1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA 17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TAKEN AT THE 18 LOUISIANA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM 19 BUILDING, FOURTH FLOOR BOARDROOM, 8401 UNITED 20 PLAZA BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON THE 21 15TH DAY OF MAY, 2015 COMMENCING AT 9:31 A.M. 22 23 24 25



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1	APPEARANCES OF BOARD MEMBERS:
2	
3	ALDEN ANDRE
4	QUENTIN MESSER
5	SUSAN THAM
6	NITIN KAMATH
7	
8	
9	STAFF MEMBERS:
10	MELISSA SORRELL
11	BRENDA GUESS
12	ANNE VILLA
13	SUSAN BIGNER
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1	MR. ANDRE:
2	Call to order the meeting of
3	the Louisiana Board of Economic
4	Development Corporation. Call to order.
5	Roll call, please.
6	MS. SORRELL:
7	A.J. Roy. Jules Rousseau.
8	Alden Andre.
9	MR. ANDRE:
10	Here.
11	MS. SORRELL:
12	Quentin Messer.
13	MR. MESSER:
14	Here.
15	MS. SORRELL:
16	Nitin Kamath.
17	MR. KAMATH:
18	Here.
19	MS. SORRELL:
20	Cal Simpson. Robert Stuart.
21	Susan Tham.
22	MS. THAM:
23	Here.
24	MS. SORRELL:
25	Harry Avant. Louis Reine. We



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1	have four members present. No quorum.
2	MR. ANDRE:
3	Not having a quorum, then
4	we'll have a committee meeting and
5	approve the two EDAP projects that are
6	on the agenda, so, Susan, can we have
7	the first one.
8	MS. BIGNER:
9	Elmer's Candy. Good morning.
10	MR. LAROUSE:
11	Good morning. My name is
12	Bobby Larouse.
13	MS. BIGNER:
14	Sit here. Let you come here.
15	MR. LAROUSE:
16	Okay. Once again, my name is
17	Bobby Larouse with Elmer Candy. I'm the
18	Chief Financial Officer for Elmer's
19	Candy.
20	MS. BIGNER:
21	Okay. LED has offered an EDAP
22	in the amount of \$550,000 to Elmer
23	Candy Corporation. Elmer's started in
24	1855 by a pastry chef by the name of
25	Christopher Henry Miller. Later his



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1	son-in-law joined the business and his
2	name is August Elmer. The Elmer family
3	took over in 1960. The company was
4	purchased by one of the partners, Roy
5	Nelson, and it's been in his family for
6	three generations. They are located in
7	Ponchatoula. Originally was in New
8	Orleans and moved it to Ponchatoula.
9	They are the second largest heart box
10	manufacturer in the U.S. behind Russell
11	Stover. Elmer, Russell Stover and
12	Hershey are the top chocolate U.S.
13	manufacturers, but Hershey's and
14	Russell Stover they moved some of their
15	facilities outside of the United States
16	for the cheaper labor, and Elmer's is
17	trying to keep everything here, and, of
18	course, we want them to stay here in
19	Louisiana. Russell Stover also was just
20	recently bought out by the Swiss
21	chocolate manufacturer, so they are no
22	longer a U.S. manufacturer anymore.
23	Currently the facility is
24	kind of dated. Some of the machinery is
25	as old as 40 years old. They do not



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have a temperature control kitchen, so 1 2 this EDAP will allow them to install a temperature control kitchen, state of 3 4 the art equipment, a closed automated system where the candies are not 5 6 handled by the employees, and they also 7 have the capabilities to produce their 8 own box.

The total project is \$40 million, and, of that, capital equipment is going to be \$550,000, which is what the EDAP is going to be used for. Elmer's is going to provide a lien against equipment, which has recently been appraised, and part of that -- part of the situation with this one is Whitney, along with two other banks, are doing the financing for the expansion, and Whitney offered blanket security on all of the equipment and everything, but they have allowed to carve out the -- these three pieces of equipment with the understanding that if the EDAP defaults that we notify them and they can either make us whole



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or they will pay the second on the equipment. So that's an additional security.

The company has 164 existing non-seasonal employees. They do occasionally have -- they jump up with the seasonal, but we're only going to be dealing with the non-seasonal. Their payroll currently is \$6.2 million. We are asking that they increase that by two percent annually, and employ ten more non-seasonal employees for a payroll of \$500,000 and to maintain these jobs through 2020.

The state revenues that we're expecting on this project is \$11.7 million with the Elmer's being offered the Enterprise Zone as well as the EDAP. They are located in Tangipahoa Parish. The unemployment rate was 7.1 in February compared to the state of 6.2. The per capital income was \$32,836 compared to the state of \$41,204. We have the normal contingencies on this project except for the company has to



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1	do the capital investment of \$40
2	million by March 31 of 2016. At least
3	50 percent of Elmer's sales from the
4	facility must be sold to customers
5	outside of the State of Louisiana and
6	during that during each year of the
7	contract if they fall below the 50
8	percent, Elmer will make a full annual
9	principal and interest payment for that
10	year.
11	The other contingency is that
12	the company will not be able to accept
13	any other state incentive program such
14	as Enterprise Zone or Quality Jobs.
15	Now I am going to turn it
16	over to Bobby and let him explain a
17	little bit and then we'll go from
18	there.
19	MR. LAROUSE:
20	Thank you, Susan. You did an
21	admirable job in describing our
22	business.
23	Most people in Louisiana know
24	Elmer Candy for our Easter products,
25	our Gold Brick Eggs, our Heavenly Hash.



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1	That is what I grew up with and I'm
2	sure many of you did as well. But the
3	biggest part of our business is the
4	assorted box chocolate side, especially
5	valentine hearts, and we are the second
6	largest valentine heart manufacturer in
7	the country only behind Russell Stover.
8	Now, Russell Stover, before they were
9	bought out, was probably ten times as
10	large as we are, but in that market,
11	which is a which is really a north
12	American market. We sell all across the
13	United States. We go into Canada and we
14	go into Mexico. We're facing increasing
15	global competition, and so that
16	trying to drive that price down. We
17	were faced with the prospect of
18	relocating our operations outside of
19	Louisiana in order to stay competitive.
20	We really do not want to do that. We
21	have over 160 years of good experience
22	with Louisiana. We love being here. All
23	of our employees live here and we want
24	to stay, so we undertook this project,
25	which is a \$40 million project, which



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dwarfs any other project we have taken on as a company in our history. And the project consists of a significant of -- \$30 million worth of new candy making and processing equipment, and about \$10 million for a construction of a new refrigerated temperature control kitchen and warehouse facility.

It is a -- as I said, it's a major investment for us and it will truly transform our company to be able to expand our operations into more than just a valentine business. There is a tremendous market for contract manufacturing, which, with this new equipment, will be able to get into that market. So we look at this as kind of a beachhead to establish -- to continue our existing operations and then to be able to broaden our reach across the country, and we appreciate any consideration you can give us, and, as you can see, what we're asking from the state is about \$550,000 on a \$40 million project, so we have arranged



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1	most of the financing above all
2	financing already. What this will help
3	us do is help us divide some of that
4	ancillary equipment to kind of help
5	with the big purchases and just to make
6	us more competitive, and our whole
7	drive is to stay in Louisiana, employ
8	Louisiana citizens, improve the jobs
9	that we have for those Louisiana
10	citizens and ultimately be a good
11	member of the community.
12	MS. BIGNER:
13	Okay. I did misspeak
14	misspoke. I said the company was not
15	able to access any additional state
16	incentives. They will have Enterprise
L7	Zone. They are not able to access
18	Quality Jobs.
19	Also, one of the
20	understandings that I have about the
21	company is that a lot of the employees
22	are not highly skilled employees, so
23	there is no chance of promotion. With
2.4	this new state of the art equipment



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they will be able to have higher skill.

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1	They will be able to train those
2	employees so that they can promote up
3	the line as well. So this is going to
4	increase the employment and give them a
5	higher skilled employment at the
6	facility.
7	MR. ANDRE:
8	Questions from the committee?
9	MS. THAM:
10	I do. I have a question about
11	the makeup of your payroll as it is now
12	because there were a lot of low paying
13	jobs, but it seems like you were also
14	having to bring seasonal employees
15	probably from Central America. Is the
16	automation going to decrease that need?
17	MR. LAROUSE:
18	Yeah. That is our intent is
19	because we are making a valentine candy
20	we have a tremendous ramp up in
21	employment in the last half of year,
22	and we do employ seasonal workers
23	either locally or from primarily
24	from Mexico under the H2B Visa program,



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and this automation and revamping will

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1	reduce our need for the seasonal
2	workers. It will actually increase our
3	permanent workforce and decrease the
4	need for that temporary work.
5	MS. THAM:
6	And higher skill and higher
7	paid worth.
8	MR. LAROUSE:
9	Yes. Yes. Higher skill,
10	higher pay. More attractive employment
11	opportunity.
12	MR. ANDRE:
13	On behalf of the Board and
14	behalf of the State of Louisiana, I
15	want to commend you and thank you for
16	your efforts to try to keep your
17	business in Louisiana. This is very,
18	very important to us, and thank you so
19	much.
20	MR. LAROUSE:
21	Thank you.
22	MR. ANDRE:
23	Okay. Is there a motion?
24	MR. MESSER:
25	So move.



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1	MR. ANDRE:
2	Second?
3	MR. KAMATH:
4	Second.
5	MR. ANDRE:
6	Any other questions or
7	comments? Comments from the audience?
8	All in favor.
9	ALL BOARD MEMBERS:
10	Aye.
11	MR. ANDRE:
12	Any opposed? Motion passed.
13	Congratulations. Thank you and keep us
14	posted, okay.
15	MR. LAROUSE:
16	I certainly will and please
17	partake of the samples.
18	MS. BIGNER:
19	Okay. Our second project is
20	United Weld Operations, LLC doing
21	business as EPIC Piping. They are going
22	to be located between Livingston and
23	Frost in Livingston Parish. It's a
24	brand new company. They started back in
25	November. They already have two



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1	facilities that they are operating. One
2	is in San Marcos, Texas and the other
3	is here in Baton Rouge. The one in San
4	Marcos handles quick turn and large
5	capacity projects, and the one in Baton
6	Rouge does quick turn and maintenance.
7	They are industrial pipe fabricators,
8	and the facility that they are looking
9	to build in Livingston Parish is going
10	to be on 72 acres. It's going to be a
11	250 square foot manufacturing facility,
12	but it's also going to be their
13	corporate headquarters.
14	They are looking to employ

They are looking to employ 560 new employees with associated payroll of \$35.7 million, and maintain those employment through 2025. The EDAP is going to be used -- is supposed to be used for the fire sprinkler service -- I mean, system in the new facility and we also will have collateral to back that.

Like I said, it's brand new.

I pass by their facility here. It's

right at the Choctaw. They are a little



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1	small facility here, but this one is
2	going to be able to create quite a bit
3	of pipe. One of the contingencies from
4	the special contingencies is they are
5	going to have to 70 percent of their
6	sales have to go to outside outside
7	of the state customers. If they don't
8	then they'll have to make the full
9	annual payment with interest. If they
10	get between 70 and 50 percent then it's
11	going to be proportionated between that
12	20 percent, and if it's less than 50
13	percent then they will make a full
14	payment of the principal and interest
15	due for that year. They are expecting
16	to have the capital investment by March
17	of 2016. The state revenues expected
18	from this project are \$41 million. They
19	are going to use the Quality Jobs
20	program with an estimated \$19.1 million
21	incentive, plus the EDAP for \$1.8.
22	Livingston Parish has unemployment rate
23	of 5.3 percent as of March, which is
24	compared to the state of 4.6 percent,
25	and the per capita for Livingston is



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1	36,672 compared to the state of 41,204.
2	You have the other regular
3	contingencies except for, like I said,
4	the 70 percent out of state sales. Also
5	I'm going to waiting on the
6	statement from the EPA stating the
7	useful life of the equipment and
8	infrastructure. I did receive the
9	corporate signature authority for
10	Jimmy, and Jimmy is here, and, I'm
11	sorry, this is
12	MR. MICHAUX (PH):
13	Michaux.
14	MS. BIGNER:
15	I'm sorry. I really don't
16	know a whole lot about the pipe
17	manufacturing, so I'm going to let them
18	explain it to you.
19	Do you have any other
20	questions for me right at this moment?
21	MR. MICHAUX:
22	Good morning. My name is
23	Arnaud Michaux (ph). I am the corporate
24	controller for EPIC Piping. With me is
25	Jeremy Turner, our CAO/CIO. Thank you



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guys this morning for letting us put 1 2 our EDAP in front of you for consideration and taking the time to 3 4 hear us. I would also like to thank Ms. Susan for working with us through the 5 6 process. She has been an enormous help 7 as well. We were going to bring you 8 guys some samples this morning, but we figured a 24 inch piece of pipe would 9 10 be a little hard to fit through the 11 door, but a little bit about our 12 project.

So we're very excited to begin the construction phase of our facility in Livingston Parish in Frost, Louisiana. Like Ms. Susan said, it's on about 70 acres. The facility will be about 250,000 square feet. It will be a six bay customized pipe fabrication facility. Our current design is, like I said, a six bay facility which also includes indoor QAQC functions as well as indoor painting and blasting. All under one roof, all climate control, so in that regard it will be state of the



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art as state of the art as pipe fabrication gets, and it really will be a very unique facility in that regard that it's all under one roof and all climate control.

Like Ms. Susan said, our total job growth target when we get to our full ramp up phase is approximately 560 employees. The breakdown of that is about 500 craft employees as well, like Susan said, our corporate headquarters will be located there, so we will have a staff of about 60 people in our front office, and also like she said, our total annual salary once we get to that point is approximately \$35.7 million at that time.

A little bit more about the facility, our capabilities when we get fully ramped up will be about five thousand customized pipe fabrication schools a month with a target total revenue yearly of about 100 to 125 million dollars just out of this facility alone, and also on top of the



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customized pipe fabrication, we also will have a fully automated facility like I mentioned earlier.

And a little bit about where we are in the project right now, we have closed on the land, which we're very happy that we're at -- we've passed that stage. We have started dirt work. Our design is, I will say 98 percent of the way done. Still tweaking some things with our architects, but the dirt work is being done and 45 -approximately \$45 million facility of which approximately 13 or 14 will be capital expenditures in the form of machinery and equipment, and specifically the EDAP money, like Susan said, we're targeting the infrastructure and the improvements of the facility. We're talking about retention ponds. We are talking about roads, and we really are focused on our water fire pressure system, which is a big part of this facility, especially in our paint areas that the



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requirements for that stuff in a
facility like this are pretty high,
high pressure, so that is a big part of
the cost.

And a little bit about our Louisiana focus on our project, like Susan said, we do have a facility in San Marcos, Texas; however, the majority of upper management and executive team are Louisiana natives, and Livingston Parish is a very unique place in that it has a very highly skilled workforce. That is close enough to the Mississippi River to work at the plants up and down the river but not too close, so a lot of people like to stay and work inside Livingston Parish, so if you are talking about a stable static facility like ours, it's a very attractive workforce in Livingston Parish. And the work that we see over the next five to ten years, the amount of projects is just -- it's just great. The industry is really on an upward escalation. Plenty of L & G work in the



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1	area from the Texas all of the way over
2	to Mississippi, Alabama Gulf Coast
3	region, so we're real excited about it.
4	It's going to be a great facility. It
5	is going to be our corporate
6	headquarters, and, like we said, with
7	the state of the art robotic welding
8	equipment as well as air conditioning
9	in the entire facility, it will be a
10	flagship facility nationwide in the
11	industry, so we're really excited about
12	it.
13	MR. ANDRE:
14	Any questions?
15	MS. THAM:
16	I do. That's a great number
17	of new jobs. I did want to ask you,
18	though, are you going to be located
19	right next to CB&I.
20	MR. MICHAUX:
21	The CB&I facility is in the
22	same parish as a couple of exits over
23	from the interstate, but it will be
24	both in Livingston Parish.
25	MS. THAM:



1	Are you in direct competition
2	to them? Are you producing the same
3	product?
4	MR. MICHAUX:
5	Yes.
6	MS. THAM:
7	Do you think they will lose
8	employees to you? Do you think there
9	are going to be enough employees for
10	both facilities?
11	MR. MICHAUX:
12	I think there will be. You
13	know, in this business one of the
14	things we've seen or one of the things
15	that historically that we've seen is
16	there is a lot of turnover. There is a
17	lot of local competition just because
18	there is so much growth in the industry
19	whether you are talking CB&I, Turner,
20	Performance, Cajun, you know, a team
21	that the list can go and and on, and
22	some people find a niche within a
23	facility and it's close to home and
24	they like it, and some people, some
25	employees will kind of chase raises and



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1	salary increases and things like that,
2	but there is a lot of training
3	facilities in the area. Zachary High,
4	which isn't in Livingston Parish, but
5	Zachary High does have one of the best
6	high school welding programs in the
7	country, and Livingston Parish, Denham
8	Springs High School has a very good
9	program in the area as well. But I
10	think on a broader scale, the amount of
11	welding strictly welding jobs that
12	are going to be opened in the next five
13	years in the Gulf South is going to be
14	something like the likes of which we've
15	never seen before, so I think from a
16	statewide standpoint, the job growth is
17	going to be very big, which is, you
18	know, great. Obviously for all of us it
19	will be a challenge, you know, to hire
20	and keep employees, but I think it's
21	going to be something that every
22	company every company that welds in
23	Louisiana is going to be facing and
24	fighting the next five years.
25	MS. THAM:



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Is the state going to be 1 2 providing some training program for welding? I thought that they were. 3 4 MR. MICHAUX: Yes. We're working FastStart 5 6 and Jeremy has been working a lot. 7 MR. TURNER: 8 We are working with 9 FastStart, and, in fact, I met 10 yesterday with the technical college the chancellor for the new technical 11 12 college. We're working with them to 13 establish a pipeline of vocational 14 training facilities and kind of taking 15 our -- what we -- type of welders that 16 we need and establishing kind of what that curriculum looks like so that we 17 18 can come straight out of the school 19 into, you know, create a few pipe 20 welders that will probably be shared by 21 CB&I, by EPIC and by some of the other 22 competitors in the region, but that is 23 just the nature of the industry. There will be a level of 24 25 share, but we'll have to train the next



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1	generation of pipe welders. It just so
2	happens that this market is very ripe
3	due to the amount of opportunities that
4	exists in the oil and gas industry,
5	etc., for that style, that particular
6	skill, craft.
7	MS. THAM:
8	That is wonderful that you
9	are participating in the training.
10	MR. TURNER:
11	Absolutely.
12	MR. ANDRE:
13	Any other questions? I do. I
14	have been in the chemical business for
15	50 years, so I'm very familiar with
16	your project and what you are trying to
17	accomplish. The question, the current
18	slump in the oil and gas business
19	because of the price of oil going down
20	whatever it is, 50, 60, is that going
21	to impact your startup business?
22	MR. MICHAUX:
23	No. I don't think it will,
24	and, of course, the swamp put a slow
25	down on smaller scale projects. I think



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1	you saw the biggest impact of pipeline
2	projects. Where we focus and what our
3	main target project is is not so much a
4	smaller, say, a pipeline project
5	because a lot of that is just straight
6	run pipe being welded together. A lot
7	that stuff is performed in the field as
8	I am sure you know. A lot what our
9	target work is larger scale business
10	larger scale projects from an L&G
11	standpoint, but not only L&G, we also
12	have done, you know, in the past there
13	are projects that don't aren't
14	really closely related to the price of
15	gas such as, you know, just in the past
16	there have been projects for solar
17	facilities that utilize piping to catch
18	basically catch sunrays and point
19	them at a pipe heat up the pipe and
20	creates energy. Petrochemical
21	pharmaceutical offshore platforms, so I
22	think it's I think it's, you know,
23	it's going to affect the smaller
24	projects a little bit, but from what we
25	are seeing the funding behind the



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1	larger projects is still there, so
2	that's kind of the target projects, so
3	we haven't seen a slump in those, so I
4	don't think so.
5	MR. ANDRE:
6	And you have the ability to
7	bend pipe like the Turner Turner
8	Industries?
9	MR. TURNER:
10	Initially we will not have a
11	vending machine like some of our
12	competitors have. We'll do we'll
13	bend pipe in other more traditional
14	ways with elbows, but in the future we
15	are planning on expanding to a bending
16	bay in the future by 2017, and you may
17	have that exact timeframe, but that
18	facility on the 70 acres will expand to
19	include bending and other additional
20	services that we'll offer down the
21	road. We will have basic bending for
22	coal bending type activities, but
23	industrial bending we will do it like
24	that for now.
25	MR. ANDRE:



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Paying inhouse. What about hot dip galvanizing?

MR. TURNER:

We do not currently have any plan to do hot dip galvanizing. When you are into galvanizing, as you know, the permitting requirements for the chemicals that are used in that process are, sort of speak, a cut above the rest of just regular normal coating applications, but that being said and brought up bending, when you look at bending, you -- when you start to try and target that market there is coatings that go along with that. So when you do pipe bending a lot of special epoxy, like is something popular in the bending market, so we don't have any plans to do that now, but I would never say never, you know, that kind of thing is also sort of market driven. Sometimes the market will, you know, everybody will start using galvanizing and some other new epoxy or application will hit the



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market that is 25 percent stronger, so everybody will start using that.

MR. ANDRE:

You may consider that because I can tell you to the extent that -- we will do hot galvanizing because of eliminating the maintenance of painting in the future.

MR. TURNER:

Exactly. No. It is a great process. Like I said, it's a little bit more complicated and a little bit more focused, but I would say if the market goes that way, I wouldn't rule it out.

MR. ANDRE:

I really appreciate you guys starting this up because, you know, as you know how many projects have been announced, there are more that are being planned and not announced, so there is going to be a hell of a demand. I have no fear of you having business. I do have a fear of the manpower as she spoke about. I think that will hurt you. It's going to be a



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1	problem, looking for the same man.
2	MR. MICHAUX:
3	No. You are right. Welders
4	if it keeps going the way we think it's
5	going, Jeremy and I were talking
6	earlier, we may go put a hood on.
7	MR. ANDRE:
8	I think that's the right
9	direction to go in.
10	MR. TURNER:
11	Those folks have been very,
12	very helpful. Great team and great to
13	work with so far, and we've moved
14	forward in preparing, you know,
15	recruiting videos, as I mentioned, both
16	working with vocational skills and
17	establishing work processes to make
18	sure that we can, you know, not only
19	identify but begin to train and have
20	the facilities to be able to train.
21	MR. ANDRE:
22	Any other questions?
23	Comments? Comments from the public?
24	MR. MESSER:
25	I move for approval.



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1	MS. THAM:
2	Second.
3	MR. ANDRE:
4	Any other further discussion
5	or comments? Hearing none, all in
6	favor?
7	ALL BOARD MEMBERS:
8	Aye.
9	MR. ANDRE:
10	Any opposed? Motion pass.
11	Congratulations. Keep us posted. We are
12	very interested in this.
13	MR. MICHAUX:
14	We absolutely will. We are
15	very excited, and, as well as thank you
16	guys for your time.
17	MS. BIGNER:
18	Thank you.
19	MR. ANDRE:
20	Any other projects that come
21	before the committee? Hearing none,
22	motion for adjournment.
23	MR. MESSER:
24	So move.
25	MR. ANDRE:



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1	Sec	ond.
2	MR.	KAMATH:
3	Sec	ond.
4	MR.	ANDRE:
5	We	stand adjourned.
6		
7	(Whereupon the mee	ting has been adjourned at
8	10:02 a.m.)	
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understanding:

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4 I, RACHEL Y. TORRES, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, 5 6 as the officer before whom this meeting was 7 taken, that this meeting was reported by me in 8 the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction 9 10 and supervision, and is a true and correct 11 transcript to the best of my ability and

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6	not related to counsel or to the parties herein,
7	nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of
8	this matter.
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16	CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
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