MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HELD AT
LOUISIANA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM BUILDING, FOURTH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

8401 UNITED PLAZA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
ON THE 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015
COMMENCING AT 9:30 A.M.

REPORTED BY: ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR

MEETING MINUTES

Appearances of Board Members Present:
A.J. Roy Alden Andre
Mandi Mitchell
Susan Tham
Louis Reine
Cal Simpson
Mandi Mitchell

Staff Members Present:
Melissa Sorrell
Christian Pennington
Susan Bigner
Bob Cangelosi
Steven Baham
Anne Villa
Errol Smith
Brenda Guess
Robert Wyckoff
Shamelda Pete
Janilda Parks

MR. ROY:
Good morning. If everyone will silence their cell phones, we'll begin the meeting.

Call to order the Board of Directors meeting Louisiana Economic Development Corporation.

Rollcall, please.
MS . SORRELL:
A.J. Roy.

MR. ROY:
Here.
MS. SORRELL:
Aldan Andre.
MR. ANDRE:
Here.
MS . SORRELL:
Louis Reine.
MR. REINE:
Here.
MS. SORRELL:
Susan Tham.
MS. THAM:
Here.
MS. SORRELL:
Mandi Mitchell for Stephen Grissom.
(No response.)

MS. SORRELL:
Cal Simpson.
MR. SIMPSON:
Here.
MS. SORRELL:
Natin Kamath.
(No response.)
MS. SORRELL:
We have a quorum.
MR. ROY:
Thank you. The first order of business is the approval of the minutes for July 17 th meeting.

MR. REINE:
So moved.
MR. ANDRE:
Second.
MR. ROY:
Motion approved as presented, second.
Any discussion?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Hearing none, all in favor, "aye".
(Several members respond "aye".)
MR. ROY:
All opposed, "nay."
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Without objection, it is ordered.
MR. ROY:
In-house approvals, we'll ask Steve to give us an update on that.

Would that be you or Brenda or someone else?

MR. GUESS :
It's Steve's since he's got a computer.
MR. BAHAM:
Let me get to it real quick.
That one was done back in July. It was Trinity Rental Services. I'm trying to remember the specifics on that one. Essentially just an oil field service business. We did a line of credit for equipment. They were expanding on to -- basically just need additional equipment to increase production. I think --

Christian, did you handle this one?
MR. PENNINGTON :
I did.
MR. BAHAM:
You probably know a little bit more specifics than $I$ do. It's been a little while.

MR. PENNINGTON:
Yeah. It was Trinity Rental Services. I want to say it was $\$ 250,000$; is that right?

MR. BAHAM:
Yes.
MR. PENNINGTON :
We did a line of credit to purchase equipment, and then after, what? After a year, we were going to term it out?

MR. BAHAM :
It's going to be for a five-year.
MR. PENNINGTON :
Five year.
And that's what it was from, is from First National Bank. Mr. Jim Lyons was the loan officer. And that loan, we approved it, and they actually haven't closed yet. They have 90 days to close, and they're coming up soon to hit that firewall if they want to close or not. And I spoke with Mr. Jim and they're still -- they might not -- the owner might back away from that, but I don't know for a fact whether or not it's going to close or not. That's -- we approved it, but it should be closing soon if it does.

MR. ROY:
Okay. Any questions from the Board?

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Any question on staff's discussions at this time? As per prior request, they're giving us a summary of what they do.
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Okay. Thank you. Under EDAP Program, Millennium Galvanizing, LLC.

Good morning.
MR. WYCKOFF:
Good morning. This proposed EDAP is for Millennium Galvanizing, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Crest Operations. There are companies within Crest, design manufacturers, electrical substations, switch guards and transmission lines. They're used throughout the United States, and a majority of their products require that their components are hot-dipped galvanized. They currently outsource this to a third-party provider, and in order to have more control over their finished product, they're going to be starting Millennium Galvanizing. It will have a 48,000 square foot facility. They're one of the largest kettle hot-dipped galvanized materials in the State of Louisiana.

The project originally selected a site

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in Tangipahoa Parish, but due to some unseen circumstances, it has since been moved to St. James Parish.

The EDAP is for $\$ 460,000$ and will assist with the cost of purchasing capital equipment for the St. James project. Millennium Galvanizing will provide collateral as three forklifts, and they'll provide the UC 15 for those.

Crest has agreed to retain 559 jobs with an annual payroll of 24-million. That's going to increase two percent annually. They will be creating 70 new jobs with a payroll of 3.6-million by 2021 with this project.

The staff recommends that EDAP is approved as an unsponsored EDAP based on the standard contingencies of EDAP as well as a $\$ 15-m i l l i o n ~ c a p i t a l ~$ investment by December 30 -- by March 31st, 2016, and they will also -- Crest will also have to have 50 percent of their sales from the St. James project be allocated to companies outside of Louisiana.

At this time, I'd like to turn it over to Matt Purser from Crest, who will be able to give more information about the company and this project.

MR. PURSER:
Good morning. A little bit more about

Crest, Crest has seven operating companies that are wholly owned by the company Crest Operations. Most of them are vertically integrated, as Robert said, within the utility substation industry. We provide substations, transmission lines and switchyards to, over the years, all 50 states in the U.S. and abroad. Our original company started in the '50s. The other companies started in the '70s and '80s. We've been around for a long time. We're kind of, I like to call, a hidden gem in Central Louisiana where nobody knows about us, but we continue to grow very rapidly, and we decided to continue growing in Louisiana.

As part of the vertical integration, as Robert mentioned, the components of the substations require to be hot-dipped galvanized, and we'll be able to utilize approximately 50 to 60 percent of our capacity of our plant with internal projects. And so the beauty of it, while we're not located in Pineville, but located in South Louisiana, is we can sell our excess capacity within -- with other customers within the State of Louisiana and outside. So that's why we located in South Louisiana, just to be closer to the target that we have and sell that excess capacity, but we're able to cover fixed costs and other things with our internal customers. So it's a great project for us.

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We're very excited about it and we're moving forward.
MR. ROY:
Questions? Comments?
MR. REINE:
I've just got one out of curiosity.
Right now, are $y^{\prime}$ all sending this out to
get galvanized?
MR. PURSER:
Yes.
MR. REINE:
Are you sending it to an out-of state company or to an in-state company?

MR. PURSER:
Both. About 50 percent of it's going internally to an in-state customer, and about 50 percent is going to the State of Texas.

MR. REINE:
Okay. Thank you.
MR. PURSER:
Yes, sir.
MR. ANDRE :
So your internal capacity is directed at what kind of industry?

MR. PURSER:
Petrochem, oil, gas are -- the leader,
the president of this organization has been in the galvanizing industry for approximately 35 years, so he has a customer base in South Louisiana. He's been located in South Louisiana, so it's mainly the petrochem and the energy field.

MR. ANDRE:
The petrochem, is it aimed at structuring or is it aimed at piping?

MR. PURSER:
It could be both. It could be both. Our kettle size is uniquely tailored for us. Being a large kettle, you dont have to double dip individual large components of structures, and that enhances quality and decreases price for our customers, so that's a major competitor differentiation for us.

MR. ANDREW:
And who are your major competitors for the petrochem?

MR. PURSER:
There's a company called AZZ in the State of Louisiana, which has two facilities. There's also a company called Great States in the State of Louisiana that has a facility here, so those are the primary galvanizers in the State of Louisiana.

MR. ANDRE:

Is that the one in Baton Rouge Parish?
MR. PURSER:
That's part of AZZ. I think they used to be Hobson or -- I forget the name of it, but, yes, that was one that was acquired by AZZ.

MR. ANDRE:
How large are they compared to your kettle?

MR. PURSER:
Their kettle size, $I$ don't know for sure. I know it's smaller and it's older technology. We're going to have new technology, and, again, the largest kettle in the state.

MR. ANDRE:
It's a great technology. I'm sure received a lot of money over the life of the facility blasting and painting.

MR. PURSER:
Yes, sir.
MR . ANDRE :
Okay.
MR. ROY:
So on your own needs, what kind of capacity will you have?

MR. PURSER:

As far as pounds, if we do a single
shift, we'll have, I think it's, 60-million pounds a year, so internally, we'll leverage about, right now, 60 percent of that, and so we'll have about 20-million pounds per month we'll be able to galvanize outside of our own need.

MR. ROY:
Is it your intention to grow if the demand is there at the time?

MR. PURSER:
Yes, sir. Yes, sir. We can move to another shift, and, also, we have -- you know, if everything moves as we believe it will, we have plans to expand our galvanizing capabilities.

MR. ANDRE:
Where in St. James is the facility
located there?
MR. PURSER:
I'm terrible with directions. It's very close to --

MR. ANDRE:
Which bank, west, east?
MR. PURSER:
I couldn't tell you north, south, west
or east. It's on -- let me try to -- what plant is it?

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It's close to a plant there. It's --
MS . BIGNER:
It's in Convent.
MR. PURSER:
Yes, it's in Convent.
MR. ANDRE:
It's on the East Bank, is it not?
MS . BIGNER:
I think it is.
MR. PURSER:
It's on Winnie Road. There's only one other business on Winnie, but Nucor is very close to it. You can see Nucor from our facility.

MR. ANDRE:
You're on the same side of the river as Nucor?

MR. PURSER:
Yes. Yes.
MR. ANDRE:
You're on the East Bank then.
MR. PURSER:
I'm sorry. I'm terrible with -- I can't answer that question.

MR. ROY:
Any other nondirectional questions?
(No response.)
MR. PURSER:
Thank you very much.
MS. THAM:
I do have a question. Do you think there's going to be enough need for your services to cover that other 40 percent?

MR. PURSER:
Absolutely.
MS. THAM:
Do you expect that because you have a better, cheaper product or because there's going to be enough demand that you and your own supplier are going to be able to --

MR. PURSER:
Both. I believe, if it hurts anyone, it hurts the Texas location because --

MR. REINE:
Good answer.
MR. PURSER:
-- because of proximity, you know, shipping, you know, because you can reduce that shipping cost. Yes, there's, you know, based off, we believe, you know, we can do two-x that excess capacity. But, again, we want to take care of the internal customer

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because that covers a certain level of fixed cost and then we sell the rest. Again, we're very confident we can sell that excess capacity.

MR. ANDRE:
And to my fellow board members, $I$ am in the petrochemical industry, and I can tell you, there's great demand now and a lot of demand on the books to come, so it won't be a problem.

MS. THAM:
That's good.
MR. PURSER:
That's gerat news. Should we start another one?

MR. REINE:
One at a time.
MR. PURSER:
Yes, sir.
MR. ROY:
Any other questions or comments?
(No response.)
MR . ANDRE:
I move for approval.
MR. ROY:
Motion for approval as presented.
MS. THAM:

I second.
MR. ROY:
Second.
Any other discussion?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Any comments from the public?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Hearing none, all in favor, "aye".
(Several members respond "aye".)
MR. ROY:
All opposed, "nay".
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Without objection.
Thank you. Please keep us posted. We wish you the best.

MR. PURSER:
Thank you very much.
MR. ROY:
All right. Ms. Bigner on EDAP pending projects report update by Ms. Bigner.

MS . BIGNER:
Mr. Andre had requested the report a
couple months ago and we had decided that we would -and requested that we do it on a quarterly basis. This is a list of the current projects that are on the Treasurer's report, and we've gone through and given you information on each one. And I guess I'm just here if you have any questions regarding any of them.

I am expecting to see two of these projects within the next month or so, and that's Number 6 and Number 7. The rest of them, we're really not sure.

Any questions? Would you like for me to go through them individually?

MR. REINE:
It's just these seven?
MS . BIGNER:
Pardon me?
MR. REINE:
It's just these seven?
MS. BIGNER:
Yes, sir. When you look at the Treasurer's report, when you review the Treasurer's report, these are the projects that you'll see on the report listed as pending projects.

MR. REINE:
Do we need a motion?

MR. ROY:
No is action needed. It's just --
MS. BIGNER:
No. It's just a review Mr. Andre had requested, and we are just going to be doing it quarterly.

MR. ROY:
All right. Okay. Do we have any particular questions or comments regarding these projects?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
All right. Thank you.
MS . BIGNER:
Okay.
AUDIENCE MEMBER:
Is there a public document on that, or is that internal?

MR. ROY:
Our minutes are public.
MR. BAHAM :
Not that particular document, but all of those projects have been -- all of those projects have been announced, so all of the announcements are available on the website. They're all listed on there.

MR. ROY:
Okay. Next item on the agenda is EDRED. Mr. Larry Henson, Director of Business Intelligence is with us, and we'll have a presentation from staff on this matter.

MR. ROY:
Good morning.
MR. HENSON :
Good morning. Larry Henson. We're here to ask for renewal of funding for the EDRED program. It was created by this Board in 2012.

A little history on that, it was created to help alleviate a really serious issue that LED was having losing competitive projects to other states because we did not have a sufficient inventory of development-ready sites. We were competing with other states that had fully-developed, utility-served industrial parks, and we were submitting agriculture on greenfield sites that had just a lot of inherent possibility of having fatal flaws. So being very risk diverse, a lot of our projects were opting to go to other states because they had too many concerns about the sites that we were offering.

So the purpose of the program was to work with our regional partners and identify and
evaluate potential high-quality, competitive industrial sites and then invest in enhancing their marketability and competitiveness through completing all of the required due diligence studies that our prospects are almost always requiring, and one other outcome of that was to increase our inventory of LED-certified sites since they require the exact same due diligence studies.

So results since 2012, the state inventory, what we call it, basically our work plan, which is the portfolio of sites that are going through the program, has run from 50 to 305. Ninety-one of these has got all of the basic due diligence either done or underway. The report that's in your files shows that we have 54 certified sites, and, actually, we certified two yesterday, so it's 56 certified sites. And that's one of the really nice outcomes of this is we've been able to really accelerate the certified sites program through some funding assistance of a 75 percent grant verses a 25 percent local match. That's really made the certified sites program take off. And we, to the best of our knowledge, we have now the second most certified sites of any state program in the country behind North Carolina, and we're rapidly catching up with them.

You've got an allocation sheet of how we partnered with regional, local organizations of economic
development organizations in every region, and our allocated funds through them through a CEA with each of those. Like I said, it's also really accelerated our certified sites program, which creates government-ready sites that are exhaustively reviewed with a detailed application process. All of the documentations are on our website, and we pull the studies and the documents and the maps and exhibits from those applications to be able to complete RFIs. When we get a request for information in a proposal for a site from site consultants, we have a very, very short turnaround, and, increasingly, they -- the majority of them require the five basic due diligence studies or we can't submit, we can't compete. So having this inventory of sites that meets the demands of our site consultants and our clients has allowed us to compete for projects that we probably couldn't have before. And the advantage to the ultimate prospect, the company, is it eliminates all of the uncertainty about the sites. You know, the questions they have, we have answers to, and they are sure that the sites do not have any potential fatal flaws and that they can meet their construction timelines without any kind of serious problems or delays.

Like I said, we've grown the inventory
from 50 to 305. That's 38,000 acres, in 2012, of sites we had confidence in, and now we have 135,000 acres of sites. We've grown the distribution of those sites from 25 parishes now to 49 parishes, and our ultimate goal is to have quality sites in all 64 parishes so every parish in the state can compete for national projects. Fifty-six certified sites. We had 20 in 2012 when EDRED was started.

So at this point, we've sold all or parts of about 20 of those. Those sites have gone through the project in creating all or parts of eight certified sites, and by every possible metric, this program has been an enormous success and just requires additional funding to continue it on for several years to come.

MR. ROY:
Questions, comments?
MR. REINE:
What does it cost to certify a site?
MR. HENSON:
Depends on the acreage, but it can be from as little as 30,000 to as much as 100,000, and the bulk of that cost is a the cultural and archeological study, which is very labor intensive. It's not required on every -- we're required to get a clearance letter
from the state historic preservation office that there are no culture artifacts charted at the site. Most of the time they require us to go do a study. Sometimes they'll consult their database and give us a clearance letter based on what they know about the land.

MR. REINE:
This land that we're doing the site certification, that's privately-held land?

MR. HENSON :
Not all of it. There's -- one of the rules that this board set when we first went into this was that we had a tap of what we could spend of $\$ 100,000$ an acre of privately-owned land, so a lot of it's privately-owned land, but, frankly, we have a lot of airports and ports, and one of the ones we certified yesterday was in Chennault Airport.

MR. REINE:
And where does the money come from?
MR. HENSON :
It was allocated out of -- as basically to a portion of EDAP.

MR. REINE:
Let me make it easy for you. Is it federal money we get? Is it state general tax revenue? Is it dedicated? That's the...

MR. HENSON:
My understanding was that it was part of EDAP that was set aside for this.

MS. THAM:
It comes out of our EDAP budget. How much we have for EDAP gets set aside for EDRED.

MR. REINE:
And EDAP money comes from the FED?
So it's state general tax money.
When we do this for a private landowner, does it increase the value of their land?

MR. HENSON:
Absolutely.
MR. REINE:
And when they sell that land, do we recap part of the expenses?

MR. HENSON :
No, sir. It just allows us to have sites, whether they're private or public, to compete for projects. You know, the goal is to have high-quality projects that create jobs on those parcels.

MR. REINE:
So to make me more comfortable, at some point, you can provide me a return on investment, if we're going to use general taxpayer revenue to enhance
the value of private landowners, can you show me something that says the state gets a return on that investment equal to or greater than what we use those tax dollars for?

MR. HENSON :
Yes, sir. I think when we look at some of the projects, like Martin-Brower is a good example. It was on a certified site. We've already got that ROI from Martin-Brower where we did the incentive package, so it would not be difficult to plug in the expenditures on certifying the site and how that worked within the ROI.

MR. REINE:
Okay. I never understood from the beginning why we use tax dollars to enhance the value of the property, that it was property sold, and even if it was a time limit, we wouldn't recoup the investment and use it in the pool to do future projects. Why we just said once we do it, it's done. If we're doing properties that don't sell, I can understand that, but if an acre of land is worth 1,000 and we invest money and it's worth 2,000 and the property owner gets this property improved and increases the value and we don't have ask for any return on the investments just kind of bothers me here. We could use that money and put it in
the pool and do some more certifications.
MS. THAM:
We're doing a 75 percent match. Whose money are we matching?

MR. HENSON :
It varies. I'll give you an example. BRAC has probably done more certified sites than anybody, and they have -- their 25 percent is split three ways. BRAC pays a third of it, the parish pays a third of it and the landowner pays a third of it. It varies from site to site. Very often, it's the landowner who pays the entire 25 percent, and probably that's the most common situation.

MS. THAM:
Oh, now, when you say a 75 percent match, $I$ was looking at, you know, 100 is 70 , but we match up to 75 percent.

MR. HENSON:
We pay 75 percent of the cost of the due diligence studies, and the landowner pays 25 percent.

MS. THAM:
So we're not matching 75 percent of their funds; we're putting three times up.

MR. HENSON:
Right. That's correct.

MR. ANDRE:
Again, my interest is the petrochemical industry. Prior to October the 1st, there were only three parishes between Baton Rouge and New Orleans that were classified containment for air programs, and on October the 1st, the Federal government changed the ozone level from 75 PPB to 70 PPB. What did that do to your inventory? How many did you lose because of the lower standard?

MR. HENSON:
We actually haven't lost any. It's just that for petrochemical, they're -- obviously there are some parishes that are non-attainment that are less attractive to them, and, you know, we didn't lose the inventory because the inventory -- those sites may go to something besides petrochemical. And, actually, the really nationally-competitive projects are not petrochemical. They're more likely to be assembly projects that can be in any states, and usually the site consultants will look at four, five, six southern states and we're competing against them. So that's really where the advantage of this program comes in. So we're competing for maybe an auto parts plant or something like that, that really is not tied to Louisiana, not tied to the petrochemical industry, not tied to the
river or the ports, but can be anywhere. And in a case like that, we have to have competitive sites that will match up against North Carolina or Texas or anyplace else, because those projects, they can choose. They don't have to be here because of natural resources or any other reason, and that's where we really find this program to be -- to put us on a level playing field with other states.

MR. ANDRE:
So the developed sites that are 1,000 acres or better, I'd venture to tell you if it's not the petrochemical industry, you're not going to develop, and so it's very important that we understand the ability to permit in those areas. And in the non-attainment parishes, it used to be that you can buy offsets at a horrible price, but you could at least buy them. Now, they have no more -- the inventory offset is zero, so if you don't go to an attainment parish, you just can't get a permit in there for a large petrochemical facility.

## MR. HENSON:

Yes, sir, that's correct. And I might add that Secretary Grissom has directed us to not use this program on those deep-draft Mississippi River sites because they're in such high demand that the buyers, you know, they'll buy them anyway, and it's just not a good
application for our funds because those are not nationally-competitive projects. Those projects have to be, you know, in the petrochemical zone, either anywhere on the Gulf Coast. What we're really trying to build is an inventory for are our -- you know, of course, the holy grail of this is an auto plant, and that has to be fully development ready before they even look at it. And any other, like, manufacturing projects -- not petrochemical, but manufacturing projects that can be in any state are the ones where we really needed some inventory that can compete on a level playing field with North Carolina, Texas, South Carolina, anyplace.

MR. ANDRE:
Well, I have to say that given the fact that the petrochemical industry contributes a large percent of the revenue from the state, $I$ find it disappointing that there's not more emphasis for the petrochemical industry.

MR. HENSON:
Well, we have a pretty good inventory still of remaining deep-draft Mississippi River sites.

MR. ANDRE:
I beg to differ with you because I've been looking for some and there are very few left and I was looking before the 75 PBP went to 70 . And I just
don't know where it is now and how much of an impact that has on the inventory.

MR. HENSON :
Well, it's had a lot of impact on our ability to recruit petrochemical companies and find them good sites, but those companies aren't as interested in what this program brings because those sites are in such short supply. It's basic law of supply and demand. The sites are in such short supply and in such high demand, that for us to put a lot of tax dollars into improving the marketability -- I mean, there's no need to improve the marketability into something that's incredibly marketable already. What we do spend a lot of time and effort on is identifying what land is left available, and we spend -- our team spends an incredible amount of effort in working with landowners along Mississippi to identify the remainder parcels that they're willing to sell, and market those.

MR. ANDRE:
Thank you.
MR. ROY:
Any other questions, comments?
MS. THAM:
I do have a question.
What does EDRED do to market? I see the
website out there, the, you know, LED website has sites throughout listed. It has a lot of basic information. I don't know if it lists all of the studies and which ones have all of the studies going on.

MR. HENSON:
It does have all of them.
MS. THAM:
Okay. And do we actively go out and market, you know, if we're looking for, you know, automobile manufacturing plants or --

MR. HENSON:
Absolutely. We have -- our
international team has been all over the world talking to automakers and they have to have some sites ready to show them and so, you know, we do that.

A lot of what this -- having this
inventory in place allows us to do is when the site consultants come to us with a project and they say, "Do not submit any sites that are not develop ready and have these five studies," and if we don't have those, we don't get to play. We just have to pass, and we don't want to do that.

MS. THAM:
Are the marketing costs part of the EDRED fund that's done separately in the economic

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development?
MR. HENSON:
Yes. That's part of the marketing committee, actually.

MR. REINE:
How do you identify when a section gets certified? Does somebody come and say, "I've got 10 acres. You want to certify it?" or if you've got 10 acres, you go approach them or...

## MR. HENSON :

Well, a lot of different ways. It starts with finding sites, and we do that through outreach to the regional economic development folks and get them to, you know, help us find sites. We've got a very sophisticated GIS model that we can find parcels that match the requirements that are needed by our prospect, meet those minimum requirements of a nationally-competitive site. We have contractors that go out and get options signed on those sites. We've got probably a couple hundred options signed right now that allow us to market the sites. We find pieces of land; we approach the landowners and get them to agree to market the site and to participate in the program, but a lot of times, we have landowners approach us. And we've reached out to railroad timber companies, large family
holdings of land, any potential stakeholder that control a lot of property, even some attorneys that have clients that have a lot of land. So we've approached this on a lot of different levels to find the ideal parcel of land basically that ties to transportation. You're looking for land that's got the right transportation access and is dry, you know. You've got to -- it's got to meet the basic requirements of flood plan and all of that. So we're reaching out on a whole lot of levels.

We've hired a full-time site program manager who's on the road today. He's on the road to every region, every parish, talking to them about sites.

MR. SIMPSON :
Are the sites targeting specific industry or does it range out to like retail or residential?

MR. HENSON :
It's only industrial.
MR. SIMPSON:
Only industrial.
MR. HENSON :
Only industrial.
MR. ROY:
Can you comment about successes we've had as a result of what you've done? Sites are one
thing, but that's not the endgame.
MR. HENSON:
Well, that's true, and our project managers in business development, they're the ones that produce the results. This program is to give them some ammunition, and it's up to them to go out and produce some results.

Some projects that have landed on sites that we were working on and we have identified include EuroChem, Yuhuang, Martin-Brower. We've got one certified site that's got a million square foot, speculative warehouse project going on right now. So we've had some successes, and a lot of it is when the request for a site comes in, we're able to quickly identify sites that meet those needs, and if we don't have information about those sites, if we haven't already identified them, we haven't made sure that they meet the minimum requirements, then we really don't have any ammunition.

And Yuhuang was an example that we were talking to families that owned property up and down the Mississippi and had a real positive conversation with one family and they asked us to come tour the site. And Yuhuang was looking for a site and it was a perfect match and we were able to get them -- match them
together within a matter of days. And because we knew information about the site we had identified, we knew what the strengths and weaknesses were because one of things we do is a desktop fatal flaw analysis immediately on every site so we don't go very far and we don't spend any money and we don't try to submit sites to prospects that can have some potential fatal flaw. We identify those on the front end, and that's been a real benefit because we submit sites with confidence.

MR. REINE:
Have any projects not happened if you hadn't precertified it?

MR. HENSON :
There are projects that have not happened because we didn't have the site that they wanted.

MR. REINE:
I'm talking about a specific company or a specific piece of land, would that marriage not have worked if you had not precertified the land?

## MR. HENSON :

Absolutely. We had a project last -- we submitted a proposal last week to the largest site consultant in the country and they said it must be certified or completely development ready and you must
give us copies of these five studies, the same ones we require, or do not submit it. So I don't know if we'll win that project. We wouldn't have competed for it, but we have won projects because we had that, and they would have looked elsewhere.

MR. ROY:
Other questions, comments?
MS. THAM:
What's the timeframe for those studies? I mean, I know this has only been around since 2012 and there's a time lag, but what's the timeline to get all five studies done, generally, and get certified?

MR. HENSON :
As fast as they want to go. We've done some in, you know, maybe 90 -- 60 to 90 days, and since we've had -- we were very slow at doing certified sites before we had this funding because we were asking landowners to put up, you know, a great deal of money for just on the potential that LED might bring them a client. But it moves pretty quickly if everybody's -once we get lined up, we can do it in 90 days.

MS. THAM:
I know this isn't an LED question, but if we're looking at return on investment, chances are, some these projects coming in are going to ask for other

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payroll quality jobs, you know, any gap loan, along with the return on investment on that, is the money we spent certifying that site that they later bought going to be include in the state funds that were used towards them? Because I know that's part of the consideration when we decide how much is going to a group.

MR. HENSON :
It's not calculated in with that. It's just -- to me, it's kind of price of admission. You won't get to them to look and you won't get them to choose Louisiana if you don't have a site that is without that potential for fatal flaw that kills the deal. You've got to have inventory on the shelf to sell or they won't come in the door.

MR. ROY:
Any other questions or comments?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
To Mr. Reine's earlier comments, would we have a clawback in here with these private owners? MR. HENSON:

No, sir.
MR. ROY:
How's that?
MR. HENSON :

Well, the object is to build inventory, and it's then -- you know, that give us the ability to have sites to market to these prosects, and there's just nothing built in, you know, to do that. It gives us the opportunity to win a project, and the jobs and capital expenditures of that are where their ROI is. And if we don't have a site and they go to another state, then that all goes somewhere else.

The whole economic development site, it's called "Site Selection" for a reason. If the real estate isn't there, the rest of it never works. You never get to talk about incentives; you never get to talk about workforce; you never get to talk to them again.

MR. REINE:
I understand the whole premise. I think it's a good idea, but when it gets to a point that you're telling me we can't say if we enhance the value of your property and then promote it on the market and sell it, that you don't pay back any of the cost of enhancing the value or the promotion, and you're telling me at the end of the day, we can't tell Alden that I'm going to double the price -- just pick a number. It don't matter -- double the value of your property, then we're going to market it at the taxpayers' expense and
we're not going to ask you in the event of a sale to pay any of it back, that is a problem here.

MR. HENSON :
Well, one of things we do when we go through, the first thing we do is get an option. It's a non-exclusive option, but option sets the price before we start. So the price is set before we spend any money, because -- the main reason is we want to be able to bring a prospect to them with some assurance of what the asking price of the land is rather than -- as it's happened before, you know, they're saying, it's so much an acre, and then once LED gets there with a prospect, they triple it and then the deal dies.

MR. REINE:
But, realistically, if you were to buy a piece of land from me at $\$ 1,000$ an acre, but $I$ know that it was to be precertified and it wasn't going to have any problems, I might agree to pay the $\$ 1,200$. We're enhancing the value of people's property.

MR. HENSON:
Yes, sir.
MR. REINE:
And I just can't see that we wouldn't have some provision to create or revolve a revolving fund by asking to give some of the enhanced value of the
property back when it's the taxpayers' investment. I'm just funny that way.

MS. MITCHELL:
I think it's something that we'll take back to Secretary Grissom, but as -- and I'm sorry. Good morning. Can you hear me?

I'm sorry. Good morning. Mandi Mitchell, Assistant Secretary here on behalf of Secretary Grissom.

And Mr. Louis, I do get your point and your suggestion, and I'll take that back to the Secretary, but I think the point that $M r$. Henson is making is that we wouldn't even get in the door if it weren't for this program proactively seeking these sites and where a private landowner is involved to proactively approach that individual and look at their site for potential strategic projects. And so we do -- I think the best term that I've heard today from Mr . Henson is that it's the price of admission. It's getting in the door and getting the opportunity for Louisiana to even be looked at, but what you are proposing, I would definitely bring that back to the Secretary. And I'm not certain that we have not looked or considered that in the past. I just haven't been at the department long enough. I haven't been there prior to 2012 when the

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first program was launched, so I don't know whether that was ever considered, and, if so, why it was taken off the table. But I'll be happy to bring that back to you. MR. REINE:

And, Mr. Henson, this is not about you. I mean, obviously you're just the man at the program and just happen to be sitting at the desk. This is not new. I brought this up in 2012 when the program originated. My concern then, and I haven't seen it addressed, and here we are. This isn't something I thought of today. When we started the program, I had a problem with that philosophy, and I don't see it's gotten any attention and so it's still a concern to me.

MS . MITCHELL:
Okay.
MR. ANDRE :
And just to Mr. Louis' concerns, I can validate the fact that $I$ and my company was going through this process and settled on a site that was in the inventory and we were never asked for compensation at all. And I'm not trying to increase the burden on anybody, but I think MR. Louis is correct to ask the landowner to contribute would be good.

MS. MITCHELL:
Okay.

MR. ROY:
Is it possible we can resume this discussion next month after it's vetted a little bit more on this issue?

MS. MITCHELL:
I don't know how much funds we have left to work with.

MR. HENSON :
\$51, 000 .
MS. MITCHELL:
I think it's fairly little and I don't think it's enough for us to continue the program, and I would just ask if you would consider approving the request of the department today, which is -- first of all, let me back up, for all of the reasons stated by Mr. Henson in his presentation, we've identified with the department as one of the key strategic initiatives in our 2015-16 business plan. It pertains to enhancing and continuing to enhance the capacity within the department to build and market strategic inventory sites and buildings, and the initial round of funding has been absolutely critical in our efforts to achieve that. So we're very appreciative to the Board for the initial round of funding, which came down in 2012. And it has been demonstrated that it has been crucial in our
efforts to this point with tangible wins that we can show that have been hugely positive from an ROI perspective to the state when we look at the jobs and the capital investment and the direct and indirect impacts.

And so the request today of the Board is
 program, but to give the Board the flexibility to do so in three annual installments or disbursements of \$1-million with the following stipulations: First, yearly reporting of the program activities to the satisfaction of the Board; second, reporting to show our project activity at the end of each year and how we've utilized those fund; and then lastly, we would ask that should the fund utilization or the program activity exceed the million dollar mark in any given year, to allow the corporation's in-house committee to consider and approve additional tranches up to 500,000, but, again, within the cap of the program of $\$ 3-m i l l i o n, ~ n o t$ exceeding that.

So I apologize that I can't directly speak to that specific issue of going back to the private landowner and seeking reinvestment or clawback or payback, but that is something I personally would take back to the Secretary and our effective team to
discuss that, but at this time, I would request that you consider our request for the 3 -million in $\$ 1-m i l l i o n$ installments.

MR. ROY:
Yes, sir?
MR. ANDRE:
Ma'am, do you have to have that action today, or are you on some time restriction?

MS. MITCHELL:
Well, the issue is that the Board does not meet as frequently, and so we're concerned that while we have just brought on a new team member with the special expertise in this area, and while this is one of our top initiatives in the business plan, with only $\$ 50,000$ left dedicated to it, we are concerned that we may have to pull back or pause our activities in this regard. So...

MR. ANDRE:
Mr. Chairman, the only reason I mentioned that is, you know, Mr. Reine's concern would be good. I think before we take any action on this, that we have some indication of what has been the performance and true value.

MR. ROY:

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Yes, sir.
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MR. ANDRE:
The true value of the all of the money we've interested so far, what has been our return and do we have time for that and if we delay it one more month, does it impact your program.

MR. REINE:
But I might have a solution.
I make a motion that we approve the first million dollars over a $12-$ month period and we can have these conversations during that 12 months about finding some way that I'm much more comfortable with the expenditures that the taxpayers' dollars. So I will make a motion that we approve the first million dollars over a 12-month period and we'll move the rest of your money to a later agenda date.

If $I$ can get a second to that.
MS. THAM:
Second.
MR. ROY:
Okay. Motion and second.
Any discussions on that motion?
MR. SIMPSON:
I'd like to hear or see what, you know, our return on investment is, you know, approved today.

MS. THAM:

That's going to have a long lag time. I guess we could do it project by project. I guess one of my questions to be able to analyze the possibility of clawback is looking and seeing is there sort of an average percentage that you see of what we put in cost-wise versus the selling price of the land or the, you know, project. I think that would give us a better idea of how realistic it is that we could be able to get some of this money back from the landowner. I'd like to know our cost as a percentage of the selling price or the asking price.

MR. ROY:
I think you're right on point because it -- perhaps the issue evolves around -- you said the sales price is negotiated sort of on the front end? MR. HENSON :

Yes, sir.
MR. ROY:
So maybe the price is not big enough. I don't know. Depends on how much profit is built into the buy. But if there's a lot of profit, then this is a bigger issue. If it's not much profit, it's less of an issue.

MR. REINE:
Mr. Chairman, under the current motion,

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they've got 2 -million reasons to come back and give us a lot more information that will make us comfortable. MR. ROY:

Okay. Mr. Simpson, did you have anything else?

MR. SIMPSON :
No.
MR. ROY:
Motion and a second to fund the program for a million dollars, and we will discuss the details more hopefully as soon as next month.

Anyone else?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Hearing none, all in favor, "aye".
(Several members respond "aye".)
MR. ROY:
Before that, any comments from the
public?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
All right. All opposed, "nay".
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Without objection, it is so ordered.

We look forward to hearing the rest of the story.

MS. MITCHELL:
All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
MR. HENSON :
Thank you.
MR. ROY:
Thank you.
Okay. Ms. Villa, the Treasurer's
Report.

## MS. VILLA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
The Secretary Treasurer's Report, as of today, October 16th, 2015, for the FY ' 15 Fiscal Year, the summary page, the first summary page shows a total of our budget of $16,181,766$ comprised of our financial assistance program of 190,000 . We currently don't any projected expenditures there, so we expect a balance of 190. We have our State Small Business Credit Initiative, which has a current year budged of 2,557,174, and we've got a project that was approved of 46,875, which leaves a balance of $2,510,299$. Then we have our Capital Outlay Appropriations for EDAP of 13,098,937, with the pending project of $1.2-m i l l i o n$, which leaves a subtotal of $11,898,937$, and pending Board
approval of 450, which was approved earlier, leaves projects under review of 6.2-million, which Susan also went over earlier, with a projected yearend balance of $5,238,937$.

Our Capital Outlay Appropriations for EDRED has a budget of 335,655 for the year, with expenditures today of 284,125 , which leaves us a balance, as we were discussing, of 51,530 . So thank you for that approval of a million. We definitely need it to continue, especially in the next couple months.

If you go to the next page, it's a little bit more detailed. The Trinity Rental Services, the in-house approval that we did for the 26,875 for the State Small Business Credit Initiative.

If you move on to the third page, the detail of what was discussed about the EDAP program, just for your knowledge, we had in our FY '16 appropriation of $10-$ million in Priority II funding. Of that $10-\mathrm{million}$, which is represented in that balance, is 2.5-million was approved in Priority II at the bond commission meeting last month, and we also have 10-million of Priority $V$ funding that is not included in that balance.

Then on to our Page 4, which is our EDAP Fund Balance, as projected we have a total revenue
projection of $15,105,000$ with a total fund balance available of $16,758,037$. And our projected expenditures total 15,744,729, with a yearend balance expected of $1,013,308$.

And if you have any questions, I can -MS. THAM:

I have a question on the loan
initiative, Small Business Loan Initiative. Y'all made a big effort to market this for a while, and we had a whole slew of projects that came up. Are you seeing less projects now because you think that people didn't find them necessary or they did one or two and they didn't think they were necessary, or it's just we need to market them some more?

MS. GUESS :
No. There's been no shortage of marketing that's taken place on the staff from either Christian or Steven or myself. In fact, I had this conversation with Mr. Roy the other day. This time last year we had an enormous upsurge and we're seeing right now that things have fallen off a little bit and we're getting to that traditional time of the year when businesses are winding down yearend and looking forward to the next year. What it's doing is giving us a chance to look at some other marketing opportunities and bring
our -- do a few workshops, some cold calling, more cold calling, and, also, we're trying to stay afront of people. And so there's -- the phones are ringing. Christian's efforts have generated bankers calling him.

We have one project that we've been kind of massaging, if you will. We don't know where it's going to go. It's in-house. It's not shown, but we are -- we anticipate the activity to pick up.

MS. THAM:
Have the people who used the loans last year, have either the projects or their bankers had any issues or problems that they felt that it was too -MS . GUESS :

We do a followup, and they're still saying that we are still the easiest form of a guarantee program to use, that means with SBA. We thought we were going to get an upsurge a couple months ago when SBA ran out of money, so we were ready to go to the press and say LEDC has funds. But even the banks that are doing the SBA, it's just that they're either making the real good deals and we're the so-so deals. They're either not moving forward, but we're staying in front of them. We've got some deals that Christian is expecting to come down the pipe real soon.

MR. ROY:

Brenda and I spoke about that yesterday, and it's a good question.

One other thing that we didn't speak about that you made me think about and you sort of blended both of your comments together, it would be good if we went back to all of these banks that participated in the loan program and they have experience with us -I think you're right. Most of the banks have had a good experience with us. We are the easiest ones out there in terms of guarantee programs to do business with, and so if you just go back and touch the ones that have utilized us, you know, that's what we do in the banking world, go back and see your existing customers --

MS . GUESS :
Exactly.
MR. ROY:
-- they may need some money for a car or something and have those conversations with them. You know, it's a lot easier to hook a fish that's already been hooked once or maybe something like that. It's not a good analogy, but you know what I mean. Go back and see the guys that we already did business with.

MS . GUESS:
Well, after we spoke, we had another short, informal meeting yesterday internally, and the
young man, he's gone now, Robert Wyckoff, who was at the table, is our -- we can give him more things to do now, but he's our social media guy, and we were having some conversations and we are actually going to talk about doing the SurveyMonkey to those banks, you know, just three or four questions, you know, to find out -- now, the department does an annual -- a quarterly survey to the banks to find out their satisfaction levels, but we're going to do one directly to them more frequently to find out, you know, how was the experience, you know, or even to talk about what other products, you know, might you like to see us develop.

Most times we've been finding out through just conversations that it is not necessarily that they're looking for a guarantee. You know, there's some other risks they'd like for us to mitigate that our guarantee just won't cover. So we're taking this quiet time to put those things out there, and so we'll be looking forward to doing that.

MR. ROY:
And one other thought, the key to touching the banks, much like every organization, not every loan officer and every bank is the same. We tend to think about the bank. They're all very different. They touch different people, so as much as possible, if
you can, touch as many of the loan officers. You may have some that you would never come to see, but you may have some that want to see you repeatedly. So the key is touching the right ones, so, in essence, try to touch them all.

MS. THAM:
I guess my deal is it doesn't hurt my feelings if they're not coming to us as long as the project is still going through and the bank doesn't need our guarantee. My question is, are there projects that aren't going through because the bank's not -- it's almost there, they're not quite comfortable, they think it's a good project, they're not sure and our guarantee might be the difference for a successful project. And if that's not the case, if they're happy, they're going through, then maybe we don't need to be doing that right now for people.

MS . GUESS:
It's all a matter of comfort level of that particular bank as well. You know, if it's a credit issue, our guarantee or any other guarantee is not going to mitigate that problem, but we're open and upfront with our banks and they're just as open with us as well, and so we talk through a lot more deals than what we actually bring to the table to see if it's
something that we can make fit within our guidelines. So we're very satisfied that those that use us, you know, are satisfied. They're just trying to find some deals to bring to us basically.

MR. REINE:
When you make a loan guarantee, the bank doesn't have to count that loan against their maximum amount of loans; correct?

MS . GUESS :
From what we're understanding from the FDIC, not necessarily. It just all depends.

MR. REINE:
But that is a possibility that if the bank's ratio, deposits, whatever $y$ 'all do in the fancy business, if they're only allowed to loan out so much money, the loan guarantee might not count against their balance?

MS. GUESS :
It might not.
MR. ROY:
I think it's a technicality. The way that LEDC is set up, we're not the same, in essence, as as USDA, SBA, which are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States versus the State of Louisiana, so I don't think banks actually can--

MR. REINE:
Cannot count?
MR. ROY:
Cannot count it. We have to show on a USDA loan or SBA loan, those things, you back them out.

MR. SIMPSON :
Better question, I guess back to our whole budget, but like the millions that we may give to the site redness, are we allocated a certain amount that we can budget for them, or does that come out of our whole piece of the pie that can go to other projects? MS. VILLA:

Right. So there's \$10-million basically that we put forth every year in our Capital Outlay Budget, and so of that, we are either given it in Priority II or Priority V. So of the Priority II funding that we have, we're asking for that allocation to come forth from EDAP down to EDRED, similar to what we did three years ago. So it's not an additional ask. It's just an allocation from dollars that we're already being given to support projects.

MR. ROY:
Any other questions or comments?
MS. VILLA:
I just had one comment, just going back
to what Susan was talking about SSBCI because it is a very important program and one that we seem to have done a lot of marketing on. One thing that we discussed, also, is, you know, we typically, the bankers are our client; right, but we really need to drive the businesses to know that we've got these funds available, and the businesses need to drive the demand to the bank to use the programs, too. So we're talking and strategizing about how we do that. So that's another avenue that, you know, we're looking at, too, because this is a limited program. We only have it until FY September of '17, the program ends. We really want to make sure that we expend all of these dollars; right, because we want to make sure we continue this program beyond ' 17 when the FEDs are no longer in the program with us.

MR. ROY:
Okay. Anything else on the Treasurer's
Report?
MS. VILLA:
No, sir.
MR. ROY:
Since there is nothing else, I'll entertain a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. MR. SIMPSON :

So moved.
MR. ROY:
Motion and second.
Any discussion?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Hearing none, all in favor "aye".
(Several members respond "aye".)
MR. ROY:
All opposed, "nay".
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Without objection.
The Accountant's Report, Mr. Smith.
MR. SMITH:
Good morning. My report will be two-fold. I will first give an update. I think historically in October, we would normally be presenting our audited financial statement. At this point, I think last year it might have been November. I'm not really sure, but $I$ remember the first couple of years it was all in October. However, this year is a little different.

Today our annual financial report is due to the Division of Administration, and I'm sure they're
going to get it today, it will be finalized, and at some point after that, the legislative auditors will be coming in to begin their audit. They came in a couple months back, but they stayed maybe a week and they left. They said this year, we're going to do it a little differently than last year's AFR was done, so how long that will entail, $I$ really don't know. So that's where we are.

Back to business, Louisiana Economic Development status as of September 30th, 2015, we have at current one participation loan -- which has been there for some time. I think staff is going to give an update on that at the next meeting -- of a car dealership in Monroe, if I'm not mistaken.

We have EDAP loans, we have a current balance of $1,065,036$. Those are all performing. As of through September 30th, they're all paying. For the old loan guarantee program, we have total loan guarantees of 1,984,680. Those are all performing. None of those are late at this moment.

The next page shows the reserves that we carry, that 18 percent of on the guarantee loans and the 15 percent on the EDAP and EDLOP loans. That's the reserve that we're required to carry.

The SSBCI program, as of end of

September, we have 22 current loans. There's one that's been on the delinquent list for some time, which is M\&M Enterprises. I'm happy to announce that the next report that you'll see, they will be -- that guarantee is done with. It's expired as of October 2nd, I think. So they've been that way for some time, but next report, they're gone. And the only delinquent thing that we'll have to deal with at that point will be MD Realty, and hopefully we'll be making a request -- staff will be making a request of how to deal with that. It's a loan we participated in some time ago, a long time ago.

So that's the end of my report, unless anyone has any comments.

MR. REINE:
I've got a question. I guess since you're the treasurer, you get to count the dollars being appropriated. Over the last years when we've looked at the budget reductions and midyear budget cuts, whether we've we faired out in there, and I think everybody pretty much expects there's going to be to further budget cuts this year. Do they affect any of these programs?

MR. SMITH:
No.
MR. REINE:

Or have they affected them?
MR. SMITH:
No.
MR. REINE :
Okay.
MR. ROY:
Good, solid answer.
MR. SMITH:
They don't.
MR. ROY:
Okay. Any questions for Mr. Smith?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Any other questions?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
All right. We'll accept the accountants's report.

MR. REINE :
So moved.
MR. ROY:
Motion and second.
All in favor, "aye".
(Several members respond "aye".)
MR. ROY:

All opposed, "nay".
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Without objection.
Ms. Mitchell, the President's Report.
MS . MITCHELL:
Good morning again, everyone.
I'll just run through some recent, very exciting project announcements that we have been able to win for the State of Louisiana. All of these have been in the media, so I'm sure that you'll be familiar with most of these projects.

Brown \& Root is making Baton Rouge home of its new global headquarters. Their executive team is moving to Baton Rouge from Houston. It's a partnership of KBR's Industrial Services Americas Group in an acquisition of Wink Engineering and they're forming an entity called Brown \& Root and that will bring 50 new jobs to the area.

The next project that I'd like to highlight is Cajo Technologies, which is a Finland-based company that will be establishing a new manufacturing site in New Orleans, and their technology is very unique. It's laser-based machinery that can create permanent markings and coloring patterns on almost any
material. That project will be bringing 40 new jobs to the New Orleans area.

The next project is Formosa
Petrochemical Corporation, and this one is huge. The company has announced that they're studying the feasibility of an estimated \$9.4-billion industrial complex in St. James Parish, and it would be a two-phased project and they would be producing ethylene and a host of other downstream chemical products. And the potential here is for 1,200 new jobs in the state with an average salary of about 84,000 . And so we're definitely hoping that this project comes to fruition. The hiring for the project would begin in 2018.

Another exciting project in the Acadian area is the Hazelwood Energy Hub. That company is going to develop a \$400-million crude oil storage and blending complex in St. Landry Parish and will constrict six aboveground cruel crude oil storage tanks and they will utilize four salt dome caverns for additional storage of numerous crude oil varieties. That would be 123 new jobs to St. Landry parish by Hazelwood Energy Hub.

Indorama Ventures is bringing a project to the Lake Charles area. They're actually going to renovate and restart a dormant ethane cracker west of Lake Charles, and that's bringing in 125 additional jobs
to booming Southwest Louisiana.
And Investimus Foris will invest
\$265-million converting an idle biofuels refinery into an ammonia plant in Grant Parish.

And, last, Plastipak Packing made a \$9-million capital investment to expand production capacity at its facility in Pineville. This company is a leader in production of ridged plastic containers for food, beverage and consumer products, and that's 20 new jobs and 205 retained jobs in Central Louisiana in the Pineville area.

Another neat project by TriWest
Healthcare Alliance, this company will establish a new operation center in Jefferson Parish, which will serve as a traditional contact center for veterans through the Veterans Choice Program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and they are bringing 285 new jobs to Jefferson Parish.

So as you can see, we've been quite busy and that every region within the state has been able to partake in the successes and the efforts of LED.

And really briefly, I will run through some ranking updates as well.

For the sixth year, sixth consecutive year in a row, LED FastStart has been named Number 1,
the Number 1 State Workforce Training Program in the country. Six years in a row. We are very proud of the work of Jeff Lynn and his team in working with the companies that were able to bring into the State and working alongside the community technical college system and our traditional four-year system to provide the very unique -- to address the very unique workforce needs of these companies.

Louisiana's Business Climate Ranking, we're ranked Number 3 in the nation by Business Facilities Magazine. Louisiana was ranked Number 8 in the U.S. in the 25 ranking of Top States for Doing Business. And Louisiana has been ranked Number 1 amongst Southern States in the number of major business projects per capita.

And last, but not least, and I think this is exciting for us as well, Louisiana has been ranked Number 4 for its Small Business Environment and earned an "A" in eight categories by the publication Thumbtack.com. So it's exciting that we're starting to see some recognition for our efforts within the small business arena as well.

And that concludes my report.
MR. ROY:
Thank you, Ms. Mitchell.
Any questions or comments?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Any other business?
MS. GUESS:
Mr. Chairman, just a little
housekeeping. I just wanted to remind the Board members
we've got for the next two meetings November and
December. They're early basically because of the
availability of this Board room. The November meeting
is going to be on the $13 t h$ of November, and the December
meeting is on the 11 th of December. And those will be
the second Friday of each of those months instead of the
third, which everyone is accustomed to.
MR. ROY:
meeting?

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MR. ANDRE :
Move for adjournment.
MR. ROY:
Motion to adjourn.
Second.
We're adjourned.
(Testimony concludes at 10:49 a.m.)


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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE:

I, ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this meeting for the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation, do hereby certify that this meeting was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and 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 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 related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

Dated this 28th day of November, 2015.

ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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