

Louisiana Property and Casualty Insurance Commission Full Commission Meeting

**Wednesday, November 14, 2012
Louisiana Department of Insurance
Plaza Hearing Room
1:30 p.m.**

Minutes

Commission Members Present: Jeff Albright, Representative Kirk Talbot, Raymond Aleman, Sr., Ann Metrailler, Jamie Bourg (representing Paul Buffone), Stephen Campbell, Anne Cassity, Sheriff Greg Champagne, Manuel DePascual, Michael Guy, Carey Holliday (representing Wes Hataway), Ron Henderson, Scott Landry, Dortha Cummins (representing LTC. John LeBlanc), and Robert Moorman.

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Donelon, Ted Haik, Senator Dan Morrish, Senator Eric LaFleur, Representative Greg Cromer, J.E. Brignac, Jr., Chris Roy, Jr., and Earl Taylor.

Commission Staff Present: Terrell Moss, David Evans and Katie Walsh

DOI Staff Present: Charles Hansberry, Trent Beach, Joycelyn Spriggs, and Bernadette Jones

The Louisiana Property and Casualty Insurance Commission (LPCIC) meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Jeff Albright, who acted as chair for this meeting. He welcomed commission members, guest speakers and thanked all those in attendance. Mr. Albright recognized and welcomed two new commission members: Mr. Ron Henderson, Deputy Commissioner of Consumer Advocacy and Mr. Steve Campbell, Commissioner of the Office of Motor Vehicles.

Ms. Walsh called the roll and recorded the meeting attendance.

Mr. Michael F. Park, Chief- Task Force Hope, US Army Corps of Engineers gave an overview of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). He explained that the mission of the HSDRRS is to repair the damages caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and its goal was not only to strengthen and improve the system but to provide 100-year level of risk reduction capable of withstanding the effects of a storm having a 1 percent chance of occurring each year.

In his presentation, he detailed the effects that the flooding from the 2005 hurricanes had on the topography of the New Orleans area, how the system is funded and challenges faced in implementing the system. Mr. Park described the improvements made to the system, including the expansion of floodwalls, surge barriers, levees, pump stations and drains.

Mr. Ben McGee, Supervisory Hydrologist, US Geological Survey- Louisiana, gave a presentation on Monitoring Hurricane Inland Storm Surge. Mr. McGee spoke about hardships endured after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (including limited resources, restricted access to affected areas, and damage from flood waters) and the lessons learned post-hurricanes. Using information and statistics collected, a hurricane “study area”, covering approximately 4,000 square miles, was determined.

Forty-three storm surge sensors were deployed at 33 sensor sites throughout the study area. The sensors proactively record and document pertinent information about each site, including barometric or water pressure, temperature, date and time. The data helps determine important factors such as peak elevation, high water marks, the rates of rise and fall of floodwaters and tidal cycles. Since 2005, the storm surge sensors have been deployed for nine hurricane events and several inland flooding events across the country, most recently, Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. Arthur Morrell, Orleans Parish Clerk of Criminal District Court, made a public comment to the commission and those in attendance. He addressed his concerns regarding homeowners’ insurance rates in and around Orleans parish. Mr. Albright assured Mr. Morrell that the LPCIC’s purpose is to research and discuss the affordability and availability of property and casualty insurance. Mr. Albright called for any further public comments with none forthcoming. The commission welcomes public comments by any persons attending the meeting.

With no further discussion, Mr. Albright called for a motion to adjourn this meeting of the LPCIC with all members in favor. The time of adjournment was 3:05 pm.