengers from one end of the region to the other. In this way residents of the parishes will have improved access to jobs and services. St. James Parish now operates the only rural parish route deviation/demand response system in Louisiana, providing about 2,000 passenger trips per month. The system added a new route in 1998 that crosses the Veterans Memorial Bridge. The Terrebonne Parish Good Earth Transit Operation is planning to extend a route to Thibodaux that will serve the Nicholls State University campus and the Thibodaux Regional Hospital. Provision of these transit services offer improved access to jobs and service locations while reducing automobile emissions and thus help improve the overall quality of life.

The Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana has put forth a plan to address comprehensive hurricane protection planning for all of South Louisiana. Endorsed by the region's communities, such an effort will include evacuation route protection, coastal marsh and island enhancement and comprehensive approaches to interior drainage. This comprehensive approach to hurricane protection will rely heavily on regional planning and cooperation.

Knowing that good infrastructure alone will not ensure economic development; the region set other goals designed to improve and better market often overlooked segments of the economy. One of these is tourism. The region's potential in this area is untapped. Those that enjoy the outdoors

are drawn to the area for its natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. The Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program is investigating ways to promote nature based tourism in the region. History buffs can visit the early settlements and sites that played important roles in Louisiana and United States history. The St. James Cultural and Heritage Center in Lutcher noted more tourists than usual during the past year including larger numbers of guided tours. The recently created Mississippi River Corridor Commission plans to promote the historic and scenic values of the River and the communities that developed along its banks.

Terrebonne Parish continued its efforts to establish a business incubator system to bolster small businesses. The SCPDC submitted a grant request to the EPA for the creation of an inventory of brownfield sites in the region. Another application, through the OSHA Susan Harwood Program, will allow SCPDC to offer OSHA training programs for the shipbuilding industry. The SCPDC was successful in loaning funds through its Revolving Loan Fund to help two businesses in the past year.

Finally, the District continues to strive to resolve the conflicts between development and quality of life by seeking to attract those industries that are sensitive to the surrounding environment and culture. Foremost among these efforts are those of the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program whose territory is nearly coterminous with that of the SCPDC. The program has established a management plan through the efforts of a multitude of residents and agencies of the South Central Region. SCPDC seeks to work with BTNEP in order to improve and sustain the natural environment of the Region. With funding from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, SCPDC has been able to augment the programs initiated by BTNEP by providing an educational outreach program in area schools that illustrates how nonpoint source pollution effects the quality of water. The quality of water in the estuary has been identified in four of the seven problems that the BTNEP management plan seeks to correct.

Accomplishments

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Following are 1998-1999 accomplishments in attaining each of the 22 Goals identified in the 1997 OEDP. Relationships to the Reform Act goals of job creation, fostering of more stable and diversified economies, and improved living conditions are noted by regrouping these 1997 OEDP Goals under the much broader EDA Goal it seems to best address.

Creation of Jobs

Goal 5: To Promote and Provide Greater Job Opportunities for District Residents.

- Continued industrial development and promotion technical assistance.
- Continued administration of SCPDC and Terrebonne Parish Revolving Loan Funds.
- Assisted efforts to encourage expansion of shipbuilding within the Bayou Parishes through creation of a Foreign Trade Subzone.
- Provision of Tri-Parish Job Fair by the River Region Caucus.

Goal 6: To Develop and Provide Incentives for Industries to Expand or Locate within the District.

- Continued efforts to create business development incubator in Terrebonne Parish.
- Provided Regional workshop on Economic Incentives.

Goal 7: To Promote and Provide Greater Employment Opportunities for District Residents.

(This is the same as Goal Number 5.)

Goal 8: To Develop New and/ or Provide Existing Incentives for Commercial Businesses to Expand or Locate within the District.

- Continued efforts to revitalize the Thibodaux CBD.
- Utilization of Revolving Loan Funds for new and expansion of existing businesses.

Goal 13: To Encourage Job Related Education and Training Program for District Residents.

- Conducted economic development seminars.
- Continued Leadership Training Program in Lafourche Parish.
- Requested OSHA assistance to develop an on the job safety training program for the Region's shipyards.
- Continued planning efforts for construction of the Assumption Parish Vocational School.
- Continue St. James High School Career Fair.

Fostering More Stable and Diversified Economies

Goal 2: To Improve the Overall Capacity of the District to Make Economic Development Decisions.

- Continued economic development planning and technical assistance.
- Updated regional and local economic development strategic plans.
- Coordinated efforts with Bayou Vision and Metrovision planning efforts.
- Continued cooperative partnerships with other economic development agencies.
- Maintenance of St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne Economic Development Offices.
- Implementation of the St. James Parish Strategic Plan.

Goal 3: To Improve the Fiscal Capacity of Local Government and to make the District Financially Attractive for Economic Development.

- Continued funding of the River Parish Economic Development Program through the South Louisiana Port Commission

Goal 4: To Provide for the Adequate Provision of Public Infrastructure to All Industrial Users within the District.

- Completion of the Port Fourchon Dock Facilities.
- Completion of Cameco Road Overlay Project.
- Began work on construction of Dickson Road and Palm Ave Extension.
- Completion of waterline at Globalplex.
- Completed site preparation work for Terrebonne Port Commission improvements.
- Completion of entrance road and turning lane on U.S. Hwy. 61 to serve new Epsilon plant.

Goal 9: To Provide Technical Assistance to Area Businesses.

- Provided information and assistance as requested to those interested in locating or expanding in the Region.
- Assumption Parish continued its plans for construction of an Agricultural Center that will house Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service operations.
- St. James Parish hosted its first Small Business Appreciation Banquet to recognize contributions of small businesses to the Parish.

Goal 10: To Provide Adequate Highway, Water, Rail and Air Service to District Industries, Businesses, and Residents.

- Assisted in the development and implementation of the state's long range highway plan.
- Completed road overlay and improvement programs in Parishes.
- Continued plans to expand and improve airport facilities in Houma and St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Improved rail spurs in Globalplex.

- Expanded Terrebonne Transit route to serve Nicholls and Thibodaux General Regional Hospital.
- Expanded St. James Transit System to include a new route which crosses the Mississippi River.
- Construction of new water lines in St. James Parish and completion of the East Bank Water System Loop.
- Completion of the first phase of the Vacherie Canal Backwater Prevention Fund.

Goal 14: To Provide for the Adequate Provision of Public Facilities and Services to All Industrial, Commercial, and Residential Users within the District.

- Acquired old postal building for new Napoleonville Town Hall.
- Acquired bank buildings in Assumption and Lafourche to be used for Sheriff and District Attorney Offices.
- Acquired leased space for Assumption Parish Federal Programs Department.
- Assisted in preparation of State Capital Outlay Requests.
- Continued planning for creation of a St. Charles Parish Civic Center.
- Prepared applications for and administered Louisiana Community Development block Grants.
- Prepared Rural Development Applications.
- Continued Parishwide sewerage efforts in St. Charles and Terrebonne.
- Continued drainage improvement efforts throughout the Region.
- Continued improvements to Municipal Water Systems in Gramercy, and Des Allemandes.
- Constructed Civic Center in Houma.
- Completion of Violet Street community sewerage system in Assumption Parish.
- Completion of Williams Street community sewerage system in Lafourche Parish.
- Began Feasibility Analysis for a Regional Criminalistics Laboratory.
- Constructed road improvements in Assumption, Lafourche, St. James and St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Completed renovation of the St. James Youth Center.
- Completed improvements to parks and boat launches in St. James Parish.

Goal 16: To Provide for Improved Demographic Economic Information Concerning the District.

- Created website with links to demographic information for each parish and municipality
- Upgrade of St. James Parish Website.

Goal 17: To Investigate the Potential for Increased Utilization of Parish Resources.

- Preparation of Economic Base Analysis by EDA.

Goal 18: To Investigate the Feasibility of Regional Solid Waste Disposal System.

- Began effort to create a regional solid waste authority.

Goal 19: To Encourage Continued Development of the Oil and Gas Related Activities within the District.

- Monitored changes in industry and affect on area economy.

Goal 20: To Develop and Implement Programs that Promote the Economic Advantages of the District.

- Assisted in community public relations actives.
- Maintenance of community and parish profiles by Utility Companies.
- Participation in a "Industry Appreciation Gala" by St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and the South Louisiana Port Commission.
- St. James Parish participation in the Louisiana Department of Economic Development Matchmaker Program.

Goal 21: To Develop and Support Activities that Promote Tourism within the District.

- Construction of Waterlife Museum in Terrebonne.
- Continued promotion of culture and heritage in the River Parishes.
- Begin construction of the Tourist Information Center and Wildlife Nature Trail in St. James Parish.
- Investigated ways to promote Nature Based Tourism.
- Maintenance of Tourist Information Center in Raceland.
- St. James Parish translate and printed Parish brochures in French in anticipation of Franco Fete.
- Purchased property and developed plan to relocate Houma Tourist Commission to I-49 Corridor location.

Goal 22: To Disseminate Economic Development Information Concerning the District in a Timely Fashion.

- Development of websites by individual Parishes.
- Dissemination of the first St. James Parish Annual Report to all Parish households.

Improved Living Conditions

Goal 1: To Improve the Overall Capacity of the District to Make Land Use Decisions.

- Continuation of the historic structure survey.
- Continued work on developing a regional geographic information system.
- Update of Parish and municipal Codes.
- Assisted school boards with preparation of redistricting maps.
- Continued maintenance of the FEMA Community Rating System Programs.
- Administration of HUD entitlement program in Terrebonne and Thibodaux.
- Administration of the Terrebonne MPO/Transit program.

Goal 11: To Improve the Physical Quality of Educational Facilities within the District.

- Supported efforts of local school boards to expand upgrade and construct new educational facilities.
- Completed student enrollment projections for St. Charles Parish School Board in order to prepare future facility needs.
- Construction of an additional classroom building for the Lutcher Headstart Program.

Goal 12: To Support Improved Educational Standards and the Quality of Education in General throughout the District.

- Provided support to local school boards in environmental and governmental curriculums.

Goal 15: To Protect and Conserve the Natural Resources of the District by Abating the Effects of Erosion Subsidence, Salt Water Intrusion, And Pollution, And To Promote The Increased Use Of The District's Natural Resources Within The Utilization Capacities.

- Continued coastal protection planning in St. Charles, Lafourche and Terrebonne.
- Implementation of Barrier Island restoration projects.
- Began implementation Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program Plan.
- Ongoing construction of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Program.
- Provided Non-point Source Pollution presentations to middle and high school students.
- Continuation of Beautification and Anti-Litter Campaigns throughout the District.

Changes in the Region's Economic Conditions

In recent years, the South Central Region experienced substantial economic growth as the price of oil climbed and oil and gas exploration and production activity increased. However, changes during the past year in the price per barrel of oil caused a slump in activity that eventually led to layoffs throughout Louisiana. The change was brought about as a result of a glut of oil and stagnant demand. Layoff announcements came from several major oil and gas producers including Amoco, Chevron, Exxon, Mobil, Shell and Texaco. Many jobs were eliminated in the New Orleans metropolitan region. Some of the layoff events are due to mergers and company buyouts as oil related businesses seek to preserve their stance in the wake of fluctuating industry cycles. Industries in the South Central region that serve the oil and gas producers announced their own layoffs and buyouts as a result including Baker-Hughes, McDermott, and Gulf Island Fabricators.

Industrial growth has continued in the River Parish area. A new plant was completed by Epsilon Products Co. near Garyville to produce polypropylene resin. The plant will employ approximately 100 people.

However, economic experts believe that the impact of this decline will not be as severe as in the 1980s as the price of natural gas has not decreased and new technology allows exploration in deeper water areas formerly not accessible. Nicholls State University economist Dr. Morris Coates was quoted in the 1/26/99 Daily Comet as noting the economy has absorbed the effects much better than in the early 1980s when the low oil prices devastated the regions economy. Thus far

only 1% of the jobs have been lost. He noted more diversification in the local economy and strong employment in other areas, such as the shipbuilding industry.

Many agree that steps taken after the bust of the mid-1980's to diversify and become less reliant on one industry will help to prevent the major economic losses felt a mere decade ago. Retail growth, medical services and transportation services continue to attract spin-off businesses to the Houma/Thibodaux area.

The River Region continues to experience steady growth related to industries attracted to River frontage for both transportation reasons and the ready supply of water necessary for their processes. With the completion of the latest bridge crossing and new highways, suburban growth outward from New Orleans, and possibly Baton Rouge, will no doubt continue. The announcement of a major new subdivision containing 2000 residential lots near the Hale Boggs Bridge in Luling is expected to bring with it more commercial opportunities and construction jobs.

St. John the Baptist Parish has noted a recent boom in residential and commercial growth with release of Landmark Land Property.

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

Evaluation of Effectiveness in Meeting Goals

In determining the effectiveness of meeting goals, a brief analysis of projects as related to the 1997 OEDP and the Reform Act goals will be performed annually. The review will be done in partnership with the local economic development committees and regional CEDS task force. Comments and direction for improvements will be included in the annual report to the Regional CEDS Committee.

The goals and objectives met are organized herein in order to demonstrate their relationship to the goals of the 1998 Reform Act. A review of the goals and objectives met thus far, it was seen that a few are duplicative. Improved living conditions and job training might better be addressed in years to come. Much of the emphasis in the past years has been directed toward the diversification and stabilization of the economy. This emphasis is justified given the hard times experienced in the mid-1980s when the primary industry within the region drastically declined. The fruits of this labor are being felt now as the petroleum industry is once again on a down cycle yet growth in the region continues. In order to avoid such collapse in the future, emphasis on strengthening the Region's growth industries must be maintained. SCPDC is looking forward to the completion of the EDA's Economic Base Analysis which will help guide local economic practitioners in improving their diversification efforts.

Goals for the Coming Year

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

After review of the 1997 OEDP with the various local committees, task force and OEDP Committee, the following goals were determined to be priorities for 1999. These were determined based upon ongoing need in the various communities, the current status of the local economies in relation to the EDA Reform Act of 1998.

Goals for 1999-2000

Creation of Jobs

Goal 5: To Promote and Provide Greater Job Opportunities for District Residents.

- Continued Industrial Development and promotion technical assistance.
- Continued administration of SCPDC and Terrebonne Parish Revolving Loan Funds.
- Investigate Feasibility of Job Training Programs
- Investigate Feasibility of River Parish Transit System
- Continue efforts to attract industry to Assumption Parish.

Goal 6: To Develop and Provide Incentives for Industries to Expand or Locate within the District.

- Continue Enterprise Zone Assistance
- Continue efforts to improve the skills of the local labor force
- Continue efforts to improve transportation within the District.

Goal 7: To Promote and Provide Greater Employment Opportunities for District Residents.

(This is the same as Goal Number 5)

Goal 8: To Develop New and/ or Provide Existing Incentives for Commercial Businesses to Expand or Locate within the District.

- Continue efforts to create business incubator in St. James and Terrebonne Parishes.
- Continue efforts to revitalize the Thibodaux CBD.
- Marketing of Houma Downtown Development District
- Continue administration of Revolving Loan Fund
- Continue efforts to attract commercial enterprises to Napoleonville.

Goal 13: To Encourage Job Related Education and Training Program for District Residents.

- Conduct economic development seminars.
- Continue Leadership Training Program in Lafourche Parish.
- Construct a Distance Learning Center at SCPDC Facilities
- Continue St. John the Baptist Parish School to Career Programs.

Fostering More Stable and Diversified Economies

Goal 2: To Improve the Overall Capacity of the District to Make Economic Development Decisions.

- Continue economic development planning and technical assistance.
- Develop a Strategic Plan for St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Update regional and local economic development strategic plans.
- Coordinated efforts with Bayou Vision and Metrovision Strategic Plans.
- Continued cooperative partnerships with other economic development agencies.
- Maintenance of St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne Economic Development Offices.
- Evaluate and update St. James Strategic Plan.
- Continue provision of Enterprise Zone Assistance.
- Investigate feasibility of creating Lafourche Parish Economic Development Office.

Goal 3: To Improve the Fiscal Capacity of Local Government and to make the District Financially Attractive for Economic Development.

- Continue funding of the River Parish Economic Development Program through the South Louisiana Port Commission
- Reactivate Economic Development Committees in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes
- Investigate the feasibility of creating economic development committee in Assumption Parish

Goal 4: To Provide for the Adequate Provision of Public Infrastructure to All Industrial Users within the District.

- Completion of the Port Fourchon Dock Facilities.
- Dredging of 7,000 feet long slip and construction of landside improvements on 650 acres for deeper draft vessel access at Port Fourchon.
- Continue drainage improvements throughout the Region.
- Completion of Dickson Road and Palm Avenue Extension.
- Expand Good Earth Transit service to Thibodaux.
- Railroad and Docking Facility Improvements for Globalplex.
- Rail spur rehabilitation and extension with warehouses for Globalplex Intermodal Terminal.
- Improvements to Riverbend Oxidation Pond in St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Construct locks at Golden Meadow and Larose Floodgates.
- Dredging of 5,200 feet long section per construction of landside improvements on 400 acres for shallow draft Terrebonne Port facility.

Goal 9: To Provide Technical Assistance to Area Businesses.

- Provision of technical assistance for commercial development
- Continuation of Parish trade fairs
- Conduct an inventory of products and services available in the River Parishes

- Conduct an inventory and assessment of brownfield sites.
- St. James Parish Small Business Appreciation Banquet.

Goal 10: To Provide Adequate Highway, Water, Rail and Air Service to District Industries, Businesses, and Residents.

- Conduct a Traffic Study for St. John Parish.
- Monitor plans for creation of North to South Access Road between La. Hwy. 3127 and U.S. 90.
- Complete road overlay and improvement programs in all Parishes.
- Improve and upgrade Thibodaux Municipal Airport.
- Monitor plans for creation of a regional airport in the River Parish area.
- Continue plans to expand and improve airport facilities in Houma and St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Continue efforts to gain support and funding for I-49.
- Continue efforts to gain support and funding for improvements to La. Hwy. 1.
- Develop Safe Community Task Forces in Lafourche, St. James and Terrebonne Parishes to address ways to reduce traffic crashes.
- Investigate feasibility of designating La. Highways 1 and 308 as alternate hurricane evacuation routes in Assumption Parish.
- Explore feasibility of establishing rail service to Port Fourchon.
- Convert Golden Meadow and Larose Floodgates into locks in order to facilitate waterborne commerce during high water stages.
- Construct and east-west channel connecting Houma Navigation Canal to Port Fourchon.
- Continue effort to ensure Houma Navigation Canal lock system both 200 feet wide and 20 feet deep.

Goal 14: To Provide for the Adequate Provision of Public Facilities and Services to All Industrial, Commercial, and Residential Users within the District.

- Continue construction of Vacherie Canal Backwater Prevention Project.
- Investigate feasibility of funding for St. James Parish drainage canal improvements.
- Continue improvements to St. James Transit System.
- Expanded Terrebonne Transit route to serve Nicholls and Thibodaux General Regional Hospital.
- Attakpas Landing Boat Launch.
- Assist in preparation and administration of various grant applications for capital improvements throughout the region.
- Continue efforts to create an inter-parish transit service in the River Region.
- Assist in efforts to create a Comprehensive Hurricane Protection Plan for Coastal Louisiana.
- Continue Parishwide sewerage efforts in St. Charles and Terrebonne Parishes.
- Continue drainage improvement efforts throughout the Region.
- Complete improvements to municipal water systems in Gramercy, and Des Allemandes.
- Assist parish and municipal governments in preparing public outreach programs concerning infrastructure needs.
- Develop plan and design for St. Charles Civic Center.

- Upgrade Fire Protection Facilities throughout the Region.
- Establish a Public Marina in Terrebonne Parish.
- Develop a facility plan for Lafourche Parish.
- Continue investigation of creating Regional Criminalistics Laboratory.
- Construction of community sewerage systems in Lewisville and Tigerville in Assumption Parish.
- Construction of West Bank Library Branch and relocation and construction of a larger LaPlace Library in St. John the Baptist Parish.
- Construction of new Vacherie Branch Library and improvements to the Lutcher Library in St. James Parish.
- Update St. James Parishwide Sewerage System facilities plan.
- Establishment of a neighborhood park and construct improvements to existing parks in St. James Parish.
- Construction of levee from Coteau Canal Boat Launch to Forrestal Street in St. James Parish.

Goal 16: To Provide for Improved Demographic Economic Information Concerning the District.

- Improvements to SCPDC website with links to demographic information for each parish and municipality and other economic information of interest on the Region.
- Monitor preparations for Census 2000.

Goal 17: To Investigate the Potential for Increased Utilization of Parish Resources.

- Ongoing inventory of buildings and sites and services offered throughout the region.
- Investigate feasibility of a warehouse distribution center in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Goal 18: To Investigate the Feasibility of Regional Solid Waste Disposal System.

- Assist in staffing a Regional Solid Waste Authority

Goal 19: To Encourage Continued Development of the Oil And Gas Related Activities Within the District.

- Monitor changes in the status of oil and gas production.
- Provide technical assistance to related industries and businesses.
- Continue expansion of Port Fourchon services.

Goal 20: To Develop and Implement Programs That Promote the Economic Advantages of the District.

- Assist Community Public Relations Activities.
- Maintenance of Community and Parish Profiles by Utility Companies.
- Develop individual Parish and Municipal websites.
- Expansion of St. James Tourist Information Center programs.

- Construction of new Tourist Information Center in Terrebonne Parish.
- Conduct trade shows in St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes.
- Continue distribution of St. James Annual Report.

Goal 21: To Develop and Support Activities That Promote Tourism within the District.

- Investigate feasibility of creating a Reserve Historic District.
- Construction of Water Life Museum in Terrebonne.
- Continue promotion of culture and heritage in the River Parishes.
- Completion of the Tourist Information Center and Walking Trail in St. James Parish.
- Support initiatives to improve public facilities and access to Port Fourchon beaches.

Goal 22: To Disseminate Economic Development Information Concerning the District in A Timely Fashion.

- Create and disseminate St. John the Baptist Parish Information Package.
- Prepare an information package for distribution to those requesting information who are unable to access the new SCPDC website.
- Create and disseminate Assumption Parish Information Package.

Improved Living Conditions

Goal 1: To Improve the Overall Capacity of the District to Make Land Use Decisions.

- Continuation of the historic structure survey.
- Continued work on developing a regional geographic information system.
- Update of Parish and municipal Codes.
- Continued maintenance of the FEMA Community Rating System Programs.
- Administration of HUD entitlement program in Terrebonne and Thibodaux.
- Administration of the Terrebonne MPO/Transit program.
- Develop St. James Parish Land-Use Plan and Geographic Information System.
- Update Terrebonne Parish Comprehensive Plan.
- Investigate the Possibility of Comprehensive Plan and Zoning for Assumption Parish
- Develop plans to address impacts of City Place I and II.
- Update the Lutcher Zoning Map.
- Continue Corps of Engineers Efforts to Create a G.I.S. System for St. Charles Parish.
- Include St. Charles Zoning Map in G.I.S.
- Document and portray OCS impact to Lafourche Parish.

Goal 11: To Improve the Physical Quality of Educational Facilities within the District.

- Support efforts of local school boards to expand, upgrade and construct new educational facilities.

Goal 12: To Support Improved Educational Standards and the Quality of Education in General throughout the District.

- Develop working onsite model of Nonpoint Source Pollution Best Management Practices to be used by schools and other interested parties.
- Participate in student programs concerning government.
- Develop a Children's Museum.
- Participation of St. James Parish Head Start in the National "High Quality Program".

Goal 15: To Protect and Conserve the Natural Resources of the District by Abating the Effects of Erosion Subsidence, Salt Water Intrusion, And Pollution, and to Promote the Increased Use of the District's Natural Resources Within the Utilization Capacities.

- Continue Non-point Source Pollution presentations for kindergarten and primary students.
- Continue coastal protection planning in St. Charles, Lafourche and Terrebonne.
- Implementation of Barrier Island restoration projects.
- Implementation of Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program Plan.
- Completion of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Program.
- Further develop partnerships with agencies such as BTNEP, EPA and La. DEQ in order to develop programs that foster sustainable environment.
- Support state efforts to obtain a portion of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues to be utilized consistent with said goal.
- Implementation of Coast 2050 Ecosystem Strategy.

Conclusion

CONCLUSION

As illustrated herein, the South Central Planning and Development Commission has taken steps to achieve the goals outlined in its 1997 OEDP and will continue its efforts in the upcoming year. During the upcoming year, the SCPDC will be learning how it can better mesh its regional goals with that of the State of Louisiana and the 1998 Reform Act. In this way, local planning efforts can be better directed toward achieving a sustained economy, improving living conditions, and creating jobs.

Appendices

Appendix A
Changes in OEDP Committee Membership

Regional CEDS Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Martin Triche P.O. Box 518 Napoleonville, LA 70390 (504)369-6168	Government	W/M
Alvin Sylvester 3359 Hwy. 1 Napoleonville, LA 70390 (504)369-2956	Education Minorities	B/M
Ronald Jones Route 1, Box M15 Belle Rose, LA 70341 (504)369-2762	Government Minorities	B/M
Dale Hymel, Jr. Chairman P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70723-0106 (504)562-2300	Government	W/M
Herbert P. Jackson P.O. Box 381 Lutcher, LA 70071 (504)869-3295	Education Minorities	B/M
Elton Aubert 2219 Church Street Vacherie, LA 70090 (504)265-4554	Industry Minorities	B/M
Arnold Labat 1801 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)652-9569	Government	W/M
Perry Bailey P.O. Box 264 Edgard, LA 70049 (504)497-3000	Underemployed Minorities	B/M
Charles Caillouet P.O. Box 5418 Thibodaux, LA 70302	Government	W/M

Darrell Jupiter P.O. Box 6 Napoleonville, LA 70390 (504)369-6365	Government Minorities	B/M
Leonard Miller P.O. Box 307 Golden Meadow, LA 70357 (504)475-5213	Government	W/M
Ronald St. Pierre P.O. Drawer 340 Gramercy, LA 70052 (504)869-4403		W/M
Troas A. Poché P.O. Box 456 Lutcher, LA 70071 (504)869-5823	Municipal Government Utilities	W/M
J.B. Townsend 710 Church Street Lockport, LA 70374 (504)532-3117	Government	W/M
Barry Bonvillain P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361 (504)873-6401	Government	W/M
Wayne S. Ingram 4293 West Park Avenue Gray, LA 70359 (504)868-6958	Professionals Minorities	B/M
Aaron Caillouet P.O. Drawer 5548 Thibodaux, LA 70302 (504)446-8427	Government Education	W/M
Jerry Jones 1310 Midland Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)448-2627	Unemployed Utilities	B/M
Donald T. Bollinger P.O. Box 250 Lockport, LA 70374	Industry Business	W/M

Chris Tregre P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-5000	Government	W/M
Ellis Alexander P.O. Box 87 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-6512	Education Health	B/M
Leroy Labat 159 Holly Drive LaPlace, LA 70068	Industry Labor	W/M
Philip Fanguy 4174 Hwy. 56 Houma, LA 70363 (504)873-7796	Industry Agriculture	W/M

Regional CEDS Task Force

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Melissa Roussell Assumption Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 708 Napoleonville, LA 70390	Business	W/F
Bettie Monson Assumption Parish Police Jury P.O. Box 518 Napoleonville, LA 70390	Government	W/F
Pat Matherne Lafourche Parish Council P.O. Drawer 5548 Thibodaux, LA 70302	Community Planning	W/F
Ted Falgout Greater Lafourche Port Comm. P.O. Drawer 490 Galliano, LA 70354	Transportation	W/M
Corey Faucheaux St. Charles Parish Dept. of Economic Development P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70302	Business & Industry Development	W/M
James Badeaux, Jr. St. Charles Parish Dept. of Planning & Zoning P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70302	Community Development	W/M
Edie Michel St. James Parish Office of Economic Development P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70732	Business & Industry Development	W/F
Rachel Louque St. James Parish Office of Human Resources P.O. Box 106 Convent, LA 70723	Low Income/Minorities	W/F

Julia Remondet St. John the Baptist Parish Dept. of Economic Development 1801 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068	Real Estate	W/F
Gary LaGrange Port of South Louisiana P.O. Box 909 LaPlace, LA 70069-0909	Ports and Waterways	W/M
Patrick Gordon Terrebonne Parish Dept. of Planning & Economic Development P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361	Floodplain Management	W/M
Karen Harris Terrebonne Parish Dept. of Planning & Economic Development P.O. Box 6097 Houma, LA 70361	Business Development	W/F

Lafourche Parish

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Task Force Members

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Ms. Charlotte Riché Chamber of Greater Lafourche & the Bayou Region P.O. Box 941 Raceland, LA 70394	Business	W/F
Ms. Kathy Terracina Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 467 Thibodaux, LA 70302 (504)446-1187	Business	W/F
Mr. Larry Weidel Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Department 200 Canal Blvd. Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)448-2111	Law	W/M
Mr. Windell Curole South Lafourche Levee District P.O. Box 426 Galliano, LA 70354	Public Facilities	W/M
Mr. Malcolm Duplantis Lafourche Parish School Board 805 East 7th Street Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)446-5631	Education	W/M
Mr. Ted Falgout Port Commission P.O. Box 490 Galliano, LA 70354	Ports/Waterways	W/M
Judge Jerome Barbera Court House Annex 303 West 3rd Street Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)446-0517	Legal	W/M

Rev. Lloyd Wallace 1284 St. Charles Street Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)446-5842	Minority/Religion	B/M
Ms. Eva Shanklin 943 St. Charles Street Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)447-7562	Minority	B/F
Mr. Kenneth Callahan Louisiana Technical College P.O. Box 1831 Thibodaux, LA 70302	Education	W/M
Mr. Wiltz Duplantis J.B. Levert Land Co. 215 E. Bayou Road Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)447-9726	Development	W/M
Mr. Al Diez, Jr. Pope's Parts, Inc. 1315 St. Patrick St. Thibodaux, LA 70301 (504)446-8481	Small Business	W/M
Mr. Michael Gauthier Union Planters Bank P.O. Box 5298 Thibodaux, LA 70302 (504)446-8161	Finance	W/M
Mr. Rickie A. Pitre SLECA P.O. Box 4037 Houma, LA 70361 (504)446-2298	Utilities	W/M

St. Charles Parish Economic Development Council

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Neal Ayme, Jr. First American Bank P.O. Box 521 Boutte, LA 70039 (504)785-8901	Financial Institutions	W/M
Ricky Bosco Bosco Brothers, Inc. 711 Apple St. Norco, LA 70079 (504)764-1253	Small Business/East Bank	W/M
Ron Cooley Monsanto Company P.O. Box 174 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-8211	Major Industry/West Bank	W/M
Jerry Desselle St. Charles Parish Hospital P.O. Box 87 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-6242	Health Care	W/M
Stan Dufrene Union Carbide Corporation P.O. Box 50 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-4472	Major Industry/West Bank	W/M
Lily Galland Shell Oil Company P.O. Box 10 Norco, LA 70079 (504)465-6811	Major Industry/East Bank	W/F
Emile Garlepied Garlepied Transfer P.O. Box 427 Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-9900	St. Charles Business Association	W/M

Betty Haydel River Road Historical Society 1 Rosedown Drive Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-6361	Tourist Attraction	W/F
C.J. Jones Bunge Corporation P.O. Box 156 Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-6516	Grain Industry	M/F
Gary Karr TransContinental Refining Corporation P.O. Box 537 Norco, LA 70079 (504)764-8611	Major Industry/East Bank	M/F
Debbie Kinler Timeless Images 131 Lakewood Drive Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-8473	Small Business/West Bank	W/F
Quinn Landry Legg Mason 1100 Poydras Suite 1900 New Orleans, LA 70163 (800)526-5578 or (504)582-2766	Financial Institutions	W/M
Greg Lier Rathborne Land Company P.O. Box 157 Harvey, LA 70059 (504)368-6355	Real Estate and Land Development/ West Bank	W/M
Dan Poulin First Industrial Realty Trust, Inc. 150 James Drive East Suite 140 St. Rose, LA 70087 (504)463-5600	Real Estate and Land Development/ East Bank	W/M
Alan Ray La. Gas Service Company P.O. Box 158 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-6276	Utilities/Gas Representative	W/M

Doug Rhodes Entergy P.O. Box 61000 New Orleans, LA 70161-1000	Utilities/Electricity Representative	W/M
Carole Schonberg Latter & Blum, Inc./REALTORS P.O. Box 1299 Boutte, LA 70039 (504)785-8291	Residential Real Estate	W/F
Arthur Smith A.M.E., Inc. P.O. Box 397 Norco, LA 70079	Small Business/East Bank	B/M
Richard Bordner P.O. Box 502 Boutte, LA 70039 (504)758-2059	St. Charles Fireman's Association	W/M
Herb Thurber 83 Rosedown Drive Destrehan, LA 70047 (504)764-7373	Retirement Community	W/M
Debra Dufresne Vial Esperanza Restaurant P.O. Box 980 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-1399	Small Business/West Bank	W/F
Kay Jackson Port of South Louisiana P.O. Box 909 LaPlace, LA 70069 (504)536-8300	Port of South Louisiana	W/F
Dennis Murphy La. Technical College River Parishes Campus P.O. Drawer AQ Reserve, LA 70084	Technical College	W/M
Rochelle Touchard St. Charles Parish Schools P.O. Box 46 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-6289	St. Charles Parish Education System	W/F

George Williamson United Way of St. Charles P.O. Box 1027 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-6322	United Way of St. Charles	W/M
Charles Mullin Mullin McLellan, L.L.C. 11 James Boulevard Suite 120 St. Rose, LA 70087 (504)465-9345	Past Chairman	W/M
Billie Simoneaux AM-PM Temporary Services P.O. Box 186 Luling, LA 70070 (504)785-6857	Past Chairman	W/F

Ex officio Members

Chris Tregre Parish President St. Charles Parish P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504) 783-5000		W/M
Corey Faucheaux, Director St. Charles Parish Dept. of Economic Development & Tourism P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504) 783-5140		W/M
James Badeaux, Jr. St. Charles Parish Department of Planning & Zoning P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-5060		W/M
Richard Wright, Director St. Charles Parish Dept. of Public Works/Wastewater P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (504)783-5100		W/M

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

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

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

St. James Parish Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Mr. Mac Bordelon P.O. Box 512 Lutcher, LA 70071 (504) 869-3841 (504) 869-8156 (Work)	Real Estate/ Small Business Owner	W/M
Mr. Greg Zeringue P.O. Box 828 Gramercy, LA 70052-0828 (504) 869-4359 (504) 869-5364 (Work)	Insurance/ Small Business Owner	W/M
Mrs. Wendy Peytavin P.O. Box 506 Lutcher, LA 70071-0506 (504) 869-4303	Tourism	W/F
Mr. Bennord Lee P.O. Box 144 Lutcher, LA 70071-0144 (504) 869-8430 (504) 562-3501 (Work)	Industry NAACP	B/M
Mr. Frank Bourgeois P.O. Box 550 Vacherie, LA 70090-0550 (504) 265-2175 (504) 265-2265 (Work)	Banking President	W/M
Mr. Anthony Nobile P.O. Box 129 Convent, LA 70723-0129 (504) 562-3553 (504) 869-5678 (Work)	Legal/Small Business Owner	W/M
Mr. Lawrence Jackson 12189 Magnolia Street Gramercy, LA 70052 (504) 562-7242	Retired	B/M
Ms. Charlene Williams 2244 Church Street Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-8550	Teacher	B/F

Mr. Louis Celestine 7105 Tip Top Street St. James, LA 70086 (504) 265-2755	Industry	B/M
Mr. Zeb Mayhew 3645 LA 18 Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-2151 (Work)	Tourism	W/M
Mr. Vernon Rodrigue 13262 La Belle Rue Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-2297	Small Business	W/M
Mrs. Dolores Florent 1225 Luther King St. Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-7903	Retired	B/F
Mr. Herbert Jackson P.O. Box 381 Lutcher, LA 70071-0381 (504) 869-3295	Education	B/M
Mr. Ronald St. Pierre, Sr. P.O. Box 235 Gramercy, LA 70052-0235 (504) 869-3178	Tourism Plant Worker	W/M
Mr. Paul Aucoin 134 Goodwill Plantation Road Vacherie, LA 70090 (504) 265-4451 (504) 265-7906 (Work)	Lawyer	W/M
Mrs. Brenda Melancon 3381 South Angelle Paulina, LA 70763 (504) 869-4670 (504) 869-8087	Small Business Owner	W/F
Mr. Tyronne Martin 2354 N. Exchange Alley Lutcher, LA 70071 (504) 869-4439	Industry	B/M

St. John the Baptist Parish Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
John Adams, Entergy 233 Devon Road LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)651-4875 (H) (504)479-025 (W)		W/M
David Beadle 105 Marmillion Loop Reserve, LA 70084 (504)536-3840		
Vernon Bailey, Vice Chairman P.O. Box 116 LaPlace, LA 70069 (504)651-0983 (H) (504)468-0737 (Pager)		
Chris Eichhorn 20 Country Club Drive LaPlace, LA 70069 (504)652-5434 (H) (504)734-1863 (W)		
Dave Millet 1117 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)652-6261		
Sean Roussel 225 Somerset LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)651-9971 (H) (504)653-4248 (W)		
Ronald A. Troxler, Chairman 2143 Pinehurst LaPlace, LA 70068 (504)652-3777		
Allen Weber P.O. Box 141 LaPlace, LA 70069 (504)652-5717		

Edgar Jochum
1913 Van Arpel
LaPlace, LA 70068
(504)652-2698

Lori Burke Colas
590 Hwy. 18
Edgard, LA 70049
(504)497-8436

Terrebonne Parish Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

Name/Address	Affiliation	Race/Sex
Abel Prejean	Ex-Officio	W/M
Patrick Gordon	Ex-Officio	W/M
Paul Labat	Ex-Officio	W/M
AC Fondren	Ex-Officio	W/M
Todd Pellegrin	Ex-Officio	W/M
Barry Bonvillain	Ex-Officio	W/M
Kevin Ghirardi	Ex-Officio	W/M
Mike Robichaux	Medical	W/M
Sharon Alford	Real Estate	W/F
Vic Lafont	Ex-Officio	W/M
Craig Roussel	Ex-Officio	W/M
Claudette Sevin	Ex-Officio	W/F
Sharon Roppolo	Banking & Finance	W/F
Robert Boquet	Banking & Finance	W/M
Troy Liner	Community	W/M
Leigh Larose	Community	W/F
Keith Authement	Community	W/M
David Elmore	Economic Development	W/M
Marvin Marmande	Economic Development	W/M
Marue Soudelier	Education	W/F
Frank Fudesco	Education	W/M
David Chauvin	Housing	W/M
Roy LeBoeuf	Housing	W/M

Billy Coyle	Industrial	W/M
Darrell Walters	Minority	B/M
Charles Brown	Minority	B/M
Kirby Bonvillain	Minority	B/M
Michel Claudet	Professional	W/M
Charles Theriot	Professional	W/M
Julius Hebert, Jr.	Professional	W/M
Sandra Guidroz	Real Estate	W/F
Roland Henry	Rural Business	W/M
George Bourg	Rural Business	W/M
Jerry Cobb	Rural Business	W/M
Edward McCulla	Small Business	W/M
Byron Bennett	Small Business	W/M
Beullah Rodrique	Small Business	W/F
Linton Naquin	Small Business	W/M
Weston Hull	Small Business	W/M
David Smith	Small Business	W/M
Werlien Prosperie	Tourism	W/M
Vernon Bourgeois	Tourism	W/M
Sandra Pellegrin	Tourism	W/F
Luther Fletcher	Training	W/M
Travis Lavigne	Training	W/M
Keith Ortego	Training	W/M
Ken Rachal	Training	W/M
Earl Hicks	Transportation	W/M
John Woodard	Transportation	W/M

John Monteiro	Transportation	W/M
Tom Bourg	Utilities	W/M
Rickie Pitre	Utilities	W/M
Raymond Prejant	Utilities	W/M

Appendix B
Minutes of the Regional CEDS Committee

MINUTES

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

Following are minutes of Committee meetings held between July 1998 and June 1999.

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, August 12, 1998
11:00 a.m.
Belle Terre Country Club
LaPlace, Louisiana

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 1998, at the Belle Terre Country Club, LaPlace, Louisiana. Mr. Barry P. Bonvillain, Chairman, called the meeting to order, and requested Ms. Melissa Menuet to call the roll. Those members present or represented by proxy were:

Mr. Alvin Sylvester, Assumption Parish;

Mr. Kermit Kraemer, representing Mr. Aaron Caillouet, Lafourche Parish Council;

Mr. Tim Vial, representing Mr. Chris Tregre, St. Charles Parish;

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

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

Mr. Dale Hymel, St. James Parish;

Mr. Elton Aubert, St. James Parish;

Mr. Barry Bonvillain, Terrebonne Parish;

Mr. Philip Fanguy, Terrebonne Parish;

Those members absent:

Mr. Martin Triche, Assumption Parish;

Mr. Ronald Jones, Assumption Parish;

Mayor Darrell Jupiter, Village of Napoleonville;

Mr. Jerry Jones, Lafourche Parish;

Mr. Boysie Bollinger, Lafourche Parish;

Mayor Warren Harang, City of Thibodaux;

Mayor J. B. Townsend, Town of Lockport

Mayor Jervis Autin, Town of Golden Meadow;

Mr. Ellis Alexander, St. Charles Parish;

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

Mr. Herbert Jackson, St. James Parish;

Mayor Herman Bourgeois, Town of Gramercy;

Mayor Elmore Trosclair, Town of Lutcher;

Mr. Wayne Ingram, Terrebonne Parish;

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

Ratification of the Selection of Kevin Belanger as Chief Executive Officer of SCPDC

Mr. Bonvillain explained the he and Mr. Hymel interviewed seven people for the position of CEO. He said that Kevin Belanger was the selection of the Executive Committee and asked for the ratification of the selection.

A motion was made by Mr. Fanguy, seconded by Mr. Sylvester to ratify Mr. Kevin Belanger as the new CEO of South Central Planning and Development Commission. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bonvillain asked Mr. Belanger to say a few words. Mr. Belanger stated that his history has been basically with Terrebonne Parish as a Planning and Zoning Administrator. He said that he has worked with planning issues, zoning issues, EDA, and some CDBG. He said that his emphasis has been mainly on transportation. He said that he has a lot of knowledge of GIS, understanding grant applications and the understanding of where to go and how to get them done. Mr. Belanger stated that his education is in City and Regional Planning with a minor in architecture from the University of Southwest Louisiana. He said that he also has experience in drafting and understanding survey work.

Mr. Belanger said that he would like to help each parish to develop a transportation master plan. He said that he intends to meet with each Board Member and Parish President to get a feel for where the Board would like the agency to head.

Mr. Belanger thanked the Management Committee and the Board for their ratification.

RESOLUTION: Authorizing Mr. Kevin Belanger to sign any and all documents and paychecks for the Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Aubert to authorize Mr. Belanger to sign any and all documents and paychecks for the Commission. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION: Authorizing Mr. Kevin Belanger and Ms. Elizabeth Breaux to have access to Safety Deposit Box.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Hymel to give authorization to Mr. Belanger and Ms. Breaux to have access to safety deposit box. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 1998 Annual OEDP Update

Mr. Pellegrin explained that the Overall Economic Development Plan is one of the requirements of EDA. He said that South Central Planning does an OEDP every other year and for the years between we do and OEDP update. Mr. Pellegrin asked for approval of the OEDP update by the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mr. Fanguy to approve the 1998 Annual OEDP Update. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Bonvillain explained that Mayor Warren Harang has offered his resignation as Secretary/Treasurer and as a member of the Board of South Central Planning. He said that the regular election for officers will be held in December and that the Board would need to elect someone to fill in the unexpired term. Mr. Bonvillain stated that Mayor Townsend of Lockport has expressed his interest in serving as Secretary-Treasurer, but could not attend today's meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the resignation of Mayor Warren Harang as Secretary-Treasurer and member of the Board of South Central Planning. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bonvillain opened nominations for Secretary Treasurer.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mr. Sylvester to appoint Mayor Townsend as Secretary-Treasurer pending his approval.

There being no other nominations, a motion was made to Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mr. Sylvester to close nominations and accept the nomination of Mayor Townsend as Secretary-Treasurer by acclamation, and to also authorize Mayor Townsend to sign all necessary paperwork. There being no other opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Bonvillain turned the meeting over to Mr. E.A. Angelloz to present the design of the SCPDC Building. Mr. Pellegrin reminded the Board that Mr. Angelloz is presenting the first draft of the plans, and that this is not necessarily what will be built. Mr. Angelloz presented and discussed some of the features included in the building.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Mr. Sylvester, seconded by Mr. Hymel to adjourn the meeting. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

I, Barry P. Bonvillain, duly authorized officer of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, 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 August 12, 1998.

Barry P. Bonvillain, Chairman
South Central Planning and Development Commission

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, October 22, 1998
10:30 a.m.
Belle Terre Country Club
LaPlace, Louisiana

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 22, 1998, at the Belle Terre Country Club, LaPlace, Louisiana. Mr. Barry P. Bonvillain, Chairman, called the meeting to order, and requested Ms. Melissa Menuet to call the roll. Those members present or represented by proxy were:

Mr. Alvin Sylvester, Assumption Parish;

Mr. Kermit Kraemer, representing Mr. Aaron Caillouet, Lafourche Parish Council;

Mayor J. B. Townsend, Town of Lockport;

Mr. Corey Faucheux, representing Mr. Chris Tregre, St. Charles Parish;

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

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

Mr. Dale Hymel, St. James Parish;

Mr. Barry Bonvillain, Terrebonne Parish;

Mr. Doug Maier, representing Mr. Philip Fanguy, Terrebonne Parish;

Those members absent:

Mr. Martin Triche, Assumption Parish;

Mr. Ronald Jones, Assumption Parish;

Mayor Darrell Jupiter, Village of Napoleonville;

Mr. Jerry Jones, Lafourche Parish;

Mr. Boysie Bollinger, Lafourche Parish;

Mayor Jervis Autin, Town of Golden Meadow;

Mr. Ellis Alexander, St. Charles Parish;

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

Mr. Elton Aubert, St. James Parish;

Mr. Herbert Jackson, St. James Parish;

Mayor Herman Bourgeois, Town of Gramercy;

Mayor Elmore Trosclair, Town of Lutcher;

Mr. Wayne Ingram, Terrebonne Parish;

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

Guest in attendance were Mr. John Adams of Entergy, Mr. Harry Shields of Entergy, Ms. Cathy Reid of Entergy, Ms. Pamela Davidson of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and Mr. Jim Ray of Pebsco.

Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Todd Pellegrin

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mayor Townsend to adopt a resolution in dedication to Mr. Todd Pellegrin for his time served as Chief Executive Officer of South Central Planning. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes of June 30, 1998 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Hymel to accept the minutes of June 30, 1998. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes of August 12, 1998 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mayor Townsend to accept the minutes of August 12, 1998. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of 1997-98 Annual Audit by Bourgeois Bennett, LLC.

Ms. Deanna Zeringue of Bourgeois Bennett, L.L.C. presented the 1997-98 Annual Audit to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Zeringue explained the audit report to the members of the Board and stated that South Central Planning did not have any findings and that this year's audit was very good.

Mayor Townsend asked Mr. Poché if the agency's computers were Year 2000 compliant. Mr. Poché replied that the agency's computers are 2000 compliant.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mayor Townsend the accept the 1997-98 Annual Audit. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of SCPDC Employee Retirement Plan.

Mr. Belanger introduced Mr. Jim Ray of Pebsco. Mr. Ray presented and discussed different scenarios. He compared South Central Planning's retirement with some of the other planning districts in the state and also the differences in the rate of turnover of employees. He stated that the 457 plan is voluntary, whereas the parochial plan is mandatory. Mr. Jim Ray recommended bringing the plan back to what it once was.

Mr. Kraemer asked how South Central Planning stood budget wise. Mr. Belanger stated that 6% has already been budgeted this year beginning in January. Mayor Townsend said that the agency's contribution could go up or down depending on its financial status. Mr. Belanger stated that the retirement would be one of the first areas the agency would look to cut back if we run into bad times.

Mr. Belanger explained that the cost to the district to match at 6% would be around $13,000 assuming that everyone takes advantage of the 6% maximum.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the 6% dollar for dollar match plan. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Vehicle Lease

Mr. Belanger explained that when he was hired, he and Ms. Elizabeth Breaux looked at the mileage that was going to be put on the agency vehicle. He stated that it is estimated that the agency will spend about $19,000 in the three (3) year period and have no collateral in the end. He said that he feels that the agency could sell the vehicle for what it is worth which is $22,500. He explained that he had received the permission of the Management Committee to bring the vehicle to Terrebonne Ford to try to sell. He said that the management of Terrebonne Ford felt that we could probably get some offers within two weeks. He stated that the agency will not accept anything less than $22,500. He said that if the agency is able to get $22,500 we will sell the vehicle and go out on state contract to purchase a new vehicle.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sylvester to sell the agency vehicle with the exception that we get an offer of $22,500. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Regional Landfill

Mr. Bonvillain stated that Terrebonne Parish is interested in trying to create a regional landfill or Solid Waste Management Authority and to possibly begin having meetings on a regular basis.

Mr. Belanger stated that South Central Planning held a meeting on October 20th at Nicholls and had representation from Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James and St. Mary Parishes. Mr. Belanger stated that the report that was generated by the University of New Orleans in 1994 was reviewed. He said that it was discussed as to what could be done to gain the interest of the political leaders. He said that the people who were at the meeting are the people who are actually involved with the solid waste problems. He said that it was concluded at the meeting that the best route would be to show the amount of savings or to try to extrapulate what was done in 1994 and to be able to show the parishes what potentially could be the savings to all of the parishes. He said that the Corp of Engineers eluded to a program that would pay 50% of any study that is done in light of looking at the cost/benefit ratios. Mr. Belanger stated that he met with the gentleman from the Corp of Engineers after the meeting and that they began to put together a scope of services. He said that an approximation of the cost of the study could possibly be in the range of $50,000.00 which would be conjointly undertaken by South Central Planning, the Corp of Engineers, and the Department of Environmental Quality. He said that DEQ had initially funded the 1994 study through the University of New Orleans through a grant that was received by the Department of Natural Resources, and DEQ will look to see if SCPDC could get the money for the study. He said that if there are seven parishes involved, we would look at about $3,000.00 per parish to perform such a study. He said that there will be a meeting in mid November to issue the scope of work and hopefully to have an amount so that we can ask the parishes for contributions to the study.

RESOLUTION: Certification for Capital Outlay.

A motion was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Bailey that the Board adopt the resolution regarding certification for Capital Outlay. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Building Project Status Report

Mr. Belanger stated that US Hwy. 90 has be designated for I-49 in years to come. He said that this has negated the possibility of the agency being able to use the right-of-way along LA Hwy. 311 and U.S. Hwy. 90.

Mr. Belanger stated that the State is going to close on the purchase of the Delta College site, but will not purchase the remaining 2½ acres located in front of the building. He said that Speaker Downer is trying to negotiate a trade with Donald Rouse of the state owned property on the corner of Coteau Road and Hwy. 24 for the property in front of Delta College. He said that

Speaker Downer stated that if he can get the site successfully through the Highway Department that he will get us 2 acres at a minimum.

Mr. Belanger stated that he has been in other negotiations with private land owners in the vicinity of Hwy. 90 and Hwy. 24 which in his opinion is the area where the facility should accessibly be located. Mr. Belanger recommended that SCPDC be allowed to make a Capital Outlay Request to the legislature in the approximations of about $100,000 to $150,000 to be able to purchase property.

Mr. Bailey reminded the Board again of the offer of land in St. John the Baptist Parish. Mr. Kraemer stated that there are numerous private land owners in Lafourche Parish that SCPDC could possibly look at.

Mr. Bonvillain asked Kevin where the agency stood with the architect of the project. He said that we need to hold him back until we are sure where the building will be located so that it can be designed for the land. Mr. Belanger stated that the architect is about 85% complete on the plans and that the footprint of the building can be placed anywhere as long as you have a width greater than 150'.

Discussion of SCPDC's Lease with Carl Heck.

Mr. Barry Bonvillain stated that the agency could possibly negotiate with Mr. Carl Heck about the possibility of purchasing the building where SCPDC is presently located. Mr. Belanger stated that Mr. Heck is very interested in selling the building. He said that Mr. Heck would like to see the agency remain in the building indefinitely. Mr. Belanger stated that Mr. Heck has brought to him on two occasions electric bills in excess of $600.00 and asked that in the future lease the Board would give consideration to increasing the amount by about $300.00.

RESOLUTION: Electric Industry Competition in Louisiana Support for Entergy Louisiana.

Mr. Harry Shields of Entergy explained Electric Utility Deregulation with the Board. A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Resolution supporting Entergy Louisiana. Mr. Barry Bonvillain abstained from voting on this matter. The motion carried.

Agency Activity Report

Mr. Bonvillain briefly discussed the Agency Activity Report.

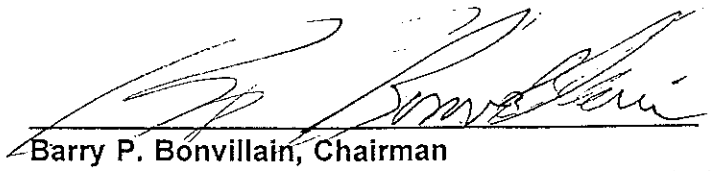
A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Hymel to accept the Agency Activity Report.

Other Business

Ms. Pamela Ehlers asked Mr. Belanger for an update on how the agency was distributing the RLF money. He said that the agency has received two requests from St. Charles Parish and that these are the only two received in the last month.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mayor Townsend to adjourn the meeting. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

I, Barry P. Bonvillain, duly authorized officer of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, 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 22, 1998.



Barry P. Bonvillain, Chairman
South Central Planning and Development Commission

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, January 28, 1999
10:30 a.m.
Ellendale Country Club
Houma, Louisiana

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 28, 1999, at the Ellendale Country Club, Houma, Louisiana. Mr. Barry P. Bonvillain, Chairman, called the meeting to order, and requested Ms. Melissa Menuet to call the roll. Those members present or represented by proxy were:

Mr. Alvin Sylvester, Assumption Parish;

Mayor J. B. Townsend, Town of Lockport;

Mr. Chris Tregre, St. Charles Parish;

Mr. Ellis Alexander, St. Charles Parish;

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

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

Mr. Dale Hymel, St. James Parish;

Mr. Elton Aubert, St. James Parish;

Mr. Barry Bonvillain, Terrebonne Parish;

Mr. Philip Fanguy, Terrebonne Parish;

Those members absent:

Mr. Martin Triche, Assumption Parish;

Mr. Ronald Jones, Assumption Parish;

Mayor Darrell Jupiter, Village of Napoleonville;

Mr. Aaron Caillouet, Parish President

Mr. Jerry Jones, Lafourche Parish;

Mr. Boysie Bollinger, Lafourche Parish;

Mayor Charles Caillouet, City of Thibodaux

Mayor Jervis Autin, Town of Golden Meadow;

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

Mr. Herbert Jackson, St. James Parish;

Mayor Ronald St. Pierre, Town of Gramercy;

Mayor Troas Poché, Town of Lutcher;

Mr. Wayne Ingram, Terrebonne Parish;

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

Guest in attendance were Mr. Jimmy Ledet, Mr. Marc Rogers, Mr. Horace Thibodaux and Mr. Stevie Smith of T. Baker Smith and Sons who are the corporate sponsor for the meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes of October 22, 1998 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Aubert to accept the minutes of October 22, 1998. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Review Financial Statement ending December 31, 1998

Mr. Belanger stated that as of December 31, 1998, SCPDC had total assets of $364,612.11, total liabilities of $10,542.35, and a total fund equity of $354,069.76. He stated that on the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures the agency has total revenues of $287,661.10, total expenditures of $244,666.81 and an excess balance of $42,994.29. He stated that the ending fund balance as of December 31, 1998 was $275,537.31

A motion was made by Mr. Fanguy, seconded by Mayor Townsend to accept the Financial Statement ending December 31, 1998. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Election of 1999 Officers

Mr. Bailey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Aubert to open nominations. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Fanguy to nominate Mr. Dale Hymel as Chairman of SCPDC. Mr. Aubert seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to accept Mr. Hymel as Chairman.

Mr. Labat nominated Mr. Perry Bailey as Vice-Chairman of SCPDC. Mr. Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tregre to accept Mr. Perry Bailey as Vice-Chairman of SCPDC. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fanguy nominated Mayor J. B. Townsend as Secretary-Treasurer of SCPDC. A motion was made by Mr Fanguy, seconded by Mr. Sylvester to accept the nomination of Mayor Townsend as Secretary-Treasurer. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bonvillain congratulated all of the newly appointed officers.

Presentation of Appreciation to Warren Harang, Jr.

Mr. Belanger explained that Mr. Harang sent his apologies that he could not be at the meeting to accept the plaque. Mr. Harang was very happy to hear that the Board would present him with a plaque.

Building Project Status Report

Mr. Belanger explained that he has a meeting set for March 11, 1999 to discuss the possibility of the highway department acquiring the property in front of the Delta College building. He stated that he has been working on setting up a meeting with the Secretary of the Highway Department regarding the property for the past 3 to 4 months. He said that the Secretary is receptive to the idea but would like to see what SCPDC plans on building.

Mr. Belanger stated that he has spoken to Mr. Carl Heck, Sr. regarding the building we are now located in. He explained that Mr. Heck was having health problems at the time and was unable to attend to the matter. Mr. Belanger said that Mr. Heck came by this morning regarding a proposal that would give the agency an idea of what he would be asking for the building.

Mr. Belanger also stated that the agency has submitted a Capital Outlay Request for the remainder of the money for the building.

A motion was made by Mr. Sylvester, seconded by Mayor Townsend to accept the Building Project Status Report. There being no opposition, the motion carried.

Agency Activity Report

Mr. Belanger briefly discussed the Agency Activity Report which includes all activity by the agency since the October 22, 1998 meeting.

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Agency Activity Report.

Corporate Sponsor Presentation

Mr. Bonvillain turned the meeting over to Mr. Marc Rogers of T. Baker Smith & Sons. Mr. Rogers and other members of the T. Baker Smith Staff presented a slide presentation regarding their company.

Mr. Tregre thanked T. Baker Smith & Sons for sponsoring the meeting and stated that during there presentation they brought up real issues that St. Charles Parish deals with.

Other Business

There being no other business, a motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Aubert to adjourn the meeting. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, June 23, 1999
10:30 a.m.
Bayou Country Club
Thibodaux, Louisiana

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

Mr. Alvin Sylvester, Assumption Parish;

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

Mayor J. B. Townsend, Town of Lockport;

Mr. Chris Tregre, St. Charles Parish;

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

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

Mr. Dale Hymel, St. James Parish;

Mayor Ronald St. Pierre, Town of Gramercy;

Mr. Barry Bonvillain, Terrebonne Parish;

Mr. Wayne Ingram, Terrebonne Parish;

Mr. Philip Fanguy, Terrebonne Parish;

Those members absent:

Mr. Martin Triche, Assumption Parish;

Mr. Ronald Jones, Assumption Parish;

Mayor Darrell Jupiter, Village of Napoleonville;

Mr. Aaron Caillouet, Parish President

Mr. Jerry Jones, Lafourche Parish;

Mr. Boysie Bollinger, Lafourche Parish;

Mayor Charles Caillouet, City of Thibodaux

Mayor Leonard Miller, Town of Golden Meadow;

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

Mr. Ellis Alexander, St. Charles Parish;

Mr. Herbert Jackson, St. James Parish;

Mayor Troas Poché, Town of Lutcher;

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

Guest in attendance were Mr. John DeFraites and Mr. Clay Breaud of GSE Associates, Inc., and Mr. Edward Zeringue of the Town of Gramercy.

Acceptance of Minutes of January 28, 1999 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the minutes of January 28, 1999. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Review Financial Statement ending May 31, 1999

Mr. Belanger stated that as of May 31, 1999, the agency had total assets of $526,793.28. He said that the agency had total liabilities of $158,559.53 and a total fund equity of $368,233.75 for a total liabilities and fund equity of $526,793.28.

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Financial Statement ending May 31, 1999. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve FY 1998-99 Budget Adjustments.

Mr. Belanger asked Ms. Elizabeth Breaux to go over the budget amendments. Ms. Breaux stated that adjustments were made to make the budget more in line with the ending year numbers rather than what was proposed at the beginning of the year. She stated that there were only slight adjustments. She said that the agency purchased less supplies than budgeted, salaries

were decreased to reflect that there was no CEO for some of the year, and some of the salary money was moved into fringe benefits for vacation time and leave time. Ms. Breaux stated that on the last page there is a budget comparison which shows the difference between the adopted budget and the amended budget.

Mr. Hymel pointed out that under the general fund for the 98-99 budget amendment the agency is $63,699.00 to the good and under the special revenue fund the agency is in the good by $304,533.00. He stated that when the proposed budget for 1999-2000 year is presented you will see a deficit of $252,455.00 under the special revenue fund. He stated that basically this is just a timing difference where the revenue is recorded in one year and the expenditures comes out in the following year.

Ms. Breaux stated that the special revenue is due to America's Cajun Restaurant paying back their RLF loan. She stated that the special revenue is totally the RLF money and that the money will be loaned out next year.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mayor St. Pierre to approve the FY98-99 budget adjustments. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve FY 1999-2000 Proposed Budget.

Mr. Belanger stated that the agency's projected deficit for the 1999-2000 budget is $76,317.00. Mr. Belanger pointed out the attachment that outlines contracts that the agency is currently pursuing. Mr. Belanger stated that highlighted items are the contracts the agency expects to have within the next three months. He stated that the agency has been notified by the Department of Labor that the Susan Harwood Grant has been awarded to our agency. SCPDC was also chosen by the Lafourche Parish Library to do marketing and public outreach for $18,000.00. He said that the other contracts that he feels certain the agency may receive within the next three months are the Town of Lutcher Comprehensive Plan Update for $8,000.00, St. Charles Community Boundaries for $12,000.00, and the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District educational awareness effort for $20,000.00.

Kevin stated that the agency is currently pursuing the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He stated that he has done some comparison of our district throughout the state. He said that SCPDC has been in operation since 1972, and has operated roughly on 33% reoccurring sources of revenue. He stated that the other 67% is contract work that the agency has to pursue. In comparison to the other districts within the State of Louisiana, all except for one are basically what we term the MPO and have a source of reoccurring revenue each year through the Louisiana Department of Transportation. He stated that South Central Planning becoming the MPO would not only benefit Terrebonne, Lafourche, and the City of Thibodaux, but also would have some benefits to the other areas of the region.

Mr. Hymel stated that if SCPDC were to become the MPO he would like to make sure that it would benefit Terrebonne Parish as well as Lafourche Parish and the City of Thibodaux. He said he would like this to be a win-win situation for all involved.

Mr. Hymel asked what would have to be done for the MPO to be transferred to SCPDC. Mr. Belanger stated that all three entities would have to pass ratifying resolutions to form the MPO at South Central Planning. Mr. Belanger also stated that the key to making this work is that Terrebonne shall not feel threatened of losing anything. He said that the way to make this happen is to let Terrebonne have control even after the MPO is transferred to South Central Planning.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sylvester to accept the proposed 1999-2000 budget. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: Adopting Systems Survey and Compliance Questionnaire.

Mr. Belanger stated that this is done annually to assure that the audit is being done properly and efficiently.

A motion was made by Mr. Tregre, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the resolution adopting the systems survey and compliance questionnaire. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: Certifying 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.

Mr. Belanger stated that every year we have to pass a resolution giving certification that our revolving loan fund is being administered in the proper fashion and is consistent with our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

A motion was made by Mr. Bonvillain, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adopt the resolution certifying the RLF Program. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 1999 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Mr. Belanger stated that representatives from the agency went to all Parish economic development departments and committees to receive updates for the CEDS. He said that the agency also held a Regional Economic Development Strategy meeting about two weeks ago to discuss and receive comments on the Plan. He said that this report was compiled as an update the CEDS program.

A motion was made by Mr. Sylvester, seconded by Mr. Tregre to accept the CEDS report for 1999. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Lease for Carl Heck Engineers Building.

Mr. Belanger stated that a Management Committee Meeting was held last week and that he had asked for approval to enter into a lease with Mr. Heck. Mr. Belanger explained that the agency had problems with the A/C unit about two months ago. A lot of work was done to repair the problem that Mr. Heck wanted the agency to pay for. Mr. Belanger stated that the lease was

never signed by Mr. Heck last year. He said that after reviewing the lease from the previous year, we were not responsible for any charge exceeding $200.00. He said that Mr. Heck agreed to pay the A/C bill, but asked that the agency increase our rent to take into consideration some of the repairs that he has been taking care of as well as the electricity bills that he receives. Mr. Belanger stated that he told Mr. Heck that if he would like the agency to increase the rent, SCPDC would have to seek other comparable sites. He said that Mr. Heck then agreed to leave the lease as it is now.

Status Report of SCPDC Building Project.

Mr. Belanger stated that Speaker Hunt Downer called this past Monday to say that our Capital Outlay Request for this year has been approved. He said the money will be available by October to build the building. He said that the Division of Administration did give approval to the Highway Department to acquire the land in front of Delta College. He said that the Highway Department received appraisals on the land, and are currently negotiating with Donald Rouse. The Highway Department expects to have this concluded by the end of July.

Agency Activity Report

Mr. Belanger briefly discussed the Agency Activity Report which includes all activity by the agency since the January 28, 1999 meeting. Mr. Hymel asked the Board to take a look at what is being done in other parishes and municipalities to see if there is a need in their Parish or Town for SCPDC to contract out work.

Other Business.

Mr. Hymel deviated from the agenda to present a condolence resolution in memory of Jervis Autin. All present stood in a moment of silence in his honor.

A motion was made by Mayor Townsend, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adopt the resolution for Mayor Autin. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Corporate Sponsor Presentation

Mr. Dale Hymel introduced the Corporate Sponsor Mr. John DeFraites of GSE Associates and allowed him to make a presentation. Mr. John DeFraites spoke briefly about the organization and showed a video on storm water management.

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