MINUTES FOR THE SCREENING COMMITTEE 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 20TH DAY OF MARCH, 2015
COMMENCING AT 9:34 A.M.

REPORTED BY: ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR

Appearances of Board Members Present:
A.J. Roy

Susan Tham
Cal Simpson
Quentin Messer
Louis Reine
Harry Avant

Staff Members Present:
Melissa Sorrell
Christian Pennington
Susan Bigner
Bob Cangelosi
Steven Baham
Anne Villa

MR. ROY:
Good morning. Call to order the Board
of Directors of the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation meeting.

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

MR. ROY:
Here.
MS. SORRELL:
Jules Rousseau.
(No response.)
MS. SORRELL:
Alden Andre.
(No response.)
MS . SORRELL:
Quentin Messer for Secretary Moret.
MR . MESSER :
Here.
MS . SORRELL:
Natin Kamath.
(No response.)
MS . SORRELL:
Cal Simpson.
MR. SIMPSON:

Here.
MS. SORRELL:
Robert Stuart.
(No response.)
MS. SORRELL:
Susan Tham.
MS. THAM:
Here.
MS . SORRELL:
Harry Avant.
(No response.)
MS. SORRELL:
Louis Reine.
MR. REINE:
Here.
MS . SORRELL:
We have four. We don't have a quorum.
MR. ROY:
Okay. We do have enough for a Screening Committee meeting. Mr. Andre normally serves as the chairman in that capacity, but he cannot be here today, so I will. I don't think we have a vice chairman of the Screening Committee, so I'll take care of those duties.

The only order of business that we can conduct would be Oxlean, so are the parties here for

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Oxlean?
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MS. BIGNER:
Yes, sir, they are.
I have Dale Huval here for Oxlean
Manufacturing.
MR. ROY:
Good morning, sir.
MR. HUVAL:
Good morning. Thank you for having us.
MR. ROY:
You're welcome.
MS . BIGNER:
In 2014, Oxlean was formed from a group of investors and key personnel and they purchased assets, working process and inventory from a failed fabrication outfit. So, now -- they were doing fabrication and welding. The company also brought over some key personnel and sales representative from the old company. They're located in Walker, Louisiana. They want to expand the current facility and add some new equipment so that they can go into manufacturing, fabrication and welding.

It's going to be about a \$2.3-million expansion. Of that, LED has dedicated 200,000 to assist with the building and inside improvements, and in
return, Oxlean has agreed to retain 27 new jobs with a payroll of $\$ 1.7$-million to be increased minimally at two percent annually, and they have promised to create 56
 2019. This will be a five-year growth, and on the second page, I have put the retained jobs with a payroll and the new jobs over the five-year period.

It's located in Livingston Parish where the unemployment rate is 5.3 percent as of December of 2014, compared to the State of 6.2. The per capita income for Livingston Parish for 2013 was 34,632, compared to the State, which was 41,204 . The state revenues projected for this project are \$4.5-million, and the other tax incentive that has been offered to the company is Quality Jobs at 1.9.

They are the normal expectations. The contingencies that are on the project, again, it's a five-year project, and Oxlean will provide the State with a first-position mortgage on property or equivalent collateral and everything else standard.

This is a new company, so 2014 was their first year in business, and they're going to be expanding and going forward.

I'm going to turn it over to Dale. Staff does recommend approval of this project, and I'm
going to let Dale explain Oxlean a little bit more to you.

MR. HUVAL:
We began in February '14. We're privately capitalized, and we're focused on purchasing advanced automation equipment to process steel, structural steel. We're currently in commercial, industrial and oil and gas markets. We're currently looking at a small acquisition of an oil and gas fabricator in the Lafayette area, but we purchased two main pieces of equipment that are critical assets for us in August of 2014 from a company in Italy called Ficep. These machines will allow us to really process steels compared to our competitors in a very sufficient and quality-oriented manner, and that is the focal point of our growth is automation, CNC robotic-type equipment.

We believe that the market in South
Louisiana is very good for us to grow with the Industrial Corridor along the Mississippi River. The price of oil has, you know, dampened a bit, but we're not going to be strictly oil and gas; we're not going to be strictly industrial; we're not going to be strictly commercial. Our focal point is juggle the field across all three sectors, so that will help to minimize our risks of one sector going down at different points.

We have a very experienced management
team. Our operations guy's been in business for 32 years. We presented him with a sweat equity package and pulled him away from a large competitor, so we believe that we have all of the tools in place. Obviously this $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ grant loan is very beneficial to us. It will help us to accomplish our capital needs and allow us to get set up as we need to get set up to grow properly. So we appreciate your consideration.

MR. ROY:
Any questions or comments?
MS. THAM:
I do have a question.
You know, we want to make sure that we try to increase all of the jobs we can in Louisiana, and, generally, you know, we gave the data board to either to keep people in Louisiana, get them into Louisiana or, if they couldn't do their project without some help, we'll put them over to being able to start an operation to get them help. Generally, though, we have a longer-running record from someone who took over a failing company and one year of operation that had almost a million-dollar loss, so you understand that, you know, there's a little more concern here. There's a lot of debt. The debt-to-equity ratio is very high
compared to what we usually see. I'm not even sure the collateral that we get on the EDAP, if the payroll requirements aren't met, if it's going to be at least as much as the $\$ 200,000$ loan. I think we already have a SSBCI loan of 584 with you. So I'd kind of like to know about what the collateral is, and probably the most important questions are, you know, why there was a million-dollar loss last year. I would expect you to know what the factors are and what's going to change. You know, I understand you're doing new equipment; you feel like there's a market. Do you have any contracts in place that you think will sustain your growth?

MR. HUVAL:
Yes. We budgeted a $\$ 600,000$ loss at the end of '14. One reason is, number one, our machines were delayed in arriving from Italy and also delayed in operation. Just this week, we cut 10 beams on it, so it's a very technical piece of equipment, very technical, and it took us longer than expected to get going. But the main reason why our loss is what it was, we have nine Corps of Engineer jobs, three projects in Florida around Lake Okeechobee and six in the New Orleans area. Those jobs got pushed back, so those didn't hit our books. They're just now starting to --we began two of them in January, February, so that's going
to hit our books and come through our accounting cycle throughout 2015. And we're very confident that the losses, they've actually stopped now.

So on the equity side, we have very good and strong equity partners in the Lafayette area, and, you know, quite aware of where we're at and where we're going. So from that standpoint, we're confident in what we're doing, and, you know, I share your concern about the loss, but it has already stopped in the beginning of '15.

MR. REINE:
How many jobs were going to be created, new jobs?

MS. BIGNER:
We're going to be creating 56 new jobs.
MR. REINE:
And those are doing what?
MS . BIGNER:
I can't hear you. I'm sorry. Turn on...

MR. REINE:
Usually we have a sheet in here. I don't see it, so --

MS. THAM:
There is one. It's Table 5.

MR. REINE:
Six electricians, 10 concrete, two
foreman, crane installers, steel directors and foundation...

MS. THAM:
Those are the construction jobs, but the next page, Table 3, shows the continuing jobs for operations.

MR. REINE:
Processing and fabrication --
MR. HUVAL:
It's primarily welders, fitters. You know, at certain points, you're going to have quality control/quality assurance individuals, project managers. We're looking at hiring a project manager. We had an interview on Tuesday. So primarily going to be welders, fitters, quality control individuals, helpers, project manager, from time to time accounting staff as our growth mandates.

MS. BIGNER:
Table 4 shows, at least just has a very general, structural steel process fabrication, but giving you the positions.

MS. THAM:
With a much better average salary than

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Livingston Parish's average in general.
MR. REINE:
But most people in Livingston Parish don't work in Livingston Parish, particularly with those skills.

Have y'all identified where you're going to get those folks from?

MR. HUVAL:
Yes. We're working with -- we have a good core group now. We have a total of 25 employees. We are working with Dr. Mario Vaccari on that program to --

MR. REINE:
Who is that?
MS. BIGNER:
FastStart.
MR. HUVAL:
FastStart. But, yes, the surrounding area, Livingston, Tangipahoa. We have many employees from the Hammond area. We have a good benefits package, and we feel we're very competitive. We're creating a family-type atmosphere and just trying to acquire and maintain and retain good employees. I think the training program from FastStart is really going to help us this month.

MR. REINE:
They're training welders in FastStart? MR. MESSER:

If I may?
Yes. So the LED FastStart Program has a number of specialty programs in the industrial area. I think the C4M Program is something that's of particular. I don't know whether you will be using that particular program, but it --

MR. HUVAL:
We're just getting started. I have a meeting with -- I had an e-mail about a meeting last week. We really haven't started. I think we have a core of group to begin with, but we're going to, you know, utilize some of these programs.

MR. MESSER:
And, Louis, this is similar to some of the work that FastStart did with Bentler Steel in Caddo-Bossier Port there. So FastStart has either trained people from areas as diverse as software development to sort of the industrial highly-craft trade, so they have special folks who have experience in the industry to help do this, so this isn't something that's unprecedented for the type of work that that project will do.

MR. REINE:
I don't doubt that. I just know there's a huge concern with the amount of construction work on the books, particularly welders and pipefitters and those kind of skilled crafts, where are we going to get the people and how we're going to get them trained and where they're going to come from.

But you said they were also eligible for Quality Jobs?

MS . BIGNER:
Yes, sir.
MR. REINE:
That means you're going to furnish your employees with health insurance and you're going to pay a portion of the payment towards their premiums?

MR. HUVAL:
We pay 100 percent of the employee cost.
MR. REINE:
Of healthcare?
MR. HuVAL :
Yes, sir.
MR. REINE:
You got my vote, Mr. Chairman.
MR. HUVAL:
And 40 percent of their dependents.

That's a tool that you have to almost have today, competitive labor force, and we hired a young project manager. He was a degreed architect. With these machines that we have, they're very high-tech software they control and very sufficient in the process. He was a degreed architect, and had a job in Baton Rouge, and he had a degree from the University of Oklahoma. We brought him on, and just with the healthcare benefit that we provided, he had a $\$ 10,000$ pay raise increase in his -- so from what he was paid prior to. So that's a tool that we could use. Obviously it's costly, but, you know, our plan is to build a solid company with good employes, and that's how you're going to get them, with benefits.

MS. THAM:
Hopefully we are going to have a lot more construction going on, but what is your major source of -- what are your major customer lines? You talked oil and gas, and obviously you have some governmental because you mentioned the Corps of Engineers.

MR. HUVAL:
Yes. Our operations, head operations guy has, again, 32 years in primarily commercial and industrial market. He has a very strong relationship
with architects, engineers, general contractors, Lemoine and Buquet \& LeBlanc in the Baton Rouge market. I have relationships with friends more from the Lafayette area. As you can tell, my accent is from that side of the basin. So we are not concerned whatsoever about our ability to grow. Our challenge is to execute our processes with these machines and so forth, but oil and gas, with this acquisition that we're looking at right now, it's certified equipment that goes offshore, deepwater offshore. It's very specialized, that we can process some of that through our machines. Not all of it, but that's how we'll gain efficiency over our competitor, who's primarily doing it by hand.

MS. THAM:
Do you have any competitors anywhere in the region with these highly robotic and highly technical --

MR. HUVAL:
Yes. The equipment and the machinery has been around for 30 to 40 years. Our models are just newer. Many fabricators have similar types. Our machine does what four machines do 30 years ago. They drill, they coat, it cuts and it scribes all in one process. It's got an automatic drill head where it can change the bit if you need to drill a hole in the beam.

It has six options, so you don't have to manually change it. It's automatic, so it's more sufficient.

Ficep is a worldwide leader in producing this type of equipment. I was in the company and their facility in June of last year. That's another reason for the cost to get this equipment here was 35,000 . We had a lot of upfront, you know, traveling expenses just to launch our company, so it's a one-time expense, not going to reoccur on an annual, going-forth basis.

Let's see what other questions you had.
MR. REINE:
Whereabouts are you in Walker?
MR. HUVAL:
We're right on Florida Boulevard right past the Walgreens off of the main road.

MS. BIGNER:
Walker North.
MR. REINE:
Heading down towards Hammond on the right?

MR. HUVAL:
Yes, toward Hammond on the East, that's correct.

MR. REINE:
Seems to be a booming area. You know

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they're going to put a pipe shop in Livingston?
MR. HUVAL:
Yes. There's a pipe fab shop coming up.
So, yes, we're just going to create a family atmosphere to retain employees. It's very competitive, but...

MS. THAM:
We know you can do it and keep all of the jobs and meet all of the payroll, you know, goals, but just as concern for, you know, safety of the money, if you didn't meet your payroll goals and you had to pay this back, what's the collateral?

MR. HUVAL:
We really haven't identified a specific piece. You know, the appraisal on the purchased asset came in at 744,000.

MS. THAM:
So whatever you put up as collateral is going to have at least a one-to-one ratio --

MS . BIGNER:
It has to.
MR. HUVAL:
Absolutely.
MR. REINE:
Do you own the property in Walker?

MR. HUVAL:
No, sir. We lease.
MR. REINE:
And you've got a long-term lease?
MR. HUVAL:
Yes.
MR. REINE:
I thought we might have a little collateral making sure you get to keep the lease.

MR. HUVAL:
We have a good relationship with our partners.

MR. ROY:
Any other questions or comments?
(No response.)
MR. HUVAL:
Appreciate your time.
MR. ROY:
I have one. It sounds like, you know, the name of the game to really make money is automation. MR. HUVAL:

Yes, sir.
MR. ROY:
Of course, you already described that
we're all feeling the pinch of the drop in oil prices
somewhat, and that is part of your business.
MR. HUVAL:
Yes, sir.
MR. ROY:
My question is, your projections for growth, are they based on -- how much new growth are they based on above what you currently have contracted, and where will that come from?

MR. HUVAL:
It will come from just a more aggressive bidding strategy on the commercial and industrial side. The oil and gas side, we have two customers right now. One of them is doing onshore. They supply units for fracking in the Pennsylvania and Ohio area. We've probably produced -- it's a heater box. It goes for about $\$ 16,000$, and we do a portion of it. We ship it to them and they finish it out, piping heaters, heat exchangers and so forth, and they sell it for about 145,000 to Chesapeake and A\&P Resources. That's their client.

But our real strategy, we're just going to take a more aggressive approach when we need to on the commercial side, and we can -- it's like a faucet. We can turn it on and turn it off. We see the commercial side really, really booming again in this

> market.

MR. ROY:
So to meet these projections on
employment growth, how much will you have to grow your company above the current contracts?

MR. HUVAL:
Our 2015 budgeted revenue is about 11-million. I'm not sure $I$ understand the question. How we're going to grow our employee base?

MR. ROY:
Right. Well, and, of course -MR. HUVAL:

Continued work?
MR. ROY:
Sure. But how much more growth will you need? Because obviously the object is to have as few employees as you can and let the machines do as much work as you can, plus you have this issue -- well, we all have an issue on the oil and gas side. I'm just wondering how do you achieve that and what percentage growth, I guess, that you need to achieve.

MR. HUVAL:
Our five-year plan is rough, but we anticipate being able to get to our 25-million revenue. Now, we're not laying off any employees as a result of
the machines. Those employees are going to be doing different things. So instead of having a welder cut a beam by hand, you know, having the machine cut 10 of them at the same time, he can then be more efficient in fitting it, welding it and get it out the door so we can invoice it, so the process just becomes more efficient.

So to answer your question, we believe, with the relationships and the plan that we have with the automation, that we can get to about 25-million in five years and, you know, allow -- we're going to need employees to get that. It's not just all machines.

MR. ROY:
And you're at 11 now?
MR. HUVAL :
We have 25.
MR. ROY:
No. Million in sales.
MR. HUVAL :
Yes, sir. That's our projected for 2015. The Corps of Engineer projects, those nine total about 7-million, and that's going to be coming through our books in 2015. Not all of it. Some of it goes into 2016.

MR. ROY:
That's a lot of growth.

MR. HUVAL:
Yes, it is, and a lot of activity out there and it's not even with what's happening in Lake Charles.

MR. ROY:
Any other questions or comments?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Hearing none -- -
MS. THAM:
Well, I do have one other question.
There was mention of a lawsuit that your attorney indicates was frivolous. Has there been any more action on that since --

MR. HUVAL:
No, ma'am. It's just sitting out there.
MS. THAM:
Good.
MR. ROY:
What is the pleasure of the Committee?
MR. MESSER:
So move for approval.
MS. THAM:
Second.
MR. ROY:

Motion for approval as presented.
Second by Ms. Tham.
Any other 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.
Congratulations. Please keep us posted on your success.

MR. HUVAL:
Appreciate your confidence and hope I'm back here in a couple years to ask for more.

MR. ROY:
We hope so, too.
MR. HUVAL:
Thank you.
MR. ROY:
Thank you, sir.
Any comments from the public?
(No response.)

MR. ROY:
Do we have any other business before the
Committee?
(No response.)
MR. MESSER :
Just very quickly, as you probably read in the press earlier this week, Secretary Moret, after, I'm sure, a heart-wrenching decision, decided to become CEO and President of the LSU Foundation. His transition will be over the next six to eight weeks. I think it's great news for the work of LEDC and the work of the team of our professionals and that it will not at all alter what we do here with this Board or what the team and business incentive services does. Conversations are ongoing about finding a replacement for the duration of Governor Jindal's term. Obviously whoever the next governor, whoever he or she might be, will make their own appointment, but we expect a full and smooth transition. So I just wanted to -- I'm sure some of you knew that, and maybe have even spoken with Secretary Moret, but I wanted to say that.

And then secondly, I think I gave each of you three documents. Those are some project announcements that have occurred since our last board meeting, and then there were also -- I thought you might
find interesting the statement about the maintenance of the State's credit rating.

With that, I will take any questions if you have any.

MR. REINE:
I'm just curious, the changing for Louisiana's outlook from stable to negative, although it says -- I take the bond rating AA2 is the present bond rating?

MR. MESSER :
Yes.
MR. REINE:
Do you expect this is going to be problematic in the long run?

MR. MESSER:
Obviously the state's budget challenges are no secret, and I think if we do not address it, it will be, but, I mean, there are states who have had a negative outlook for years without the bond rating itself actually being changed, so this is something that we don't feel that there's any imminent danger that the bond rating will be changed. And the whole point of the bond rating is the cost of state borrowing and state debt issuances, so we don't anticipate -- in the coming legislature, potentially the next governor, if -- I know
that Senator Vitter has indicated he might bring a special session, but all of that is TBD.

MR. ROY:
Do we have an interim secretary in mind?
MR. MESSER :
Yes. We will have an interim secretary. I'm sorry I wasn't clear on that. And that individual will probably be named, could be as quickly as end of next week, but certainly within the next two to three weeks.

MR. ROY:
Very good.
Any other business before the Committee?
(No response.)
MR. ROY:
Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. REINE:
So moved.
MR. MESSER :
Second.
MR. ROY:
We're adjourned.
(Meeting concludes at 10:02 a.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE:

I, ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this meeting was taken, 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 2nd day of April, 2015.

ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

LEDC SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETING

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