STATE OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

BEING HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022 AT THE LASALLE BUILDING

617 North Third Street, FLOOR 1, LABELLE ROOM Baton Rouge, Louisiana

REPORTED BY: KELLY S. PERRIN, C.C.R.

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APPEARANCES:
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
CHAIRMAN A.J. ROY, III
CHARLES E. JACKSON, III
ANDY L. ADLER
CAL SIMPSON
NORISHA K. GLOVER
BRAD LAMBERT, DEPUTY SECRETARY, LED
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
LAURA WOMACK
LIZ MCCAIN
SUSAN BIGNER
ROBIN PORTER
MARISSA DOIN
SHAMELDA PETE
CRYSTAL DALGO
MOLLY HENDRICKS
ANNE VILLA
KELLY RANEY
BRENDA GUESS
DEBORAH SIMMONS
TEDRA CHEATHAM
OLEVIA SHARBAUGH

APPEARANCES CONTINUED:
SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE:
RODRIGO SALAZAR, TERNIUM
RHONDA BOATNER, DIDIER CONSULTANTS, INC.

REPORTED BY: KELLY S. PERRIN, CCR

PROCEEDINGS
CHAIRMAN ROY: (BEGINNING AT 9:32 A.M.)
Good morning. I'll call to order the
Board of Directors, Louisiana Economic
Development Corporation. Roll call, please?
MS . SIMMONS:
Good morning.
A.J. Roy?

CHAIRMAN ROY:
Here.
MS . SIMMONS:
Charles Jackson?
MR. JACKSON:
Here.
MS. SIMMONS:
Louis Reine?
(No response).
MS. SIMMONS:
Brad Lambert?
MR. LAMBERT:
Here.
MS. SIMMONS:
Cal Simpson?
MR. SIMPSON:
Here.

MS . SIMMONS:
Andy Adler?
MR. ADLER:
Here.
MS . SIMMONS:
Norisha Glover?
MS . GLOVER:
Here.
MS . SIMMONS:
Stephen David?
(No response).
MS. SIMMONS:
We have a quorum.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Very good. I'll ask everyone to please
silence their devices. First order of business is the approval of some of the minutes. We do not have three of the minutes listed on the agenda. The first set of minutes for approval is the February 10th Board Meeting Minutes.

MR. SIMPSON:
Move to approve.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Motion for approval as presented.

MR. JACKSON:
Second.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Seconded. Any discussion?
Hearing none, all in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All opposed, nay?
Any comments from the public?
Without objection.
Next order of business are the March 10th
Board Minutes.
MR. JACKSON:
Move to approve.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Motion for approval is presented.
MR. ADLER:
Second.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Seconded. Any discussion?
Hearing none, all in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All opposed, nay?
Without objection. Any comments from the
public?
They're approved.
All right. Moving along under the EDAP program, Economic Development Awards Program, Ms. Womack? Good morning.

MS. WOMACK:
Good morning. My name is Laura Womack and I'll be representing Staff. I also have Rodrigo Salazar, a representative from Ternium and I also have Ms. Rhonda Boatner, who is the consultant on the project.

Ternium is an existing business that is requesting approval for a million-dollar sponsored EDAP for the expansion of their existing manufacturing facility located in Caddo Parish. Ternium is a leading company in North, South, and Central America that manufactures and processes a wide range of steel products using the most advanced technology. They have 17 production facilities located in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Columbia, as well as the Southern United States and Guatemala.

The Ternium group manufactures a broad spectrum of value added steel products,
including hot-rolled and cold-rolled sheet, galvanized and zinc-coated steel sheet, tinplate, repainted sheet, shapes, tubes, profiles, and slabs. It also provides cutting services through their value added service centers. The company offers a broad range of their steel products for customers active in the automotive, transportation, housing, infrastructure works, packaging, energy industries, and many more.

Ternium USA is wholly owned by Ternium International Espana, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ternium S.A. Ternium is expanding their existing facility at the Port of Caddo-Bossier, which they're currently leasing from the Port. The company entered into a 99-year lease with the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission in October of 2005.

This expansion consists of adding a second coil coating paint line with an annual capacity of 120,000 tons, which will increase its production capacity in the US by 53 percent. The coil coating process consists of cleaning, treating, and painting flat sheet metal that is rolled into coils. This
investment is the latest addition to Ternium's goal of providing a full menu of state of the art options for the metal building industry. The expansion includes the construction of a new building, the purchase of the capital equipment, as well as infrastructure and site improvements. The EDAP funds will be used to be assist with the costs of the site improvements, which include roads, parking, and site prep. Total project costs are estimated to be roughly $\$ 93$ million. The company will retain 157 existing jobs with an associated payroll of $\$ 10.9$ million, which is to be increased 2 percent annually. And also, it will create an additional 35 new jobs with an associated payroll of $\$ 2.6$ million by December 2026. All jobs and payroll are to be maintained through December 31st, 2026. Total capital investment of $\$ 85.2$ million is to be expended by December 31st of 2023.

Caddo Parish's unemployment rate was 4.9 percent as of January of 2022 compared to the State rate of 4.3 for the same period. The per capita personal income for Caddo Parish for 2020 was $\$ 55,047$ compared to the

State per capita income of $\$ 50,874$. The project is estimated to have state revenues of roughly $\$ 6.1$ million with the company receiving the million-dollar EDAP as well as \$2.2 million from quality jobs. And this results in a net revenue of roughly \$2.9 million for the State.

Staff recommends approval of this project as a sponsored EDAP with their usual contingencies that are normally in place as well as the retention of the 157 jobs with an associated payroll of $\$ 10.9$ million increased at 2 percent annually, the creation of 35 new jobs with an associated payroll of $\$ 2.6$ million maintained through December 31st of 2026 as well as total capital investment at the facility of $\$ 85.2 \mathrm{million}$ by December 31st of 2023. In addition, the EDAP Award will be reimbursed at $\$ 500,000$ upon verification that the company achieved $\$ 1.2$ million in new payroll, as well as expending at least $\$ 50$ million in capital expenditures, and that's expected to occur at the end of 2023. And then the remaining $\$ 500,000$ will be reimbursed upon verification that the company achieved at
least $\$ 2.5$ million in new payroll as well as expending the full $\$ 85.2$ million in capital expenditures, and that's expected to occur in year 2024.

Also, in addition, we are requiring the execution of a parent company corporate guaranty on this EDAP award. And with that, I would like to introduce Mr. Rodrigo Salazar, and he can give more information about the company and the project.

MR. SALAZAR:
Thank you. And thank you, Laura, for all the details. And good morning. I'm Rodrigo Salazar, Director of Operations of Ternium USA and I'm here to represent this project. We have been working for a few years already on this project. And it is the main interest of the company to continue to grow our business in the area of Shreveport, Caddo Bossier.

So we are in the process right now of acquiring the land or buying the land on the bidding process on that. And we, as Laura was mentioning, we are going to retain the existing jobs that we have and we're planning to have 35 more jobs (indiscernible) on
payroll. The company is the largest steel international company belonging to the chain group. We have five divisions of steel making process; one is piping, one is flat roll steel products. Our main business in the area is to produce steel coils. We sell it to our main customers. We do all the roll forming process for all the buildings and building's infrastructure. We do galvanizing and painting. That's our main core business and we have seen good opportunities in the area. And we distribute our steel through all the states.

So I'm not sure if there is any other questions. I guess, Laura, you were pretty clear on everything that we are doing on the investment, what we will invest. And this is part of our growth. Right now, we're calling it Phase I. For sure, we have implored multiple growths on our plan. As of now, this is what we have gotten approved by the company

CHAIRMAN ROY:
Thank you. Any questions or comments?
MS. GLOVER:

Yes. Norisha Glover with questions. First of all, as a person who works in the construction industry, very excited to see your expansion into the Shreveport and Caddo area. Your materials are very much needed and we hope that you will give favoritism to the State of Louisiana when you get us our materials. My question for you is, when do you anticipate the start of construction? MR. SALAZAR:

We anticipate to start construction in September.

MS. GLOVER:
In September. And can you just speak to why September and the other clarifications to that? Because $I$ saw in the application that is part of the guaranty that they had to start within 180 days. And the context that I am approaching is, this is six months and the cost of construction could significantly increase over that period of time. So why September as opposed to yesterday?

MR. SALAZAR:
Well, they -- we cannot start
construction on the weekend. The -- all the
detail is from the OEM. So right now, we're closing the commercial tender for the land. So we receive the offers and we're awaiting the offers. So a good three weeks, we should be able to issue a contract. Nobody else -the cost of those loans to date is around $\$ 35$ million just on equipment. It's a large piece of equipment. It's not equipment itself. It's a set of multiple equipments that consolidate the line. And they will produce and continue with painting products. So this is why. So we are on the tender process that is being extended because everything is changing on the market right now. It's very challenging.

MS. GLOVER:
Have there been candid conversations in
terms of the anticipation of delays in
construction? I mean you're going to be a pre-engineered building. It is at least six months out, five or six months out as it relates to the materials. And so, essentially, you want to be signing on for that. But $I$ just, $I$ want to be mindful of construction not delaying things so much.

MR. SALAZAR:
Okay. And I can briefly like -- what we have done in order to avoid any delays, we just issued the engineering contract, so there's a local firm engineering company that got awarded the contract and they will get with us. And so as soon as they release those type of drawings, we are going to start the construction of what is the infrastructure of the roads of the main building, but we cannot find all the foundations on the land until we get the basic engineering from the OEM.

MS. GLOVER:
Right.
MR. SALAZAR:
So that's why we're making all the preparations in order to avoid any further delays on the construction.

MS. GLOVER:
Thank you.
MR. JACKSON:
All right. You're buying the land, so this is not leased from Port of Shreveport Caddo; is that correct?

MR. SALAZAR:

It's leased land.
MS. BOATNER:
It's leased from the Port of
Caddo-Bossier.
MR. JACKSON:
It is leased?
MR. SALAZAR:
Ninety-nine years, 99-year lease.
MR. JACKSON:
Okay. So that's really the reason it's a sponsored?

MS . BOATNER:
Yes.
MR. SALAZAR:
Yes, sir.
MR. JACKSON:
Okay. All right. So it's a long-term
lease in that regard. Okay. I guess I
misunderstood. I thought you had said at one point you were still trying to nail down buying the land.

MR. SALAZAR:
No.
MR. JACKSON:
Did I mishear that?

MS . BOATNER:
No.
MR. JACKSON:
Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Any other questions? Comments?
MR. SIMPSON:
Do the supply chain demands pose any problems in the steel industry as it is in so many other industries?

MR. SALAZAR:
No. Actually, everything that happened over the last few years has actually been beneficial for the steel business. We haven't been as busy as we have been over the last two years on our supply chain. As I was mentioning, we are a large steel producer and we've got different sources of steel. Most of the steel that is removed from the area of Shreveport Caddo-Bossier, it's basically
moving with the steel that we produce, you know. So those big steel warehouses on ADS in the Port, they hold some of our product. And also our customers are holding some of our product. So all those expansions end up being
on warehouses in there is to manage our product, the steel.

MR. SIMPSON:
Okay.
MR. SALAZAR:
We have found it to be a very specific location for us because we have multiple ways to distributing our steel, we've got access to rail, we've got access to barge, we've got access for trucking as well.

MR. JACKSON:
You had mentioned there were five or six divisions, different product lines. Did I see on the map, this is your only facility within the United States? And is this your, I guess, your primary steel coil facility? How much -do you do a lot of your exporting or is that all for U.S. domestic market or what?

MR. SALAZAR:
Everything is U.S. domestic. All our product goes in within the states, but Ternium does has over 16,000 employees through all Latin America. So this is the only facility that we have within the states. It is our strategy to continue to grow. And we have
facilities in Mexico, in Brazil, in Argentina, in Guatamala and Columbia, and this is the flat roll division of steel making.

We also have the piping, the steel division that is Tenaris that is part of the group, the chain group. And we have multiple places in Houston. So we are the largest producer of steel piping for gas products, seamless pipe. It's a huge company, so the chain holds five companies and we have divisions on all, one on steel piping, one on flat rolled coils, which is Ternium, and then we have Tecpetrol, which is oil, related to oil, and then we have engineering construction as well.

MR. JACKSON:
And the added jobs are all basically going to be production line jobs primarily? MR. SALAZAR:

We have production line jobs and technicians, maintenance technicians. MR. JACKSON:

Okay. All right.
MS. GLOVER:
And so why did y'all choose Shreveport as
the location of the U.S.?
MR. SALAZAR:
When the company, we acquired former Steelscape. Back then, there was three companies of Steelscape, one in Kalama, Washington. There was one in California, Rancho, and this one is in Shreveport. So we chose this one because the proximity to Monterey, which we have one of our steel
foundries in proximity to a location, and our market has always been in the south. We are the strongest producer on the south.

MR. SIMPSON:
We're glad to see you here. I move to approve.

CHAIRMAN ROY:
Motion for approval is presented.
MS. GLOVER:
Second.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Seconded. Any discussion?
Hearing none, all in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All opposed, nay? Any comments from the
public?
Hearing none, congratulations. Please keep us posted on your success.

MS. BOATNER:
Thank you very much.
MR. SALAZAR:
Thank you very much.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All right. We will hear from the In House Committee on the Small Business Loan Guaranty Program. We'll hear from Staff, that is.

MS. PETE:
Good morning. This is Shamelda Pete representing Staff. Today, the loan I have for you is Jalaram Covington, LLC. Jalaram is a newly-established partnership owned by Paul Patel and Danny Patel, each leveraging their combined 32 years in the hospitality industry. With extensive industry experience, both partners are current owners of five profitable hotels, including Super 8, Econo Lodge, Comfort Suites, Red Roof Inn, and Travelers Rest Motel. Jalaram plans to purchase a Best Western hotel, which is similar in size to
most of the hotels they currently own.
The Best Western flag is a nationally recognized hotel franchise. Best Western is a global network of hotels composed of 18 unique hotel brands. Best Western is a mid-scale hotel with excellent brand recognition targeting tourism and business travelers.

Citizen Savings Bank is requesting an 18.78 percent LEDC guaranty on a $\$ 2,662,500$ loan. The purchase price for the property is $\$ 3,550,000$. The borrowers will make a 25 percent equity injection. The total appraised value of the property as of March 17th, 2022 is $\$ 3.7$ million, which brings the loan to value to 71 percent.

Citizens has approved the loan subject to a seven-year LEDC guaranty. The reason for the guaranty is to reduce the bank's exposure in the hotel market.

The Mandeville/Covington area has had a projected population growth rate of 7.83 percent over the next five years. In response to the residential growth, there has been new commercial development in the Mandeville/Covington area. With the
significant increase in development, there is an anticipated increase in tourism and business travelers.

Staff recommends approval of this loan with the standard contingencies in place. CHAIRMAN ROY:

Comments?
MR. ADLER:
Were the buyers able to get any historical financial information from the sellers on this property or it's all based on projection?

MS. PETE:
No, they've received historical.
MR. ADLER:
And have we looked at those and analyzed those? Is this the quantum leap from where the current owner is from a net operating standpoint, a revenue standpoint?

MS. PETE:
No, they maintain a 61 percent occupancy rate. And even in light of COVID, the Best Western was able to maintain the occupancy as well as with Hurricane Ida. They also had travel workers, contract workers and the
displaced residents also visiting that hotel. So the hotel has maintained profitability in light of COVID. And the projections provided were very conservative, showing a 50 percent occupancy rate with a 5 percent growth. MR. ADLER:

Excellent.
MS. PETE:
Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Any other questions or comments?
MR. JACKSON:
Seven percent -- seven-year length of guaranty?

MS. PETE:
Yes, sir.
MR. JACKSON:
Can you speak to that just a little bit? MS. PETE:

Yes, sir. Our standard guaranty terms are one to seven years. Our rules do allow us to go to 20 years. But in light of it being a revolve -- not a revolving loan -- the loan program, we don't want to tie up those proceeds to the loan, so we tend to use those
seven years for real estate projects.
MR. JACKSON:
Okay. This has been through In House, so I'm moving approval.

## CHAIRMAN ROY:

Yes. Motion for approval presented.
MR. ADLER:
Second.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Seconded.
I have one question. So this is an ARM,
and it's adjustable how often?
MS. PETE:
For the first five years, yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Is it locked for five?
MS. PETE:
Yes.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Okay.
MR. ADLER:
So it's really a balloon. It's not -- it balloons in five years?

MS. PETE:
No, I'm sorry. It doesn't balloon in
five years.
MR. ADLER:
Five years is the rate.
MS. PETE:
The rate will be set at five years and then it's a 20-year mortgage.

MR. ADLER:
So it's a 20-year maturity date; every
five years, the rate changes.
MR. JACKSON:
Our guaranty is the seven.
MR. ADLER:
So we extend it for two more years until our guarantee or our guaranty goes away or... MS. RANEY:

It goes away.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
It's a five-year locked rate; is that right?

MS. PETE:
Yes, it's an adjustable rate. I'm sorry,
I'm not specific on the interest rates.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
And at five, it will reprice; is that correct?

MS . RANEY:
That's correct.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
And I know what Mr. Adler is thinking, it's probably the same thing I am. With a rising interest environment, you know, shopping these loans for rising interest rates will be an important thing to consider as we go forward.

MS. PETE:
Yes, sir.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Thank you. Any other discussion? Any comments from the public?

Hearing none, all in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
All opposed, nay?
Without objection, thank you.
MS. PETE:
Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All right. Next order of business, Ms. Villa will give us the, Chairman of the Finance Committee, she will give us a report. MS. VILLA:

Good morning. Anne Villa, Secretary Treasury for the LDEC Board. On April 14th, the LDEC Finance Committee met and were presented the audited financial statements by Mr. Aaron Cooper for the period ending June 30th, 2021, which were based on the Government Auditing Standards. In his opinion, the financial statements referred to were presented fairly in all material respects, the respective financial position of LDEC as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in the financial position and cash flows for the year that ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals in the U.S.

In summary, the net position for the end of the fiscal year was $\$ 42,225,883$. The detailed report was in your April 14th, 2022 Board packet. So the Finance Committee did accept that and we'll wish the Board to take a position on accepting those formally.

The second report presented was by Chaffe, which performed a valuation engagement, as that term is defined in statement on standards per valuation services of the American Institute of Certified Public

Accountants of the value interest as of the valuation date. This valuation was performed solely for LDEC. The resulting estimate of value may not be used for any other purpose or by any other parties.

So Chaffe conducted this valuation engagement in accordance with the SSVS. The estimate of value that results from valuation engagements is expressed as a conclusion of value. Chaffe was not restricted or limited in any manner in the scope of his work or data available for analysis for the companies in which an opinion was expressed. There was 11 active funds that is presented within the detailed report. And as you look at the report, I think it's Exhibit 1A, if I'm not mistaken, there were 11 funds that we were, that the LDEC was invested in and some valuations increased and some valuations decreased.

There were discussions around PerSonus, which was the sale that occurred at the end -after June 20th, 2021, and those returns from that sale were returned back to LDEC in Fiscal Year 2022, so it will be reported on in the
next year reports.
Again, both the detailed reports for the Chaffe report is also in your April 14th Board packet and we request a favorable acceptance from the Finance -- by the Board from the Finance Committee of the presentation with the financial statements and valuations. CHAIRMAN ROY:

You made that -- is that in the form of a motion?

MS. VILLA:
Well, I think you guys have to do the motion.

MR. JACKSON:
So moved.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Okay. So the motion for approval of that is presented.

MR. SIMPSON:
Second.
MS. VILLA:
Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Any discussion? Any comments from the public?

Hearing none, all in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All opposed, nay?
Without objection.
MR. JACKSON:
Mr. Cooper has retired? We already have a replacement CPA firm?

MS. VILLA:
Well, there was a little bit of confusion on that part. I was under the impression that he had retired, but he has sold his firm, but he is engaged still with the State, but he's through another firm; is that correct?

STAFF MEMBER IN AUDIENCE:
Uh-huh.
MS. VILLA:
So he'll still continue, so you will see him next year.

MR. ADLER:
So we're following him through his new firm or his old firm?

MS. VILLA:
The Legislative Auditor selects who audits the LDEC and they will continue a
relationship with the new firm.
STAFF MEMBER IN AUDIENCE:
I don't know if they've decided yet.
MS. VILLA:
Oh, okay.
STAFF MEMBER IN AUDIENCE:
Because they put it out for bid.
MS. VILLA:
So it will go out for bid.
MS. GUESS :
It's out for bid.
MS. VILLA:
It is out for bid.
MS. GUESS :
It's out for bid for the main function that Aaron served; but $I$ think for the AFR, they're going to retain Aaron for that portion of it. So he still will have a part in what we're doing, but the overall engagement will be with a new firm selected by Legislative Auditors.

MS. VILLA:
Potentially his.
MS. GUESS:
Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ROY:
All right. Thank you. Next order of business is a report from Mr. Jackson, the Chairman of the Screening Committee. Mr. Jackson?

MR. JACKSON:
Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Screening Committee met last month in absence of a quorum on the main board. We considered two items, one was an unsponsored EDAP for Alliance Compressors. They make the compressor for Carrier and Trane air conditioners. And we did approve an expansion. They're adding a third line, I think, at least a second, but a third production line to meet demand. And so we're helping with an unsponsored EDAP in that regard. We approved that action.

We also approved an additional extension on Hubig's Pies. At this point last month, they were still caught up in conflict between the State Fire Marshal and inspections. And that really was the only thing that was still keeping them from getting back into the building. And they were hoping to get that
done imminently.
I don't know if Staff has heard an update since that time. But after them explaining the circumstances, we did vote to extend one additional time hoping that the regulatory approvals would come through at that point. So these both come as recommendations from the Screening Committee for your approval. MS. GLOVER:

I have a question. So Hubig's that we've heard before, the last time they requested an extension is because there was, I think it was a refrigerator, right, that they were -CHAIRMAN ROY:

Yeah, it was stuck in the --
MS. GLOVER:
-- but they've gotten all that?
MR. JACKSON:
The issue, and Staff, help me because it's been a month, but the issue at this point was kind of a Catch 22 between the State Fire Marshal and the FDA on some approvals of their alarming systems. They had actually done some additional, they had added some things to their fire suppression systems and that all
had to be tested before they could get approval from the FDA. And it was -- is that about the gist? Can anybody remind me? MS. DOIN:

Yes, that's correct.
MR. JACKSON:
Yeah.
MS . DOIN:
Marissa Doin, representing Staff. So they were waiting for the fire marshal to come in to let them know exactly what kind of fire suppression system that they needed. So the system has to be put in place, and then they'll come back and inspect that. MR. JACKSON:

Okay. But there were some issues with actually getting the inspectors there and getting appointments set for them to come in? MS. DOIN:

And but the refrigerator is up and is cold.

MR. JACKSON:
Right. Right. Well, we do recommend approval.

CHAIRMAN ROY:

Mr. Jackson makes a motion to approve for the Screening Committee's recommendation, and we'll take them up one at a time. So Alliance Compressors, we have a motion.

Second? Any discussion? Any comments from the public?

Hearing none, all in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All opposed, nay?
Without objection, so approved.
And Hubig's Pies, similarly a motion for approval per the recommendation from the Screening Committee. Is there a second? MR. ADLER:

Second.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Seconded by Mr. Adler. And any
discussion? Hearing none -- any comments from the public?

Hearing none, all in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All opposed, nay?
Without objection, so approved. Thank
you, Mr. Jackson.
All right. Secretary Treasurer's Report, Ms. Villa?

MS. VILLA:
Secretary Treasurer's report as of April 29th, 2022, Fiscal Year 2022, our FY '22 budget for the year is $\$ 18$ million -- it's $\$ 18,931,985$. We have approved projected expenditures of $\$ 5,430,200$. And we also had a pending Board approval of $\$ 1$ million, which gives us a projected sub-balance of $\$ 12,501,785$. And we currently $\$ 1,975,000$ worth of projects under review by the Staff, which gives us a projected year end balance of $\$ 10,526,785$.

The next page, it's kind of a summary of our Financial Assistance Program, which we have $\$ 190,000$ there. And then our State Small Business Credit Initiative, just refer to that as 1.0, we have a zero balance there.

Our next page gives us our Capital Outlay Appropriation for the year, which is broken out between the EDAP and the EDRED program and that is comprised of EDAP $\$ 16,306,023$, of which we have the detailed projects there that
make up the $\$ 5,430,200$, and then the project we just approved for Ternium. And then we have the detail, the projects that are currently under review by the Staff. There's five projects that are under review for the \$1,975,000, which gives us a projected year end balance for the EDAP program of \$7,900,823.

And our Capital Outlay Appropriation for the EDRED program, we have $\$ 2,435,962$, and that's our expected balance at the end of the year. We do have in Priority 5 in HB2 that's currently going through the budget process through the Legislature, we have $\$ 5$ million in HB2 in Priority 5, which will allow us to contract with any potential projects if we exceed that $\$ 7.9$ million that we already have the authority for.

And then if you go on to the next page, it's our fund balances. Our projected fund balance that's available is $\$ 13$ million -- I'm sorry, \$33,419,092. And our appropriation letter is $\$ 16,234,181$, which leaves us with a projected fund balance availability of \$17,184,911.

MR. JACKSON:
Do we have any reason to believe that we may have some additional projects coming through or is -- and I -MS. VILLA:

Yeah, we have a -- I mean I can only speak that to the pipeline and we do have potential projects in the pipeline that are unannounced, so I can't -MR. JACKSON:

Sure.
MS. VILLA:
But we do have significant projects that are in the pipeline.

MR. JACKSON:
Okay. I knew times were better budget wise. I wasn't sure if that was just kind of a placeholder or if we had some specifics. MS. VILLA:

Yeah.
MR. JACKSON:
Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
To that question, $I$ know the LBA, the convention is next week.

MS. RANEY:
Uh-huh.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Do we have any presence there?
MS . RANEY:
Yes, we do.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Very good. Lots of heads shaking. Okay.
Any other questions/comments for
Ms. Villa?
Hearing none, entertain a motion to
accept the Treasurer's Report.
MR. JACKSON:
So moved.
MR. ADLER:
Second.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All opposed, nay? Any comments from the public?

So ordered.
Next order of business is the
Accountant's Report. Ms. Dalgo?

MS. DALGO:
Good morning. I'm Crystal Dalgo, and I'll be presenting to you today the Accountant's Report. Some of you may have ended up with two copies. I apologize. They are both the same from our revised report.

I'm going to start off with page one. As of March 31st, 2022, there were 18 SSBCI 1.0 Guaranteed Loans totaling $\$ 3,120,202$. The allowance for SSBCI 1.0 Guarantee Loan Losses is $\$ 561,637$, and that's reflected at the current rate of 18 percent.

Moving on to page two, we have the EDAP Loan Portfolio, and there are three loans, the Town of Colfax, City of Bastrop, and Town of Vivian. As of April 30th, 2022, they total $\$ 344,800$. The allowance for the EDAP Loan Losses is set at the current rate at 15 percent and it is $\$ 51,720$.

And then, lastly, on page three, we have our LDEC Guaranteed Loan Portfolio. As of March 31st, 2022, it totals $\$ 878,080$ with one loan, NOLA Detox. The allowance for LEDC Guarantee Loan Losses is set at 18 percent and it is $\$ 158,054$.

And that concludes my report. Any questions? CHAIRMAN ROY:

I have one. And Staff has historically done an incredible job, the Treasurer, et cetera with calculating our reserves, we've never had an issue that I've ever seen. I would just encourage just by way of history looking at some of our historical numbers as, again, we go into a rising interest rate environment and God forbid, a looming recession, what that might do the reserve, so just putting a bug in your ear for something you might want to look at from a historical standpoint.

Entertain a motion to accept the Accountant's Report.

MR. LAMBERT:
So moved.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Motion.
MR. ADLER:
Second.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Second. Any discussion? Any comments
from the public?
Hearing none, all in favor, aye?
(AYES BY ALL).
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All opposed, nay? Without objection. Thank you, ma'am.

All right. We'll just have Mr. Lambert with us here today to give the President's Report.

MR. LAMBERT:
Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Brad Lambert, Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Economic Development. Just a handful of items to bring you guys kind of up to speed on this morning. We are less than a month away from the conclusion of the regular legislative session. The session must end by six p.m. on Monday, June the 6th. I'm happy to report that LED as a department has been reauthorized for another five years. Chairman Paula Davis's House Bill 120 has passed all the way through the process. And that Bill is currently to the Governor's Office for signature.

And also, we are at the, almost at the
completion of the Quality Jobs Program, also being reconstituted for another five years, two Bills, generally similar that are at the end of the process and should be getting through shortly.

In the March LEDC meeting, I highlighted the announcement at Syrah Technologies in Vidalia, a $\$ 176$ million expansion of their graphite processing facility there. I'm pleased to report that the news since then has gotten even better. The U.S. Department of Energy, their Loan Programs Office on April the 18th, announced a conditional commitment to lend Syrah up to $\$ 107$ million to further expand capacity at that facility, which produces critical materials for lithium-ion batteries. And it's worth noting that in December, Tesla agreed to purchase about 70 percent of that facility's output.

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office has as much as $\$ 60$ billion to push out the door for various projects. And it's pretty gratifying to know that Syrah in Vidalia is one of the first loans that the
U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office has agreed to make very, very good sign there. I had a teams meeting last Friday morning with Jigar Shah, who heads the Loan Programs Office, and they are very excited about a lot of things happening in Louisiana on this energy transition front.

So they have -- they are very much focused on Louisiana, things going on here, projects going on here, whether it's in carbon capture or potentially a hydrogen hub. So we're keeping the lines of communications open with that office, which has, as I indicated, a considerable amount of federal dollars to push out the door.

Within the last three weeks, it's been kind of a busy events calendar for LED. The night of April the 21st, I was present at the Louisiana Growth Leaders Awards ceremony. That program is focused on second stage companies, and it was the fourth cohort of ten companies that were awarded, a mix of companies throughout the entire state.

Last Thursday night, we had our Small Business Awards ceremony. It's worth noting
that the LEDC Bank of the Year was Hancock Whitney, as Mr. David is not here today, but I did see some Linkedin coverage earlier this morning with Hancock posted on Linkedin about receiving the award last Thursday night. And also during that day last Thursday, LED, along with some of our small development centers participated in a Small Business Day at the State Capitol, and more than 120 individuals participated in that legislative outreach. So a lot of interaction going on with legislative audiences and stakeholders about the importance of small businesses in our state. And, finally, just a couple of notable project announcements since we last gathered on April the 19th, Great Southern Wood, their facility in Avoyelles Parish, their lumber facility announced a 22 and a half million dollar expansion. It will create 58 new direct jobs and retain 75 existing jobs, and it will be 300 construction jobs during the construction phase. So very, very good for Central Louisiana, Avoyelles Parish.

A week or so later, April 28th, Baton
Rouge based Focus Foods, a $\$ 1.7$ million
expansion out of their existing Celtic Studios base of operations, they're going to move out of Celtic, add 100 new jobs and retain the 333 existing jobs in the food preparation and service sector. And then last week, May 5th, Entergy announced an expansion of its Northeast Louisiana Contact Center in West Monroe, 171 new direct jobs and retaining the 53 existing jobs within that Contact Center right now.

So, again, as Undersecretary Villa alluded to, we do have a lot of things going on. Even talking to our Head of Office of Business Development yesterday afternoon in the hallway, just an almost unprecedented amount of calls that we're getting, interest that companies are showing, whether it's getting things done before interest rates rise or supply chain things getting more difficult or not, but that's kind of all playing into this dynamic that's happening in the market or maybe to reshore some things and, certainly, the Syrah lease in being able to really kind of get a foothold in that electric vehicles market, I think, is very, very important as we
really begin to move through this energy transition.

So just a couple of things I thought I would highlight for you guys. It's always a pleasure to be here. And I always thank you guys for making me feel welcome. So thanks very much.

CHAIRMAN ROY:
Thank you so much; great report and very interesting information.

Next order of business are Committee Assignments. Everyone should have a sheet describing duties of the committees and who currently is on which committees. As you can see, we have some vacancies, particularly on the Finance Committee, Governmental Outreach Committee, and I would ask for volunteers for such committees.

We'll start with Finance, if anyone would like to volunteer for the vacancy on the Finance Committee? MS . GLOVER :
A.J., I have a question. So I recognize that there are vacancies, but I notice that we also have Board vacancies. Do we not want to
hold some of those positions for Board vacancies or do we feel like that would take too long before those vacancies, the Board vacancies are filled before we -CHAIRMAN ROY:

If they're imminent, I think your point is excellent. Let's hear from Staff. MS. GUESS :

It all depends on your definition of imminent. I've been in communication with the Office of Boards and Commissions, but they are -- we are trying to find three nominees for the two vacancies that we have. The first vacancy is for a minority person that represents -- a business person that represents minority business interests. If there are any individuals that you all can send to us for us to submit to the Governor's Office, that will be perfect. I've already talked to several board members and several former members about the giving us some of those, some recommendations.

I think the biggest challenge may be with the filling of the spot from the venture capital world on the angel investor. It could
be either or. The inherent problem with probably either one of those selections is the fact that we have to select someone that may not be coming forward to us to take advantage of our programs once we get our additional funding. That's the challenge.

So but having said that, it's not imminent. It's on my radar. It's on the Boards and Commissions's radar and the Secretary's radar. We've had conversations about it. But right now, we're probably closer to getting one to fill the Small Business, the minority seat than we might be with the Venture Capital seat.

CHAIRMAN ROY:
And given that answer, perhaps we should do what we can to fill the vacancies. There always seem to be some looming vacancies for various reasons.

MR. JACKSON:
Maybe if we juggle them around. CHAIRMAN ROY:

Exactly. We can move things around. And so the Finance Committee certainly is important. And in the interest of doing our
best to make sure that we have a quorum going forward, it would probably be best to fill that, given that we may have to wait for more board members. So any thoughts on who might want to fill that vacancy?

MR. SIMPSON:
I will.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All right. Mr. Simpson jumps right in. Appreciate you doing that, sir. As always, appreciate everyone's service on these committees.

Let's move on to the Governmental Outreach Committee, which we first and foremost need a chairman for. Would anyone like to volunteer to be the chairman thereof? And some of these committees, this being one of them, does not meet as frequently, so the load is not -- might be lighter, if that helps.

MR. ADLER:
I'll do it.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Thank you, sir, Mr. Adler. All right. Perhaps, we can pick up one more volunteer for
that additional vacancy.
MS. GLOVER:
I'm already on it.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Yes, you are.
Actually, you do take the chair, so we need -- we still need at least one.

MR. ADLER:
Other than us that are here, is it just
Louis that's --
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Yeah, I think we can volunteer -- this is a good time for me to exercise my prerogative, so Mr. Reine. Reine it is.

MR. LAMBERT:
I don't think it will be bad for him. He's probably over there right now.

CHAIRMAN ROY:
Absolutely, Government Outreach without a doubt. Okay. I think that's -- anything else on committees from Staff?

All right. Hearing none, those will be Assignments.

If -- it's not on the agenda, but
perhaps -- I know Kelly and I were speaking a
couple of days ago. Would you like to give a brief update on what we're hearing from the Feds on our potential programs?

MS. RANEY:
Yes, I'll share some comments that we talked about the other day, and Brenda may have some additional comments on SSBCI. So as many of you might recall, we did submit our full application on February 11th with the rest of the country. And as of today, we have heard of only one state who has received some feedback from the U.S. Treasury Office regarding their application moving forward to the finishing line for approval, they did have some additional questions and asked for some clarification points. And it's our understanding that's the process they will take with each application, reach out and let you know that it has been selected, may have some additional questions, some points of clarification that we may need to answer for them. And then we'll move forward with the allocation agreement. One that's executed, we will receive the federal funding.

Now we have received, as of the middle of
last week, the technical assistance guidance that is the second part of SSBCI. So SSBCI really has two components. It's the main capital bucket which is -- that the capital funding through other credit support programs, such as the capital and debt programs. It may also include cap programs, but that is not a particular program that was included in our Louisiana application.

Now the second arm of SSBCI, like I just mentioned, is for technical assistance. And so while I'm calling it an informational sheet was circulated by U.S. Treasury Office, there is going to be some additional guidance coming out around the details for the technical assistance as well as the actual application components for that. It will be a separate application, which will be due on June the 30th.

Was there anything that I missed, Brenda? MS. GUESS:

No.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
Thank you. I look forward to getting things approved.

MS. RANEY:
Agreed.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All right. Any other business before the Board?

Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. ADLER:
So moved.
CHAIRMAN ROY:
All right. Second. We're adjourned.
(WHEREUPON, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT
10:28 A.M.)
 I, KELLY S. PERRIN, a Certified Court Reporter, Certificate \#23035, in good standing with the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify that the witnesses, to whom oath was administered, after having been duly sworn by the Hearing Officer did testify as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing 56 pages;

That this testimony was reported by me in stenographic machine shorthand by Computer-Aided Transcription, transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board, that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board; that $I$ am not of counsel nor related to any person participating in this cause and am in no way interested in the outcome of this event.

This certification is valid only for a
transcript accompanied by my handwritten or digital signature and the image of my State-authorized seal on this page.

Signed:

KELLY S. PERRIN, CCR

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