

**RESTORE LOUISIANA TASK FORCE**  
**October 27, 2017**  
**City of Covington Council Chambers**  
**222 E. Kirkland Street**  
**Covington, Louisiana 70433**

*Approved*

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Ms. Jacqui Vines Wyatt** called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Good morning, everyone. The time is now 9:30 AM so I would like to call the Louisiana Task Force meeting to order. Lori, could you please do the roll call?

**II. ROLL CALL**

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Johnny Bradberry  
Mr. John Gallagher  
Representative Edward "Ted" James  
Mr. Adam Knapp  
Mayor Dave Norris  
Mr. Michael Olivier  
Representative J. Rogers Pope  
Mayor Ollie Tyler  
Dr. Shawn Wilson  
Ms. Jacqui Vines Wyatt

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Randy Cloutre (non-voting, ex-officio)  
Mr. Roland Dartez  
Mr. Jimmy Durbin  
Mr. Michael Faulk  
Mr. Darryl Gissel  
Senator Dan "Blade" Morrish  
Mr. Don Pierson  
Mr. Sean Reilly  
Dr. James Richardson  
Mayor-President Joel Robideaux  
Representative Rob Shadoin  
Commissioner Mike Strain

**Ms. Dupont:** Madam Chair, 10 members are present. We do not have a quorum.

**LET THE RECORD SHOW THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ARRIVED AFTER THE ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Darryl Gissel

**SUPPORTING STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patrick Forbes, Executive Director, Office of Community Development  
Pat Santos, Office of Community Development  
Dan Rees, Office of Community Development  
LaSonta Davenport, Office of Community Development  
Lori Dupont, Office of Community Development  
Pat Witty, Louisiana Economic Development  
Portia Johnson, Office of Community Development  
Jeff Haley, Office of Community Development  
DeJa Smith, Office of Community Development  
Casey Tingle, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness  
Erin Monroe Wesley, Special Counsel, Office of the Governor  
Shauna Sanford, Office of the Governor  
Nick Speyrer, Emergent  
Madhu Beriwal, IEM  
Nicole Sweazy, Louisiana Housing Corporation  
Robby Bizot, Louisiana Housing Corporation

### **III. CHAIRPERSON OPENING REMARKS**

**~ Jacqui Vines Wyatt, Restore Louisiana Task Force Co-Chair**

**Ms. Wyatt:** Okay, so we will hold off on action items until we get the quorum and then we will start out with asking for a motion to approve. Okay, well then let me just start with the opening remarks. I'd like to start out by giving a very special thank you to Covington Mayor Cooper for hosting us here today; and also express our appreciation to all of the leaders and residents of St. Tammany Parish for their commitment to bringing their community back stronger. St. Tammany is one of the top ten most impacted parishes of the Great Floods of 2016. We chose to hold our meeting here today because according to our data analysis, over 64% of the flood victims in this area, with FEMA verified loss, have not filled out the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program survey. That calculates to 678 missing surveys. We are hoping to reach some of those homeowners today and assist them with completing the survey. Completing the survey is the first step to participating in the program. As some of you may have noticed upon arriving, there are tables set up right outside the council chambers with program representatives who will help submit surveys and answers to questions homeowners may have. I would like to give an overview on the progress of the homeowner program. We now have nearly 45,000 flood victims who have completed the Restore survey. Over 37,800 of those homeowners were determined to be in Phases I-VI. More than 36,800 Environmental Reviews have been completed, which represents 97% of the homeowners currently in Phases I-VI. Over 20,000 homeowners from Phase I-III that have been invited to complete an application; of those, over 11,000 have submitted. Beginning next week, the program will begin inviting Phase 4 applicants who didn't have flood insurance to complete their applications. As of this week, over 2,200 grant awards have been offered to homeowners, amounting to over \$67.5 million of the funds allocated to Louisiana getting out to Louisiana homeowners. This all demonstrates the substantial and meaningful strides that are being made in the recovery process. However, we know that if you are still not back in your home, none of these things makes much difference. You still need help and this task force is committed to seeing that you get that help as quickly as possible within the system we have to work in. As I close, I want to leave you with this extremely important reminder, if you are a homeowner and you were impacted by the March and August floods of 2016, please, please, please take the homeowner flood damage survey. It does not matter where you are in the rebuilding process. We need to know what kind of help you need in recovery. This is also the first step in applying and qualifying for assistance. Please visit RESTORE-dot-LA-dot-GOV. Because we're here for you.

### **IV. ST. TAMMANY PARISH OFFICIALS**

**~ Gina Campo, St. Tammany Parish**

**~ Mayor Mike Cooper, City of Covington**

**Ms. Wyatt:** So with that, we will go to the St. Tammany parish officials. I think we have Gina Campo here; CAO and we have Mayor Mike Cooper here from the city of Covington.

**Ms. Campo:** Good morning. I'm Gina Campo and first, I'd like to welcome you to the city of Covington and of course to St. Tammany parish. We are very happy that you all chosen to have your meeting in our parish. And I wanted to first communicate to you the sincere apologies from President Brister. He is tending to a family matter this morning but I am very happy to be here. Our community and our residents appreciate everything that the task force is doing in regards to the program. As you know, obviously last year was an active weather year for us. The parish was hit two times within six months with flooding and particularly on the west side of our parish. We have a very large watershed which has a basin and that basin had experienced severe flooding two times within six months. So many of the victims of were hit twice within six months. And also on the east side of the parish in our pearl river basin, which is an area that experiences not only severe weather events on a regular basis but also just regular flooding and high water. Because of the nature of the hydrology there, they were hit also, particularly in the March event. So in the March event, we had a strike on the east and then a few months later, a strike on the west. So it was a challenge because this is a very large parish. It's over 900 square miles so for the parish government it was a challenge to respond at the time of the flooding. As madam chair pointed out, 678 surveys have still yet to be filled out on the recovery side it's also a challenge. While our residents are very resilient and like to, like to pride themselves on the ability to take care of themselves, it's a blessing and a curse for us as parish government because yes, they are trying to take care of themselves and come back, but it's hard to reach out. Particularly on the west side of the parish where we until recently have not had flooding as bad of this magnitude. It is usually spread out and mostly rural so it is a challenge. I want to particularly inform the task force that through the program we have had opportunities to try and find different ways to reach out to these folks. We had several meetings between ours and management and the current administration to work together to see to an end that defines the confidentiality, etc., to get the information, and to help your staff and our staff to try and get the message out before it comes to worse. So, it is a challenge, but there has been good communication involving us, in working together, and I think that's really the positive that I wanted to point out. So, anything that we can do to help reach those initial set up. Fortunately willing to do, and we look forward in continuing to work

together to try and reach those residents that are still working to recover from last year's test. Other than that, madam chair, I'd like have permission to turn it over to the Mayor of the great city of Covington, and again, we really are appreciative of everything that task force has done for assistance in St. Tammany parish.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Thank you very much, and it sounds encouraging.

**Mayor Cooper:** Good morning. I too, want to welcome you here this morning. Elected officials, the task force, Restore, and representatives of the governor's office. I see several of you this morning and thank you all for being here. Our community, the city of Covington, particularly damaged, almost received damage in the March 2016 flood. We weren't much affected with the August flood in our community. In the March 2016 flood, we had over 300 homes receive some sort of water damage. And that may, or may not seem, a lot or a great number, considering our city is only nine square miles, and has just over 10,000 residents. Our city is known as the City of Three Rivers. We've got the Bogue Falaya River, the Tchefuncte River, and the Abita River, emerging quite soundly. And with the type of rains that we received north of Covington, even north of St. Tammy's Parish, that came down through the prairie terrace and washed it and feed into the rivers that go through our city. It caused flooding in areas that I had never seen before, as a lifelong resident of Covington. There were areas along the river, there were also areas in the district that received water, because of the water, that were not able to recede as quick as it normally does, due to the nature of the southern wind that pushed back into Lake Ponchartrain which pushed the waters backed north and prevents the water from receding. We had areas with flood zone C, located in flood zone C that flooded. And well, people were wondering why did they not have flood insurance, or why were they not encouraged to have flood insurance. Well of course, we encourage everybody to get flood insurance. Particularly what we've seen over the past five years, the number of rain events that we've had, not only in our community, but throughout the state, and throughout the nation. Of those structures, about 150 received renovation permits in our city. And you might be wondering, why are only 150? We actually waived the fees for any programs, but we requested to follow it up with issuing permits so that we get a record of those homes that received damage. There are no active flood renovations at this time. And at the urging of the Governor's Office, in June of this year, we drafted a letter and sent out the restored recount fliers, we have to those names that were given to us. So we're glad that you participated in this program, and we also used social media as well. And I have a feeling that when I get back to the office today, and we'll put this back on our website and social media, to remind those again who may not have participated. In closing, I'd like to say thank you for what you all have been doing, and in drawing attention to St. Tammany parish to help encourage our citizens to apply. I'd like to note that we have applied for, and received, a Community Resiliency Grant in the amount of \$45,000, through NOAA and Gulf of Mexico Alliance, to the develop a flood preparation and response plan for our citizens. The city will streamline its operations immediately preceding and during a flooding event, and provide our citizens with enough time to protect life and property, in a controlled manner. So we've since hire a consultant and we'll be implementing, not implementing, but developing a plan to, perhaps, ready the citizens, in a fashion that they'll be more prepared, and that we'll be more prepared to handle planning out for this. So again, thank you and we hope that you have a productive meeting today.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Thank you, Mayor. Thank you so much.

## **V. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 18, 2017 and SEPTEMBER 22, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

**Ms. Wyatt:** With Mr. Darryl Gissel coming now, welcome, we are going to move to the approval of minutes and then we're going to move to action items, and public comment. Because I understand that we now have the people who needed to be here. So we'll do that a little bit early if everybody's okay with that. Can I have a motion to approve the August and September meeting minutes?

**Adam Knapp:** I move.

**Mr. Bradberry:** Second.

**Ms. Wyatt:** All in favor?

**All Members:** Aye.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Thank you. Opposed? Motion is carried.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **i. Restore Louisiana Homeowner Program Recommendation**

**Ms. Wyatt** allowed questions during the explanation of the recommendation, therefore the floor was never officially opened for questions.

**Ms. Wyatt:** All right, can I ask Pat Forbes, the Executive Director of the Office of Community Development, to come up and talk to the action item that we have --the Restore Louisiana rental program recommendation. And after that if you have public comments Portia is over there with the cards and you can go to her and we'll address any comments that you may have. Thank you. Pat?

**Mr. Forbes:** Thank you very much. If you will go to slide 17 in your presentation. You also have it in your, I think it have 6, you have a summary that we provided to you earlier in the week on this recommendation and we will go through the recommendation now. We also have a resolution in your binder. Tab seven for this resolution. In essence, we have played out the rentable housing programs, we talked about many times before with you, we had a shortage of affordable rental housing in the state before the floods. It got exacerbated by the floods. We allocated funds in the best estimate that we had to get money into the best programs that we could. We've gotten to a point now I've had extended deadlines on two different programs, the multifamily rental program and the neighborhood landlord program. That the neighborhood landlord program is slightly oversubscribed, and the multi-family program is dramatically undersubscribed. I think we had some 19 million in applications for that program. And so what we are proposing today is that we take some funds from the multifamily program, enough to cover all the applications we have now for neighborhood landlord program. And move the rest into the, as yet unimplemented, piggyback program. Piggyback program we held until the end because it does take longer to implement. We were hoping to get more money out through these other two programs. But where we are right now, my recommendation is that the funds go in to piggyback the funds that are left over from multi-rental. It is easily the best bang for the buck in terms of dollars of subsidy per affordable month of all the programs. It lasts for 30 to 35 years, it creates some great opportunities for long-term, affordable rental properties. It just takes a little longer to develop. We had some great conversations with some of you this week about the recommendation Mr. Knapp talked about. What we did with Katrina, Rita which was basic income housing with piggyback funds. Appreciate all of the conversation that we had and we are going to, this resolution that we are going to ask you to pass today doesn't tie us down to restrictions that wouldn't allow us to that. So, we can continue to explore the possibility of mixed income. And any other suggestions that we get from the task forces we go forward. Today's actions simply gets the money we would go over there and lets us start the process of figuring out how to get into a Policeman Housing Corporation. That's sufficient and lets us get the money invested in affordable housing where it's needed. We know that there are rural, there are urban areas impacted by these floods and we have to be able to get the money out and the rental units out to all of those. And so we'll take all those things into consideration as we figure out how to implement that. And Mr. Robert Bizot knows way more about this than I do if any of you have additional questions.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Any questions? Do we have any other comments? Any questions from the public? So the staff has made a recommendation on the rental programs. Do I have a motion?

**Ms. Dupont:**

Mr. Bradberry	<b>Motioned</b>	Mr. Dartez	<b>Absent</b>
Mr. Gallagher	<b>Seconded</b>	Mr. Durbin	<b>Absent</b>
Mr. Gissel	<b>Support</b>	Mr. Faulk	<b>Absent</b>
Representative James	<b>Support</b>	Senator Morrish	<b>Absent</b>
Mr. Knapp	<b>Support</b>	Mr. Pierson	<b>Absent</b>
Mayor Norris	<b>Support</b>	Mr. Reilly	<b>Absent</b>
Mr. Olivier	<b>Support</b>	Mayor Tyler	<b>Absent</b>
Representative Pope	<b>Support</b>	Dr. Richardson	<b>Absent</b>
Mayor Tyler	<b>Support</b>	Mayor-President Robideaux	<b>Absent</b>
Dr. Wilson	<b>Support</b>	Representative Shadoin	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Wyatt	<b>Support</b>	Commissioner Strain	<b>Absent</b>

**Ms. Dupont:** 11 members have supported the resolution. It is passed, Madam Chair.

**Ms. Wyatt closed the floor for questions.**

**VII. LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**  
**~ Patrick Forbes, Executive Director, LA Office of Community Development**

**Ms. Wyatt:** So we are going to have Pat do the Louisiana Office of Community Development update then we'll move to the Governor's Office update.

**Mr. Forbes immediately began his PowerPoint presentation.**

**Ms. Wyatt allowed questions during the presentation, therefore the floor was never officially opened for questions.**

**Mr. Bradberry:** Pat, can you explain what grant award acknowledgement is, it says over 2,200, that's not exactly receiving the check, and it's that they're going to get a certain amount.

**Mr. Forbes:** That's correct. In essence, it could sit in the homeowners' court now to come in and do their closing and move forward with construction.

**Mr. Bradberry:** Okay, so how long do you think to actually get the check, on average?

**Mr. Forbes:** Okay, let's say that the homeowner gets their award acknowledgement letter today and tomorrow they come in and say are they scheduling a closing for two days out? And say I want to close on solution one, which means they're going to use the state's program contractor to do the work. They can come in, do the closing, and Jeff, jump up here if I get anything wrong. But they can come in, do the closing, and as soon as they do the closing we would assign the job to a contractor who would start within a week. Assuming they had done some reimbursement of eligible work already they would get that reimbursement check within about two weeks. So they would get funds, actual money to them, for the work they completed, it takes about two weeks. We've got to go to the closing, get through back through all of the information and then send the check.

**Mr. Bradberry:** So once they've been acknowledged and they're expeditious in them doing their part, and we can get them a check.

**Mr. Forbes:** Yes sir, that's correct.

**Mr. Bradberry:** Thank you, very much.

**Mr. Knapp:** Just an additional question to that. Can you break down to the 2200, which solution they're choosing if you see any patterns. We've had a lot of discussions and design conversation about, whether the state run program or the homeowners selecting their own contractors is going to be one of preferential how many reimbursements, that's the first. The second is based on the pace change is it enough that we can now make these sort of estimates of the rate of improvement we would expect to see over the coming months?

**Mr. Forbes:** I would say we're not quite at the pace we want to be at. We get some good numbers for a couple of weeks and staggered as well. And so, we want to make sure that we don't set enough of a ceiling that we could actually go beyond before we start doing those numbers. But yeah, I would say that in a fairly short period of time we should be able to start predicting for folks how far out before we get to them, who are in the later phases. Your first question when designed we expected about 15 maybe 20% to take solution one that is the state run program. We're actually seeing closer right now about 27-30 range. But remember, so far that's mostly Phase I and II, who are low to moderate income elderly. Folks who may be less likely to want to go deal with their own contractor and all that. So we're sort of guessing right now and probably will wind up around 25% solution one, 75% solution two. And that's excluding the folks who are just going to be reimbursement.

**Mr. Bradberry:** One more question, madam chair. Pat, it only looks like about 8,000 that haven't qualified for Phase I through VI. Can you say something about those?

**Mr. Forbes:** Sure. So, we asked everybody to fill out the survey. Any homeowner who flooded to fill out the survey. There are of course eligibility requirements. You have to have lived the place when it flooded. It had to be your primary residence. You had to be the owner. You had to have major severe damage that is in most cases overflowed with water. We have a lot of people who had what FEMA deemed minor damage, less than a foot of water. So we asked them to fill out the survey, they did fill out the survey, but when we look and they checked the box that says six inches of water. We can go out and do the inspection and maybe see if they guessed they said that wrong, but it's mostly people who had minor damage.

**Mr. Bradberry:** Thank you for that.

**Representative Pope:** Thank you for that. Thank you, Pat for your report, I want to go down a different road, if I may. I'll go down the road with you, and take a hypothetical if you'll bear with me just a minute, to talk about the pace. I noticed you and everybody have the phases and all that. You understand it's nobody's fault, it's everybody's fault. We get that. For the sake of the public, for me as an individual and the public, the people all we representing up here. Give me the steps, walk me through the steps. I made an application. As an example, and maybe you'll understand this, I made an application and I'm in Phase III. When we go out and we do an inspection how many follow up inspections, or how many people have to go out before there's a final determination? And this goes back to Bradberry's statement earlier, what is the final solution to this for people to get any money? That's the problem I'm hearing right now. You got multiple people going out having to

do inspections and that they're not getting it done in a timely manner. Now, and I'm sure I can go back to the governor, I don't know but if you can address that it would be more than appreciated.

**Mr. Forbes:** Yes, sir. So, we would go to the house ideally either two or three times. The first time is for environmental review and that's before you've ever applied. After you've filled out the survey, but haven't applied yet. We come out to do the site specific Environmental Review. We don't have to come into the house for that. The Inspector just comes takes some visual observations around the property in proximity to hazardous waste sites of what have you, things like that. So the homeowner would normally never know that that occurred. The second one that will happen at every home is that site specific inspection to go through the house and establish what work has already been done and what work has yet to do so we can establish scope of work for the contractor as well as the work that we're going to reimburse for.

**Representative Pope:** And that would take a different skill set for the environmental review?

**Mr. Forbes:** Yes, sir, different skill set. And that can take two, three hours in the house. They will schedule those ahead of time, they'll let people know that it's going to take a while and schedule it when it's convenient for the homeowner. The third one, which only occurs for homes that are older than 1978, built before 1978, is a lead inspection. We've got to go in and test for lead based paint. Make sure that if there is any there, we add the remediation of that to the scope of work which we pay for. But that's the third visit, that's ideal. We know that we have had some situations where first scope of work inspector didn't get the job right and had to go back. That's not all that common, but we certainly acknowledge there have been a few of those. And we're working to make sure that that gets less, and less, and less likely to happen. It will become even less likely if we can get this agreement with HUD about our alternative way to do the scope of work. We will still have to do an inspection but it's much shorter, much simpler, and much less prone to error. So those are the three times we should be in the house, at the house, rather.

**Representative Pope:** And each one of these field inspectors, each one of these people who come out, who do the environmental review, and there is a delay before the site inspection. And what you just told me was that there doesn't need to be any communication between the homeowner and the inspector. So that would be limiting at best the conversation between the site inspection and the third step you gave us. There would be a timeline, is that correct?

**Mr. Forbes:** There could be and in fact, the lead inspection could occur first. We don't care which one of those happens first. They all have to come together with the other work that I was telling you about earlier. There was a verification of benefits, the income; did you live there, all those kind of things. Those three pieces have to come together and then we go to grants.

**Representative Pope:** My point is that if I was a family, our frustration or my frustration would be as a homeowner, is that once that environmental is done, the site inspection is done, then it is time to finish the timeline and there's no communication between the homeowner for when that's going to happen. And I know your office understands because that has happened in my office in the last couple of weeks in reference to this which is why I'm bringing it up. Nobody's got an understanding, unless maybe you can do something with the contractor to work out. I don't know, put teams together or something before you go out there to do thoughtful visits and I guess they aren't getting any follow-up. And I'm not throwing a stone, I'm just asking questions.

**Mr. Forbes:** So that's a great question. There are a couple of different pieces to the answer for that. One is, we are trying to manage the invitations to apply so that we can also have the inspector there and then have the follow up, the additional work that has to happen, happen in fairly short order after that inspection. With respect to, we're still balancing those pieces as we get the speed up, we've got to get all recurrent pieces at the same speed, at the same time. So that's one of the challenges that creates this gap between the inspection and the award acknowledgement. That's the piece we're trying to shorten, because the inspection should happen fairly shortly after a person applied. The other piece is the communication part. And we acknowledge that we were under communicating to folks. And that just leaves people to wonder, do they still have my application, did they lose my information? And so we now communicate on a monthly basis with everybody who's in the system and state, this is where you are in the program. This is where you changed in the process and we expect it to be x amount of time before you progress to the next step. And either we will be reaching out to you or it says if you should be reaching back out to us when you have these things, but we're communicating at least monthly, and Nick helped me there are also, some weekly communications that we're doing in some cases. So we've acknowledged that and recognize it's a problem for folks to sit and not know where they are.

**Representative Pope:** That communication, is that for all people that have filled out a survey and got a response letter or is that just for those that have had-

**Mr. Forbes:** People who have filled out the survey get something monthly that says, you're still in phase five, or what have you. People who have applied will get the other information about where they are in the process.

**Representative Pope:** Does that come from your office?

**Mr. Forbes:** It's coming from the program, the Restore Program. It goes out, we know that we've got some folks who don't get emails. We've got about 60% of our emails get read, and we also do unmarked copy mailers to folks, and some cases, texting. And we do call out.

**Representative Pope:** Maybe that's something we need to look at, that's all madam chair.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Thank you. Ted?

**Representative James:** All right, I have a few concerns, Pat. And thank you for the edification of the rule. I had a meeting in my district and most of you all here attended, and they were able to hear some of the concerns that I have been hearing off of the past few months. And of course, time that we all agree that it's taking too slow; the SBA issues. I'm glad to hear that they were making some traction there with our congressional delegation. One of the things folks were confused, and maybe I was confused because I didn't understand the breakdown that folks are going to be eligible for both a portion of solution one, and two, and reimbursement.

**Mr. Forbes:** Right.

**Representative James:** Has that been communicated fully to folks, because I don't want folks applying for certain things and missing out on it?

**Mr. Forbes:** They won't miss out on it. When we go to the house, the inspector goes to the house and says, we can look around obviously and see, even if all they've done is gutted it, we've got a line item for gutting. So we're going to add that, that automatically results in a reimbursement. So from there it just builds. Whatever other work they've done will be a reimbursement. The only choice they're asking is solution one or two, if they've checked on the box, I still have work to do. We'll assess the three part of that.

**Representative James:** All right, so I got a text message from someone and I need to understand this. So his line items like reimbursement estimate with overheads, 80,000 plus. Total DOB, that's duplication of benefit, 26 plus. And then he has a total eligible reimbursement award, 54 plus. And then, total reimbursement award, 27 plus, right? So I'm confused, I get that the first that 80 minus the 26 to the total eligible reimbursement award of 54 plus. So what's this second number, the total reimbursement award? Is his total eligible reimbursement award subtracted again, or the total of reimbursement award?

**Mr. Forbes:** So solutions three through six, we only give 50% reimbursement. So the 27 is half the 54. And that's based on his income and age.

**Representative James:** Income and age, okay, so he's about my age. Okay, 50%. Okay, got you. All right, so the other piece, and it goes back to something that Adam mentioned about us being able to track how we're progressing with making disbursements. I will request some information and I think that is information that we should give. And I'm going to request that the total group get this information on every meeting. I wanted to know, for the members, how many awards have we dispersed in solution one? I want to know what is going on in solution two and solution three. And I would like for the entire board to give that information. Because for me I was hearing that a lot of folks in my district, most of the people that I knew that had received awards were all reimbursed. And while I was excited for those folks, I noted a lot of all those people either have insurance or have resources involved and make some things happen. So I was concerned about the other folks that didn't have the opportunity to do that. And also recognize that there is some crossover because we have both seen solution one and also received reimbursement. And I'm going to request that we get that information and be per parish if you guys can bring this down.

**Mr. Forbes:** Absolutely, what I would be glad to do and suggest is maybe we provide the task force and with a weekly update on all the main statistics. How many awards, how much money, how many disbursements, all those, we can certainly do that. To be clear, Jeff just reminded me, that's in a pipeline report that's actually online. Everybody, including the public, can look at it every day.

**Representative James:** And it's broken down?

**Mr. Forbes:** It's updated weekly.

**Representative James:** Okay, all right. And solution vs application, I mean survey vs application. Surveys submitted there are, before my folks submit an application, they have to be invited to receive an application.

**Mr. Forbes:** That's correct.

**Representative James:** And so the gap between those folks, those are the folks that you communicated that you guys are starting to update them on a monthly basis so we all know where they stand.

**Mr. Forbes:** We're actually updating everybody who has filled out the survey on some level or another. Some folks will get letters that say we've determined that you're not eligible and give the reason. If you had minor which gives them and it says, you have a chance to appeal so you can come in and say, wait I did have a flood water, got this wrong so you go through that process. Those folks, once they get that continue to get updates because they would have been determined to be ineligible or zero reward. So that's the only group of folks who we wouldn't continue to communicate through their closing.

**Representative James:** Got you, all right, one last question. The 18,000 or so folks that we know were approved for SBA loans, you said that that would be another possible million dollars to help. And at 50%, that's just the total amount what they were awarded?

**Mr. Forbes:** That's the total amount they were awarded.

**Representative James:** Yep. All right, thank you Pat. Thank you Madam Chair.

**Mr. Forbes:** One thing you said that I want make sure, just because we get a lot of questions about this. You said some of the folks you saw who got money had insurance. And that is not, that should not happen.

**Representative James:** I'm sorry. I didn't mean-

**Mr. Forbes:** Okay. Even though we've opened it up to folks who had insurance, we've not invited those folks to apply.

**Mr. Gissel:** I think you said there were 8,000 people that were approved and 2,000 that closed. What's been the biggest competitive with getting them to close?

**Mr. Forbes:** I don't think we're 2,000. It think we're at about 500. So there are a few pieces in that, that the homeowner, if they choose solution two, which most people are, has to get their contractor, show them the scope of work, get the contractor to sign a contract that says, yeah, I'll do this work for this amount of money. And then they come back in and they go to closing. That's really the major step to a curve between awarding how much at closing.

**Mr. Forbes continues his PowerPoint presentation.**

**Ms. LaSonta Davenport joined Mr. Forbes at the witness table to discuss the Small Business Program.**

**Mayor Norris:** Let me ask you something, talk about the management has reminded me of something I was wanting to ask you about maybe after the meeting. All those dial programs, 75% of farm and I know this is a different pot of money and different agency. Is there any chance that any of this money can be used to cover the 25% discount on market value of homes? That's an impediment to anybody who was considering buying.

**Mr. Forbes:** Right, yes sir. One, we have not budgeted any money for HM, you're talking about the Hazard Mitigation program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant program. We have not budgeted any money for the match for HM, to date. The governor has been asking for \$600 million in infrastructure enhancement funds, which we have not gotten adequate funding to be able do that yet. If we do, I would expect that match would be a very viable use of some of those funds. We have used CDBG funds in the past after Isaac for the 25% HM max for low to moderate income families who, as you've said, could never come up with that gap to be able to either have to take a buy out or get their home elevated. So it is a viable use of CDBG funds, we don't have the pledges right now. But it's certainly possible and we get additional funds, or as we wound up using less of this money for FEMA public assistance match.

**Mayor Norris:** Well I donk know, if that money- we've got a pretty nice allocation in our town for buyouts for flood loss properties. But that's what they're going up against, I'm getting 75%. So that would be a very positive thing. Thank you.

**Mr. Forbes:** I think that takes us to the end of my presentation. Any other questions? Thank you very much.

**Ms. Wyatt closed the floor for questions.**

## **VIII. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE**

**~ Erin Monroe Wesley, Special Counsel, Office of the Governor**

**Ms. Wyatt:** Thank you, Pat. We are now going to call Erin Wesley to come up. She's a special counsel to the Office of the Governor, she's going to give us the governor's office update.

**Ms. Wesley:** Good morning, madam chair and members of the restore task force. I want to start by highlighting the governor's ongoing efforts to continue to ease unnecessary hurdles to recovery. And Pat talked a little bit about the September 28th letter. I believe that letter's included in your binders. And what I want to do is to have us walk through some of those concerns and ask of the governor to the in that letter. Pat mentioned SB duplication of this issue, we know this is an issue that we've struggled with as we've traveled across the state to meet with homeowners throughout recovery. And so there were two specific asks around that duplications benefit issue. The first ask was the SB loan forgiveness program and to support changes to the duplication benefits provision Stafford Act or HUD's interpretation of these privileges. The Governor also asked the President to support legislative changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For multi-building campus facilities, the deductible of \$500,000 required on a per building basis was waived in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Governor Edwards asked that this per building deductible be shifted to a per campus deductible. The Governor also reiterated his request that HUD provide alternative requirements for the site-specific environmental review process on repaired homes following a disaster. And finally, the Governor further urged consideration a "global match" concept on FEMA Public Assistance projects to allow local, state and/or CDBG funds to provide the non-



federal match which is 10-25% in a more cost-effective and time efficient manner. I also want to talk about the governor's efforts that relates to building whole communities, and specifically as it relates to the Pecan Acres subdivision. The Pecan Acres subdivision in Point Coupee Parish is one of these communities. Pecan Acres is a predominately African American, low income community consisting of two streets in New Roads. This community has experienced severe repetitive flooding over roughly 20 years. In fact, the area flooded again this past Sunday when 14 inches of rain fell. Numerous meetings have been held over the past several months to develop options that would be available to assist homeowners to relocate to an area outside of the flood plain. We have engaged a number of key stakeholders in this effort, including the Point Coupee Parish Government, GOHSEP, OCD, LA Housing Corporation, the LSU School of Architecture, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Congressman Garret Graves. The key component to this relocation project is based on the NRCS buy-out program that is being offered to each homeowner. The program would require all homeowners to participate in the buyout and it appears that we do have 100% homeowner participation in that program. The parish has identified a few potential sites outside the floodplain that could be used to relocate the homeowners. There is likely to be a gap between the potential NRCS appraisal amount and funding that will be needed to get homeowners back into comparable living conditions out of the floodplain. One potential solution to closing that gap is funding from the Restore Louisiana homeowner program, for those homeowners who are eligible. In addition, the 3rd Action Plan for CDBG funding from the 2016 floods allocates additional funding to address the gap through acquisition and infrastructure. This funding was approved by the task force at the June meeting. The concept is that CDBG funding would be used to augment the NRCS funding to place the homeowner in a structure similar to their current residence in Pecan Acres. At this time homeowners are being asked to complete that application process with the assistance of the parish, which could take 12-18 months to fully complete the full process. And finally we just want to applaud the work of you the task force and also Pat Forbes and his shop in terms of the advancing and the ranking up the efforts to get homeowners back in their homes. We talked about it in terms of where we are right now, last month versus this month and I do just want to reiterate those numbers. Last month we were at 600 homeowner awards and \$18 million. Today we're at 2200 grant awards and \$67.5 million. And as Pat says you all articulated that this is not soon enough, but we're working as fast as we can again to ramp up these efforts. Given the fact that we know we've had other disasters in Florida, and Texas, and Puerto Rico and that's been a strain on our resources in terms of inspectors. But certainly with the new SFO and bringing on new contractors on board to help the inspection process, we want to continue that path in terms of increased access to the program and getting people back in their homes. So that's our update for today.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Great, thank you. Any questions for Erin? All right, thank you.

**Ms. Wyatt closed the floor for questions.**

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Ms. Wyatt:** So now we come to our public comments. Do we have any? Jackie Yancey, do you want to approach the podium?

**Ms. Nancy:** On the August 18, 2017 task force meeting in Denham Springs, I had a conversation with Mr. Patrick Forbes about income levels and he told me I could use 2017 income if it was lower than 2016's in order to qualify for 100% reimbursement. Only 3% of my income was in that higher category and they would not prorate the grants. My conversation with this board was to confirm the recording of the meeting's proceedings when I publicly asked the same question. I wanted to make sure I understand correctly. One of task force's assistants approached me at the end of the meeting and advised, I would have to provide some documentation that could be analyzed to verify the income that I said that I would for this year. I provided a letter from my financial adviser indicating that there would be no further IRA distributions after August 2017. I provided a copy of the actual August statement, and a September statement indicating that no further income had been received. These are uploaded in the system. I received my award notification on October the 18th. In spite of following the instructions given to me by Mr. Forbes and his assistant, my lawyers based upon 2016 income and not 2017. I brought all this to their attention on October the 19th, I submitted a copy of this letter to them also on October 19th. One of their people, Mr. Hart Grant, advised me not to file an appeal, because he would check on this matter for me and as of today I have heard nothing. I've talked to the ladies out front and Miss Heather had sent an email to someone on the task force asking them to change my income to reflect what 2017's income is. My question now is, if that happens, when will I receive my award.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Pat?

**Mr. Forbes:** I'm sorry, I'm not going to be able to talk about individual filings up here at a public meeting. If you would like to, we can walk outside to discuss it privately after the meeting.

**Ms. Wyatt:** Okay, perfect, thank you, any other public comments?

**Ms. Wyatt closed the floor for public comment.**

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Ms. Wyatt:** Okay, we have no other cards of business. GOHSEP task force update in tab eight. By request of the task force, OCD has provided us with the average medium income tier in tabs 9 and 10. And the next meeting date will be announced next week. Lori will be sending out those details, and again I want to thank St. Tammany for having us here today. All right, can I have the motion for adjournment?

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jacqui Vines Wyatt  
Co-Chair of the Restore Louisiana Task Force

Date Approved: January 12, 2018

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