1. Henry Heier, Council Chair, calls meeting of Louisiana State Apprenticeship Council to Order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Chairman Heier calls the roll for Council Members:
* Claire Nettles: Present
* Robert Clautre: Present
* William Reynolds: Present
* Andy O'Brien: Present
* Nicholas Felton: Absent
* Woody Oge: Absent
* Anthony Doty: Sent Delegate (inaudible)
* Joe May: Sent delegate James Sawtelle to represent LCTCS

Also present: Heather Stefan, State Apprenticeship Director for Louisiana Workforce Commission and Council Secretary; Rose Johnson, Program Assistant for Apprenticeship Division with LWC

3. Introductions of audience members (Inaudible)

4. Apprenticeship Division update from Heather Stefan:

She addressed the issue of not having quarterly SAC meetings. Since operating with limited staff and even more limited funding, the resources do not exist to actively pursue development of new apprenticeship programs. Since SAC meetings are called to approve new programs and there haven't been any, then SAC meetings have not been necessary. The division is trying to focus on simply providing the best customer service possible to the programs that already exist. If an employer comes to the division on their own accord and are interested in starting an apprenticeship program, the division will assist them in anyway possible to help them, but a coordinated outreach and public relations moratorium has, for the foreseeable future, been put into effect.

In the past year: 3,647 active apprentices; of that 2,200 were building and construction trade apprentices, 574 manufacturing apprentices, 776 service industry apprentices. 438 completed/graduated, 937 new registrations, 13% of all apprentices are female, 46% of all apprentices are minorities, 54 active programs.

Programs deregistered: CVS, Aeroframe, Insulators program in Lake Charles.

Big news: Apprenticeship tax credit was renewed for an additional four years, $1,000 per apprentice per year. Updated forms have been circulated and required to be submitted before DoR will approve tax credit.

Update on funding: Federal funds in the Office of Workforce Development have been significantly cut and a continued decrease will be seen over the next few years. If you need assistance with another workforce program, feel free to make the Apprenticeship Division your first point of contact and we'll be sure to put you in touch directly with the people that can help you.

5. Question from audience: How much federal funding does Apprenticeship Division receive?

Answer from Heather Stefan: None. Federal funding does not exist specifically for RA. In fact, RA does not even have a dedicated state budget. The division has charged their time and expenses to WIA, but with WIA funding on a steady decline, the division has been instructed to charge to the agency's penalty and interest fund instead.

6. Comment from Jimmy Sawtelle: If there is a way for LCTCS to partner with the Apprenticeship Division to help leverage funding for activities, they will be happy to work with the division to do so.

7. Question from Andy O'Brien: What programs were counted towards the manufacturing number?

 Answer from Heather Stefan: Avondale, PPG, Boise Paper, and some smaller advanced manufacturing programs in the Lafayette region.

8. Additional question from Andy O'Brien: What year is the tax credit extended to?

 Answer from Heather Stefan: It starts this year in 2011, so it is extended through 2014.

9. Chairman Heier introduces new council members Claire Nettles and Robert Cluatre, both of ABC.

10. Chairman Heier introduces Dr. Stephen Barnes of LSU. Dr. Barnes was asked to re-present a powerpoint presentation he delivered recently of a survey of two year long research project with LWC to quantify the "green" industry/economy.

11. Meeting Adjorned: 11:45 a.m.