

1 **LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
2 **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BOARD MEETING**

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7 The Meeting of the **Board of Commerce and**
8 **Industry** has taken place at 617 North Third
9 Street, LaSalle Building, Baton Rouge,
10 Louisiana 70802 on Wednesday, April 27,
11 2022, beginning at 10:01 a.m.

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19 Reported by:

20 Tara Torres-Blank
21 Certified Court Reporter
22 Certificate Number 22012

A P P E A R A N C E S

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BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE :

- Brandon Burris
- Guy Mcinnis
- Manuel Fajardo
- Stuart Moss
- Scott McKnight
- Jerald Jones
- Jan Moller
- Don Pierson
- George Nassar, Jr.
- Marshall Simien, Jr.
- Dr. Shawn Wilson
- Dr. Woodrow Wilson
- Dr. Beverly Thompson

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1 **MS. SIMMONS :**

2 Good morning everyone. Thank
3 you for everyone coming this
4 morning. Brandon Burriss.

5 **MR. BURRIS :**

6 Here.

7 **MS. SIMMONS :**

8 Mayor David Toups. Yvette Cola.
9 Guy Mcinnis.

10 **MR. MCINNIS :**

11 Here.

12 **MS. SIMMONS :**

13 Ricky Fabre. Manuel Fajardo.

14 **MR. FAJARDO :**

15 Here.

16 **MS. SIMMONS :**

17 Stuart Moss.

18 **MR. MOSS :**

19 Here.

20 **MS. SIMMONS :**

21 Representative Paula Davis.
22 Senator Rick Ward. Kenneth Hebert.
23 Jerald Jones.

24 **MR. JONES :**

25 Present.

1 **MS. SIMMONS:**

2 Sandra Laquaine. Senator Brent
3 Allain. Senator Scott McKnight.

4 **MR. McKNIGHT:**

5 Here. Representative Stuart
6 Bishop. Jan Moller.

7 **MR. MOLLER:**

8 Here.

9 **MS. SIMMONS:**

10 Secretary Don Pierson.

11 **MR. PIERSON:**

12 Present.

13 **MS. SIMMONS:**

14 George Nassar, Jr.

15 **MR. NASSAR:**

16 Here.

17 **MS. SIMMONS:**

18 Darryl Saison. Marshal Simien.

19 **MR. SIMIEN:**

20 Here.

21 **MS. SIMMONS:**

22 Lonnie Sloane. Dr. Shawn
23 Wilson.

24 **MR. WILSON:**

25 Here.

1 **MS. SIMMONS :**

2 Dr. Woodrow Wilson.

3 **MR. WILSON :**

4 Here.

5 **MS. SIMMONS :**

6 Travis Holley, and Dr. Beverly
7 Thompson.

8 **MS. THOMPSON :**

9 Here.

10 **MS. SIMMONS :**

11 We have a forum.

12 **MR. JONES :**

13 Thank you. Let's see, we have
14 minutes from the February 23rd
15 meeting that was sent to you. I
16 presume you had an opportunity to
17 read them?

18 **MR. MOSS :**

19 Motion.

20 **MR. WILSON :**

21 Second.

22 **MR. JONES :**

23 We have motion a motion from Mr.
24 Moss. Second from Dr. Shawn Wilson.
25 Any questions or comments from the

1 public? Any questions or comments
2 from the Board? There being none,
3 all in favor say aye.

4 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

5 **MR. JONES :**

6 Any opposition? There being
7 none, the motion carries. Ms.
8 Adegbe, let's walk through quality
9 job program. If you refer to the
10 job, that would even be better.

11 **MS. ADEGBE :**

12 Good morning.

13 **MR. JONES :**

14 Good morning.

15 **MS. ADEGBE :**

16 I have three applications. One
17 is requesting a deferral. The
18 deferral is 2021-0133.

19 **MR. JONES :**

20 Breeze Airways.

21 **MS. ADEGBE :**

22 Breeze Airways.

23 **MR. JONES :**

24 Okay. Will we entertain a
25 motion to defer?

1 **MR. NASSAR:**

2 So moved.

3 **MR. MOSS:**

4 Second.

5 **MR. JONES:**

6 We have a motion from Mr.
7 Nassar. A second from Mr. Moss.
8 Any comments from the public?
9 Questions or comments from the
10 Board? Hearing none all in favor
11 say aye.

12 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

13 **MS. JONES:**

14 Any opposition? There being
15 none, the motion to defer carries.
16 All right. Let's go to the other
17 two then.

18 **MS. ADEGBE:**

19 2022-0076, Great Southern Wood
20 Preserving, Inc., Avoyelles Parish.
21 2020-0042-EJ, Weyerhaeuser NR
22 Company, Natchitoches Parish. That
23 concludes new applications.

24 **MS. JONES:**

25 Entertain a motion to approve.

1 **MR. FAJARDO:**

2 Motion.

3 **MR. MOLLER:**

4 Second.

5 **MR. JONES:**

6 Motion Mr. Fajardo. Second, Mr.
7 Moller. Any comments from the
8 public? And questions or comments
9 from the Board? Hearing none, all
10 in favor say aye.

11 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

12 **MR. JONES:**

13 Any opposition? The motion
14 carries.

15 **MS. ADEGBE:**

16 Four renewal applications.
17 2017-0233, Brentwood Acquisition
18 Shreveport, Inc., Caddo Parish.
19 2017-0290, ControlWorx, LLC., East
20 Baton Rouge Parish. 2017-0076,
21 Southern Scripts, LLC., Natchitoches
22 Parish. 2015-0966, W.R. Grace & Co-
23 Conn, Calcasieu Parish.

24 **MR. JONES:**

25 Entertain a motion only for

1 renewals.

2 **MR. MOSS:**

3 So moved.

4 **MR. WILSON:**

5 Second.

6 **MR. JONES:**

7 We have a motion from Mr. Moss.
8 Second from Dr. Woody Wilson. Any
9 comments from the public? Hearing
10 none, any comments or questions from
11 the Board? Hearing none, all in
12 favor say aye.

13 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

14 **MR. JONES:**

15 Any opposition? There being
16 none, the motion carries.

17 **MS. ADEGBE:**

18 This concludes Quality jobs.

19 **MR. JONES:**

20 Thank you, ma'am. Have a great
21 day. Good morning, Ms. Lambert.

22 **MS. LAMBERT:**

23 Good morning.

24 **MR. JONES:**

25 Take us through your Restoration

1 Tax Abatements, please.

2 **MS. LAMBERT:**

3 Okay. This morning we have four
4 new applications. 2019-0146 for
5 1012 North Rampart Street, LLC.
6 2020-0314, 838 Coolidge Avenue.
7 2019-0234, JPN Realty, LLC. 2021-
8 0456, New School Days Apartments,
9 LLC. And that concludes the new
10 applications.

11 **MR. JONES:**

12 Entertain a motion.

13 **MR. WILSON:**

14 So moved.

15 **MR. SIMIEN:**

16 Second.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 Motion by Shawn Wilson. Second
19 from Mr. Simien. Any comments from
20 the public? Questions or comments
21 from the Board? Hearing none, all
22 in favor say aye.

23 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

24 **MR. JONES:**

25 Any opposition? Hearing none,

1 the motion carries.

2 **MS. LAMBERT:**

3 We have one renewal application,
4 and that's 2014-1065, Johnny B.
5 Weeks, Jr. and Stephen D. Weeks from
6 Concordia.

7 **MR. JONES:**

8 Entertain a motion for renewal.

9 **MR. WILSON:**

10 Moved.

11 **MR. MOSS:**

12 Second.

13 **MR. JONES:**

14 Shawn Wilson motion to approve.
15 Second from Mr. Moss. Any comments
16 from the public? Hearing none, any
17 comments or questions from the
18 Board? Hearing none, all in favor
19 say aye.

20 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

21 **MR. JONES:**

22 Any opposition? Hearing none,
23 the motion carries. Thank you, Ms.
24 Lambert.

25 Good morning, Ms. Metoyer.

1 **MS. METOYER:**

2 Good morning. We have six new
3 applications for Enterprise Zone.
4 2019-0441, Conn Appliances, Inc.
5 2019-0306, Enviro Services, LLC.,
6 Union Parish. 2018-0336, Oschner
7 Clinic Foundation, Jefferson Parish.
8 2019-0140, Southside Machine
9 Works, Inc., Calcasieu Parish.
10 2015-1034, Two Canal Owner, LLC,
11 Orleans Parish. And 2018-0122, W.R.
12 Grace and Company, St. Charles
13 Parish.

14 **MR. JONES:**

15 All right. Entertain a motion
16 on these applications.

17 **MR. MOSS:**

18 Motion.

19 **MR. SIMIEN:**

20 Second.

21 **MR. JONES:**

22 Motion to approve from Mr. Moss.
23 Second from Mr. Simien. Any
24 comments from the Board -- Excuse
25 me, any comments from the public?

1 Now, do we have any comments or
2 questions from the Board? Hearing
3 none, all in favor say aye.

4 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

5 **MR. JONES:**

6 Any opposition? There being
7 none, the motion carries.

8 **MS. METOYER:**

9 We have seven contract
10 terminations. 2015-1755, AUM
11 Investments, LLC., Ascension Parish.
12 The existing contract is 07/13/2017
13 to 07/12/2022. The requested term
14 date is 07/12/2020. The program
15 requirements have been met, no
16 additional jobs are anticipated.

17 2015-0258, Equilon Enterprises,
18 LLC., St. Charles Parish. The
19 existing contract is 11/13/2017 to
20 11/12/2022. The requested term date
21 is 05/12/2020. The program
22 requirements have been met, no
23 additional jobs are anticipated.

24 2017-0513, Morris P. Hebert,
25 Inc., Terrebonne Parish. The

1 existing contract is 09/21/2017 to
2 09/20/2022. The requested term date
3 is 09/20/2020. The program
4 requirements have been met, no
5 additional jobs are anticipated.

6 2014-1082, Opelousas Hotel
7 Group, LLC., St. Landry Parish. The
8 existing contract is 6/1/2017 to
9 5/31/2022. The requested term date
10 is 5/31/2020. The program
11 requirements have been met, no
12 additional jobs are anticipated.

13 2014-1574, Vidalia Hotel Group,
14 LLC., Concordia Parish. The
15 existing contract is 5/15/2018
16 through 5/14/2023. The requested
17 term date is 5/14/2021. The program
18 requirements have been met, no
19 additional jobs are anticipated.

20 2016-1835, Westport Linen
21 Services, LLC., East Baton Rouge
22 Parish. The existing contract is
23 11/3/2016 through 11/2/2021. The
24 requested term date is 12/31/2020.
25 The program requirements have been

1 met, no additional jobs are
2 anticipated.

3 2016-1838, Westport Linen
4 Services, LLC., Acadia Parish. The
5 existing contract is 11/3/2016
6 through 11/2/2021. The requested
7 term date is 12/31/2020. The
8 program requirements have been met,
9 no additional jobs are anticipated.

10 **MR. JONES:**

11 Thank you, ma'am. Entertain a
12 motion to approve.

13 **MR. WILSON:**

14 Motion.

15 **MR. FAJARDO:**

16 Second.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 Motion by Dr. Woody Wilson.
19 Second by Mr. Fajardo. Any comments
20 from the public? Any comments or
21 questions from the Board? Hearing
22 none, all in favor say aye.

23 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

24 **MR. JONES:**

25 Any opposition? Hearing none,

1 the motion carries.

2 **MS. METOYER:**

3 That concludes Enterprise.

4 **MR. JONES:**

5 Thank you, ma'am. All right.

6 Industrial Tax Exemption. Ms.

7 Cheng, Mr. Usie who goes first?

8 **MR. USIE:**

9 We have 14 new post-executive
10 order 2018 rules applications.
11 Three are requesting deferral.
12 2018-0503, Alliance Compressor,
13 LLC., Natchitoches Parish. 2020-
14 0348, LaSalle BioEnergy, LLC.,
15 LaSalle Parish. And 2017-0074,
16 Processors Inc., St. Martin Parish.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 All right. We'll entertain a
19 motion for deferral of those three
20 applications.

21 **MR. WILSON:**

22 Motion.

23 **MR. JONES:**

24 Have a motion from Dr. Shawn
25 Wilson.

1 **MR. MOSS :**

2 Second.

3 **MR. JONES :**

4 Second by Mr. Moss. Any
5 comments from the public? Hearing
6 none, any comments or questions from
7 the Board? There being none, all in
8 favor say aye.

9 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

10 **MR. JONES :**

11 The motion carries, and those
12 three items are deferred.

13 **MR. USIE :**

14 2019-0292, Bullwin Enterprises,
15 LLC., Calcasieu Parish. 2021-0565,
16 Drake Specialties, LLC., Lafayette
17 Parish. 2022-0076, Great Southern
18 Wood-LA, Inc., Avoyelles Parish.
19 2021-0142, Louisiana Sugar Refining,
20 LLC., St. James Parish.

21 2020-0516, MCC Methacrylates
22 Americas, Inc., Ascension Parish.
23 2019-0416, Morehouse Bioenergy,
24 LLC., Morehouse Parish. 2019-0099,
25 Orion Engineered Carbons, LLC., St

1 Mary Parish.

2 2020-0265, Packaging Corporation
3 of America, Beauregard Parish. 2021-
4 0291, Packaging Corporation of
5 America, Beauregard Parish. 2022-
6 0083, Shell Chemical LP, Ascension
7 Parish. And 2020-0065-A,
8 Weyerhaeuser NR Company,
9 Natchitoches Parish.

10 **MR. JONES:**

11 Will entertain a motion on these
12 applications.

13 **MR. MOSS:**

14 So moved.

15 **MR. SIMIEN:**

16 Second.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 A motion by Mr. Moss. Second
19 Mr. Simien. Any comments from the
20 public? Any questions or comments
21 from the Board? There being none,
22 all in favor say aye.

23 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

24 **MR. JONES:**

25 Any opposition. There being

1 none, the motion carries. And
2 before you move on, I know we're
3 railroading through this, cause we
4 got started late. But I want people
5 to understand what we just did. We
6 just approved \$3 billion dollars in
7 projects for the State of Louisiana.
8 Some are large. A couple of them
9 are real large, and some of them are
10 smaller.

11 But this program just approved
12 \$3 billion in construction for
13 Louisiana. That's a good thing I
14 believe for all of us. So I don't
15 want the expedited treatment of
16 these to shortcut the impact these
17 kind of projects would have on our
18 state. So thank you for all of you
19 who choose to make investments in
20 Louisiana.

21 **MR. USIE:**

22 We have eight renewals. 2015-
23 1342, CB&I Walker La, LLC,
24 Livingston Parish. 2012-1300B, CF
25 Industries Nitrogen, LLC., Ascension

1 Parish. 2015-0201, Equilon
2 Enterprises, LLC., St. James Parish.
3 2015-1210, Plastipak Packaging,
4 Inc., Rapides Parish.

5 2010-0198-B, Sabine Pass LNG,
6 LP, Cameron Parish. 2011-0659-C,
7 Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC.,
8 Cameron Parish. 2014-1452, Sasol
9 Chemicals (USA) LLC., Calcasieu
10 Parish. And 2014-1453, Sasol
11 Chemicals (USA) LLC., Calcasieu
12 Parish.

13 **MR. JONES:**

14 Entertain a motion for these
15 renewals.

16 **MR. WILSON:**

17 Motion.

18 **MS. THOMPSON:**

19 Second.

20 **MR. JONES:**

21 A motion from Dr. Shawn Wilson.
22 Second from Dr. Thompson. Any
23 comments from the public? Any
24 questions or comments from the
25 Board?

1 **MR. SIMIEN:**

2 I'm going to recuse the two for
3 Sasol Industries.

4 **MR. JONES:**

5 So 2014-1452 and 2014-1453 Mr.
6 Simien is recusing.

7 **MR. SIMIEN:**

8 Yes, sir.

9 **MR. JONES:**

10 As he will not comment on or
11 vote on those matters. All right.
12 Any other comments or questions from
13 the Board? There being none, all in
14 favor say aye.

15 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

16 **MR. JONES:**

17 Any opposition? Hearing none,
18 the motion carries. And not to be
19 outdone, but the renewal portion of
20 the agenda just passed \$6 billion
21 dollars in projects that are renewed
22 and ongoing in the State of
23 Louisiana.

24 You-all, we thank you for the
25 work that you-all are doing and for

1 LED for making sure that this goes
2 through the process. Thank you.
3 All right.

4 **MR. USIE:**

5 We have one late renewal
6 application. 2009-0033-B, Farmers
7 Rice Milling Company, Inc. in
8 Calcasieu Parish. The initial
9 contract expiration was 12/31/2020,
10 and the late renewal request date
11 was 1/4/2022.

12 **MR. JONES:**

13 Do we have someone here from the
14 Farmers Rice Milling Company?

15 **MR. WARRINGTON:**

16 Yeah.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 Would you come down, please?
19 And if you speak into the mic, give
20 us your name and your position with
21 the company, please.

22 **MR. WARRINGTON:**

23 Yes, I'm David Warrington. I'm
24 the Chief Financial Officer.

25 **MR. JONES:**

1 Great. And what happens here,
2 when we have the late renewals, we
3 like the companies to come and
4 explain to us what happened. And
5 there's always a potential for
6 penalty when we have late renewals,
7 but we always want to understand
8 what's going on. So if you could
9 please explain.

10 **MR. WARRINGTON:**

11 We had a turnover in personnel
12 and they failed to renew.

13 **MR. JONES:**

14 Right. Now, as far as -- We
15 also want to be sure that the
16 company is taking the steps to
17 ensure that the interaction between
18 the company and LED stays constantly
19 moving forward.

20 What have you done to correct
21 the problem now?

22 **MR. WARRINGTON:**

23 Well, we have replacement staff
24 at the Mill, and we have moved some
25 of the observation of these things

1 over to Al Group, which is the
2 holding company.

3 **MR. JONES:**

4 Okay. So they will be
5 monitoring the due dates and
6 reporting requirements and that sort
7 of thing?

8 **MR. WARRINGTON:**

9 Yes, sir.

10 **MR. JONES:**

11 All right. Now, help me. We
12 had -- For this, this renewal is two
13 years late. Am I reading that
14 correctly?

15 **MR. USIE:**

16 Correct.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 Okay. Normally, as the Board
19 will recall, our custom is for every
20 year that it's late, there is a 20
21 percent penalty. Being two years
22 late, that would be a 40 percent
23 penalty.

24 And so, instead of a five-year
25 renewal that would, if we follow

1 prior custom, that would be
2 essentially, a three-year renewal.
3 Am I reading that correctly?
4 Reading between the lines here.

5 **MS. ADEGBE:**

6 That's correct.

7 **MR. JONES:**

8 Thank you, Ms. Adegbe. So what
9 is the pleasure of the Board today?
10 We can approve the five and you
11 cannot penalize at all. You can
12 approve with the penalty, which
13 historically has been 20 percent per
14 year, which would be a 40 percent
15 penalty. Or you can deny the
16 request for renewal all together.

17 What is the pleasure, Board?

18 **UNKNOWN:**

19 I would move that we approve
20 with penalty.

21 **MR. JONES:**

22 And so we have a motion to
23 approve the renewal with a 40
24 percent penalty, which again, would
25 cut the program down from a five

1 year to three years.

2 **MR. WILSON:**

3 I second.

4 **MR. JONES:**

5 And a second from Dr. Woody
6 Wilson. Any comments from the
7 public? Any comments from you, sir?

8 **MR. WARRINGTON:**

9 No, sir.

10 **MR. JONES:**

11 Any questions or comments from
12 the Board? Being none, all in favor
13 of the motion say aye.

14 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

15 **MR. JONES:**

16 Any opposition? There being
17 none, the motion carries. Thank
18 you, sir. Next.

19 **MR. USIE:**

20 We have six contract transfers.
21 One is requesting deferral. It is
22 Multi-Chem Group, LLC D/B/A Multi
23 Chem. Contract 2012-0876.

24 **MR. JONES:**

25 Entertain a motion to approve

1 the transfer.

2 **UNKNOWN :**

3 This is a request to defer.

4 **MR. JONES :**

5 Oh, I'm sorry, forgive me. Just
6 a motion to defer then. Okay. We
7 have a motion to defer?

8 **MR. FAJARDO :**

9 Motion.

10 **MR. SIMIEN :**

11 Second.

12 **MR. JONES :**

13 Motion from Mr. Fajardo. Second
14 from Mr. Simien. Any comments from
15 the public? Any questions or
16 comments from the Board? There
17 being none, all in favor say aye.

18 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

19 **MR. JONES :**

20 Any opposition? There is none,
21 the motion carries. Okay. I'm
22 sorry, go ahead.

23 **MR. USIE :**

24 Georgia Pacific Consumer
25 Operations, LLC. Contracts: 2011-

1 1225, 2012-1275, 2013-1321, 2014-
2 1573, and 2015-2053. Being
3 transferred to Georgia-Pacific Port
4 Hudson, LLC. in East Baton Rouge
5 Parish.

6 **MR. JONES:**

7 Now, do we have a motion to
8 approve this transfer from Mr.
9 Woodrow Wilson. Second from Mr.
10 Moss. Any comments from the public?
11 Hearing none, any questions or
12 comments from the Board? There
13 being none, all in favor say aye.

14 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

15 **MR. JONES:**

16 Any opposition? There being
17 none, the motion carries.

18 **MR. USIE:**

19 One partial transfer. Sabine
20 Pass Liquefaction, LLC. 2011-0659-I.
21 New owner, Sabine Pass Liquefaction,
22 LLC. is retaining \$13,713,761 in
23 assets. And Sabine Pass LNG, LP is
24 receiving \$22,548,903 in assets.
25 And this in Cameron Parish.

1 **MR. JONES :**

2 All right. We have a motion to
3 approve the partial transfer here?

4 **MR. WILSON :**

5 Motion.

6 **MR. JONES :**

7 We have a motion from Dr. Shawn
8 Wilson.

9 **MR. MILLER :**

10 Second.

11 **MR. JONES :**

12 Second from Mr. Miller. Any
13 comments from the public? Hearing
14 none, any comments or questions from
15 the Board? There being none, all in
16 favor say aye.

17 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

18 **MR. JONES :**

19 Any opposition? There being
20 none, the motion carries.

21 **MR. USIE :**

22 We have 10 contract
23 cancellations. Gulf Island
24 Shipyards, LLC., 2015-0029. LED
25 requests closure of this contract

1 upon notification from Bollinger of
2 relocation of the asset associated
3 with this contract to another site,
4 and no intention from Bollinger to
5 move forward with the transfer. And
6 this is in Terrebonne Parish.

7 House of Raeford Farms of
8 Louisiana, LLC., 2019-0277. Company
9 request cancellation in Bienville
10 Parish.

11 PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer LP.
12 2010-1190-B, 2013-0516, 2013-0517,
13 and 2013-0519. Company requests
14 cancellation, and these are all in
15 Ascension Parish.

16 PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer LP.
17 Contracts 2010-1190-A, 2012-0337,
18 and 2015-0161-A. Company requests
19 cancellation, and these are in
20 Iberville Parish.

21 REG Geismar, LLC., 2018-0150.
22 Company requests cancellation, and
23 this is in Ascension Parish.

24 **MR. JONES:**

25 Very good. We have a motion

1 from?

2 **MR. MOSS:**

3 Motion.

4 **MR. WILSON:**

5 Second.

6 **MR. JONES:**

7 Mr. Moss. Second from Dr. Woody
8 Wilson. Comments from the public?
9 There being none, any comments or
10 questions from the Board? All in
11 favor say aye.

12 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

13 **MR. JONES:**

14 Any opposition? There being
15 none, the motion then carries.
16 Those contracts are cancelled.

17 **MR. USIE:**

18 We have a one special request.
19 It is from WestRock CP, LLC. in
20 regards to Contract 2017-0067. We
21 would like to request an extension
22 to complete our capital investment
23 under our existing advance
24 application for Application 2017-
25 0067 at our Hodge Mill location.

1 We are requesting an extension
2 to December 31, 2024. The projects
3 were not completed by 12/31/2021 due
4 to several factors, including severe
5 weather, Covid, a cyber security
6 attack on the company, and
7 significant staff changes at the
8 company during 2021.

9 As of 12/31/2021, we have
10 invested \$88,261,407 in the project
11 and anticipate investing the
12 remaining \$61,738,593 in capital
13 investment by December 31, 2024.

14 **MR. JONES:**

15 Do we have some one here from
16 WestRock?

17 **MR. PYLOS:**

18 Yes.

19 **MR. JONES:**

20 Please come forward.

21 **MR. PYLOS:**

22 Good morning.

23 **MR. JONES:**

24 Good morning. Please state your
25 name and your position of the

1 company, please.

2 **MR. PYLOS:**

3 I'm Todd Pylos, I'm the
4 engineering manager at our facility.

5 **MR. JONES:**

6 And where is the facility
7 located?

8 **MR. PYLOS:**

9 Jackson Parish.

10 **MR. JONES:**

11 Jackson Parish. And what is it
12 you-all make?

13 **MR. PYLOS:**

14 We make paper.

15 **MR. JONES:**

16 Okay. Got it. Now, tell us
17 what happened.

18 **MR. PYLOS:**

19 What happened, so we had capital
20 for a five year plan. During '20
21 with the Covid outbreak occurred,
22 the economic hurt associated with
23 that and disservice associated with
24 that, the company took a while to
25 reduce capital across the board.

1 This impacted the schedule of
2 several of our projects. But with
3 delay of the schedules caused us not
4 to get the \$150 million over a five-
5 year period.

6 **MR. JONES :**

7 So help me with WestRock. Is it
8 a national company?

9 **MR. PYLOS :**

10 It is international.

11 **MR. JONES :**

12 Okay. And so the capital
13 cutbacks were throughout the
14 companies -

15 **MR. PYLOS :**

16 Absolutely.

17 **MR. JONES :**

18 Because of the Covid situation;
19 is that right?

20 **MR. PYLOS :**

21 That's the main player, yeah.

22 **MR. JONES :**

23 Okay. Talk to me about the
24 severe weather. What happened?

25 **MR. PYLOS :**

1 Severe weather, that was
2 February of 2021. We had severe
3 weather up there, ending up shutting
4 our facility down for several days
5 and that was an impact, economic
6 impact in the company.

7 **MR. JONES:**

8 Okay. And what cyber security
9 attack?

10 **MR. PYLOS:**

11 We had cyber attack at our
12 corporate office. It affected all
13 business network across the fleet,
14 shut mills down nationwide for
15 several weeks. Some mills for
16 several months until that was
17 restored.

18 **MR. JONES:**

19 So basically, what you're asking
20 is to extend the contract to 2024 so
21 that you can complete? You made
22 over half of the projected capital
23 investments; is that correct?

24 **MR. PYLOS:**

25 Yes, sir.

1 **MR. JONES:**

2 And you have another \$60, almost
3 \$62 million dollars to go?

4 **MR. PYLOS:**

5 Yes, sir. And the final end
6 service date for one of those is
7 2024.

8 **MR. JONES:**

9 Okay. Do we have any
10 recommendations from LED? Anything
11 at all?

12 **UNKNOWN:**

13 We fully support the extension.
14 This is a company that's made a
15 commitment in our rural communities.
16 There are very significant amount
17 indirect jobs related to this direct
18 employment at the facility. Timber
19 harvest and related items in the
20 community are very important and
21 significant part of that rural
22 economy.

23 You might want to comment on how
24 many direct jobs you do have, sir.

25 **MR. PYLOS:**

1 450.

2 **MR. JONES:**

3 Over 450 jobs; is that correct?

4 **MR. PYLOS:**

5 Direct job; yes, sir. And the
6 contracts were maintained at least
7 in paper, which we have done both.

8 **MR. JONES:**

9 All right. We have a motion on
10 this matter?

11 **MR. MCINNIS:**

12 Motion.

13 **MR. JONES:**

14 Motion from Mr. Mcinnis.

15 **MR. WILSON:**

16 Second.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 Second from Dr. Shawn Wilson.
19 Any comments from the public? Any
20 questions or comments from the
21 Board? There being none, all in
22 favor say -- The motion is to grant
23 the request to extend the contract
24 to December 31, 2024. That's
25 correct? Okay. Make sure we're all

1 clear on what the motion is.

2 All right. In all in favor, say
3 aye.

4 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

5 **MR. JONES:**

6 Any opposition? There being
7 none, the motion carries. Thank
8 you, sir. Appreciate you being
9 here. Appreciate your investment in
10 North Louisiana. Being a Ruston
11 boy, that's important. All right.
12 Next.

13 **MR. USIE:**

14 Next, we have three contracts
15 that were non-compliant following
16 the 2017 I Temp Rules. Two are
17 requesting deferrals. 2018-0076 for
18 Kerotest Manufacturing Corp in
19 Avoyelles Parish for the 2019
20 reporting year, and the 2020
21 reporting year.

22 **MR. JONES:**

23 All right. So first of all, we
24 need a motion to defer the two
25 Kerotest contracts.

1 **MR. WILSON:**

2 Motion.

3 **MR. NASSAR:**

4 Second.

5 **MR. JONES:**

6 Have a motion from Shawn Wilson,
7 second from Mr. Nassar. Any
8 comments from the public? There
9 being none, any comments or
10 questions from the Board? There
11 being none, all in favor say aye.

12 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

13 **MR. JONES:**

14 Any opposition? There is none.
15 Those matters are deferred.

16 **MR. USIE:**

17 We have one contract. Number
18 2016-1576 for Louisiana Sugar
19 Refining in St. James Parish that is
20 non-compliant with the for the 2017
21 reporting period.

22 The Exhibit A for the contract
23 requires the company create and
24 maintain four jobs with \$200,000 in
25 payroll. The actual jobs created

1 was 13 with \$289,788 in payroll.
2 The reason for the non-compliance is
3 due to the late filing.

4 Compliance was June 30, 2019,
5 but not received until July 6, 2021.
6 All three local entities, the
7 Parish, the School Board and Sheriff
8 did not respond to the non-
9 compliance letters sent.

10 **MR. JONES:**

11 Okay. I believe we do have
12 someone here from Louisiana Sugar
13 Refining. Please state your name
14 and your position with the company.

15 **MR. WEGGE:**

16 So good morning. My name is
17 Robert Wegge, and I actually work
18 with Southern Credits. We represent
19 Louisiana Sugar. Rochelle and Larry
20 couldn't be here today. They had a
21 prior engagement.

22 So if you recall, we met on this
23 issue last Board Meeting and they
24 were here and present. But they
25 couldn't make it today.

1 **MR. JONES :**

2 Right. And we basically
3 deferred further consideration
4 because there was some
5 misunderstanding on the deletion of
6 filings, and that sort of thing?

7 **MR. WEGGE :**

8 Correct. I think this is just a
9 simple misunderstanding. So this is
10 one of the first post-executive
11 order contracts. And when we filed
12 our initial compliance report back
13 in 2019 it was our understanding
14 that that covered both years, the
15 2017 and 2018 filings.

16 When we were notified in July
17 of 2021 that it did not, that we
18 needed to make those changes, we did
19 make the changes. And we submitted
20 those changes within five days of
21 being notified.

22 And so the company has exceeded
23 jobs and payroll requirement. They
24 always strive to be in compliance.
25 And, you know, we've always done

1 everything that we could to meet LED
2 staff requests and to keep this
3 company in compliance, cause they're
4 doing the things they need to do,
5 so.

6 **MR. JONES:**

7 All right. I know that we've
8 got no formal response from the
9 Police Jury, the School Board, and
10 the Sheriff. I know I received a
11 call yesterday from Sheriff Willie
12 Martin indicating his support for
13 Louisiana Sugar Refinery, and asked
14 that under the circumstances as it
15 has been described today that we not
16 take any adverse action on the
17 application on the special request.
18 Mr. Nassar?

19 **MR. NASSAR:**

20 Well, Mr. Jones, I also received
21 a phone call from Sheriff Martin. I
22 spoke with Parish President Pete
23 Dufresne, our Assessor, and the
24 President of St. James Parish School
25 Board, and all four of the entities

1 asked that we waive any penalty on
2 LSR.

3 **MR. JONES:**

4 I know that Mr. Dufresne has
5 come to the table. State your name
6 and position, Mr. President.

7 **MR. DUFRESNE:**

8 Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 My name is Pete Dufresne, and I am
10 the St. James Parish President.
11 Just so the Board knows, this
12 facility was constructed and has
13 been operating continuously since
14 1890. This facility employs roughly
15 400 employees, of which 80 percent
16 are St. James Parish residents.

17 It's very unique to St. James
18 Parish, and I would just request
19 that this Board show as much favor
20 towards the Sugar Refinery as you
21 possibly can.

22 **MR. JONES:**

23 Thank you, Mr. President.

24 **MR. NASSAR:**

25 I'll make the motion that we

1 waive the penalty.

2 **MR. MCINNIS:**

3 Second.

4 **MR. JONES:**

5 Okay. We have a motion from Mr.
6 Nassar to waive the penalty. Second
7 from Mr. Mcinnis. Any comments from
8 the public? Any questions or
9 comments from the Board? Hearing
10 none, all in favor say aye.

11 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

12 **MR. JONES:**

13 Any opposition? There being
14 none, the motion carries. Thank you
15 very much. Good to see you, sir.

16 **MR. USIE:**

17 Next we have two contracts that
18 are non-compliant those are order
19 contracts following the 2018 rules.
20 The first one is for Number 2018-
21 0099, Inferno Manufacturing in Caddo
22 Parish that is non-compliant for the
23 2020 reporting periods.

24 The Exhibit A for the contract
25 requires the company create and

1 maintain two jobs with \$100,000 in
2 payroll. The actually jobs created
3 was zero, and zero payroll. The
4 company is non-compliant for the
5 jobs and payroll only.

6 The parish is requesting that no
7 negative action to be taken against
8 Inferno Manufacturing by the Board
9 of Commerce and Industry with
10 consideration that the Caddo Parish
11 Commission fully endorse Inferno's
12 participation in the program.

13 No response was received from
14 the School Board and the Sheriff,
15 and the City of Shreveport. Office
16 of the Mayor wishes to render all
17 decisions or actions concerning the
18 company's non-compliance.

19 **MR. JONES:**

20 Someone here from Inferno?
21 Please state your name and position
22 with the company.

23 **MR. ORGANICK:**

24 Yes, my name is Allen Organick,
25 I'm the president Inferno

1 Manufacturing.

2 **MR. JONES:**

3 Okay. And tell us what happened
4 here.

5 **MR. ORGANICK:**

6 We made investment of the two
7 machines in 2018, which was a high
8 spot in our business cycle. But our
9 oilfield customer base is very
10 specific, and so we made our
11 promises at that high point. And in
12 2020 we lost the -- we laid off
13 people. So 2020 we are non-
14 compliant.

15 We can look back and see the
16 2021 is going to be the same thing.
17 We're just not getting back up to
18 our baseline in the plus two.

19 **MR. JONES:**

20 How many people do you employ?

21 **MR. ORGANICK:**

22 We have 22 or 23 right now.

23 **MR. JONES:**

24 Okay. And so you're an oilfield
25 supply company, essentially?

1 **MR. ORGANICK:**

2 Well, we're speciality
3 manufacturer.

4 **MR. JONES:**

5 For the whole?

6 **MR. ORGANICK:**

7 Yes.

8 **MR. JONES:**

9 Okay. And your market is
10 throughout Louisiana or is it more
11 regional?

12 **MR. ORGANICK:**

13 It's mostly Texas, Oklahoma,
14 Pennsylvania. So most of our
15 dollars coming in are coming from
16 out of state.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 And the parish indicated to take
19 no action, no penalty. Dr. Woodrow
20 Wilson, would you like to speak to
21 that, please?

22 **MR. WILSON:**

23 Yes, sir. This company is 100
24 years old in our community. It
25 resides in the heart of Shreveport.

1 And the tax penalties they're asking
2 for is like \$4,900 a year. You
3 multiple that by four years you get
4 \$19,948.

5 And not to embarrass Mr.
6 Organick, but in 2020 at the height
7 of the Covid issues we've been
8 having, Mr. Organick's company
9 donated to the parish \$125,000 to do
10 Covid testing before parish money
11 even showed up.

12 So as a corporate citizen, he
13 did far more than what he's asking
14 for, and that's why we were
15 compelled to say no to adverse
16 action being taken at this time.

17 **MR. JONES:**

18 Okay. Thank you, sir. Thank
19 for that. At this point, we
20 entertain a motion. Mr. Wilson,
21 what's your motion?

22 **MR. WILSON:**

23 Motion for no action to be taken
24 at this time.

25 **MR. JONES:**

1 Okay. So basically, waiving the
2 penalty?

3 **MR. WILSON:**

4 Yes, sir.

5 **MR. JONES:**

6 All right. We have a motion
7 from Dr. Woody Wilson. We have a
8 second?

9 **MR. WILSON:**

10 Second.

11 **MR. JONES:**

12 Second from Dr. Shawn Wilson.
13 Any comments from the public? Any
14 questions or comments from the
15 Board? Hearing none, all in favor
16 say aye.

17 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

18 **MR. JONES:**

19 Any opposition? There being
20 none, the motion carries.

21 **MR. ORGANICK:**

22 Thank you so much.

23 **MR. JONES:**

24 Thank you, Mr. Organick. Keep
25 up the good work.

1 **MR. USIE:**

2 Next, we have one contract.
3 Number 2018-0123, International
4 Mezzo Technologies, Inc. in East
5 Baton Rouge Parish. They're non-
6 compliant for the 2019 reporting
7 period.

8 The Exhibit A for the contract
9 requires the company to create and
10 maintain two jobs with \$77,000 in
11 payroll. The actual jobs created
12 was zero jobs, and zero in payroll.

13 The metro council is
14 recommending that the Board of
15 Commerce and Industry take no action
16 in response to the compliance. The
17 School Board recommends the Board
18 takes no action regarding the
19 matter.

20 And the Sheriff has stated, "I
21 have elected to make a
22 recommendation to the Board on the
23 consequence for non-compliance. It
24 is my understanding that the company
25 is facing the impact of Covid in the

1 workplace and during this difficult
2 time period was out of compliance
3 for only a short time period.
4 Therefore, it is my recommendation
5 that no action be taken against the
6 company for the project Year 2019."

7 **MR. JONES:**

8 And this municipality, did they
9 -

10 **MR. USIE:**

11 Is a metro council. The same
12 recommendation, take no action.

13 **MR. JONES:**

14 Got it. Thank you. Do we have
15 someone here from International
16 Mezzo Technologies? Have a seat,
17 please.

18 **UNKNOWN:**

19 Mr. Chairman.

20 **MR. JONES:**

21 Yes, sir.

22 **UNKNOWN:**

23 I'll have to recuse myself from
24 this one, not because of issues, but
25 because of my boss is calling me and

1 I want you to keep going. And I
2 believe this is the last thing on
3 the agenda that required a vote.

4 **MR. JONES:**

5 Thank you very much. All right.
6 State your name and your position
7 with the company, please.

8 **MR. TURNER:**

9 Yes, my name is Mark Turner.
10 I'm the Director of Finance.

11 **MR. JONES:**

12 And tell us what happened here.

13 **MR. TURNER:**

14 Well, we hired the two
15 additional people throughout the
16 year, and we were in compliance up
17 until October 3rd or something like
18 that. We lost four people, and we
19 replaced two of them prior to the
20 end of the year.

21 We hired two more who accepted
22 positions, but because of the
23 holiday situation, they didn't want
24 to start working until after the
25 1st. They started working on

1 January 7th. So we were technically
2 out of compliance for six days --
3 seven days.

4 **MR. JONES:**

5 Thank you for that explanation.
6 That's the reason we want to hear
7 the rest of the story. All right.
8 Basically, all local government has
9 recommended take no action. I would
10 entertain a motion from Dr. Woody
11 Wilson.

12 **MR. FAJARDO:**

13 Second.

14 **MR. JONES:**

15 All right. Thank you very much.
16 A second from Mr. Fajardo. Any
17 comments from the public? Any
18 questions or comments from the
19 Board? Hearing none, all in favor
20 say aye.

21 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

22 **MR. JONES:**

23 Any opposition? There being
24 none, the motion carries. Thank
25 you, sir.

1 **MR. USIE:**

2 And that concludes the ITE.

3 **MR. JONES:**

4 Thank you. Thank you very much.
5 All right. Mr. Pierson, you have
6 any words of wisdom for us today?

7 **MR. PIERSON:**

8 Just to abbreviate comments, I
9 wish to thank the Board for the
10 support, and certainly, I'd like
11 that it's very engaged in rural
12 economic development across our
13 state.

14 I'm please to see the \$22
15 million dollars Great Southern Wood
16 invested in Avoyelles Parish, and
17 the Weyerhaeuser \$7 million dollar
18 investment in Natchitoches Parish
19 bringing about more than 78 new
20 direct jobs.

21 So we continue to make some
22 great progress in our rural
23 communities. And I'm thankful also
24 for the support of WestRock, and
25 that is a tremendous economic driver

1 for that rural community in North
2 Louisiana.

3 So I'm happy to answer any
4 questions you may have, but that
5 concludes my remarks.

6 **MR. JONES:**

7 Thank you, sir. Anything else
8 from any member of the Board? We'll
9 recognize a motion to adjourn.

10 **MR. MOSS:**

11 Motion.

12 **MR. MOLLER:**

13 Second.

14 **MR. JONES:**

15 Motion by Mr. Moss. Second Mr.
16 Moller. All in favor say aye.

17 (AT THIS TIME MEMBERS VOTED AYE.)

18 **MR. JONES:**

19 Any opposition? Thank you-all.
20 I appreciate you-all.

21 (The Meeting was concluded at 10:44 a.m.)

22

23

24

25

R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

1
2 I, Tara Torres-Blank, Certified
3 Court Reporter, in and for the State of
4 Louisiana, the officer, as defined in Rule
5 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
6 and/or Article 1434(b) of the Louisiana
7 Code of Civil Procedure, before whom this
8 sworn testimony was taken, do hereby state
9 on the Record:

10 That due to the interaction in the
11 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
12 dashes (--) have been used to indicate
13 pauses, changes in thought, and/or
14 talkovers; that same is the proper method
15 for a Court Reporter's transcription of
16 proceeding, and that the dashes (--) do not
17 indicate that words or phrases have been
18 left out of this transcript;

19 That any words and/or names which
20 could not be verified through reference
21 material have been denoted with the phrase
22 "(phonetic)."

23 _____
24 Tara Torres-Blank, CCR
25 _____
Certified Court Reporter

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I, Tara Torres-Blank, Certified Court Reporter, in
3 and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before
4 whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify that
5 after having first been duly sworn by me upon authority
6 of R.S. 37:2554, did testify as hereinbefore set forth
7 in the foregoing pages;

8 That this testimony was reported by me in the
9 Stenomask method (voice-writing), was prepared and
10 transcribed by me or under my personal direction and
11 supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the
12 best of my ability and understanding;

13 That the transcript has been prepared in compliance
14 with transcript format guidelines required by statute or
15 by rules of the board, that I have acted in compliance
16 with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as
17 defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article
18 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board;

19 That I am not related to counsel or to the parties
20 herein; am not otherwise interested in the outcome of
21 this matter; and am a valid member in good standing of
22 the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Certified
23 Shorthand Reporters.

24 _____
25 Tara Torres-Blank (#22012)
Certified Court Reporter