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| 7 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA |
| 8 | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TAKEN AT THE |
| 9 | LOUISIANA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM |
| 10 | BUILDING, FOURTH FLOOR BOARDROOM, 8401 UNITED |
| 11 | PLAZA BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, |
| 12 | ON THE 21ST DAY OF MARCH, 2016, |
| 13 | COMMENCING AT 2:09 P.M. |
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| 1 | Appearances of Board Members Present: |
|----|--|
| 2 | |
| 3 | A.J. Roy III |
| 4 | Alden Andre |
| 5 | Mandi Mitchell on Behalf of Steven Grissom |
| 6 | Susan Tham |
| 7 | Nitin Kamath |
| 8 | Louis Reine |
| 9 | |
| 10 | Appearances of Staff Members Present: |
| 11 | |
| 12 | Melissa Sorrell |
| 13 | Brenda Guess |
| 14 | Steve Baham |
| 15 | Errol Smith |
| 16 | Frank Avalero |
| 17 | Sherri McConnell |
| 18 | Don Pierson |
| 19 | Christian Pennington |
| 20 | Robert Wydcoff |
| 21 | Anne Villa |
| 22 | Bob Cangelosi |
| 23 | Susan Bigner |
| 24 | Shamelda Pete |
| 25 | |
| | |



LEDC BOARD MEETING

| 1 | MR. ROY: |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | Call to order the Board of |
| 3 | Directors of the Louisiana Economic |
| 4 | Development Corporation. Roll call, |
| 5 | please. |
| 6 | MS. SORRELL: |
| 7 | A.J. Roy. |
| 8 | MR. ROY: |
| 9 | Here. |
| 10 | MS. SORRELL: |
| 11 | Alden Andre. |
| 12 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 13 | Here. |
| 14 | MS. SORRELL: |
| 15 | Louis Reine. |
| 16 | MR. REINE: |
| 17 | Here. |
| 18 | MS. SORRELL: |
| 19 | Susan Tham. |
| 20 | MS. THAM: |
| 21 | Here. |
| 22 | MS. SORRELL: |
| 23 | Mandi Mitchell. |
| 24 | MS. MITCHELL: |
| 25 | Here. |
| | |



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LEDC BOARD MEETING

| 1 | MS. SORRELL: |
|----|---|
| 2 | Cal Simpson. |
| 3 | (No response.) |
| 4 | MS. SORRELL: |
| 5 | Nitin Kamath. |
| 6 | MR. KAMATH: |
| 7 | Here. |
| 8 | MS. SORRELL: |
| 9 | We have a quorum. |
| 10 | MR. ROY: |
| 11 | Welcome to the board |
| 12 | meeting. Happy new year, and we have a |
| 13 | new governor, a new secretary. That's |
| 14 | how long it's been. We almost had a new |
| 15 | president, but we just made it. At any |
| 16 | rate, welcome, everyone. I ask that |
| 17 | you-all silence your cell phones. |
| 18 | Next order of business is |
| 19 | traditionally the secretary, Mr. |
| 20 | Pierson, our new secretary appoints an |
| 21 | ex-officio member of the board, and |
| 22 | that's Ms. Mandi Mitchell Who's seated |
| 23 | on the side of me, so most of you met |
| 24 | Mandi, but I'm going to make sure, and |
| 25 | she will give a welcome message. |
| | |



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| 1 | I'm sorry. The secretary is |
|----|--|
| 2 | here. Okay. My apologizes. |
| 3 | MR. PIERSON: |
| 4 | Hey, I'm Don Pierson. I'm |
| 5 | the secretary of the Louisiana Economic |
| 6 | Development, and first of all, I want to |
| 7 | thank you for your service to this |
| 8 | board. That plays a very important role |
| 9 | to our department, and the transaction |
| 10 | of a lot of business really kind of |
| 11 | comes to this place in a large of number |
| 12 | of cases, and I know that you give up |
| 13 | your time and your attention to |
| 14 | participate here, so I greatly |
| 15 | appreciate it from the standpoint of |
| 16 | Louisiana Economic Development. Mandi |
| 17 | will be my designee on the board, and |
| 18 | she's assisted by our counsel, Bob |
| 19 | Cangelosi and our secretary, Ann Villa, |
| 20 | and I want you to know you have my full |
| 21 | attention at all times. Today the |
| 22 | legislature and some other things are |
| 23 | active and important to the department |
| 24 | as well. So I know I'm very ably |
| 25 | represented by Ms. Mitchell, but I'll be |



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| 1 | happy to answer questions that you have, |
|----|--|
| 2 | but I really just wanted to tell this |
| 3 | board personally that I greatly respect |
| 4 | the work that you do, and it's a vital |
| 5 | part of our ability to move the state |
| 6 | forward to create new jobs and |
| 7 | investments that we seek to do for our |
| 8 | existing companies, for new companies, |
| 9 | and for a lot of small businesses that |
| 10 | are out there. So thank you very much. |
| 11 | MR. ROY: |
| 12 | Thank you, Mr. Secretary. |
| 13 | Appreciate it. Any questions or |
| 14 | comments for the secretary? |
| 15 | MR. REINE: |
| 16 | I was just going to |
| 17 | congratulate him. |
| 18 | MR. PIERSON: |
| 19 | Thank you, Louis. Good to |
| 20 | see you. |
| 21 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 22 | Thank you for coming. |
| 23 | MR. PIERSON: |
| 24 | Thank you. We'll be working |
| 25 | offline on some other opportunities that |



| 1 | we have together, sir. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. ROY: |
| 3 | Very good. Thanks again for |
| 4 | coming, and I'll entertain a motion to |
| 5 | appoint Ms. Mitchell as the secretary's |
| 6 | designee. |
| 7 | MR. REINE: |
| 8 | So moved. |
| 9 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 10 | Second. |
| 11 | MR. ROY: |
| 12 | Any discussion? All in |
| 13 | favor, "aye." |
| 14 | (Several members respond |
| 15 | "aye.") |
| 16 | All opposed, "nay." |
| 17 | (No response.) |
| 18 | MR. ROY: |
| 19 | Without objection. Thank |
| 20 | you, sir. We appreciate it. |
| 21 | MR. REINE: |
| 22 | Do I need to have a packet |
| 23 | with the agenda and all that stuff? |
| 24 | MR. ROY: |
| 25 | Does anyone have an extra |
| | |



| 1 | packet? |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | MR. REINE: |
| 3 | I figured it would be better |
| 4 | if I got a bunch of paperwork. Thank |
| 5 | you. |
| 6 | MR. ROY: |
| 7 | The next order of business |
| 8 | is the approval of the minutes of |
| 9 | October 2015. |
| 10 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 11 | Move for approval. |
| 12 | MR. ROY: |
| 13 | Motion for approval as |
| 14 | presented. |
| 15 | MS. THAM: |
| 16 | Second. |
| 17 | MR. ROY: |
| 18 | Second. Any discussion? |
| 19 | Hearing none, all in favor, aye. |
| 20 | (Several members respond |
| 21 | "aye.") |
| 22 | MR. ROY: |
| 23 | All opposed, "nay." |
| 24 | (No response.) |
| 25 | MR. ROY: |
| | |



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| 1 | Without | objection |
|---|---------|-----------|
| т | without | oplection |

In-house approval under the SSBCI, a brassiere company. Would anyone like to make a comment, a very carefully-scripted comment?

MR. PENNINGTON:

I can speak to it. This is a startup specialty shop, a startup. We approved the loan back in November for guarantee. As of today, this loan has not closed. It's passed our commitment letter. When you give 90 days of close, and the reason why we included in the letter is we approved it, and the board asked for any time when we approve a loan, include it in there. I spoke with the loan officer a couple times. Last time I spoke with him, he said that they probably won't close because they're having problems getting insurance, some liability insurance, and as of today, they won't close, and they probably won't. It was about \$25,000. It was a small loan that we approved. It's for a line of credit for the purchase of



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| 1 | inventory, and that's about all. You |
|----|--|
| 2 | know, it's a brand new startup business, |
| 3 | the kind of thing we want to help kind |
| 4 | of encourage, but it looks like this one |
| 5 | just it won't happen, unfortunately. |
| 6 | MR. ROY: |
| 7 | All right. |
| 8 | MR. REINE: |
| 9 | What do we do with it? |
| 10 | MR. PENNINGTON: |
| 11 | Well, we approved it, so |
| 12 | we |
| 13 | MR. REINE: |
| 14 | Can you approve it? |
| 15 | MR. CANGELOSI: |
| 16 | No. |
| 17 | MR. PENNINGTON: |
| 18 | Not initially approving it. |
| 19 | It doesn't look like it's going to |
| 20 | happen. In other words, the loan will |
| 21 | close. |
| 22 | MR. ROY: |
| 23 | Your approval is conditional |
| 24 | for what period of time? |
| 25 | MR. PENNINGTON: |
| | |



| 1 | It's 90 days. Yes, sir. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MS. GUESS: |
| 3 | What happens is that if it |
| 4 | doesn't climb after the stipulated time |
| 5 | period, then the guarantee goes away, |
| 6 | and the funds that were allocated to |
| 7 | that particular loan go back to the loan |
| 8 | fund. Everything was reversed. |
| 9 | MR. CANGELOSI: |
| 10 | It's merely being submitted |
| 11 | as informational to the board as an |
| 12 | action taken by that committee. |
| 13 | MR. ROY: |
| 14 | Any questions or commence? |
| 15 | Thank you. Next order of business is |
| 16 | the treasurer's report, Ms. Villa. I'm |
| 17 | sorry. Finance, that would be, and the |
| 18 | Finance Committee met earlier? |
| 19 | MS. THAM: |
| 20 | We did, and the financial |
| 21 | statements, which have been audited with |
| 22 | no exception by the legislative |
| 23 | auditor's office were presented. Total |
| 24 | assets were almost 66 million, and the |
| 25 | liabilities were a little over 5 million |



| 1 | left in total net position of almost 61 |
|----|---|
| 2 | million 50 thousand that is |
| 3 | unrestricted. About thousand was |
| 4 | restricted for the SSBCI loan program. |
| 5 | There was more expenses than revenues |
| 6 | this year by about 10 million, and they |
| 7 | found no significant deficiencies in |
| 8 | material weaknesses with internal |
| 9 | control. |
| 10 | MR. ROY: |
| 11 | Very good. Any questions or |
| 12 | comments? |
| 13 | MR. REINE: |
| 14 | Well, received a report. Do |
| 15 | we need this whole body to approve |
| 16 | writing off that realty stuff, or |
| 17 | MR. ROY: |
| 18 | I don't think so, but do we |
| 19 | need a motion? |
| 20 | MR. CANGELOSI: |
| 21 | I guess it's always safer to |
| 22 | do that, but it may not be absolutely |
| 23 | necessary, but I recommend we do. |
| 24 | MR. REINE: |
| 25 | I move we approve charging |



| 1 | off NW Realty. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. ROY: |
| 3 | Does that also include a |
| 4 | motion to accept the finance? |
| 5 | MR. REINE: |
| 6 | That it does. |
| 7 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 8 | Second. |
| 9 | MR. ROY: |
| 10 | Motion to accept and to make |
| 11 | a charge off. Second. Any discussion? |
| 12 | Hearing none all in favor, "aye." |
| 13 | (Several members respond |
| 14 | "aye.") |
| 15 | MR. ROY: |
| 16 | All opposed, "nay." |
| 17 | (No response.) |
| 18 | MR. ROY: |
| 19 | Without objection. Am I |
| 20 | working off the old one or the new one? |
| 21 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 22 | You must be working off the |
| 23 | old one. |
| 24 | MR. VILLA: |
| 25 | There was a revised agenda |
| | |



| 1 | sent to the board with one added item. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 3 | You heard from me once |
| 4 | today. You won't hear from he again. |
| 5 | MR. ROY: |
| 6 | Sorry. All right. Under |
| 7 | venture capital, Ms. Bigner. |
| 8 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 9 | Good afternoon. What we |
| 10 | have is we're asking to realign some |
| 11 | funds that were previously obligated to |
| 12 | an LEDC fund, Louisiana Venture Funds, |
| 13 | and release that so that we can use it |
| 14 | to fill a hole with Themelios. Ross |
| 15 | Barrett handles both of these funds. |
| 16 | I'll go back to Themelios. Themelios |
| 17 | was approved in 2012. They have a |
| 18 | million dollar obligation I mean |
| 19 | appropriation of one million dollars |
| 20 | from the SSBCI funds. Their first |
| 21 | capital call was 333,333. Of that, they |
| 22 | took 333,000 and invested it in a |
| 23 | company call K94. That investment was |
| 24 | only SSBCI funds. There were no private |
| 25 | investments until later in 2014 where |



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| L | the fund | went | back | and | put | another |
|---|-----------|------|------|-----|-----|---------|
| 2 | \$400,000 | in. | | | | |

In September of 2014, the US Treasury came in and reviewed some of our files. They pulled this file and reviewed it and stated that the transaction into K94 was ineligible because there was not that -- the SSBCI funds were greater than 80 percent at risk. There was not the required 20 percent private investment at risk at the time of the investment. With that ineligible transaction, they took -because they agreed that it was ineligible and the funds had already been sent to us. They took it out of So next tranche had a the next tranche. shortfall of 324,233 for our that put that hole in the seed capital. So when they took the transaction back that took funds out of the Louisiana Seed Program where we had allocated the 5.1 million and changed, when they went back and they reversed the transaction to take it out of the tranche, that took the money



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| 1 | out of the Louisiana Seed Capital |
|----|--|
| 2 | Program. Since we have obligated the |
| 3 | full \$5.1 million this put in the hole |
| 4 | as far as funding, the remaining funds |
| 5 | for Themelios. So when they go to make |
| 6 | a capital call, that was certainly going |
| 7 | to leave them, like, \$340,000 that we |
| 8 | could actually fund them, and the |
| 9 | shortfall was 324,233. So what we're |
| 10 | asking is that we be able to take the |
| 11 | \$250,000 in Louisiana ventures, which |
| 12 | was a fund that was done back in 2003. |
| 13 | Ross Barrett has stated that he will not |
| 14 | be taking those funds, and we are free |
| 15 | to release them. We'll take that |
| 16 | \$250,000, realign it to fill the hole |
| 17 | left by the SSBCI funds, and any |
| 18 | investments that are made with the LEDC |
| 19 | funds will continue to be LEDC funds, |
| 20 | and we'll just have to abide by the |
| 21 | SSBCI rules. |
| 22 | So the issues that we have |
| 23 | was US Treasury requires that the |
| 24 | Louisiana Seed Capital Programs be |
| 25 | reduced by the amount in the ineligible |



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| 1 | transaction or be placed with the other |
|----|--|
| 2 | LEDC funds. We're asking to replace |
| 3 | those LEDC funds rather than just cut |
| 4 | our funding to the obligation. The Seed |
| 5 | Capital Program has a shortfall of |
| 6 | \$324,233. LEDC has the \$250,000 that |
| 7 | would be released by the Louisiana |
| 8 | Venture Program along with other funds |
| 9 | that will be in there from other sources |
| 10 | that will be able to fill that hole of |
| 11 | 324,233. We did get in touch with the |
| 12 | US Treasury's office to verify that we |
| 13 | could invest state funds along with the |
| 14 | US Treasury funds. They stated that it |
| 15 | was that there were not any problems |
| 16 | with that as long as we realized that 80 |
| 17 | percent of the investment cannot be |
| 18 | funded by more than 80 percent of SSBCI, |
| 19 | and there must be at least a 20 percent |
| 20 | at-risk from private investments. So |
| 21 | that 20 percent at-risk cannot be the |
| 22 | LEDC funds. It has to be other private |
| 23 | investments, non-state funds. It's |
| 24 | confusing, and I understand. |
| 25 | MR. REINE: |



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| 1 | You got me confused. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 3 | I apologize. The staff is |
| 4 | recommending that we continue with the |
| 5 | commitment to Themelios by replacing the |
| 6 | shortfall of the appropriation by |
| 7 | 324,233. Ross Barrett will sign the |
| 8 | release of the \$250,000 remaining |
| 9 | unfunded in Louisiana ventures. LEDC |
| 10 | will replace the shortfall of 324,233 |
| 11 | with LEDC funds. The full replacement |
| 12 | amount will be considered state funds. |
| 13 | They will not be considered SSBCI funds, |
| 14 | so what we'll have is the whole that is |
| 15 | in there will be state funds, but they |
| 16 | still have to follow the same rules and |
| 17 | regulations as the SSBCI does. |
| 18 | MR. ROY: |
| 19 | In short, to continue with |
| 20 | our commitment to Themelios we need to |
| 21 | move these funds; otherwise, we cannot |
| 22 | do so, correct? |
| 23 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 24 | Correct. |
| 25 | MR. ROY: |



| 1 | Questions, comments? |
|------------|--|
| 2 | MS. THAM: |
| 3 | So far there's 333,333, but |
| 4 | the total commitment's a million? |
| 5 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 6 | Right. They made the first |
| 7 | half of the 333,333. Of that, they |
| 8 | still have \$333 dollars that are not |
| 9 | obligated that is in the fund, but the |
| 10 | rest of the amount went into K94, and |
| 11 | that's the transaction that has been |
| 12 | deemed ineligible. So what we did was |
| 13 | we moved that investment over to LEDC |
| L 4 | funds as an LEDC investment. I know it |
| 15 | sounds confusing, and I apologize. |
| 16 | MS. THAM: |
| 17 | And that K94 investment was |
| 18 | part of what's valued in here? |
| 19 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 20 | Yes. |
| 21 | MS. THAM. |
| 22 | THE cost of 333,333, but |
| 23 | actually |
| 24 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 25 | I think they had it valued |



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| 1 | at 328, or |
|----|---|
| 2 | MS. THAM: |
| 3 | No. No. It actually showed |
| 4 | a gain. It was valued at 368. |
| 5 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 6 | Oh, okay. |
| 7 | MS. THAM: |
| 8 | So it showed almost a |
| 9 | \$33,000 thousand gain on that particular |
| 10 | investment. |
| 11 | MS. GUESS: |
| 12 | And I'd just like to point |
| 13 | that one of the reasons the things that |
| 14 | we're looking at in addition to making |
| 15 | the them whole is that his fund is very, |
| 16 | very active. In fact, he has contacted |
| 17 | us, and he's got about \$600,000 worth of |
| 18 | potential investments that he's looking |
| 19 | to make. |
| 20 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 21 | Yeah, he's earmarked three |
| 22 | investments. |
| 23 | MS. GUESS: |
| 24 | He's earmarked three |
| 25 | investments, and we have carefully |
| | |



| Г | |
|----|--|
| 1 | carved out and spoken with him to tell |
| 2 | him to advice him on which funds have to |
| 3 | be generated from which pool of dollars, |
| 4 | and so this is an attempt, like I said, |
| 5 | to make him whole for our commitment |
| 6 | that was made to him over two years ago |
| 7 | for a million dollars. |
| 8 | MR. ROY: |
| 9 | No new money. |
| 10 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 11 | No new money. |
| 12 | MR. REINE: |
| 13 | Okay. Who did we make this |
| 14 | original commitment to? |
| 15 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 16 | It's the Themelios funds. |
| 17 | MR. REINE: |
| 18 | Themelios? |
| 19 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 20 | Themelios, |
| 21 | T-H-E-M-E-L-I-O-S. |
| 22 | MR. REINE: |
| 23 | And so we committed to them |
| 24 | money that, under the rules, that they |
| 25 | weren't eligible to get? |
| | |



| 1 | MS. BIGNER: |
|----|--|
| 2 | No. They were eligible |
| 3 | to when we made the commitment, |
| 4 | everybody agreed to certain rules and |
| 5 | regulations. When the investment was |
| 6 | made, it was we missed that it was |
| 7 | supposed to be 20 percent at risk by |
| 8 | private investments, because the full |
| 9 | amount went into |
| 10 | MR. REINE: |
| 11 | The rules were that they had |
| 12 | to have 20 percent private investments. |
| 13 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 14 | Correct. |
| 15 | MR. REINE: |
| 16 | And they didn't. |
| 17 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 18 | Right. |
| 19 | MS. GUESS: |
| 20 | Let me |
| 21 | MR. REINE: |
| 22 | |
| | I'm just trying to work my |
| 23 | I'm just trying to work my way through this. |
| | |



| 1 | but it was a timing issue. It was at |
|----|---|
| 2 | the time that our money went into owe |
| 3 | that Themelios used our investment into |
| 4 | his investment. Ours was the only one |
| 5 | that if our money was in there today, |
| 6 | and the other money comes tomorrow, and |
| 7 | it was a timing issue, and when the |
| 8 | treasury saw that off timing was |
| 9 | certainly our money was in first rather |
| 10 | than vice versa, so it was in there. |
| 11 | There was no term because at the time |
| 12 | that the investment was made, our money |
| 13 | was 100 percent sure into that |
| 14 | investment, not 80 percent. |
| 15 | MS. THAM: |
| 16 | So can I ask you if it's |
| 17 | still is there private investment in |
| 18 | there now? |
| 19 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 20 | They've done that other |
| 21 | \$400,000 from the fund. The private |
| 22 | investment can come from the funds as |
| 23 | long as it's non-SSBCI funds, and so |
| 24 | they've made an additional \$400,000 |
| 25 | investment with no SSBCT funds. |



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| 1 | MR. REINE: |
|----|--|
| 2 | So if they couldn't make the |
| 3 | commitment under the federal rules |
| 4 | without them having 20 percent |
| 5 | commitment, now they got 20 percent |
| 6 | commitment. You still can't use the |
| 7 | funds to give it to them. |
| 8 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 9 | No. Because the original |
| 10 | investment was deemed ineligible. What |
| 11 | happened was our money went in first, |
| 12 | and then later, their money went in. |
| 13 | MR. REINE: |
| 14 | Actually, the Fed's money |
| 15 | went in through us. |
| 16 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 17 | Credit. |
| 18 | MR. RAINE: |
| 19 | Which they weren't eligible |
| 20 | to get. |
| 21 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 22 | They were eligible. |
| 23 | MS. GUESS: |
| 24 | They were eligible. |
| 25 | MR. REINE: |



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| 1 | No, because they didn't have |
|----|---|
| 2 | 20 percent private, they weren't |
| 3 | eligible. |
| 4 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 5 | The transaction was |
| 6 | ineligible. |
| 7 | MS. THAM: |
| 8 | But the original investment |
| 9 | we put in at that time, that was an |
| 10 | eligible investment. They made an |
| 11 | investment without 20 percent. |
| 12 | MR. REINE: |
| 13 | So they didn't follow the |
| 14 | rules. |
| 15 | MS. GUESS: |
| 16 | They this happened early |
| 17 | on with SSBCI as they were working |
| 18 | through procedures, processes, rules, |
| 19 | and regulations and passing information |
| 20 | down to the states. Our application |
| 21 | stated to the Feds, and we knew that we |
| 22 | had to be at 80 percent in any |
| 23 | investment. We've done that. Or |
| 24 | couldn't we any more than 80 percent. |
| 25 | The back and forth with treasury was, |



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| 1 | like I said, a timing issue. When the |
|----|--|
| 2 | dollars were done, we were at 100 |
| 3 | percent, but we were talking about being |
| 4 | 80 percent. It was told to us and it |
| 5 | was our understanding that we couldn't |
| 6 | be any more than 80 percent of that |
| 7 | entire fund, once all monies had been |
| 8 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 9 | We were looking at it as a |
| 10 | fund level. |
| 11 | MS. GUESS: |
| 12 | As a fund level. |
| 13 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 14 | And the US Treasury looks at |
| 15 | it as an investment level. So we knew |
| 16 | we would be able at 80 percent at that |
| 17 | fund level when you put all the funds in |
| 18 | together and you have the group funds, |
| 19 | we knew we were at less than 80 percent |
| 20 | in that fund. The treasurer came in and |
| 21 | they said no, any funds going into this |
| 22 | separate investment has to be 80 |
| 23 | percent. And so that was where the |
| 24 | miscommunication was. |
| 25 | MS. GUESS: |



| 1 | That was miscommunication on |
|----|--|
| 2 | their part down to us for which is |
| 3 | why it happened that way. |
| 4 | MS. VILLA: |
| 5 | And, again, just to kind of |
| 6 | reiterate, this investment was done in |
| 7 | the very early stage of SSBCI. I |
| 8 | believe the program started in the fall |
| 9 | of 2011. This investment was made in |
| 10 | early 2012, February timeframe, early |
| 11 | 2012, so they were |
| 12 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 13 | Actually, it was November |
| 14 | 10th. |
| 15 | MS. VILLA: |
| 16 | Just from working with them |
| 17 | Mr. Rain in the very beginning there was |
| 18 | lots of communications going back and |
| 19 | forth between the Feds and the states |
| 20 | the treasurer's department and all the |
| 21 | states participating as to |
| 22 | question/answers and facts and so this |
| 23 | was just a misinterpretation, and we |
| 24 | actually had received a clean audit from |
| 25 | the inspector general's office, and then |



| 1 | this treasury came in late 2014 and |
|----|--|
| 2 | audited all of the files because of the |
| 3 | fact that we were going for our third |
| 4 | tranche, and that's when we became and |
| 5 | aware and we basically we argued back |
| 6 | and forth with them on the |
| 7 | interpretation of the language that was |
| 8 | presented and to no avail. We were not |
| 9 | successful in our argument, and so we |
| 10 | wanted to keep the commitment that we |
| 11 | committed over two and a half years ago |
| 12 | to this fund at a million dollars and |
| 13 | keep our commitment whole, and since he |
| 14 | had an unused balance from another fund |
| 15 | that was exiting unused, then we sought |
| 16 | that that would be an opportunity for us |
| 17 | to reallocate from that fund into this |
| 18 | one and keep, you know, keep the fund |
| 19 | whole. |
| 20 | MR. REINE: |
| 21 | Okay. I'm just trying to |

25 MS. BIGNER:

Because --



right?

22

23

24

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understand. When the Fed says you can't

use that money, which is what they had,

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| 1 | They said the transaction |
|----|---|
| 2 | itself was ineligible. The transaction. |
| 3 | MR. REINE: |
| 4 | So since |
| 5 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 6 | Not that we couldn't use the |
| 7 | money, but the transaction. |
| 8 | MR. REINE: |
| 9 | The transaction that federal |
| 10 | money went from us to them was |
| 11 | disallowed? |
| 12 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 13 | Right. |
| 14 | MR. REINE: |
| 15 | So where did that money come |
| 16 | from at that point that it couldn't be |
| 17 | federal money? |
| 18 | MS. VILLA: |
| 19 | It was just |
| 20 | MR. CANGELOSI: |
| 21 | It had already been given to |
| 22 | us. |
| 23 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 24 | That's what's making us |
| 25 | whole right now. |
| | |



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| 1 | MR. REINE: |
|----|---|
| 2 | We'll get into the whole, |
| 3 | but I got to figure out the pieces |
| 4 | before I put the puzzle together. |
| 5 | MR. BAHAM: |
| 6 | What happened when they |
| 7 | determine the transaction, the money |
| 8 | that was invested in the company, we |
| 9 | were working on receiving our last |
| 10 | tranche from them, the 3 million |
| 11 | something odd dollars. They took it off |
| 12 | the back end. |
| 13 | MS. GUESS. |
| 14 | They withheld it. |
| 15 | MR. BAHAM: |
| 16 | They withheld it, so |
| 17 | MR. REINE: |
| 18 | That's the money |
| 19 | MR. BAHAM: |
| 20 | paying it back, they just |
| 21 | took it, and they decreased the |
| 22 | allotment that we got for the third |
| 23 | tranche. |
| 24 | MR. REINE: |
| 25 | Okay. If I got Alden's |



| 1 | money to pay A.J., and all the sudden, I |
|----|--|
| 2 | couldn't use all the money, so A.J. got |
| 3 | paid, whose money is it? |
| 4 | MS. VILLA: |
| 5 | No, there was no there |
| 6 | wasn't a call for that, you know, a call |
| 7 | for that investment. That's why we're |
| 8 | here today, because we have a workaround |
| 9 | with them shortening the last tranche, |
| 10 | and so we have to get the board to |
| 11 | approve that reallocation, so there's |
| 12 | been no money given as a call, a capital |
| 13 | call. There's been no money given out |
| 14 | to them. |
| 15 | MR. REINE: |
| 16 | Okay. So they didn't get |
| 17 | the money. |
| 18 | MS. VILLA: |
| 19 | No, not yet. |
| 20 | MR. REINE: |
| 21 | So tell me about K94 and |
| 22 | they got money that they're not going to |
| 23 | be using. Who's K94? |
| 24 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 25 | K94 is an investment that |



| 1 | the fund Themelios made. It's a |
|----|--|
| 2 | pharmaceutical company. |
| 3 | MR. REINE: |
| 4 | Same people? |
| 5 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 6 | Ross Barrett manages |
| 7 | Louisiana Venture and Themelios. |
| 8 | MR. REINE: |
| 9 | So he's just going to not |
| 10 | take it in one company so that frees it |
| 11 | up so he can give it to another company? |
| 12 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 13 | One fund. That's like |
| 14 | saying I've got two projects, and one |
| 15 | project I'm almost finished with, and I |
| 16 | know I've got \$250,000 that I'm not |
| 17 | going to use, so, therefore, I'm going |
| 18 | to release those founds because I've |
| 19 | gone over on another project, and I need |
| 20 | those funds for that project. So what |
| 21 | we're asking is to move it from the |
| 22 | first project over to the second project |
| 23 | so we that can |
| 24 | MR. REINE: |
| 25 | That's about the only part I |



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| 1 | understand. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. BIGNER: |
| 3 | I'm sorry. |
| 4 | MR. REINE: |
| 5 | It's not your fault. It's |
| 6 | mine. But my bank doesn't allow me to |
| 7 | do business like that, so |
| 8 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 9 | Mr. Chairman, in the |
| LO | interest of trusting our dear staff, and |
| 11 | we've had audits and audits |
| 12 | and they're all clean, we're going to |
| 13 | fix this problem. |
| 14 | MR. ROY: |
| 15 | Okay. Motion to |
| 16 | MS. THAM: |
| 17 | Second. |
| 18 | MR. ROY: |
| 19 | make the correction. And |
| 20 | I assume we're obligated upped to the |
| 21 | million dollars to start with. |
| 22 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 23 | We have we did make a |
| 24 | commitment to the fund of a million |
| 25 | dollars. |



| 1 | MR. ROY: |
|----|--|
| 2 | So we're just making good on |
| 3 | our |
| 4 | MS. BIGNER: |
| 5 | We're just making it whole. |
| 6 | Right. |
| 7 | MR. ROY: |
| 8 | Okay. Motion and a second. |
| 9 | Any discussion? All in favor, "aye." |
| 10 | (Several members respond |
| 11 | "aye.") |
| 12 | MR. ROY: |
| 13 | All opposed, "nay." |
| 14 | (No response.) |
| 15 | MR. ROY: |
| 16 | Without objection. Thank |
| 17 | you. Good discussion. It is difficult |
| 18 | to understand this. All right. Moving |
| 19 | along, the treasurer's report. |
| 20 | MS. VILLA: |
| 21 | Thank you Ann Villa, |
| 22 | secretary for Louisiana Economic |
| 23 | Development. The secretary treasurer's |
| 24 | report as of March 11, 2016, the first |
| 25 | page. I'll just go through the budget |



and total, and then I'll get into the 1 2 detail, but our budget for FY16 is 60 million 181. 3 4 MR. ROY: By chance, do you know the 5 page number on electronic? 6 7 MS. VILLA: 8 Page 113. 9 MR. ROY: 10 That helps. Okay. Great. 11 MS. VILLA: 12 Okay. I'll give you-all a 13 minute to get to it. Okay. So our FY16 budget is a total of 16 million, 181,766 14 15 dollars. We have approved and projected 16 expenditures of 2 million 895,663, and then we have an EDAP that's pending 17 18 board approval. It says of 800,000, but 19 we're not bringing anything forward to 20 the board. I think that's just a total 21 as we get to those details. That's 22 going to be the total of those. And 23 then so we have projects under review of 7 million 570, which gives us a 24 25 projected ending balance of 4 million



| 1 | 966,103. The next page is our financial |
|----|--|
| 2 | assistance page. The financial |
| 3 | assistance program is expected to have a |
| 4 | balance year end of \$190,000. Our State |
| 5 | Small Business Credit Initiative program |
| 6 | has a budget of 2,557,174 dollars, and |
| 7 | we have the two projects, Trinity Rental |
| 8 | Services, 46,875 and the Uplift Home |
| 9 | Bank Project of 4,688, which gives us a |
| 10 | balance of 2,505,611, so we're still |
| 11 | working on our marketing program for our |
| 12 | State Small Business Credit Initiative. |
| 13 | This is a program that ends March of |
| 14 | 2017, so we have a about a year left of |
| 15 | this federal program. I can report that |
| 16 | the President has included in his budget |
| 17 | to Congress another round of funding for |
| 18 | State Small Business Credit Initiatives, |
| 19 | which we are hopeful that will get |
| 20 | passed and that will allow us to have |
| 21 | continual funding of this program which |
| 22 | has brought, you know, a lot of |
| 23 | investments into small businesses across |
| 24 | the state. Let's see if I'm missing |
| 25 | anything. |



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| 1 | MR. REINE: |
|----|--|
| 2 | The Uplift, didn't we just |
| 3 | talk about we weren't going to do that? |
| 4 | MS. VILLA: |
| 5 | Well, that's the one that |
| 6 | it's an approved project, but it's just |
| 7 | listed on this secretary treasurer's |
| 8 | report as an approved project, so based |
| 9 | upon what happens with that, that |
| 10 | approval, whether or not they go forth |
| 11 | with the loan or not, it will reflected |
| 12 | on the next secretary treasurer's report |
| 13 | as available funding. |
| 14 | MR. REINE: |
| 15 | Okay. |
| 16 | MR. ROY: |
| 17 | And as my understanding |
| 18 | overall of the programs of the federal |
| 19 | money that we receive was that if that |
| 20 | money was returned to us, we could |
| 21 | recycle it. |
| 22 | MS. VILLA: |
| 23 | Correct. |
| 24 | MR. ROY: |
| 25 | To what extent is that |
| | |



| 1 | happening? |
|----|--|
| 2 | MS. VILLA: |
| 3 | We just worked on four |
| 4 | Christian's probably a better person |
| 5 | because he probably can he can rattle |
| 6 | it off the top of his head, but I know |
| 7 | that we just worked on recycled funds |
| 8 | and how much it coming into the state. |
| 9 | The program does end in March of 2014. |
| 10 | What rules we received from treasury is |
| 11 | if, for whatever reason, we have not |
| 12 | loaned out to our capacity that we were |
| 13 | given, then whatever's remaining will |
| 14 | not lose its identity, will continue to |
| 15 | have this treasury ties to it, but our |
| 16 | idea is that we will continue to recycle |
| 17 | the money that we have for small |
| 18 | business initiative, you know, small |
| 19 | business initiatives that we have |
| 20 | throughout the state. |
| 21 | MR. PENNINGTON: |
| 22 | As of today, we have about a |
| 23 | million one dollars that have been |
| 24 | recycled back in the fund from previous |
| 25 | loans that we guaranteed, and the terms |



| 1 | of those loans have ended, so these were |
|----|--|
| 2 | mostly done in early 2012, 2013, and |
| 3 | those are mostly three-year loan |
| 4 | guarantees, and they have since matured. |
| 5 | I did an estimate for what it will be |
| 6 | when the program ends, and that's |
| 7 | assuming none of the loans pay off |
| 8 | early. I want to say it was about a |
| 9 | million 7 yeah, a million 7 recycled, |
| 10 | and then about another year, so that's |
| 11 | where we stand as of today. |
| 12 | MR. REINE: |
| 13 | And total we have here, the |
| 14 | balance, does that include the million |
| 15 | dollars that's |
| 16 | MR. PENNINGTON: |
| 17 | No, sir. |
| 18 | MS. VILLA: |
| 19 | I mean, it's probably |
| 20 | sitting on the balance sheet. Errol can |
| 21 | probably talk to the accounting of it |
| 22 | better than I can, but it's sitting on |
| 23 | the balance sheet. The balance that you |
| 24 | see here is what we have left basically |
| 25 | to use of this final tranche for loan |



| 1 | guarantees. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. REINE: |
| 3 | What happens to the money |
| 4 | that gets paid back? |
| 5 | MS. VILLA: |
| 6 | The money that's been paid |
| 7 | back is basically sitting on the I |
| 8 | mean, right now it's sitting in |
| 9 | restricted I would assume it's |
| 10 | sitting in the restricted assets since |
| 11 | it still has the identity of the Feds on |
| 12 | it. I'll let Errol talk to that. |
| 13 | MR. SMITH: |
| 14 | The recycled funds from |
| 15 | SSBCI program, those are funds from |
| 16 | we're required to report total |
| 17 | guarantees and total, I guess, |
| 18 | [inaudible] but those monies are going |
| 19 | back into the fund, and they're just |
| 20 | sitting there in that fund balance, so |
| 21 | in that fund balance SSBCI includes that |
| 22 | 1.1 million dollars. |
| 23 | MR. PENNINGTON: |
| 24 | Today. Yeah. |
| 25 | MR. SMITH: |



| 1 | Right. That is sitting |
|-----------|---|
| 2 | there that, you know |
| 3 | MR. REINE: |
| 4 | So the 2,695,000 includes |
| 5 | the 1.1 recycled money. |
| 6 | MS. VILLA: |
| 7 | The 2 million 505 number. |
| 8 | MR. THAM: |
| 9 | That was the restricted |
| 10 | number on the balance sheet that was, I |
| 11 | assume, the total amount that the Feds |
| 12 | have put in. |
| 13 | MR. REINE: |
| 14 | Okay. The million dollars |
| 15 | is in there? |
| 16 | MS. VILLA: |
| L7 | Not in the 2.5 number that's |
| 18 | on the secretary treasurer's report. |
| 19 | MR. REINE: |
| 20 | Okay. Where is it and what |
| 21 | are we going to do it with? It's coming |
| 22 | back in here? |
| 23 | MR. SMITH: |
| 24 | I don't know what's on |
| 25 | the |



| 1 | MS. VILLA: |
|----|--|
| 2 | The secretary treasurer's |
| 3 | report shows a projected year-end |
| 4 | balance of 2 million 505, and what I'm |
| 5 | stating is that our budget for FY 15-16 |
| 6 | is 2,557,174. That does not include any |
| 7 | prior year estimate. |
| 8 | MR. SMITH: |
| 9 | Or property return. |
| 10 | MS. VILLA: |
| 11 | Or property return that |
| 12 | we or recycled funds that we have in |
| 13 | the account. This just includes the |
| 14 | amount of money that we have left to use |
| 15 | as loan guarantee programs for the |
| 16 | balance of the program. |
| 17 | MR. ROY: |
| 18 | So will it, in fact, we |
| 19 | returned to the LEDC balance sheet, |
| 20 | assuming we used it expeditiously? |
| 21 | MS. VILLA: |
| 22 | Correct. And as the |
| 23 | treasury funds, as the program, as this |
| 24 | program ends in March of '17, then, you |
| 25 | know, an evaluations will be determined |



| 1 | because we may suggest to the board that |
|----|--|
| 2 | we use the funds for other small |
| 3 | business initiatives that we have. |
| 4 | Maybe it's a different type of loan |
| 5 | program, because right now, we're |
| 6 | restricted to only a loan guarantee |
| 7 | program, so, you know, within the next |
| 8 | year, we're going to be talking about |
| 9 | recycled funds to the board, talking |
| 10 | about initiatives or strategies for us |
| 11 | to use to put those monies, continue to |
| 12 | put those monies back into small |
| 13 | businesses throughout the state. |
| 14 | MR. REINE: |
| 15 | So somewhere there's a |
| 16 | million dollars. |
| 17 | MS. VILLA: |
| 18 | On the balance sheet. |
| 19 | MR. REINE: |
| 20 | On the balance sheet. It |
| 21 | doesn't show up anywhere here? |
| 22 | MS. VILLA: |
| 23 | Correct. Not on this page |
| 24 | that we're talking about now. Correct. |
| 25 | MR. REINE: |



| 1 | Okay. |
|-----------|--|
| 2 | MR. ROY: |
| 3 | But it is there and will be |
| 4 | on the LEDC balance sheet somewhere. |
| 5 | MS. VILLA: |
| 6 | Right. It's included in the |
| 7 | restricted amount, so if you look at |
| 8 | the |
| 9 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 10 | The appropriation of SSBCI |
| 11 | is in later on? |
| 12 | MS. VILLA: |
| 13 | No. It's in the full report |
| 14 | that you have for the audit that was |
| 15 | prepared by the legislative auditors. |
| 16 | It's in that restricted amount that we |
| L7 | discussed earlier the 10 million 505, if |
| 18 | I'm not mistaken. |
| 19 | *MR. REINE: |
| 20 | So it doesn't show up |
| 21 | anywhere on the treasurer's report? |
| 22 | MS. VILLA: |
| 23 | Right. This is the kind of |
| 24 | a period of time. It doesn't reflect |
| 25 | this doesn't reflect, like, a true |



| 1 | balance sheet, what we show you every |
|----|---|
| 2 | month. This is reflective of the |
| 3 | current budget and the current projects |
| 4 | that the current year's budget and |
| 5 | current year's project that we're |
| 6 | working on, nothing cumulative is in |
| 7 | here. I guess that's probably the |
| 8 | better way to express that. |
| 9 | MR. ROY: |
| 10 | Okay. Any other questions |
| 11 | or comments anything else? |
| 12 | MS. VILLA: |
| 13 | I was just going to |
| 14 | continue. We were talking about that |
| 15 | second page now with the capital outlay |
| 16 | detail, which talks about our capital |
| 17 | outlay appropriation. That's the third |
| 18 | page probably on your handout. Next |
| 19 | page in your electronic files. So the |
| 20 | FY15-16 budget that we have for capital |
| 21 | outlay is a total of 13,434,592, which |
| 22 | is broken out into those two categories |
| 23 | of capital outlay appropriation and the |
| 24 | appropriation for the EDRED funds. We |



25

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have a total number of projects that

| 1 | are we have projected I'm sorry |
|----|--|
| 2 | approved projected expenditures of |
| 3 | 1,660,000, which includes Martin Breyer, |
| 4 | which was previously approved earlier in |
| 5 | this fiscal year, and then Crest |
| 6 | Industries, which was approved in the |
| 7 | fall of 460,000, and then we have TCI |
| 8 | Plastics, which is a project that we |
| 9 | have in house that we'll probably |
| 10 | hopefully be bringing forth to the board |
| 11 | perhaps next month, so that total of |
| 12 | 800,000, so we have a projected balance |
| 13 | of 9,638,937 dollars and we have total |
| 14 | of 7,570,000 projects that are currently |
| 15 | under review with a projected year-end |
| 16 | of balance of 2,680,937. And then if |
| 17 | you go down to the EDRED program, we've |
| 18 | got a 1,335,655 as our budget for FY16, |
| 19 | and we have a 1,134,100 of approved |
| 20 | expenditures, and then we have a balance |
| 21 | expect of 201,555. |
| 22 | MR. REINE: |
| 23 | The balance at the end of |
| 24 | the year, does it carry over, or does it |
| 25 | have to be re-appropriated? |



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| 1 | MS. VILLA: |
|----|--|
| 2 | It would be carried over as |
| 3 | capital outlay, so it's carried over: |
| 4 | There's notes down there that balance |
| 5 | includes FY15 appropriation of 10 |
| 6 | million, and then we've got a 10 million |
| 7 | prior to 5 funding that we would get in |
| 8 | FY17 for new projects. And then the |
| 9 | last page takes you through our LED |
| 10 | projections for '16, total fund balance |
| 11 | of 16,758,037, of which I indicated |
| 12 | earlier, cash from investments. That's |
| 13 | a \$3.2 million number that we have in |
| 14 | there. And then all of our expenditures |
| 15 | down the line there of 16, million 774 |
| 16 | with a projected balance of 13,308. So |
| 17 | we're basically covering our expenses |
| 18 | with the LED finding as well as any cash |
| 19 | from investments. Questions? I know |
| 20 | that's a lot of |
| 21 | MR. ROY: |
| 22 | Questions or comments? |
| 23 | MR. REINE: |
| 24 | Is there any more than a |
| 25 | million dollars laying out there |



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| 1 | somewhere we don't give a report on? |
|-----------|--|
| 2 | MS. VILLA: |
| 3 | It's in your accountant's |
| 4 | report, so Errol usually does that every |
| 5 | time we meet. He does an accountant's |
| 6 | report. That's kind of got the current |
| 7 | financial statements. It's different |
| 8 | from the secretary treasurer's report. |
| 9 | MS. THAM: |
| 10 | I hate to keep going back to |
| 11 | that, but will we get a choice? I mean, |
| 12 | will LED have a choice what to do with |
| 13 | those recycled funds? I mean, it's |
| 14 | restricted, I assume usually restricted |
| 15 | by who gave the money. What does it say |
| 16 | about what we do with the money when we |
| L7 | get it back from a loan? |
| 18 | MS. VILLA: |
| 19 | Well, as long as the program |
| 20 | is still active, we have to continue to |
| 21 | use it in its capacity that it was given |
| 22 | to us in. |
| 23 | MS. THAM: |
| 24 | So what if it's saying it's |
| 25 | no longer active? |



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| 1 | MS. | VILLA |
|---|-----|-------|
| | | |

So as of March of 17, it's basically returned to the state LEDC, and our intention is to continue with the program, and so, you know, we like to have that program and continue to have an offering for small businesses.

MS. THAM:

So at that point, does that money become unrestricted.

MS. VILLA:

It becomes -- all the money that's been used and as it becomes rightly cycled in is unrestricted after March of 2017, and that's what I was kind of indicating is we'll have to present to the board the plans for those monies and give recommendations as to how we think that it would fit best within the small business community of the state. We're having internal discussions now with where boards are and what specially could work best, so we're having internal discussions now and evaluating those.



| 1 | MR. ROY: |
|----|---|
| 2 | Good discussion. Any other |
| 3 | questions or comments? Hearing none, |
| 4 | any comments from the public on this or |
| 5 | anything else? Entertain a motion for |
| 6 | approval of the treasurer's report. |
| 7 | MR. KAMATH: |
| 8 | Move. |
| 9 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 10 | Second. |
| 11 | MR. ROY: |
| 12 | Any discussion? All in |
| 13 | favor, "aye." |
| 14 | (Several members respond |
| 15 | "aye.") |
| 16 | All opposed, "nay." |
| 17 | (No response.) |
| 18 | MR. ROY: Without objection. |
| 19 | Very good. Mr. Kamath has to leave. |
| 20 | Thank you for coming. |
| 21 | MR. KAMATH: |
| 22 | Thanks. |
| 23 | MR. ROY: |
| 24 | All right. President's |
| 25 | report. |



| 1 | MS. MITCHELL: |
|----|--|
| 2 | I'll be brief because I |
| 3 | believe some folks some have some other |
| 4 | commitments this afternoon. |
| 5 | Good afternoon, everyone. |
| 6 | Mandi Mitchell, assistant secretary, and |
| 7 | I look forward to continuing to work |
| 8 | with the LEDC board as Secretary |
| 9 | Person's designee. Really briefly, I |
| 10 | want to share with you that LED did |
| 11 | suffer some budget reductions as a |
| 12 | result of the very huge fiscal situation |
| 13 | that we find ourselves in, so we did |
| 14 | expect to have to share in the pain. |
| 15 | Unfortunately, none of the programs |
| 16 | covered by LEDC were cut or reduced, and |
| 17 | so I just wanted to report that to you |
| 18 | and just to recap on vendor's comp, as |
| 19 | Ms. Tham brought that issue up. |
| 20 | Thankfully, two years ago, we requested |
| 21 | that the legislature decouple the LED |
| 22 | fund from the venture compensation fund |
| 23 | so that we now longer have to stress |
| 24 | about any changes going forward. We get |
| 25 | a straight four-tenths of a percent from |



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LEDC BOARD MEETING

| sales tax collections that come in to |
|--|
| the LED fund and fund of a variety of |
| programs, including quite a few, well |
| several of the programs covered here at |
| LEDC and some very important programs of |
| ours that's small business related as |
| well as some of our fast start programs. |
| So thankfully, those were not harmed. |
| d 101 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 |

specifically to LED, this most recent special session, the governor asked us to take a look at our programs and make some targeted improvement, so we were able to make some substantive changes to the enterprise zone program to find some efficiencies and to bring that program up closer to its original public policy purpose, which is to stimulate investment and hiring of economically disadvantaged areas and individuals.

As far as our ranking highlights, we are still doing very well competitively across the country when we look at our neighboring state which will we're competing as well as other states



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| 1 | across the country, and, in fact, we |
|----|--|
| 2 | were ranked number 6 in Site Selection |
| 3 | Governor's Cup, which is an organization |
| 4 | that looks at the per capita rankings |
| 5 | among national leaders for economic |
| 6 | development projects, and we were ranged |
| 7 | number 6 in 2015. We also received a |
| 8 | number for rankings from Site Selection |
| 9 | Magazine for its 2015 top state business |
| 10 | climate rankings, and it is our 6th |
| 11 | consecutive year being ranked in the top |
| 12 | 10 for this award, so we received that |
| 13 | award in November of 2015, and we've had |
| 14 | some really good project announcements |
| 15 | in the latter half of '15 as well as the |
| 16 | first part of 2016 really covering a |
| 17 | good, good cross section of the state |
| 18 | Express Jet Aircraft Maintenance |
| 19 | facility expansion project is going to |
| 20 | be in Shreveport, and that's going to |
| 21 | bring almost 70, a combination of 70 new |
| 22 | and indirect jobs to the area. Blue |
| 23 | Line Associates is a software |
| 24 | development company. They made a |
| 25 | project announcement for the Baton Rouge |



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| 1 | area combined about close to 70 jobs |
|----|---|
| 2 | there as well, direct and indirect. |
| 3 | Lake Charles areas, southwest Louisiana |
| 4 | continues to kind of lead the charge. |
| 5 | Axio Corporation and Lock Corporation |
| 6 | are doing a joint venture where they're |
| 7 | going to create two new chemical |
| 8 | manufacturing projects, and that one's |
| 9 | huge. It's 215 new direct jobs and over |
| 10 | 18 hundred indict jobs for that area. |
| 11 | Shell Chemical has announced in |
| 12 | Ascension Parish. We've got a |
| 13 | technology services company called |
| 14 | Smashing Boxes. They're in the New |
| 15 | Orleans area, and they're going to be |
| 16 | bringing 85 new indirect jobs to that |
| 17 | area. Saint John the Baptist Parish has |
| 18 | an announcement in November '15 with a |
| 19 | corporate headquarters that's going to |
| 20 | be located in Louisiana, a company |
| 21 | called Denka Performance Elastomer. And |
| 22 | then we have methanol plant |
| 23 | announcements in Saint James Parish, |
| 24 | petroleum liquid storage terminal again |
| 25 | in Saint John parish. And then a video |



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| 1 | game company called InXile Entertainment |
|----|--|
| 2 | made an announcement in October in New |
| 3 | Orleans that they're going to be |
| 4 | bringing 50 new direct jobs to the area, |
| 5 | and we estimate about 50 or so indirect |
| 6 | jobs, and so we continue to compete, and |
| 7 | thankfully we still have the tools in |
| 8 | our tool kit, our various programs, our |
| 9 | small business programs, and our |
| 10 | incentive programs are still available |
| 11 | to us to help us attract those |
| 12 | companies. We are at a point with the |
| 13 | legislature in which our programs will |
| 14 | begin to come under review, and we |
| 15 | welcome that. So the Revenues and |
| 16 | Fiscal Affairs Committee has its review |
| 17 | of all exemptions. Part of it includes |
| 18 | our incentive programs as well as there |
| 19 | was a task force on structural budget |
| 20 | and tax policy change that has already |
| 21 | began to work. They're going to be |
| 22 | looking holistically at a structural tax |
| 23 | perform, and part of that is, again, to |
| 24 | take a look at tax credit rebates, |
| 25 | exemptions, deductions, and exclusions |



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| 1 | and part of which does, in fact, include |
|----|--|
| 2 | our program, so we're gearing up to |
| 3 | prepare to show how our programs are, in |
| 4 | fact, performing. That's kind of the |
| 5 | biggest thing on our plate right now |
| 6 | from a legislative perspective, and we |
| 7 | continue to monitor the budget because |
| 8 | unfortunately the legislature did not |
| 9 | completely close the budget gap during |
| 10 | the special session for either fiscal |
| 11 | year '16 or '17, and so we have to be |
| 12 | vigilant about our department's budget. |
| 13 | We're one of the smaller departments |
| 14 | with only 110 positions and operating |
| 15 | budgets somewhere around 40 million, not |
| 16 | counting federal funds and not counting |
| 17 | other past ruse and other project |
| 18 | commitments, so we're a small agency, so |
| 19 | we have to be vigilant going forward |
| 20 | about any reductions to our budget that |
| 21 | may hinder our ability to continue to |
| 22 | carry forth our mission, and so we |
| 23 | appreciate the support of the LEDC |
| 24 | board. Again, we look forward to |
| 25 | continuing to work with all of you, and |



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I'm happy to answer any questions you may have, but very glad that we're able to continue working with you.

MR. REINE:

I got a question that probably -- I'm not sure. Maybe this is the staff. In the incentive programs when we talk about job commitments and y'all told me we get claw backs, if they don't reach those commitments of job creations who audits that?

MS. MITCHELL:

We have a team that actually the program's administrators annually review the performance of the companies that participate in each of their programs, and I just want to point out on our incentive programs, the statutory incentives, they're back in, so the company gets those after they've shown us they have created the job or the capital investment they were supposed to or did the research and development expenditures they were supposed to. It's the discretionary programs that are



| 1 | sometimes does sometimes include |
|----|--|
| 2 | funds upfront to the companies, and, |
| 3 | again, we review those annually. We |
| 4 | check those companies, and if they are |
| 5 | not meeting their commitments and we've |
| 6 | already provided funds, we do invoke |
| 7 | claw backs, and I think we have only one |
| 8 | active right, now which is is it |
| 9 | Nucor Inc.? |
| 10 | MS. VILLA: |
| 11 | I wouldn't even consider it |
| 12 | really claw back, because it was the way |
| 13 | the CEA was written, and we paid the |
| 14 | bond for them, yeah, and their |
| 15 | reimbursement of the payment of the |
| 16 | bonds, because [inaudible] expansion |
| 17 | that they didn't continue with as of a |
| 18 | certain date as of that date. |
| 19 | MR. REINE: |
| 20 | So somebody commits to 100 |
| 21 | jobs, and y'all find out that they were |
| 22 | 75 jobs. They 75 percent of the |
| 23 | incentive, or |
| 24 | MS. ANN: |
| 25 | It depends. Every CEA is |



| 1 | written differently, and the same thing |
|----|---|
| 2 | for EDAPs as we do have with our |
| 3 | discretionary we have with our EDAP, |
| 4 | which is to say is that if whatever |
| 5 | their requirements are of their |
| 6 | contract, whenever we do do the review, |
| 7 | whether it's semiannually or annually, |
| 8 | we review it, and they're not if they |
| 9 | have not met the stipulations of it, |
| 10 | then we will seek reimbursement or |
| 11 | perhaps they get an annual draw. Their |
| 12 | annual draw would be reduced by the set |
| 13 | amount because they didn't meet the |
| 14 | qualifications of the contract. |
| 15 | MR. REINE: |
| 16 | Is it pretty much a |
| 17 | percentage of the jobs created, or |
| 18 | MS. VILLA: |
| 19 | Usually jobs or payroll, |
| 20 | however the contract's written, or |
| 21 | MR. REINE: |
| 22 | And somewhere in all of |
| 23 | this, if there's 100 jobs created in an |
| 24 | incentive program, do we ever look at |
| 25 | how many of those jobs were offered to |



| 1 | or people who are residents of Louisiana |
|----|--|
| 2 | got those jobs? |
| 3 | MS. VILLA: |
| 4 | The requirements are they |
| 5 | have to be in Louisiana. That's only |
| 6 | jobs. They're all Louisiana jobs. |
| 7 | MS. MITCHELL: |
| 8 | They don't get credit for |
| 9 | MR. REINE: |
| 10 | I'm not talking about jobs |
| 11 | in Louisiana. I'm talking if the |
| 12 | company comes in and they build a |
| 13 | facility and a hundred people are going |
| 14 | to be to work, do we know the those |
| 15 | hundred people moved here from somewhere |
| 16 | else, or did some of our local people |
| 17 | get those jobs? |
| 18 | MS. MITCHELL: |
| 19 | In some cases, it's a |
| 20 | combination of often times when |
| 21 | companies do locate, they do especially |
| 22 | for their executive level focus, they |
| 23 | tend to relocate people, but it tends to |
| 24 | be a combination of |
| 25 | MR. REINE: |



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| | LEDG BOARD MEETING | age |
|----|--|-----|
| 1 | Who we attract. | |
| 2 | MS. MITCHELL: | |
| 3 | We don't track that, but, | |
| 4 | you know, the jobs, they have to be | |
| 5 | Louisiana citizens, so I'm guessing the | |
| 6 | individuals that would relocate from | |
| 7 | other states eventually become citizens. | |
| 8 | I do also want to point out we have in | |
| 9 | each of our CEAs a local preference | |
| 10 | where we do encourage companies to hire | |
| 11 | locally and to seek local vendors and | |
| 12 | contractors and in addition to that, | |
| 13 | upon the encouragement of Representative | |
| 14 | Smith, Representative Borel, and Senator | |
| 15 | Sharon Broom, we've now implemented a | |
| 16 | new sort of added layer of communication | |
| 17 | to companies that we do projects with | |
| 18 | that we send them a follow-up and share | |
| 19 | with them what the State does with | |



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regard to local -- hiring local small

and we encourage them to do the same

and. We also have an added component

for where it's applicable or appropriate

for a company to employ strategies for

businesses and vendors and contractors,

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women in the STEM fields, and so we're starting to sort of ramp up those efforts with encouraging companies to use local and use local vendors and contractors.

MR. REINE:

Is there a possibility maybe as they pile on some future projects to track and see, as we're given incentives, are the people who are actually living here getting opportunities out of those? Not that I'm saying initially we should have any penalties or that, but it would be nice to know that if we're going to forgo revenue or spend tax dollars, that the people who live in this state are given an opportunity to participate in those projects and do they get jobs? We may find out that a bunch of them do. may find out that we're getting a whole bunch of new residents, which is not a bad thing, but I just think if we could find a pilot project to look at a procedure in which we could find out if



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| 1 | a company came to a location in |
|----|--|
| 2 | Louisiana, did the residents of that |
| 3 | location end up with some of these jobs? |
| 4 | MS. MITCHELL: |
| 5 | That's something I'll take |
| 6 | to Secretary Pierson, and we'll have a |
| 7 | conversation with the Secretary to see |
| 8 | if it's something we can choose whether |
| 9 | or not maybe a large project to track |
| 10 | that, or maybe not even a large project, |
| 11 | a medium sized project, so we'll |
| 12 | MR. REINE: |
| 13 | Interesting to know. |
| 14 | MS. MITCHELL: |
| 15 | We'll take that TO secretary |
| 16 | Pierson. That concludes my report. |
| 17 | MR. ROY: |
| 18 | Thank you very much, |
| 19 | Ms. Mitchell, for your report. Next |
| 20 | order of business is the election of |
| 21 | officers. If anyone wants to be |
| 22 | chairman, please speak up. |
| 23 | MR. REINE: |
| 24 | I would nominate Mr. A.J. |
| 25 | Roy III. I move the nominations be |



| 1 | closed. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 3 | Second. |
| 4 | MR. REINE: |
| 5 | I move that Mr. A.J. Roy be |
| 6 | elected by acclimation. |
| 7 | MR. ROY: |
| 8 | I keep trying. Thank you. |
| 9 | I appreciate that vote of confidence. |
| 10 | Motion and a second. Any discussion? |
| 11 | Hearing none, all in favor, "aye." |
| 12 | (Several members respond |
| 13 | "aye.") |
| 14 | All opposed, "nay." |
| 15 | (No response.) |
| 16 | MR. ROY: |
| 17 | Thank you very much. I |
| 18 | appreciate your confidence. Next is the |
| 19 | vice chairman chairperson. Who is |
| 20 | the current vice chairperson? |
| 21 | MR. REINE: |
| 22 | I move Alden gets to keep |
| 23 | his job too. |
| 24 | MR. ROY: |
| 25 | I guess motion to appoint |



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| 1 | Mr. Andre as vice chairperson. Second? |
|----|---|
| 2 | MS. THAM: |
| 3 | Second. |
| 4 | MR. ROY: |
| 5 | Any discussion? All in |
| 6 | favor, "aye." |
| 7 | (Several members respond |
| 8 | "aye.") |
| 9 | All opposed, "nay." |
| 10 | (No response.) |
| 11 | MR. ROY: |
| 12 | Congratulations. Now the |
| 13 | appointment of committees. Can you read |
| 14 | the current appointments? |
| 15 | MS. GUESS: |
| 16 | Right now we have the |
| 17 | Executive Committee, which is shared by |
| 18 | the chairmen of the board with Mr. A.J. |
| 19 | Roy. We have Mr. Alden Andre, who is |
| 20 | the chairman of the Screening Committee |
| 21 | by virtue of his office being vice |
| 22 | chairperson. We have Cal Simpson as |
| 23 | chairman of the Policy Committee. |
| 24 | Ms. Susan Tham, the chairperson of the |
| 25 | Financial Committee, and that's it. |



| 1 | MR. REINE: |
|----|--|
| 2 | Quentin is no longer with |
| 3 | us, right? |
| 4 | MR. ROY: |
| 5 | Yeah. Who else is no |
| 6 | longer? Mr. Simple is |
| 7 | MS. GUESS: |
| 8 | Mr. Simpson is still on the |
| 9 | board. We have four vacancies |
| 10 | currently. Our sitting board members |
| 11 | are the five of you guys. There is |
| 12 | Mr. Pierson as well and Mr. Kamath. So |
| 13 | we have Mr. Roy, Alden Andre, Louis |
| 14 | Reine, Susan Tham, Don Pierson, our |
| 15 | designee, Cal Simpson, and Nitin Kamath, |
| 16 | which gives us six individuals. We have |
| 17 | four vacancies. |
| 18 | MR. ROY: |
| 19 | So of those on the list that |
| 20 | you read, who might we need to change |
| 21 | because of vacancies? |
| 22 | MS. GUESS: |
| 23 | The only individual |
| 24 | Quentin Messer is on this list as |
| 25 | chairman of the Governmental Outreach |



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| 1 | Committee, and then he's also on |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | Policies. |
| 3 | MR. ROY: |
| 4 | Appropriate for Mr. Mitchell |
| 5 | to be |
| 6 | MS. GUESS: |
| 7 | Yes. Because Mr. Messer was |
| 8 | the then secretary designee as well. |
| 9 | MR. ROY: |
| 10 | Right. Okay. Is that fine |
| 11 | with you? |
| 12 | MS. MITCHELL: |
| 13 | Yeah, that's fine. |
| 14 | MR. ROY: |
| 15 | Any other changes that we |
| 16 | need to address because of vacancies? |
| 17 | MS. GUESS: |
| 18 | No. |
| 19 | MR. ROY: |
| 20 | I assume everyone is content |
| 21 | with their current assignments? |
| 22 | MR. REINE: |
| 23 | Yes. |
| 24 | MR. ROY: |
| 25 | Okay. Very good. We'll |
| | |



| 1 | keep things as they are with that one |
|----|--|
| 2 | change. Yes, ma'am. |
| 3 | MS. GUESS: |
| 4 | I just want to give you an |
| 5 | update where we are with board |
| 6 | assignments. Governor's Office Board of |
| 7 | Commission. They're working on it. We |
| 8 | are currently working with them to get |
| 9 | placements for the Board of Commerce and |
| 10 | Industry, and *that's, I think, the |
| 11 | hierarchy is getting Commerce and |
| 12 | Industry, because we're talking about a |
| 13 | board of 24 individuals. I don't |
| 14 | think they tell me there's not a lot |
| 15 | of people standing in line for the |
| 16 | non-paid boards. I don't know why. |
| 17 | MR. REINE: |
| 18 | How many vacancies on |
| 19 | Commerce and Industry? |
| 20 | MS. GUESS: |
| 21 | Currently there are |
| 22 | approximately five or six. |
| 23 | MR. ROY: |
| 24 | Did you say there were 24? |
| 25 | Oh, my, gosh. |



MS. GUESS: 1 2 Yes, there are 24, but four of which are legislative representatives 3 4 from various committees. So I'm optimistically hoping that we will have 5 6 a full LEDC board by May, so I would say 7 April, but the names have been with the 8 boards and commissions prior to the change in administration, but the new 9 10 staff in boards and commissions, they're working with us very, very diligently, 11 12 and we're working with them, because 13 they're having to go back in and 14 reconstruct information that was not 15 left behind by the previous staff, so 16 we're hoping we'll have a full board by 17 at least May. 18 MR. ROY: 19 Anything else? Okay. 20 MS. GUESS: 21 No. I'm done. 22 MR. ROY: 23 All right. Okay. So the 24 committee assignments stand as they were 25 with the exception of Ms. Mitchell, I



| 1 | believe. |
|----|---|
| 2 | Any other comments from |
| 3 | any comments from the public? The |
| 4 | public has been very, very quiet today. |
| 5 | Any other business? Motion to adjourn. |
| 6 | MR. ANDRE: |
| 7 | Second. |
| 8 | MR. ROY: |
| 9 | Adjourned. |
| 10 | (The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.) |
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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4 I, DESIREE DELATTE, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, 5 6 as the officer before whom this meeting transpired, do hereby certify that this meeting 7 8 was reported by me in the stenotype reporting 9 method, was prepared and transcribed by me or 10 under my personal direction and supervision, and 11 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, and that I am informed about the complete arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making arrangements for deposition services;

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 have no actual knowledge of



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LEDC BOARD MEETING

| 1 | any prohibited employment or contractual |
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| 2 | relationship, direct or indirect, between a court |
| 3 | reporting firm and any party litigant in this |
| 4 | matter nor is there any such relationship between |
| 5 | myself and a party litigant in this matter. I am |
| 6 | not related to counsel or to the parties herein, |
| 7 | nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of |
| 8 | this matter. |
| 9 | |
| 10 | Dated this 1st day of April, 2016. |
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| 14 | |
| 15 | DESIREE DELATTE, CCR, RPR |
| 16 | CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER |
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