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TRANSCRIPT OF
NEW ORLEANS / LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN
URBAN WATERS PILOT
FEDERAL PARTNERS,
AGENCIES, AND STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
JUNE 5, 2013

* * * * *

NEW ORLEANS MOSQUITO CONTROL BUILDING
2100 LEON C. SIMON BOULEVARD
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70122

REPORTED BY:
Natasha Kahler
Certified Court Reporter

1 MEETING CHAIRMAN: Danny Wiegand, Urban Waters

2

3 OPENING REMARKS BY:

4 Susan Guidry, New Orleans City Council

5 Charles Allen, Office of the Mayor

6

7 PARTICIPANTS:

8 Jeanne-Marie Ganucheau Erich Caulfield

9 Darryl Malek-Wiley Maria Brodine

10 Dinah Maygarden Steve Picou

11 Ken Litzenberger Michelle Little

12 Kelly Butler Kirsten Melberg

13 Sarah Olivier Melanie Morgan

14 John Lopez Katie Brasted

15 Adele Cardenas-Malott Benny Rousselle

16 Dana Brown Alton James

17 Jerry Boos Scott Wandell

18 Richard Scheirman LaJoyce Steib

19 Scott Finney Rick Raynie

20 Andrea Calvin Ben Shirtcliff

21 Pamela Davidson-Ehlers Ann Wilson

22 Stacye Palmer-McBride Harvey Stern

23 John Ettinger Dana Enes

24 Scott Hemmerling Alicia Neal

25 Harry Vorhoff Dan Carmon

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DANNY WIEGAND:

I have time on here to just go around and I want to give everybody, to people we have here in the room, just a real quick round of introductions, just your name and your organization, and then we'll launch into the opening remarks.

For those of you who don't know me -- I think most of you do, but I just see a few faces that I don't recognize -- I'm Danny Wiegand. I'm with EPA's Region 6 in the Urban Waters Program, and I am the local "Ambassador" for the New Orleans Urban Waters location. I am located at City Hall, in the EMCO building, and I work closely with folks from the City, but also a lot of folks here in the room.

That's a little bit about me; why don't we --

Councilmember Guidry, would you like to introduce yourself?

SUSAN GUIDRY:

1 Hi, everyone. Susan Guidry; I am
2 New Orleans City Council, District A,
3 and a great fan of all things having to
4 do with water, Urban Waters, Federal
5 Partnership.

6 DANNY WIEGAND:

7 Jeanne-Marie.

8 JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

9 I'm Jeanne-Marie Ganucheau. I work
10 for Senator Mary Landrieu as a Smart
11 Growth Coordinator and have been
12 involved with the projects.

13 KEN LITZENBERGER:

14 Ken Litzenberger, the US Fish and
15 Wildlife Service, Southeast Louisiana
16 National Wildlife Refuge.

17 KELLY BUTLER:

18 Good afternoon. I am Kelly Butler;
19 I am the Director of Special Projects
20 for Councilmember Susan Guidry.

21 HARRY VORHOFF:

22 Harry Vorhoff, Friends of Lafitte
23 Corridor.

24 SARAH OLIVIER:

25 Sarah Olivier, Trust for Public

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Land.

ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

Adele Cardenas-Malott, US EPA; I'm out of the Dallas Office. I am the Urban Waters Coordinator as to Region 6 Office, and Senior Policy Advisor for Water Quality.

MICHELLE LITTLE:

I am Michelle Little, with the City of New Orleans, and I'm a Contract Manager.

STEVE PICOU:

I'm Steve Picou, NOLA Vibe Consulting and Horizon Initiative Water Committee.

MARIA BRODINE:

I'm Maria Brodine, Groundwork New Orleans.

BENNY ROUSSELLE:

I'm Benny Rouselle, with Woodlands Conservancy.

DARRYL MALEK-WILEY:

Darryl Malek-Wiley, Sierra Club.

ERICH CAULFIELD:

Good afternoon, everyone. My name

1 is Erich Caulfield; I'm with the White
2 House Strong Cities, Strong Communities.

3 RICK RAYNIE:

4 I'm Rich Raynie; I'm with the Costal
5 Protection and Restoration Authority.

6 LAJOYCE STEIB:

7 LaJoyce Steib, City of New Orleans,
8 Department of Public Works Project
9 Manager.

10 ALTON JAMES:

11 I'm Alton James, USDA NRCS.

12 SCOTT WANDELL:

13 I'm Scott Wandell, Corps of
14 Engineers New Orleans District.

15 HARVEY STERN:

16 Harvey Stern, Environmental Affairs
17 Sewerage and Water Board.

18 RICHARD SCHEIRMAN:

19 Richard Scheirman, Civil Engineer
20 with Public Works.

21 SCOTT HEMMERLING:

22 Scott Hemmerling, USGS National
23 Wetlands Research Center.

24 JOHN ETTINGER:

25 John Ettinger, EPA.

1 JERRY BOOS :

2 Jerry Boos , EPA Gulf of Mexico
3 Programs .

4 PAMELA DAVIDSON-EHLERS :

5 Pamela Davidson-Ehlers with the US
6 Department of Commerce , EDA -- Economic
7 Development Administration here in New
8 Orleans .

9 STACYE PALMER :

10 Stacye Palmer , National Park
11 Service .

12 BEN SHIRTCLIFF :

13 Ben Shirtcliff , Sustainability
14 Coordinator at University of New
15 Orleans .

16 DINAH MAYGARDEN :

17 Dinah Maygarden with University of
18 New Orleans Coastal Education and
19 Research Facility .

20 JOHN LOPEZ :

21 John Lopez , Lake Pontchartrain Basin
22 Foundation .

23 ANDREA CALVIN :

24 Andrea Calvin , Lake Pontchartrain
25 Basin Foundation .

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SCOTT FINNEY:

Scott Finney, with the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, Environmental Affairs Department, Storm Water Coordinator.

ANN WILSON:

Hi, I'm Ann Wilson; I'm the Chief of Environmental Affairs with the Sewerage and Water Board.

CHARLES ALLEN:

Charles Allen, Advisor to Mayor Landrieu on Coastal and Environmental Affairs.

DANNY WIEGAND:

All right. Thank you very much. We are going to go ahead and get started with opening remarks. And I am very honored to have Councilmember Susan Guidry here to provide us opening remarks, and for those of you that maybe didn't realize this, but she is very engaged in a lot of the Urban Waters initiatives, especially the Lafitte Greenway and the New Canal Lighthouse; she was at the ribbon cutting in April.

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Councilmember Guidry.

SUSAN GUIDRY:

Thank you. Thank you and welcome to everyone, especially to those of you who have traveled to come here today. And thank you, Danny, for asking me to be here.

I am indeed a great fan of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. We are so very excited when the Lake Pontchartrain and the Lake Pontchartrain area was named as one of seven projects across the country, I believe, for this Urban Waters Federal Partnership; and the Lafitte Greenway, which is mainly in District "A" -- my district, was named a part of that because it connects more than nine neighborhoods to Lake Pontchartrain, and will connect I should say, but I'm finally, finally actually thinking of it as a reality and not a dream, because we should be breaking ground this fall on the Greenway.

But another icon in our city that is part of this project is the New Canal

1 there and historical information.

2 So work's continuing at that
3 location, and the Lake Pontchartrain
4 Basin Foundation is raising funds,
5 raising awareness to help us complete
6 the exterior and the dock area of the
7 lighthouse.

8 In December of 2011, I was very
9 honored to meet Interior Secretary Ken
10 Salazar. He came to New Orleans to
11 visit the Lafitte Greenway and made the
12 announcement at that time that it had
13 been named as part of the Urban Waters
14 Federal Partnership, as one of seven
15 park projects prioritized by the Obama
16 Administration.

17 And while speaking to an audience
18 that included the Friends of Lafitte
19 Corridor, the Lafitte Greenway Steering
20 Advisory Committee, and city officials,
21 and regular old folks too, he said, "We
22 won't quit," which was something we
23 really needed to hear in 2011, because
24 the Greenway was something that had been
25 a dream for so long, and then it seemed

1 to get stalled, and we needed to know
2 that it would come out that.

3 He said, "Ten years from now, the
4 Greenway will be one of the iconic
5 places in New Orleans and will look very
6 different from what it does today." And
7 we, I believe, are about to have that
8 come to reality as we break ground this
9 fall with extensive community input,
10 community meetings, charettes, design
11 meetings, input from the neighborhoods
12 that the Greenway intersects.

13 We have worked toward and adopted a
14 Master Plan and a Revitalization Plan
15 for Lafitte Greenway, which will guide
16 us through the next several phases.

17 We will, of course, continue this
18 charge. There is a lot more of
19 fundraising that we are going to need to
20 be doing to put all the amenities on the
21 Greenway that we want, and we want to
22 say that in all of this we very much
23 appreciate the help that we have
24 received and we'll continue to receive
25 from our Federal Partners in the Urban

1 Water Movement, including the EPA,
2 Departments of Interior, Transportation,
3 Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland
4 Security, and HUD, as well as the
5 National Park Service.

6 And I might say that National Park
7 Service has actually began meeting on a
8 bi-weekly basis with us to try to
9 formulate the management plan, operation
10 plan, and fundraising plan for the
11 Greenway, and we really thank them for
12 that; as well as thanking the EPA for
13 giving us Danny. Thank you.

14 And I will be having to leave, and I
15 will be attending another part of this
16 event later this afternoon, but Kelly
17 Butler, my special projects person will
18 be here throughout.

19 DANNY WIEGAND:

20 Now I would like to welcome Charles
21 Allen from the City of New Orleans, the
22 Director of Office of Coastal and
23 Environmental Affairs.

24 CHARLES ALLEN:

25 Thank you, Danny. I'll be brief. I

1 just want to thank all of you-all who
2 have come to today's face-to-face
3 convening and have been engaged thus far
4 as we have launched and implemented the
5 very necessary and progressive work of
6 this Urban Waters pilot.

7 As the Council lady alluded to, we've
8 had some major successes, in particular
9 in the form of the reopening of the
10 lighthouse, the advancements we are
11 making with regard to Lafitte Greenway,
12 Bayou Bienvenue -- you know, the list
13 could go on; in fact, people could
14 almost add other things that are not on
15 our list per se that have still
16 benefitted from just the convenings, the
17 expertise that's been shared, the whole
18 never-ending saga of resource
19 development. It's truly a good story.

20 So in particular I want to thank the
21 EPA, in particular in the form of Adele
22 Cardenas who's here -- thank you, Adele,
23 it's always a pleasure to see you -- and
24 all the other EPA colleagues, and all
25 the other federal partners. And yes,

1 Danny Wiegand, who, I would have to say,
2 he has truly come to embody this effort.
3 So let's just give a good round of
4 applause for him.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHARLES ALLEN:

7 He works hard at this, and we all
8 know that amongst all of our various
9 units, especially within government,
10 it's a hard job sometimes, isn't it?
11 And it's hard when you try to launch and
12 really get off the ground with an
13 initiative of this kind. So, Danny, you
14 live it every day; we really appreciate
15 it.

16 And so let's just get started, and
17 hopefully we'll have a very good and
18 productive meeting. Thank you.

19 DANNY WIEGAND:

20 All right. Thank you very much,
21 Councilmember Guidry, and Charles.
22 We're really appreciating -- you know,
23 this couldn't -- yeah, I'm working hard
24 but this wouldn't happen without a lot
25 of people in the room here. You-all

1 have been very supportive and I really
2 appreciate you helping out with this.

3 I'm going to dim these lights. Did
4 Bill Honker call in by chance?

5 CHARLES ALLEN:

6 Oh, he's on the phone?

7 DANNY WIEGAND:

8 He was going to try to be on the
9 phone, but I think I'm going to step
10 through these slides for him.

11 I'm just going to quickly set
12 through -- because we do have a lot of
13 new faces in the room, and I wanted to
14 just step through some background
15 information for everybody, especially
16 the new folks that might not be as
17 familiar with Urban Waters program and
18 the Federal Partnership. So I'll just
19 step through a few slides.

20 First question: Why urban waters?
21 I think most of you probably can
22 appreciate that our urban waters are
23 among some of the most polluted in the
24 country, and it takes a really multi-
25 prong, strong, coordinated effort to try

1 to bring these water bodies back into
2 compliance, if that's an issue, or just
3 bring them back into the community as a
4 feature rather than maybe infrastructure
5 or just something that's looked at as a
6 utility, but kind of embracing them and
7 appreciating them as part of our
8 environment.

9 And urban waters, you know, if you
10 have this revitalization, they can
11 really spur development within the area,
12 so you got the economic impacts, as well
13 as the community assets and public
14 health. I mean, if people get out and
15 explore their urban waterways more, then
16 noting that getting out in the
17 environment and walking and biking or
18 whatever it might be. So urban
19 waterways are very important part of our
20 country's water resources.

21 The goal of the Urban Waters Program
22 -- and this is based on EPA -- this is
23 previous EPA Administrator Lisa
24 Jackson's charge -- to restore and
25 protect urban water bodies by engaging

1 communities, especially underserved
2 communities, in activities that foster
3 increased connection, understanding, and
4 ownership.

5 This is all very much a locally
6 driven initiative. It's about
7 understanding what the locals need and
8 want out of this program, and then
9 federal partners being there to help you
10 achieve that. And this Environmental
11 Justice is central to the Urban Waters
12 Program, so you definitely will see that
13 a lot in any of the literature or
14 projects that you'll see across the
15 country.

16 Just a quick overview of the vision
17 and the mission and principles.
18 Essentially, revising urban waters and
19 in the communities that surround them;
20 and that's the important part,
21 especially at underserved communities;
22 and looking at the urban waters as more
23 of assets as part of your local
24 community rather than, like I said,
25 infrastructural or just something that's

1 maybe not viewed as something that you
2 want to be part of and connected to.

3 These are the now 13 agencies that
4 are part of the Urban Waters Federal
5 Partnership. I always forget who they
6 are, but you-all probably are pretty
7 familiar with the list: the Corps of
8 Engineers, EPA; Department of Energy and
9 Department of Education are the two new
10 agencies that joined just last year;
11 Economic Development, EDA. And the list
12 goes on: Forest Service, Park Service,
13 DOT, NIH, NIEHS, NOAA, US Fish.

14 So that just kind of gives you an
15 idea of the commitment from the Federal
16 Partnership side to the locally driven
17 objectives.

18 This is just an overview of the
19 locations where we are right now. So
20 the yellow boxes are the original seven
21 pilot locations, and New Orleans was one
22 of them; and it calls them "pilots"
23 because that's exactly what it was; it
24 was envisioned to be a three-year time
25 frame of putting this out there and just

1 seeing what happens across the country
2 in these seven communities. But you
3 know what, it was so popular, we just
4 launched in May eleven more across the
5 country, and those are the red dots.

6 And EPA is even looking farther
7 ahead and thinking there's going to be
8 more. So you are probably going to
9 start hearing more about Urban Waters
10 across the country, not just locally,
11 but it's something that people are
12 really interested in, they are
13 passionate about, and so I think you are
14 going to start seeing more dots on this
15 map.

16 So why the federal partnership? EPA
17 had dialog with communities and NGOs and
18 citizens, and they called for a stronger
19 federal coordination. So you've got all
20 these agencies that might be doing very
21 similar things but aren't really talking
22 to each other, so this partnership
23 allows that cross-agency coordination
24 and hopefully making things more
25 efficient and effective at achieving

1 whatever the goal and objectives are in
2 a local watershed.

3 And so EPA responded and led the
4 formation of the Urban Waters Federal
5 Partnership. And we, the EPA, are
6 working to identify and demonstrate
7 approaches for effective federal
8 collaboration in working with
9 communities on urban waters issues.
10 Keyword is "effective."

11 As Charles alluded to you, sometimes
12 it can be kind of a bear handling the
13 federal agencies and bureaucracies, but
14 we can do it, and there's a momentum at
15 the national level to really streamline
16 how we're doing things, and initiatives
17 like this, I think, really move us
18 forward in that direction.

19 Tracking our progress. So now that
20 we've been -- we launched seven pilots
21 back in 2011; we've got a couple of
22 years under our belt, and in the May
23 press release, along with the eleven new
24 locations announced across the country,
25 EPA released the Partnership In Action

1 Report, which you can find on
2 urbanwaters.gov.

3 And it basically just provides an
4 overview of the original seven pilot
5 locations and what's been happening at
6 those different locations. New Orleans
7 is in there; the five focus projects
8 that we've got in our portfolio are
9 listed in there; and just kind of
10 describes some of the successes we've
11 had over the past two years now of the
12 three-year program. It was July when it
13 was launched in 2011, so the three-year
14 horizon is next July, but that's kind of
15 grey, and we'll talk a little bit more
16 about that later.

17 So, like I said, urbanwaters.gov;
18 EPA has a website and it's a great
19 resource for information on the whole
20 national perspective, as well as you can
21 -- we're working on a website for the
22 local Urban Waters, the New Orleans
23 Urban Waters pilot, now location. We
24 are going to have a lot of information
25 posted on there so you can definitely go

1 there and get a lot of information, but
2 I'll talk a little bit more about that
3 later as well.

4 Any questions up front now before we
5 go to the next stage?

6 (No response from participants.)

7 DANNY WIEGAND:

8 All right. So Bill Honker, our
9 Deputy Director for Water Quality
10 Protection Division at Region 6, he was
11 hoping to be here to provide this kind
12 of background information, but he's
13 having some health issues and wasn't
14 able to make it down here, so he
15 apologizes for that, but he'll be back
16 down; he comes down frequently.

17 All right. Let me key up for the
18 next few slides. And I promise I'm not
19 going to stand up here and talk at you
20 all day; I really want this to be an
21 interactive session. So I've got a few
22 slides here that I'm going to step
23 through, and some of the other federal
24 partners are going to contribute
25 information and chime in when needed.

1 And if you-all have any questions
2 throughout, just stop me or whoever is
3 speaking and we'll handle it that way;
4 this is very much an informal session.

5 So let's get into - first, in our
6 packets -- I hope everybody got a packet
7 in the back -- and in your packet you've
8 got a series of things. On the
9 left-hand side, if I'm remembering
10 correctly when I was stuffing it at nine
11 o'clock last night, you've got some just
12 more general literature on the Federal
13 Partnership, as well as, I think, a
14 local factsheet for the New Orleans
15 pilot. And then on the right-hand side
16 is the agenda, and then there's a map
17 showing our five focus projects, our
18 current focus projects, as well as the
19 workplan.

20 And the workplan is something that
21 we -- it's a living document. After our
22 meeting in January, I updated it and
23 captured a lot of the things that came
24 out of that meeting in January. I know
25 a lot of you were unable to be there at

1 that meeting, but we are here again to
2 kind of step through where we -- status
3 on the workplan and the activities we've
4 outlined, at least from the Federal
5 Partnership side on how we can support
6 the local initiative. So we are going
7 to step through some of our successes,
8 remaining challenges, as well as open it
9 up to other thoughts and ideas moving
10 forward.

11 So you have this in your packet.
12 This is just a real zoomed-out view of
13 the five focus projects. I'll just go
14 from west to east.

15 We've got the West End Pier out
16 here, which is basically rebuilding the
17 pier that was destroyed by Hurricane
18 Katrina. We also have the New Canal
19 Lighthouse right around the corner from
20 there, which we talked a little bit
21 about, which is now; it's there; it's
22 open; and they are giving tours, and
23 it's a great facility, so I encourage
24 you to go out there.

25 Pontchartrain Beach; we are also

1 focusing on that one and how to reopen
2 the beach that's -- for those who are
3 from the city know that that's a really
4 important part of the more recent
5 history of the city of New Orleans, so
6 we are working with the folks to try to
7 get that reopened in some capacity.

8 We also have what we call the East
9 End Pier, which is out -- the current
10 proposed location is near the Highway 11
11 bridge, where it come off of the I-10
12 area. It's not really necessarily
13 wanted to be rebuilt like the
14 Pontchartrain Pier or West End Pier from
15 the previous image, but it's definitely
16 something that the City is very
17 interested in seeing and a lot of local
18 partners are very interested in seeing,
19 because it is such a popular fishing
20 area already, and so providing safe,
21 better access makes a lot of sense for
22 our focus.

23 And then we also have the UNO
24 Coastal Education and Research Facility
25 out here, off of Chef Menteur.

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JOHN LOPEZ:

Can I ask a question?

DANNY WIEGAND:

Absolutely.

JOHN LOPEZ:

East End Pier, is that actually within the Refuge or not?

DANNY WIEGAND:

The proposed location does fall on the Refuge property, and we are working with the City to try to figure out an MoU or a CBA to facilitate that.

JOHN LOPEZ:

Thank you.

DANNY WIEGAND:

So Coastal Education Research Facility out there, off of Chef Menteur, right Dinah? That's your address?

DINAH MAYGARDEN:

Yes. That's right.

DANNY WIEGAND:

We are working with Dinah Maygarden who is here, and -- so that's kind of a real zoomed-out view of -- you can kind of see; it gives you perspective. You

1 know, obviously, we are very connected
2 to Lake Pontchartrain, and really all
3 the surrounding -- I'm sorry, I forgot
4 Lafitte Greenway. How could I do that?

5 So we have the Lafitte Greenway,
6 which is, as Councilmember Guidry
7 pointed out, it really provides that
8 cross-city connection, especially if you
9 think about it; it starts down near
10 Basin Street -- you know, you get really
11 close to the river -- and follows along
12 the Old Carondelet Canal, which I've
13 learned a lot about the history of this
14 area just in my time working on the
15 project, and it's really interesting.
16 And then it comes out here and -- the
17 proposed -- and I drew this in, so
18 Michelle, don't yell at me if it's not
19 exact; I figured it's far enough out
20 nobody can tell where it is. But the
21 current end is -- it's City Park Avenue
22 or is it Canal? I know the master plan
23 gives a --

24 ANDREA CALVIN:

25 It's North Alexander; it's --

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DANNY WIEGAND:

The master plan --

ANDREA CALVIN:

Yes, the master plan goes to City Park.

DANNY WIEGAND:

So City Park, okay. But yeah, the -- and we'll talk a little bit more about the North Alexander thing.

So we've got Lafitte Greenway. So let's talk a little bit about our successes that we've had in years one and two. And we'll start -- I'm not going in any particular order; I'm going in order that they are in port plan, and I inherited it that way. They are not in any order of priority or alphabetical order, but we'll follow it out.

So for UNO Coastal Education Research Facility, in year one -- and just to give time line perspective again, we started in July 2011, so really year one was ended around July 2012. One of the things that came out of the workplan that you can read about

1 was the idea to create a wetlands
2 education video that focused on the
3 CERF's capabilities as an education, as
4 well as a research facility. So we
5 initiated development of that video, ran
6 into a few technical glitches along the
7 way; that's why it kind of spans year
8 one to year two as far as our successes.

9 But we've finally released the video
10 in February of this year and it's --
11 some of you may have seen it, but it's a
12 CWPPRA -- it falls under CWPPRA video;
13 we worked closely with the CWPPRA group:
14 USGS, US Fish and Wildlife, EPA; many
15 different agencies worked on the
16 development of that video. And it's a
17 great video; you can see it on YouTube
18 or you can go to the CWPPRA website to
19 view it. But it highlights the CERF
20 facility and shows Dinah working with a
21 lot of the local kids who are really
22 cute in the video; they did a good job
23 in pulling that in.

24 We also -- there's a second part to
25 the CERF facility, in developing and

1 envisioning plan. Dinah has talked to
2 us in the past about needing assistance,
3 and really kind of looking to the
4 future, she really works on the day-to-
5 day activities and with limited
6 resources, and so she can use some
7 assistance from Federal Partnership on
8 looking out in the future and how to
9 develop that sustainable day-to-day
10 operation and maintenance of the
11 facility.

12 West End Pier and New Canal
13 Lighthouse. Now, these are currently
14 lumped as one project even though they
15 are two distinct things; I think most
16 people would agree, but they are just
17 lumped that way here.

18 In year one, for the West End Pier,
19 for those of you who don't know, the
20 City through the Yacht Harbor and -- I
21 can't remember all the agencies involved
22 -- Charles, I don't know if you know
23 them offhand, that are working on the
24 West End Pier; I know there's some
25 agencies involved. But anyway, they

1 applied for FEMA funding for rebuilding
2 that pier, and so that was all
3 processed. This probably even predates
4 our year one time frame. But the
5 requests have been processed and
6 awarded, and moving forward on that.

7 Also, on the lighthouse, John and
8 folks over at Lake Pontchartrain Basin
9 Foundation were in the early stages of
10 trying to get the lighthouse constructed
11 -- early stages of trying to launch into
12 construction; they had already done a
13 lot of work prior to that.

14 There were some issues with
15 negotiating a lease because the land is
16 owned by the Coast Guard and there were
17 some issues in dealing with that federal
18 agency, and so through the Urban Waters
19 program we were able to -- and Adele
20 really orchestrated a lot of this, but
21 -- worked with John, really facilitating
22 conversations at a higher level, I'd
23 say, with the Coast Guard to really
24 encourage their cooperation, until they
25 cooperated.

1 And this picture taken by Stacye
2 from Park Service was from the April
3 19th ribbon cutting, which is I think a
4 great success. The facility is
5 beautiful; it looks really great. They
6 reused a lot of the original material,
7 as much as they could, and it became a
8 really -- you can see it there.

9 Year two, obviously, the ribbon
10 cutting. For the West End Pier, the
11 good news on that one is pretty much
12 through the FEMA process; everything has
13 been approved. And I forgot to mention
14 this earlier, but the West End Pier, the
15 pre-Katrina location was, I guess, kind
16 of off on the west side. But the Corps
17 put in a pump station discharge that
18 goes out right where the pier would be
19 if they were to rebuild it in the same
20 location, and so the Yacht Harbor
21 recommended that it be moved around,
22 kind of closer to Brakewater Park and
23 Breakwater Drive, if you're familiar
24 with that area. And so that had to be
25 reviewed and approved by FEMA, and

1 that's why I mentioned it being -- sent
2 an approval letter, so that changed
3 location. It was approved back in March
4 of this year, so my understanding from
5 talking with folks at FEMA, the City has
6 everything in place to begin working on
7 the rebuilding of the pier, so that will
8 be a great thing to see to complement
9 the lighthouse out there.

10 Pontchartrain Beach. So our
11 successes on this one are a little more
12 limited unfortunately, but what I wanted
13 to point out here is that the beach
14 property itself -- and John, fell free
15 to chime in at any point if I start to
16 muddle things -- but the property is
17 owned by the Levee District, whichever
18 one you want to call it; I'm going to
19 say the Orleans Levee District, because
20 that's what FEMA is telling me.

21 So the land is owned by them; UNO
22 leased the property and had gone through
23 the FEMA Public Assistance Program to
24 secure funds to rebuild the beach, do
25 work out there, and I think reconstruct

1 the pier and do some other things like
2 that in the hopes of reopening the
3 beach.

4 UNO has since stepped away from that
5 role, and let that lease expire, but --
6 we'll get to that later. But anyway,
7 the funding had been secured and so UNO
8 was listed on the funding paperwork as
9 the recipient for that funding. And
10 I'll get to the challenges with that
11 later.

12 And then in year two, FEMA continues
13 to work with UNO, and since UNO stepped
14 away from that role, the money that's
15 through that program will now be
16 redirected to Orleans Levee District.
17 So they are in the process of doing that
18 paperwork now, so we're kind of -- you
19 know, FEMA is doing what they need to do
20 with Orleans Levee District, so we are
21 just kind of trying to see where -- keep
22 our finger on the post and see where
23 things end up and hopefully see
24 something new forward very soon.

25 Lafitte Greenway; year one. Stacye

1 Palmer-McBride has been very engaged
2 from the beginning on this part, the
3 Greenway, from the National Parks and
4 Service perspective. In year one, she
5 participated in many of the charettes
6 that the City held as part of their
7 planning process, so we've been engaged
8 on that level.

9 In year two, which includes some of
10 my role here, I guess -- but when I
11 start thinking about the time line, I'm
12 not sure it does. But we've been
13 working closely -- Stacye and I have
14 been working closely with the City and
15 the Friends of Lafitte Corridor and
16 others from the local community on
17 trying to develop a management strategy
18 for the Greenway once is constructed.

19 The City is, as many agencies --
20 federal, state and local are, is
21 strapped for funding and really would
22 like to explore other opportunities for
23 operating and maintaining the Greenway
24 once it's constructed. So as part of
25 that, we're looking at public-private

1 partnership opportunities and meeting
2 with folks. As Councilmember Guidry
3 mentioned, we meet with folks every
4 other week, trying to advance those
5 conversations and endeavors.

6 I see Friends of Lafitte Corridor
7 people here and other folks from those
8 meetings, so I think we are making some
9 progress on that.

10 Another success for me personally
11 and from the Federal Partnership
12 perspective, the City Planning
13 Commission approved not only the
14 Greenway Master Plan last Tuesday, but
15 also the Corridor Revitalization Plan.
16 And the City, Michelle Little and others
17 from the community appreciated the
18 Federal Partnership's role and pointed
19 that out to us -- a City Planning
20 Commission, so I feel like that's a
21 success for us because I feel like we're
22 making headway in helping with this
23 management strategy.

24 And lastly here, we are also engaged
25 in some other challenges along the

1 Greenway. Most notably here is the
2 Norfolk Southern as an active rail line
3 that we are trying -- the City is trying
4 to gain right-of-way access and has not
5 been able to, and that's -- but we're
6 talking about the North Alexander
7 terminals for the current construction
8 project because of our right-of-way
9 access issues. But we'll talk about
10 that more in a few minutes.

11 This is just an overview map of the
12 Greenway. Like I was mentioning before,
13 it starts down here, near the French
14 Quarter, and comes out to City Park
15 Avenue.

16 The East End Pier; so when this was
17 -- the original concept for the East End
18 Pier is similar -- if you-all are
19 familiar with the St. Tammany side, the
20 pier that they built over there -- the
21 original concept was to use the old Twin
22 Span pilings as kind of a support and
23 build a pier off of that.

24 Through discussions with Fish and
25 Wildlife and NOAA and others that were

1 engaged at the time -- Louisiana
2 Wildlife and Fisheries I think was
3 engaged as well, and the City, they came
4 up with a different concept of moving it
5 around to near the Highway 11 bridge;
6 there's a little overland that comes up
7 there that's a very frequented area for
8 fishing already, and so it was seen by
9 all as a good alternative location.

10 The discussions from year one
11 fizzled out a little bit because of some
12 funding concerns and -- I'm not sure;
13 we've figured out the funding concern
14 right now, but we have at least
15 re-engaged conversations, especially
16 with Deputy Mayor Grant; we've met Ken
17 Litzenberger here from Fish and
18 Wildlife, and I've met with him and Mark
19 Schexnayder and Charles, in trying to
20 move not just East End Pier but make
21 sure we're moving forward on
22 Pontchartrain Pier aspect, as well as
23 the West End Pier.

24 And so we've re-engaged those
25 conversations, and one of the things

1 with funding being an issue, what we are
2 trying to do is, Ken is working closely
3 with Charles on establishing the
4 memorandum of understanding or a
5 cooperative endeavor agreement between
6 the two organizations since it is
7 National Wildlife Refuge property, so
8 that we can have that box checked in the
9 event that funding is identified to move
10 that forward. And the City is going to
11 go ahead and take those conceptual
12 designs and try to take them to a more
13 construction-ready state.

14 This is just a picture of that
15 conceptual drawing. This is Highway 11
16 bridge coming here; this is the old Twin
17 Spans. That was the original concept to
18 utilize this area. And this is just
19 some real basic drawing here, but like I
20 said, it's conceptual and I think some
21 parking and other amenities were
22 proposed across the street.

23 So with all that success, certainly
24 there will be some challenges.

25 Any questions so far? Anybody want

1 to add anything to what I've said?

2 Dana?

3 DANA BROWN:

4 I had a question about where we
5 could access that CERF video that you
6 mentioned?

7 DANNY WIEGAND:

8 Absolutely. If you go to YouTube,
9 or you can go to CWPPRA website -- well,
10 first thing, I could send you an e-mail
11 and there's a link directly to it, but I
12 think if you Google or if you go to
13 YouTube and search CWPPRA, a lot of them
14 will show up. And actually it's on your
15 Facebook page too, right, Dinah?

16 DINAH MAYGARDEN:

17 A link is there. LACoast.gov is the
18 CWPPRA website.

19 DANNY WIEGAND:

20 I thought about showing it, but it's
21 like 12 minutes long; I was afraid it
22 might take too long. But if we have
23 time, I'll show it in the background.

24 Anything else, any other questions?

25 JOHN LOPEZ:

1 I just want to mention, with the
2 pier and the Pontchartrain Beach, we get
3 a lot of calls and inquiries about it,
4 you know, with the weather warming up,
5 people want to get out. The pier
6 situation, the West End Pier has been a
7 little bit more challenging because the
8 boat launch was damaged, right next to
9 where the old pier was; and the launch
10 is closed, and also, supposedly because
11 it was -- well, there's a bulkhead that
12 protects the launch and a lot of
13 fishermen would walk out and the
14 bulkhead wasn't designed for that.

15 And supposedly, somebody got hurt,
16 there was a lawsuit, so now the
17 municipal harbor folks have fenced off
18 that bulkhead, which is probably
19 appropriate, but then a lot of fishermen
20 aren't happy about it, and then they say
21 where's the pier, you know.

22 DANNY WIEGAND:

23 Yeah. Well, I think -- and I don't
24 know what the time line is on that, but
25 the FEMA aspect of it, it's ready to

1 move .

2 JOHN LOPEZ :

3 We had a meeting with Taylor, with
4 Municipal Harbor, the Harbor Master, and
5 what he told us was that they are going
6 to finish the design this year and then
7 begin construction probably in the first
8 half of next year. That was the time
9 line he indicated to us.

10 DANNY WIEGAND :

11 All right. Any other questions?

12 RICHARD SCHEIRMAN :

13 So is this part of Bayou Sauvage?

14 DANNY WIEGAND :

15 Which one? The East End Pier, this
16 one?

17 RICHARD SCHEIRMAN :

18 You said it was owned by Fish and
19 Wildlife.

20 DANNY WIEGAND :

21 The East End Pier, yeah; the
22 property is -- Ken could clarify that.

23 KEN LITZENBERGER :

24 Classified as national -- yes, it's
25 classified. The one that John's talking

1 a b o u t i s n o t .

2 R I C H A R D S C H E I R M A N :

3 I t l o o k s l i k e y o u h a v e t o g o a l l t h e
4 w a y t o S l i d e l l a n d t u r n a r o u n d a n d c o m e
5 b a c k , y o u k n o w .

6 K E N L I T Z E N B E R G E R :

7 N o .

8 R I C H A R D S C H E I R M A N :

9 N o ?

10 K E N L I T Z E N B E R G E R :

11 Y o u c a n g e t o f f o f H i g h w a y 1 1 .

12 R I C H A R D S C H E I R M A N :

13 H o w d o I d o t h a t ?

14 D A N N Y W I E G A N D :

15 T h i s i s H i g h w a y 1 1 , r i g h t h e r e .

16 K E N L I T Z E N B E R G E R :

17 T h e r e ' s a n o n - r a m p ; t h e r e ' s a r a m p .

18 R I C H A R D S C H E I R M A N :

19 O k a y .

20 D A N N Y W I E G A N D :

21 A l l r i g h t . S o l e t ' s p a s s b a c k
22 t h r o u g h t h e r e s t . F o r t h e C E R F
23 f a c i l i t y , D i n a h w a s -- w e h a d o u r
24 m e e t i n g i n J a n u a r y a n d w e t a l k e d a l o t
25 a b o u t t h e f u n d i n g c h a l l e n g e s t h a t t h e y

1 are faced with out there, especially
2 post-recovery work from Isaac. They did
3 sustain some damage out there, but I
4 think from last time we talked in April,
5 Dinah, you-all have done a lot of work
6 to overcome that.

7 DINAH MAYGARDEN:

8 We're all done.

9 DANNY WIEGAND:

10 All done. Good, good.
11 But they are still struggling with a
12 day-to-day operational funding and
13 trying to maintain that -- elevate the
14 profile for the facility, especially
15 from a funding stream perspective.

16 DINAH MAYGARDEN:

17 We do have some funding for the
18 short term at the moment, for some
19 projects, but it's still -- you know,
20 long term, we need a better stream.

21 DANNY WIEGAND:

22 West End Pier and New Canal
23 Lighthouse. I've put a question mark
24 here, John, but I know we can talk about
25 that. West End Pier, we know the

1 challenge. There doesn't appear to be
2 any challenges; it's going through its
3 process.

4 JOHN LOPEZ:

5 Yeah, I think the challenge I would
6 describe is just public information.

7 DANNY WIEGAND:

8 Right.

9 JOHN LOPEZ:

10 We do have a challenge on
11 reconnection on the lighthouse. And it
12 did not occur to me until tonight, but
13 we had some damage to the lighthouse,
14 fairly modest, but some damage to the
15 lighthouse while it was under
16 construction, from Isaac.

17 We've put in a claim last fall, and
18 couple of months ago I was told that it
19 had been approved by GOSEP and that they
20 are waiting for the main FEMA office, I
21 think out of Dallas, to then approve it
22 also.

23 Andrea called this morning and said
24 that that was incorrect, that it was not
25 approved by either, and so it kind of --

1 it's kind of in a limbo, but -- you
2 know, the lighthouse is completed, but
3 we have documented the damage from Isaac
4 and actually when we rebuilt it, the
5 things that were damaged, like the
6 education ramp, we rebuilt it so that we
7 think it won't get damaged again. So we
8 are thinking actually to apply for
9 hazard mitigation funding also.

10 So that would, you know, help us
11 fill our shortfall. You know, that was
12 an additional cost, probably 60 or
13 100,000 extra cost we had because of
14 Isaac, and that would help us now, you
15 know, finalize our work.

16 DANNY WIEGAND:

17 And the challenge is, FEMA is not --
18 I guess you said they didn't agree.

19 JOHN LOPEZ:

20 Yes. We just got mixed signals.

21 DANNY WIEGAND:

22 Okay. We can definitely talk with
23 Eddie Williams over at FEMA and figure
24 out who we can concern that with and
25 figure out the true answer.

1 I knew you had something; that's why
2 I put a question mark.

3 But the other thing that we talked
4 about in January when Joanne was at the
5 January meeting, and I know the April
6 ribbon cutting you-all have done some of
7 the landscaping out there, but you still
8 had the front area that you-all were --

9 JOHN LOPEZ:

10 Yeah, and we've made some progress
11 on that. The two big exterior projects
12 that remain to be done is what we call
13 the Lonier, and that's the area going
14 toward the point Breakwater Drive
15 direction. And we've gotten funding for
16 that, but it's incremental. We're going
17 to get from a private donor, you know,
18 some money over the three years,
19 although we can do the work now.

20 So basically, we are okay with that;
21 we're going to have to kind of stretch
22 ourselves, but basically I think that
23 will be funded. But the other piece
24 that we are not funded for at all is the
25 dock, which you've mentioned I think

1 earlier, the dock facing the new basin
2 canal. It doesn't need to completely
3 renovated, but it needs some repairs and
4 it's certainly not safe for public
5 access. And we'd like to incorporate
6 that into the education programs; kids
7 could fish off of the dock, and we could
8 take people out on boat excursion and
9 things like that. But it's not cheap.
10 We have an estimate for that, about
11 \$200,000 marine work; expensive.

12 DANNY WIEGAND:

13 Okay. Pontchartrain Beach; I think
14 I alluded to it a little bit earlier,
15 but we are continuing to monitor the
16 FEMA situation and the transfer of funds
17 from UNO to Orleans Levee District.

18 The challenge, you know, Orleans
19 Levee District isn't necessarily in
20 business of building and operating and
21 maintaining beaches, so I think that
22 there needs to be some sort of a
23 partnership, somebody to step in and
24 take over the operation and maintenance
25 of that facility. So that's going to be

1 a challenge moving forward, because of
2 -- you know, there's a lot of perceived
3 dangers out there; even last week we
4 just had another drowning out in a
5 general vicinity, but there's this
6 perception that there's a lot of danger
7 out there.

8 But John and I talked about it
9 before; it's probably one of the safest
10 beaches on the Gulf Coast. But because
11 of some of the issues we've had recently
12 in the past few years, there's this
13 perception of danger.

14 JOHN LOPEZ:

15 I'm really kind of upset with the
16 reports last week that were saying it
17 was actually illegal to swim in Lake
18 Pontchartrain, period. And you know,
19 there's a lot of kind of nuances in
20 electronic form that public reads.

21 It's safe to swim in the lake from a
22 pollution standpoint. Accessing the
23 lake is not always safe and not always
24 recommended, so having good, safe access
25 to Pontchartrain Beach is part of that.

1 Andrea just did some real
2 interesting analysis, kind of comparing
3 the water quality to other beaches on
4 Lake Pontchartrain that are already
5 open.

6 Do you want to say anything about
7 that, Andrea?

8 ANDREA CALVIN:

9 The current beach that's open on
10 Lake Pontchartrain is Fountain Blue
11 State Park, and both Pontchartrain Beach
12 and Fountain Blue State Park are two
13 sites that we've been monitoring weekly
14 since 2001. That's some of the data we
15 put on our website every week and get
16 out to the local media. And what our
17 analysis is showing is that really the
18 water quality of Pontchartrain Beach is
19 just as good as Fountain Blue State Park
20 in terms of how frequently is meeting
21 recreation criteria.

22 So, you know, water quality-wise,
23 it's an amenity that, you know, is
24 there; the water quality is good, it
25 needs to be used, and we are looking

1 forward to, you know, to find the way to
2 do it.

3 JOHN LOPEZ:

4 I'm not sure why one beach is judged
5 differently from other when the water
6 quality is virtually identical.

7 DANNY WIEGAND:

8 Yes. I think a lot of it is the
9 perception, and recent history hasn't
10 been an amenity lately, but people who
11 have lived here long enough know that it
12 once was a great amenity so the city is
13 rediscovering that now, I think, the
14 opportunity.

15 Lafitte Greenway; some remaining
16 challenges here. Again, I was
17 mentioning that we are working through
18 the process of trying to figure an
19 agreement or a public-private
20 partnership for managing the Greenway
21 once it's constructed. We are not there
22 yet, so obviously we still got more work
23 to do.

24 Negotiations with Norfolk Southern;
25 this has been a challenge that's been

1 met both on the city side and even the
2 federal side, without much response. So
3 this is definitely a challenge moving
4 forward. Eric Crawfield from HUD isn't
5 here, and he is located at the City as
6 part of the SET program, and he and I
7 have been working pretty closely with
8 Deputy McGrann and other folks at the
9 City on how the federal partners can
10 assist with this issue, and we've been
11 working on that.

12 And also, another thing that was
13 brought to my attention almost on my
14 first day coming to the city was a
15 generator that was put in at the North
16 Broad, near Pumping Station No. 2, and
17 the location of it was not ideal for the
18 future Greenway. So I believe Sewerage
19 and Water Board and Deputy McGrann's
20 group have been discussing ways to help
21 mitigate that.

22 So here's a picture of the Norfolk
23 Southern active rail line where we're
24 having the issue. Here is the proposed
25 greenway, and then some green screen;

1 and these are not real people. But it
2 just gives you an idea kind of what City
3 is thinking for that stretch.

4 And then this is the new pumping --
5 the new generator that -- sorry about
6 the clouding of the picture -- but the
7 generator is here, up on this platform
8 that has to straddle the culverts that
9 are running underneath the greenway
10 here, and then this is the open canal.
11 But it's a very narrow stretch of the
12 greenway.

13 I think the City is determined that
14 there is room to build the bike path
15 that's scheduled to go through there,
16 but this definitely creates an esthetic
17 challenge too. I think conversations
18 are being held about how to mitigate
19 that green screen, maybe doing some
20 other things that will make it -- could
21 maybe make it a resting station of some
22 sort, but that's something we will
23 continue to work on and move forward.

24 JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

25 And what would be -- what would

1 happen with the canal?

2 DANNY WIEGAND:

3 The canal is currently just going to
4 remain open. There are concepts that
5 you're familiar with; David Wagner's
6 concepts on Lafitte Blueway.

7 JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

8 I'm sorry, for the interim, is there
9 going to be a rail or is it -- it looks
10 like it's just that you are riding along
11 the edge; you could just fall into the
12 canal. Maybe I'm not seeing it clearly.

13 DANNY WIEGAND:

14 No, I think you're right. I think
15 this might be a little bit of a rail,
16 but --

17 JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

18 But that looks like it's on the
19 other side.

20 DANNY WIEGAND:

21 I think this is coming up out of
22 this wall, which is a -- so here is the
23 canal --

24 JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

25 Where's the bike path? Maybe I'm

1 c o n f u s e d a b o u t t h a t .

2 DANNY WIEGAND:

3 T h a t ' s a g o o d q u e s t i o n .

4 DANA BROWN:

5 I t ' s o v e r t h e r e a l i t t l e b i t ; i t ' s
6 b e t w e e n t h a t s t r u c t u r e r i g h t i n t h e
7 f r o n t a n d t h e n t h e p u m p i n g s t a t i o n .
8 T h e r e ' s a l i t t l e s p a c e b e t w e e n t h a t . S o
9 y o u a r e n o t r i d i n g r i g h t o n - - y o u w o u l d
10 w a l k a l o n g g r e e n w a y , n o w y o u a r e n o t
11 w a l k i n g r i g h t a l o n g t h a t e d g e t h e r e .

12 JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

13 S o t h e r a i l s t h a t I s e e a r e a c t u a l l y
14 b e t w e e n t h e b i k e p a t h a n d t h e c a n a l ?

15 KELLY BUTLER:

16 I a c t u a l l y t o o k t h i s p h o t o , a n d I ' m
17 s t a n d i n g o n t h e s t r e e t , a n d t h e c a n a l i s
18 i n f r o n t o f m e . A n d t h e r e ' s t h e
19 g e n e r a t o r , a n d t h e r e ' s w h e r e t h e b i k e
20 t r a i l i s a c t u a l l y g o i n g t o g o , o n t h e
21 o t h e r s i d e o f t h e g e n e r a t o r . I t ' s g o i n g
22 t o c u r v e u p t h e r e .

23 JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

24 O k a y . T h a n k y o u . A l l r i g h t .

25 DANNY WIEGAND:

1 So that's just an overview of our
2 successes to-date. What I wanted to do
3 real quick, and just so -- some of you
4 in the room are already familiar with
5 this, but for these focus projects that
6 we have, the way the Federal Partnership
7 works is kind of -- the breakdown is,
8 the EPA is the lead for this location,
9 the New Orleans location; but for each
10 of our projects, in order to make it
11 into the project portfolio, at least in
12 2011, there had to be a federal lead
13 identified for the project. And so
14 we've got a few of our leads here.

15 Ken Litzenberger from US Fish and
16 Wildlife sitting up here in the front;
17 he is helping us out on the East End
18 Pier. Stacye Palmer-McBride right there
19 is from National Park Service, working
20 with us on the Lafitte Greenway. And
21 who am I missing in the room? We don't
22 have any other federal leads?

23 Yes, Scott Hemmerling is here for
24 USGS. Phil Turnipseed has been our main
25 POC, but Scott's filling in for him

1 today.

2 Anyway, just wanted to give you an
3 idea who the federal leads are on these
4 various projects.

5 I wanted to open it up -- Stacey,
6 did you want to say anything else from
7 your perspective, or Ken, or anybody?

8 KEN LITZENBERGER:

9 I'll answer any questions.

10 DANNY WIEGAND:

11 Any questions for any of the federal
12 leads?

13 (No response from participants.)

14 DANNY WIEGAND:

15 All right. So what I wanted to do
16 next -- well, first let me throw one
17 more idea under this last agenda item.
18 So this project portfolio is what came
19 out of the original launch of the
20 location in 2011.

21 And the federal partners met this
22 morning and we talked a little bit about
23 how -- are there opportunities to maybe
24 to change that portfolio, look at it a
25 little bit differently than the way it

1 looks right now.

2 So I wanted to kind of toss that out
3 and just get any feedback that folks
4 might have, but one of the things we
5 talked about was looking at more of the
6 services, rather than lumping by
7 location, like we have West End Canal,
8 New Canal Lighthouse; it might make more
9 sense to have kind of an education and
10 outreach.

11 Because now that New Canal
12 Lighthouse is open and that's kind of
13 where you are, lumping that with
14 education and research facility under an
15 education part of the workplan.

16 And then looking at the piers, we've
17 got the West End Pier, the East End
18 Pier; Pontchartrain Beach could be a
19 part of that West End Pier.

20 But that's kind of how we might look
21 at reformatting the workplan. It might
22 tell the story a little more clearly,
23 especially for folks who might not be
24 part of the location.

25 Any thoughts in the room on that

1 reconfiguration of things moving
2 forward?

3 RICHARD SCHEIRMAN:

4 Will there be boat ramps in any of
5 the piers?

6 DANNY WIEGAND:

7 The projects that are in our
8 workplan right now, we've talked -- like
9 East End Pier, we talked a little a bit
10 about whether or not to include boat
11 ramps. Obviously, funding is an issue
12 when you start expanding that.

13 It doesn't preclude it from being
14 part of the conversation and -- you
15 know, these are all locally driven
16 projects. The federal government is
17 really here to help facilitate the
18 execution of those projects.

19 Unfortunately, we don't have money
20 under the Urban Waters Program that we
21 can maybe help connect two agencies or
22 programs or even other entities that
23 could help with that. So if there's
24 something to expand within a current
25 focus project, we can definitely explore

1 the ideas, and -- you know, this is
2 about -- this is a democracy; I'm not up
3 here making decisions on what goes in
4 the workplan; this is really about
5 getting feedback from the partners and
6 deciding what these projects look like.

7 You know, the project workplan was
8 written after the 2011 initial meeting,
9 so we kept to make sure we can at least
10 try to accomplish what we set out to do,
11 but we are not held to the original
12 concept at all; I think we can modify
13 and adapt as we go forward, especially
14 as things change.

15 JOHN LOPEZ:

16 Your suggestion about kind of
17 regrouping things and activities rather
18 than lump the location I think makes
19 sense, and I think we will probably
20 figure that, but at the same time all
21 the sites kind of have their own unique
22 character and we don't want to lose
23 sight of that. The New Canal Lighthouse
24 will never replace Lafitte Corridor or
25 vice versa, you know.

1 DANNY WIEGAND:

2 Right.

3 JOHN LOPEZ:

4 So I think, you know, some balance
5 here, to keep everything -- those areas
6 were chosen for a very good reason from
7 many out of New Orleans.

8 DANNY WIEGAND:

9 Right. Good point.

10 CHARLES ALLEN:

11 Yeah, I was going to offer the same
12 point; it's almost like every pilot
13 project has an educational component to
14 some degree, you know.

15 Let me ask this: Does it seem right
16 now that Urban Waters in terms of its
17 time table has an indefinite time table,
18 or at least until this administration
19 passes on?

20 DANNY WIEGAND:

21 Well, that last bullet under the
22 2-2:30 section, the proposed changes in
23 project portfolio, that's part of what I
24 have in my annotated notes. One of the
25 things that -- with the latest release

1 of the eleven new locations. So New
2 Orleans was considered a "pilot."

3 So the original thought was that
4 this would be a three-year program.
5 It's a pilot program, but it's catching
6 on and, you know, with that map showing
7 the eleven new -- I mean, people across
8 the country -- I was at that river rally
9 up in St. Louis a couple weeks ago and I
10 participated with just like an overview
11 presentation about other locations to
12 folks that were in the room; and some of
13 them were part of Urban Waters program,
14 some were not.

15 The ones who were not would come up
16 to us that presented after and said,
17 "How do we get on; how do we do this;
18 who do I need to contact at EPA," you
19 know, "What do I need to do?" So this
20 is looking longer term than maybe was
21 originally envisioned because they
22 didn't know how it would catch, and that
23 option exists for the New Orleans
24 location as well.

25 The Federal Partners, we talked a

1 little bit about that this morning
2 because it is -- it's federal resources
3 that we commit to it that -- not
4 necessarily funding, so we have to have
5 the willpower and commitment as federal
6 partners to move forward, and we are all
7 on board, so -- and what we talked about
8 this morning is that, you know, we see
9 this moving beyond in the future if, you
10 know -- my tenure is through the end of
11 October; you know, will there be maybe
12 cycling in another person that could
13 come behind me -- there are all sorts of
14 opportunities, so if you want to open it
15 up, to give thoughts on that.

16 CHARLES ALLEN:

17 Or another thought -- and I don't
18 know if you-all have been talking about
19 this, the various federal agencies. Is
20 it envisioned that maybe as various
21 federal agencies grab hold of a project,
22 while you-all or while the EPA has taken
23 the lead on getting all of this started,
24 the various federal agencies that have
25 grabbed hold to our project can then

1 say, you know, we will further carry
2 this to some sort of development or
3 fruition, you know. And then we'll
4 still work with whatever necessary
5 agencies we need to work with along the
6 time, you know.

7 DANNY WIEGAND:

8 Yeah, that's a part of, you know,
9 some of the stuff we talked about, but
10 we definitely see that cross-agency
11 collaboration; we want to see that go
12 forward. But it needs to be in
13 conjunction with the locals and really
14 the locally driven ideas and thoughts on
15 what to do, what to move forward on.

16 Darryl?

17 DARRYL MALEK-WILEY:

18 I just wanted to -- I know it's on
19 the agenda for additional projects, but
20 you know, I've read over one of the
21 things and I look at where our projects
22 are in New Orleans, and there is some
23 Environmental Justice focus on
24 especially the Lafitte Corridor. Some
25 of the other projects, I would say, less

1 Environmental Justice focus; and the
2 project I'm working on in Lower Ninth
3 Ward with Bayou Bienvenue, I think it
4 would fit well in any addition.

5 But then there's also a project that
6 I know that the Vietnamese community is
7 working on in New Orleans East, with the
8 new trail to try and connect them with
9 Bayou Sauvage, so --

10 You know, if we are moving forward
11 in that direction, there's a couple
12 specific communities that are working on
13 projects that might fit into this mix.

14 DANNY WIEGAND:

15 Right. And just -- you know, I've
16 had conversations with folks that are
17 part of projects or movements or
18 initiatives within the communities that
19 aren't part of the five focus projects
20 as we are calling them, but the beauty
21 of this convening of people is that it's
22 not exclusive; we're not just saying
23 only people from New Canal Lighthouse
24 and so; it's really about bringing
25 everybody together, because even if it's

1 not one of the focus projects, we still
2 benefit from this networking and
3 collaboration.

4 We've worked closely with the folks
5 on the Lafitte Greenway management
6 strategy, NGOs that are more on the
7 sidelines looking in, but really want to
8 contribute and help, and they're then
9 invaluable in that process. So I don't
10 know without this network if that would
11 have happened, and so this is -- first
12 off, I think that there's benefit for
13 these communities even if, you know,
14 like you said, they are not part of that
15 five -- that portfolio.

16 But, you know, for those projects to
17 -- like I said, this was about the
18 partnership and what we see in that
19 workplan. And one of the key criteria
20 is that a federal lead has to be
21 identified for the project, and there
22 has to be some overlap with what that
23 federal agency is doing.

24 You know, if there's federal agency
25 with project that overlaps or intersects

1 with that, either in the mission or the
2 actual footprint, then that's what we
3 need to really then bring it to the
4 table for the partnership to decide
5 whether or not it makes it into that
6 portfolio, for lack of a better word.

7 I mean, that's great and I would
8 love to connect with -- you know, you've
9 been engaged and I'm very aware of the
10 Bayou Bienvenue, and that one's got a
11 lot of interest from many sides, but
12 unfortunately, as you know, we don't
13 have the federal lead. But I would be
14 very interested in the Vietnamese
15 project if you can get information
16 about, to pull them into our
17 conversations.

18 STACYE PALMER:

19 I'm federal lead for that project.

20 DANNY WIEGAND:

21 Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

22 STACYE PALMER:

23 No, no, you can still help me. I
24 was just letting you know that we have a
25 connection.

1 DANNY WIEGAND:

2 Oh, I see.

3 STACYE PALMER:

4 Yeah, that's with Darryl. That's
5 one of my current projects. And Bayou
6 Bienvenue is another one of my projects;
7 they have another executive director.
8 So we are going to take them back on
9 when the fiscal year begins. So that's
10 also a good part about my participating
11 with this group, tying in the
12 connections that we've had here and with
13 other projects throughout the city, so
14 that we can use those -- the resources
15 that we've gathered here to connect
16 those other two projects, help the
17 community and that projects. They do
18 have a federal lead but just not the
19 Urban Waters.

20 DANNY WIEGAND:

21 I see.

22 STACYE PALMER:

23 So it's part of my project work.

24 DANNY WIEGAND:

25 All right. Good. Any other

1 thoughts? John?

2 JOHN LOPEZ:

3 Yeah, one more thing. This is more
4 an "FYI" but -- I know that this is not
5 a proper quorum but we've been doing
6 some work in Bayou St. John which kind
7 of connects, you know -- it's the same
8 corridor. But we hope to construct a
9 project at the mouth of Bayou St. John
10 in the next couple of months and do a
11 little marsh creation project and
12 working with the Orleans Levee Board and
13 some other partners on that.

14 DANNY WIEGAND:

15 All right. Anybody else? Thoughts,
16 ideas? I want to move us to the next --
17 the agenda is, you know, flexible, if
18 you're looking at the time.

19 So I think I have a good idea;
20 that's good feedback on workplan and
21 moving forward. I kind of get the sense
22 that people would like to see this
23 farther end of the future at some level,
24 so we'll definitely -- we'll keep that
25 on the table.

1 What I'd like to do now -- and I
2 hope people are okay with this -- I'd
3 like to get your thoughts, but I'd like
4 you-all to get together and talk about
5 them rather than me standing up here and
6 just soliciting input. Sometimes people
7 are a little more open to conversation
8 if it's a smaller group.

9 I know when you-all registered, the
10 non-feds, you identified what your
11 project interests were and if there were
12 other interests, then, you know, you
13 identified that as well. What I'd like
14 to do at this session is to look at the
15 five focus projects initially and then
16 we'll get to the other interests after
17 that. But I'd like to have everybody
18 -- because there are multiple interests
19 per person, it might be a little more
20 dynamic than actually sitting in a
21 circle in a group and then putting your
22 heads together. I've got these five
23 things in the back, the flipcharts that
24 we can distribute throughout the room so
25 it's easier to access. I'd like to

1 separate out and just start getting
2 people to jot down ideas moving forward.

3 First off, did I capture all the
4 successes in the slides; I may have
5 missed some things, or you may be aware
6 of some things that happened that we
7 could capture in our workplan, but other
8 areas in need, other opportunities that
9 you-all might be aware of that others in
10 the room might not be, and then some of
11 the challenges that I listed -- and I
12 have a handout here to help people
13 remember these -- some of those
14 challenges, if you-all have thoughts on
15 moving forward that we can try to
16 implement.

17 Because you-all might have a great
18 idea that might not be coming out right
19 now, but it might come out on a
20 flipchart or a sticky or however you
21 want to look at it. And then we'll get
22 back together after. Hopefully, you-all
23 can pick one person to kind of be the
24 spokesperson and just pick out two of
25 the most critical things moving forward

1 for that project, and then we'll take it
2 from there.

3 So I'll pass these out. These are
4 just the slides outlining the successes
5 and the challenges, and so -- and I
6 unfortunately do not have -- I don't
7 have enough for everybody, so you might
8 just want to share.

9 (Participants formed groups and discussions were
10 held.)

11 DANNY WIEGAND:

12 Okay, folks, let's go ahead and come
13 back to your seats. All right. So I
14 hope everybody had a chance -- first
15 off, I don't know but I think that was a
16 success -- unless you-all were just
17 chatting about where you were going
18 after this.

19 Hopefully you-all got something out
20 of that. I saw people talking that I
21 don't know if they knew each other, so I
22 think that right there makes it a
23 success.

24 We are good 30 minutes behind on the
25 agenda, but that's okay; I think this is

1 important. But I want to make sure we
2 have -- I want to get through the next
3 step, the group recommendations. We
4 might have 30 minutes for that, but I
5 think we can get through that pretty
6 quickly, if we can get, you know, that
7 designated person come up here.

8 I'm going to ask you to come up here
9 to help Natasha here with capturing your
10 comments. Maybe you can bring your --
11 maybe you don't have to bring the -- you
12 can just point to the flipchart and just
13 have your ideas. And then I want to
14 have that open floor session because I
15 think that's really important to
16 maintain that and give other folks
17 opportunity to talk with us.

18 Why don't we just start. I'm going
19 to start right here: East End Pier.
20 Who's going to come and --

21 CHARLES ALLEN:

22 Okay. With regard to the East End
23 Pier's project, I was joined by Ken
24 Litzenberger, from Fish and Wildlife,
25 Alton James, from USDA, and Pamela from

1 EDA - Economic Development

2 Administration. We feel that we've got
3 enough; we can always grow it, but we've
4 got enough willing partners right now,
5 and we're working to flash out an actual
6 agreement, cooperative endeavor
7 agreement on this.

8 We think we have some moneys
9 internally to then further take us
10 through a planning and design phase, but
11 it's the hard money for actual buildup
12 of the pier that we still need
13 desperately. And then, of course, with
14 regard to anything that any of us are
15 doing, there's long-term arrangements.
16 So we're got into a discussion and we
17 seem to think we might be heading in
18 good direction in terms of thinking how
19 we can justifiably request moneys
20 vis-a-vis the Restore Act and BP
21 settlement money that will eventually
22 come to the state.

23 Maybe if we could tie onto this some
24 sort of a ecological component to
25 dissolve this tension on how we need to

1 use these moneys to invest in the
2 state's ecological restoration; maybe we
3 think we'll be smiled upon in that
4 regard. So it was a good conversation,
5 and of course, it will be furthered as
6 we go along. Thank you.

7 DANNY WIEGAND:

8 All right. For the sake of time,
9 rather than have questions now, we're
10 just going to move to the next one;
11 we'll talk about this at the end.

12 John Ettinger. Is that the Lafitte
13 flipchart you're holding there?

14 JOHN ETTINGER:

15 Yeah. We've been assembling the
16 Lafitte flipchat.

17 DANNY WIEGAND:

18 Can somebody, whoever from the
19 Lafitte -- yeah, those things are -

20 KIRSTEN ROBERTS:

21 Hi, I'm Kirsten Melberg. I'm with
22 the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority.
23 With the Lafitte Greenway, challenges
24 and opportunity; we think the number one
25 sounds like the number one opportunity

1 that could really just kind of encompass
2 what everybody's comments are, is to
3 have one person identified at the
4 federal and city level that is basically
5 a multi-agency liaison; that can help
6 coordinate all of these items between
7 raising money for beautification,
8 figuring out policy changes, engaging
9 the business community, the hospitals
10 that are being build, NORA, the New
11 Orleans Redevelopment Authority as they
12 are rehabing properties along that
13 corridor.

14 And then the second thing is
15 dedicated long-term funding. So some
16 kind of test or some tax increment or
17 something can be set up to make that
18 work. In the interim, before that
19 happens, this person can help set up
20 other ways to bring, to generate funds
21 by making these relationships with
22 public-private partnerships, and get the
23 business, the other private industries
24 that are building along this corridor to
25 donate funds or incentivize them to

1 generate funds with us.

2 I think that's it. Did I miss
3 anything? All right then.

4 DANNY WIEGAND:

5 Thank you. UNO CERF.

6 DINAH MAYGARDEN:

7 Okay. This was more of a
8 brainstorming, and I don't know if we
9 really consolidated in the time we had,
10 you know, down to a coherent set of
11 ideas. We discussed challenges of the
12 infrastructure itself, which -- and then
13 the fact that one of the -- well, me --
14 the missing link here is the
15 administration.

16 You know, we are part of a large
17 university, so it would be really good
18 to have members of the administration in
19 the room to talk about the stuff,
20 because we can't -- you know, Ben's
21 here, I'm here; we don't have a lot of
22 power in the big picture at UNO. So we
23 need to engage the administration.

24 And so my job mostly is finding
25 funding for the education programs that

1 take place at CERF, and we've had some
2 successes with that. I've also
3 presented data on some proposals. We
4 currently have funding from NOAA and the
5 Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program.

6 We've got things I've been feeling
7 good about. Our partnership is
8 developing with Louisiana Department of
9 Wildlife and Fisheries; at the moment,
10 that's strengthening and hopefully I
11 will have good things to report next
12 time. And we developed our relationship
13 with US Fish and Wildlife Service, and
14 we have a memorandum of understanding
15 with neighbors.

16 So we've been working with HESCO and
17 CPRA to build a living shoreline. That
18 was started way at the beginning, when
19 Charles was involved in that, I think --
20 City was involved, and we are extending
21 that living shoreline using HESCO
22 baskets and planting.

23 So there are quite a lot of positive
24 partnership opportunities that need to
25 be built further; I think that is a key.

1 If you have anything to add, Ben,
2 from UNO perspective, or anybody else
3 that was with us talking?

4 BEN SHIRTCLIFF:

5 I could kind of add, the one that we
6 came up for the beach was kind of --
7 what is it going to take to maybe add
8 utilities that help make this off the
9 grid. And so the primary idea was how
10 can we take a project like CERF, which
11 is already out there and it's already
12 outside the hurricane protection
13 barrier, and we could sort of emphasize
14 green technology, you know, concepts of
15 sustainability, and just showing, you
16 know, how does a regional -- how do you
17 live here successfully, off the grid --

18 DINAH MAYGARDEN:

19 Or even on the grid. Yeah.
20 Sustainability. Because when we had the
21 building after Isaac, with the business
22 as usual, it was very frustrating to see
23 them put the sheetrock back that when
24 you know, we have leaders at UNO, like
25 Charlie Laslo who would preach, you

1 know, doing things differently and not--

2 Anyway, that aspect has been
3 frustrating, but opportunities are out
4 there.

5 SCOTT HEMMERLING:

6 And we've also discussed the need to
7 have other universities involved and
8 other -- you know, have classes, more
9 classes taught there and really try to
10 engage the academic community around New
11 Orleans to better take advantage of the
12 facility.

13 DINAH MAYGARDEN:

14 Tulane's been a partner in a mighty
15 way so those kinds of opportunities need
16 to be built on. We are making a slow
17 progress.

18 DANNY WIEGAND:

19 All right. Pontchartrain Beach.

20 JOHN LOPEZ:

21 Well, I think we've already covered
22 the background of Pontchartrain Beach a
23 little bit. LPBF has been actually
24 talking and pursuing discussions about
25 trying to get the beach reopen. I think

1 there is a possibility that the Lake
2 Foundation may be able to get a lease to
3 the managing of the beach. It's kind of
4 a chicken-or-the-egg situation where my
5 board says they won't sign the lease
6 until they get some money, but I can't
7 raise money until I get the lease.

8 So we feel like we're close to maybe
9 having -- to maybe getting to a final
10 step of discussions, and what we're very
11 excited about is, we are probably in a
12 phase of opening -- with heavy emphasis
13 on safety, of course -- for the public,
14 but also kind of gauged against how much
15 funding capacity we have to properly
16 manage the beach.

17 Do you want to add anything?

18 ANDREA CALVIN:

19 Yes. So kind of out of that, you
20 know, the number one thing that came up
21 for us since we've been talking it has
22 come up to us, as the Lake Foundation,
23 has been this idea of liability. You
24 know, as we're pursuing this, our
25 liability as an organization or anyone

1 that will take it on, you know, is at
2 the forefront. So that was something
3 that came up.

4 And then about, you know, access and
5 how we should provide access, or not, to
6 areas that may not be safe right now.
7 And then, like John said, a base that
8 approached getting more of the beach
9 accessible, you know, doing work on it
10 as we can.

11 The idea of the perception of what's
12 safe and what's not out there has come
13 up, especially with the recent
14 drownings. To that end, we've actually
15 recently done bathymetric survey out
16 there, so we are getting an idea of
17 what's under the water. You know, we
18 would want to pursue any kind of
19 swimming out there, you know, very
20 carefully. We've already talked about
21 the idea of blocking off the areas for
22 swimming.

23 And someone brought up swimming
24 lessons. We do partake -- we do these,
25 actually, with the Red Cross once a

1 year, but, you know, we've always loved
2 the idea of having people be able to go
3 out to the lake and learn how to swim,
4 you know, it's a good place to go.

5 But then like all of these projects,
6 various operating funds into the future,
7 so that whatever entity takes it on,
8 how do you maintain it, how do you keep
9 whatever amenities that we'd want to get
10 out there, and the thoughts of keeping
11 the amenities kind of, at a minimum,
12 keep it just parklike.

13 And the reality is that there's no
14 utilities out there, so as Ben said,
15 there's an idea, which is a really kind
16 of a cool idea, to think about ways to
17 go off the grid, and you know, think
18 about these green solutions that could
19 be here, at the place to showcase them.

20 However, the reality is that we are
21 outside of the levees and so when storms
22 would come, we would have to have some
23 really super-strong stuff or stuff that
24 we know we will have to replace out
25 there. And then, of course, safety is

1 always paramount.

2 So those were kind of the -- that,
3 you know, it gives you kind of where we
4 are with it. And we have put together a
5 little group that has been meeting on a
6 regular basis to try to weed through
7 some of this. But that's what we talked
8 about.

9 DANNY WIEGAND:

10 All right. And last but not least,
11 West End Pier, New Canal Lighthouse.
12 John? Adele?

13 JOHN LOPEZ:

14 I think there isn't much more to
15 add. You know, when we talked about the
16 situation of the New Canal Lighthouse
17 and the FEMA claim, and I think Adele
18 had an additional suggestion when we
19 rebuild, everything is ADA compliant,
20 and Adele was saying that there might be
21 funding along that line since we are ADA
22 compliant.

23 Do you want to expand a little bit
24 on that, Adele, please?

25 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

1 Yeah, we can figure out, I mean,
2 through our partnership, Erich's got
3 contacts at DoJ, so we can take your
4 question that you have concerning the
5 docks, and figure out whether there is
6 any funding associated with ADA.

7 It might be through state, state
8 agencies, that actually implement the
9 program or activities that are available
10 in the state and how they need to be ADA
11 compliant, but we can at least make
12 contact with DoJ and then figure out who
13 the people with the state are, and then
14 help you do that.

15 JOHN LOPEZ:

16 Adele and Danny suggested, which I
17 appreciate, that we should write a
18 letter to Danny kind of laying this out
19 so that Danny can kind of go back and
20 tell us where we take the issues.

21 DANNY WIEGAND:

22 Yes.

23 JOHN LOPEZ:

24 Thank you.

25 DANNY WIEGAND:

1 All right. Thanks to everybody for
2 working with me on that. I think we've
3 got some good input and feedback. So
4 that's really helpful, and Natasha is
5 busily writing it all down, and we are
6 going to have it all captured.

7 So we've got 15 minutes left, and
8 the 15 minutes is mostly for people who
9 wanted to leave to go to the Greater New
10 Orleans Foundation Urban Waters thing,
11 and I know we've got a few people that
12 are very interested in that. We have
13 the room until 5:00, so there is a
14 possibility to hang out after that.

15 So this next session is the open
16 floor, the other areas of interest, the
17 other interests. So for the federal
18 folks that are here, I did an online
19 registration kind of thing and asked
20 people to check which projects of the
21 five that they're interested in, and
22 then if they had other, they had an
23 opportunity to write what other things
24 they're interested in. And what's here
25 on the agenda is basically what I've got

1 in that request.

2 We have Bayou Bienvenue, which we've
3 already talked about a little bit.
4 Bayou St. John came up, which makes
5 sense from the Lafitte Corridor side.
6 Brechtel Park; that was brought up in
7 January at our meeting, and that's Julia
8 from Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries --
9 I can't remember her last name, but that
10 was her recommendation.

11 And there's lot of interests, hence
12 the people going to the Urban Waters
13 thing tonight on green infrastructure,
14 small water management; that's more
15 about the topic than actual project-
16 specific. We had the Green Slice
17 project down in the Lower Ninth, and
18 then the Woodlands Conservancy was
19 brought up as well.

20 So is there anybody really pressed
21 for time that needs to get out, that
22 wants to come up and just kind of talk a
23 little bit about your interest and then
24 we can -- so then that person could then
25 leave? Dana, I know you have a lot of

1 interest in talking about some of the
2 storm water stuff.

3 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

4 Yes. Brechtel Park is -- I've been
5 working on that for years.

6 DANNY WIEGAND:

7 Okay.

8 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

9 And actually, just to go ahead and
10 show how old I am, I worked on the
11 original master plan; my first landscape
12 architecture job in 1974. But it's
13 really in Algiers; it's part of the
14 Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary; it's a
15 major stop on the flyway for birds
16 migrating; it's a great birding spot;
17 it's got wetlands; it's got a lagoon,
18 and now that's been partly dredged, I
19 think maybe -- I don't think they
20 dredged it since '74, I mean, it's just
21 -- and it got battered mostly by Gustav,
22 so the forests were pretty well
23 destroyed.

24 So we did an ecological restoration
25 plan for it. We need some money to do

1 it, but one of the things that we really
2 want to do -- we just finished the
3 trail, just opened; we just finished it
4 last week. We designed a permanent
5 trail, and that opened and got built
6 with Recreational Trails funds.

7 So we are out there begging for
8 little bits of money here and there to
9 get stuff going in that park. But it's
10 a big park, 112 acres, right there in
11 the middle of Algiers, and a great
12 educational opportunity. The biggest
13 thing is that people learn to fish
14 there. You can talk to people all over
15 the place; "That's where I learned to
16 fish."

17 And so we need to dredge the lagoon,
18 and we've started it; we've done our own
19 bathymetric mapping with a canoe, stick
20 and a paddle to beat off the alligator
21 that was coming out. So anyway, it
22 needs dredging. Fish and Wildlife has
23 offered us \$150,000 to get the dredging
24 going. We got the environmental
25 clearance. We can't seem to get anybody

1 to say, yes, we can take the money and
2 do it, because it's got to be spent by
3 August 1st, so --

4 I mean, we have all these
5 bureaucratic kinds of issues. If you
6 can help us through it, even Cedric
7 Grant said, you know, well -- he's got a
8 way; I'm not going to tell what his way
9 is of how to get the rest of it dredged,
10 all of it dredged, because it's about
11 \$600,000 to dredge it and to do
12 everything that needs to be done, to
13 grade it and all that.

14 But he does -- he doesn't have any
15 plans. So we can't get like \$50,000 to
16 do construction drop. So, I mean, it's
17 like very complicated for an amazing,
18 amazing resource right there on the West
19 Bank. And I don't live on the West
20 Bank, I never got, but I'm advocating
21 for Algiers here. So great project,
22 yes.

23 CHARLES ALLEN:

24 Are you working with Parkway
25 partners on that?

1 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

2 Yes.

3 CHARLES ALLEN:

4 That's what I figured. Okay.

5 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

6 And West Bank Redevelopment has paid
7 us over the years to do things for the
8 park. And then we do a lot of pro bono.

9 CHARLES ALLEN:

10 Let's talk afterwards. Because I
11 was contacted recently by them, and I
12 think they got their clearances.

13 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

14 We got the clearance; you guys
15 helped with it.

16 CHARLES ALLEN:

17 Yeah. Right.

18 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

19 We got the clearance; clearance is
20 done. But it's June; we've got three
21 months to spend \$150,000. I was trying
22 to figure out could we -- could they
23 transfer the money. We need somebody
24 who knows how to cut through this stuff.

25 DANNY WIEGAND:

1 And these are State dollars, through
2 the State?

3 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

4 I don't know the origin of it. From
5 Fish and Wildlife.

6 DANNY WIEGAND:

7 That's makes sense; wouldn't be a
8 State since June, because their fiscal
9 year starts July.

10 Is there federal presence at this?

11 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

12 Through National Estuary. But it's,
13 you know, it's in the realm.

14 Please? Case of beer, anybody?

15 (Laughter.)

16 DANNY WIEGAND:

17 Well, because when I helped get the
18 clearance, I thought that meant it's
19 going to be --

20 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

21 But they were at the same time
22 working on the other stuff, and we just
23 -- all the people in the City are
24 saying, oh, we can't do that by August.
25 So I just -- if we could get the money

1 transferred to West Bank Redevelopment,
2 they could just do it.

3 DANNY WIEGAND:

4 Okay. Well, get with Charles,
5 because it sounds like --

6 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

7 It's just a great example; great,
8 great site.

9 DANNY WIEGAND:

10 Okay. Did you want to say -- I know
11 you have to leave; you are going to the
12 Greater New Orleans thing.

13 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

14 I am.

15 DANNY WIEGAND:

16 Did you have anything else you
17 wanted to add?

18 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

19 Life is great; business is good.

20 (Laughter.)

21 CHARLES ALLEN:

22 And you are looking great,
23 considering that you've been working
24 since '74.

25 (Laughter.)

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ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

Yeah. I have good skin.

DANNY WIEGAND:

All right. Anybody else pressed for time that wants to speak, and before I go and do reverse alphabetical order?

JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

I do have to leave.

DANNY WIEGAND:

Okay.

JEANNE-MARIE GANUCHEAU:

The only thing that I wanted to say is that Senator Landrieu is very excited about what's happening, the collaboration that's taking place between federal agencies. And one of the outcomes that we hope for is that this is the begging of establishing methods for the agencies to develop ways to collaborate that can be used consistently.

Earlier this morning, we were talking about how New Orleans, because there are several different partnerships, federal partnerships

1 involved here, has a unique opportunity
2 to, you know, map that out. And that's
3 hard -- figuring out how to
4 collaborate.

5 And if we can document that and
6 learn from that and have a model to
7 repeat, that would be very valuable, in
8 addition to all projects that you-all
9 are will cut through. So thanks.

10 DANNY WIEGAND:

11 Thank you, Jeanne-Marie. Thank you
12 very much.

13 All right. Well, I think the next
14 best way to do this is to -- and I'm
15 going to go in reverse order because I
16 just want to shake things up -- to start
17 down at the Woodlands Conservancy.

18 And Katie, you have to speak because
19 I know you want to say something. Do
20 you want to come up here or you are okay
21 back there?

22 KATIE BRASTED:

23 It doesn't matter. I'll come up
24 there.

25 DANNY WIEGAND:

1 Yeah, it will be easier for Natasha.

2 KATIE BRASTED:

3 I'm Katie Brasted, and I'm with
4 Woodlands Conservancy. You probably can
5 see, but it's not very well -- but --
6 Woodlands Conservancy, we are located on
7 the West Bank of New Orleans. Our
8 project area is 10,000-acre peninsula,
9 which is made up of half Orleans Parish
10 and half Plaquemines Parish. We manage
11 609 acres in Plaquemines Parish, and
12 have 13 miles of recreational trails
13 there.

14 In December of 2012, we just
15 purchased 190 acres in Lower Coast
16 Algiers, which is -- connects to the
17 English Turn Golf Course Development,
18 and connects to Wilderness Park, which
19 is a Land and Water Conservation funded
20 facility.

21 So our current status is -- I mean,
22 that just happened in December, which
23 seems really recent to me -- we launched
24 this pathway; we launched the beginning
25 for master plan with Mossop and

1 Michaels, and we currently have an
2 agreement with US Fish and Wildlife
3 Service for a 25-year period, which
4 seems awesome, to do restoration work,
5 to remove Chinese Tallow, Chinese
6 Privet, and also to start addressing
7 feral swine, which -- I don't know about
8 where you guys live, but --

9 We're lobbying -- I can't say we are
10 lobbying -- we are hoping that APHIS and
11 USDA maybe take this geographical area
12 as one of the pilots in order to get
13 ready to do some feral swine management
14 projects.

15 And we also recently -- we work with
16 National Audubon and LSU Ag Center; we
17 are also working with Tulane; and we've
18 got some funding from Barataria
19 Terrebonne National Estuary Program to
20 start doing bird banding stations at
21 both the Orleans and the Plaquemines
22 Parish side.

23 And pretty much, what the woman said
24 about Brechtel Park, we can say about
25 Woodlands. We have 163 documented

1 resident migratory birds at site; we
2 have data from National Wetlands
3 Research Center showing over 4,400 birds
4 leaving there during migration, during
5 the evening. So it's a great birding
6 habitat, great wildlife habitat, and our
7 goal is to continue keeping a lowline
8 greenway corridor for the preservation
9 of that habitat and for public access
10 and education.

11 And that's pretty much where we are.

12 DANNY WIEGAND:

13 Thank you.

14 KATIE BRASTED:

15 And if anybody has any ideas about
16 long-term funding, throw that in the
17 hole.

18 DANNY WIEGAND:

19 Okay. The Green Slice. I know I
20 saw Maria and -- did you want to say
21 anything about it? I know, we --

22 MARIA BRODINE:

23 I'll just introduce it because I
24 don't think everybody knows about it.
25 I'm with Groundwork New Orleans. I'm

1 Maria Brodine, and this is Alisha Neal,
2 our Executive Director, and we are
3 working on a project with Urban Waters
4 small-grant funded project in the Lower
5 Ninth Ward called the Green Slice.

6 And basically what it is, it starts
7 out as an interdisciplinary research
8 project, working with our Green Team,
9 which is a job-training program for
10 high-school-aged youth to find out
11 basically how these people are
12 experiencing flooding in the
13 neighborhood and what the current
14 drainage infrastructure is like, and
15 coming up with recommendation for how to
16 reconnect the neighborhood with its
17 watershed, understanding that particular
18 neighborhood as a part of a very vital
19 watershed which connects with Bayou
20 Bienvenue.

21 So that's it in a nutshell, and we
22 are just beginning talks with the City
23 on, you know, some potential places
24 where we could actually work on
25 developing green gardens and things like

1 that, which would contribute, you know,
2 actual on-the-ground, non-structural
3 solutions to the problems.

4 So Danny has been instrumental in
5 helping us with that, so thank you.

6 DANNY WIEGAND:

7 And Charles.

8 MARIA BRODINE:

9 Yes, and Charles. Thank you. So
10 that's it.

11 DANNY WIEGAND:

12 All right. Green Infrastructure
13 Water Management, does anybody -- I know
14 Ben talked a little bit about it. I
15 know you put a little bit on that, but
16 -- just -- this is really just an open
17 floor, if anybody wants to talk about
18 these things. I'm not putting people on
19 the spot; I'm just remembering.

20 Kirsten, I know you've got some
21 stuff going on in this area.

22 KIRSTEN MELBERG:

23 With NORA we've got \$15 million FEMA
24 grant to do water mitigation in two
25 neighborhoods, Pontchartrain Park and

1 Gentilly Woods. And we are halfway
2 through the design piece right now, but
3 we always need a little bit more than 15
4 million, because there are certain
5 things that FEMA doesn't like to pay
6 for. And there's also funding
7 restrictions with HUD and even EPA.

8 So right now our challenges are
9 securing funds for beautification; it's
10 kind of a similar process to Lafitte
11 Greenway -- beautification, land
12 acquisition, and then we're also
13 figuring out the long-term maintenance
14 strategy.

15 So this whole idea between -- about
16 providing storm water solutions for
17 these two neighborhoods, it's
18 non-structural. I'm not talking about
19 pulling up pipes; this is using the
20 vacant land that already exists, where
21 nobody is already living on it, and
22 using right-of-ways and an old canal
23 that is not really operating at its full
24 capacity, and it's actually implemented.

25 So if we are trying to come up with

1 non-structural solutions, sort of like
2 the Groundwork is doing, and actually
3 implement them at our level, which would
4 also protect that neighborhood up to a
5 10-year flood storm.

6 DANNY WIEGAND:

7 All right. We talked about Brechtel
8 Park. Did anybody else want to talk
9 about Brechtel Park? Bayou St. John?
10 John, St. John?

11 JOHN LOPEZ:

12 I may just mention we even have a
13 website and it's raising a little bit of
14 money, but it also has a video and
15 actually, you know, provides us exposure
16 where we actually are successful. We
17 had some money --

18 DANNY WIEGAND:

19 Is that like trial funding?

20 JOHN LOPEZ:

21 Yes. It's only a certain amount
22 actually coming through the site. But
23 the site kind of allowed us to mass
24 media our project, so it seems like it
25 worked. You know, there's small local

1 interest. In fact, tomorrow I'm meeting
2 with an elderly gentleman whose wife
3 many years ago wrote a book about Bayou
4 St. John, history of Bayou St. John,
5 very detailed book on Bayou St. John.
6 You never know what's going to pop up.

7 DANNY WIEGAND:

8 Right. Yeah. Yeah, I've been
9 reading a lot about that. That's some
10 of the kick-starter stuff and I've been
11 thinking about that for like Lafitte,
12 and I've mentioned earlier to some folks
13 that they've used that successfully out
14 of L.A. on the marsh projects; some of
15 their non-profits obviously have to do
16 that, so that's an easy kick-starter.

17 JOHN LOPEZ:

18 Well, I should also mention the
19 marsh creation project. As I said,
20 we'll be moving the dirt starting up
21 basically immediately, and the marsh
22 platform should be built in a couple of
23 months, but planting is going to be done
24 by Restore the Earth Foundation, and
25 they are supplying plants and brown

1 paper bags. We'll probably do the main
2 planning for that in October once the
3 weather gets cooler, we think that plans
4 will do a little better through the
5 fall.

6 DANNY WIEGAND:

7 Great. All right. And Bayou
8 Bienvenue? Darryl?

9 DARRYL MALEK-WILEY:

10 Yeah. I have a short update on
11 Bayou Bienvenue. Lots of things going
12 on. We've got this fact sheet in the
13 back; if you haven't picked one up, get
14 that, but -- the Sewerage and Water
15 Board Wetland Assimilation Project is
16 moving ahead. They've got their levee
17 almost built, so that's great.

18 The Lower Ninth Ward Center for
19 Sustainable Engagement and Development
20 is now a landowner. In Bayou Bienvenue
21 we own two city blocks, that just
22 happens to have 3 to 5 feet of water
23 over time, but we own the land, and we
24 are going to be working on how to
25 restore that area.

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On Friday, we closed with NORA on number of plots on Caffin Avenue and Florida Avenue, right by the platform, so that's really good news.

The signage that National Wildlife Federation is working with CSED to put up should be up this quarter or next quarter. The CSED has gotten a grant to do an oral history of the Bayou and moving forward with that.

If you haven't been down to see Oliver Bush Park, the City has invested 1.2 million in that restoration effort, and the basketball courts have been adopted by the Retired National Basketball Players of New Orleans; so they are going to be doing workshops there.

And the Sierra Club CSED and the University of New Orleans students developed a whole series of bypass from along Mississippi River levee in Lower Ninth Ward, down the inner harbor canal, across Florida Avenue, back up Caffin, so really look into that whole area.

1 And one thing that we are thinking
2 about in the future, just trying to work
3 with National Park Service for the
4 anniversary of the Battle of New
5 Orleans. Since the British invaded New
6 Orleans by going into Bayou Bienvenue to
7 about Paris Avenue and then walked over
8 to the battlefield, we might need to
9 work on reenactment of that effort. So
10 if anybody wants to row from Ship Island
11 to Bayou Bienvenue, sign up here.

12 (Laughter.)

13 DANNY WIEGAND:

14 All right. Thank you, Darryl.
15 Anything else, you know, main things
16 while we've got folks here? I know it's
17 been a long day for some and afternoon
18 for some, but any other things?

19 JOHN LOPEZ:

20 Just to mention, on Bayou Bienvenue,
21 in the Triangle area, LPDF has been
22 doing some background work; we've done
23 elevation survey, and we've done some
24 soil surveys. I was trying to look at
25 the hydrology and these maps of the

1 Bayou. So we are trying to help with
2 some technical baseline information so
3 that restoration of Bayou Bienvenue
4 moves forward with information
5 available.

6 DANNY WIEGAND:

7 Okay. Did somebody join us?

8 (Telephone communication has been established
9 with Bill Honker.)

10 BILL HONKER:

11 Yes. It's Bill Honker; I was
12 finally able to call in.

13 DANNY WIEGAND:

14 Bill, thanks for joining us. We are
15 at the part of the agenda where it's
16 just an open floor and we're going
17 around and getting ideas and thoughts
18 from folks. Do you have any thoughts
19 and stuff you'd like to share with us,
20 joining in?

21 BILL HONKER:

22 Well, first of all, I want to
23 apologize for not being able to make it
24 down there. I thoroughly planned to be
25 there with you today, and I just was

1 overtaken with a bunch of other issues
2 that have kind of consumed my day here
3 in Dallas, so my apologies for not being
4 there.

5 I do want to thank you, Danny, for
6 the fine job you are doing, and I think
7 it's been a real asset to the whole
8 program to have you focused on this
9 right there in the city and working full
10 time on it, and that is really, I think,
11 aided the whole effort.

12 I don't have anything other than
13 that, other than I'm really pleased with
14 progress that's being made on many
15 issues that we're dealing with with the
16 pilot, and look forward to hearing the
17 feedback from this discussion today and
18 the field trip tomorrow.

19 DANNY WIEGAND:

20 Thanks, Bill. Well, we've had some
21 really good discussion, and I think
22 you'll be really interesting in seeing.
23 We've got Natasha here is capturing all
24 these important statements being made,
25 so you'll have a really good, thorough

1 thing to read over the summer, at the
2 beach.

3 But truly, we are really wrapping up
4 and I just wanted to, in closing first,
5 to say thank you to everybody. This has
6 been a great day. I know it's a lot of
7 time out of people's calendars, but we
8 really appreciate your dedication and
9 commitment to coming out here and just
10 talking with us and trying to chart our
11 way forward.

12 And with that, you know, moving
13 forward -- this slide that I have up
14 here -- if you have more thoughts on how
15 you'd like to see this going forward
16 from a pilot to a location, it sounds
17 like we've got a lot of commitment and
18 some interests in the room from the
19 federal side, as well as the non-federal
20 side to maintain this momentum, and I
21 think that's it's a great thing, so you
22 know, if you have other ideas and want
23 to share them, feel free to shoot me an
24 e-mail, give me a call.

25 And, Adele, did you have any other

1 things you wanted to add?

2 ADELE CARDENAS-MALOTT:

3 You might want to tell Bill that it
4 looks like we're going to be continuing.

5 DANNY WIEGAND:

6 Oh, yeah. Bill, so everybody
7 decided that I need a raise, and we need
8 to sign maybe a 10-year -- just kidding.

9 (Laughter.)

10 DANNY WIEGAND:

11 Bill, seriously, we do have a lot of
12 interest in the city to maintain this
13 partnership in whatever capacity it ends
14 up looking like, but people really
15 appreciate this convening of all these
16 different groups and I hope I'm saying
17 everything correctly for people, but
18 there's a lot of interest to keep this
19 going down the road.

20 BILL HONKER:

21 That's good. And Adele has probably
22 already mentioned that we've got another
23 pilot starting up in Albuquerque, and
24 obviously, many things we've learned
25 from the New Orleans experience we are

1 going to try to take to that location,
2 as well. Unfortunately, EPA is not
3 solely in the lead in the Albuquerque
4 one, and one of the agencies on the
5 ground will be doing that.

6 But, yeah, we are certainly
7 interested in keeping the things going,
8 and right now Danny's assignment is
9 limited in time, but we are actively
10 looking for the opportunity if we are
11 able to keep him on longer, working on
12 this, we'd certainly like to do that.

13 DANNY WIEGAND:

14 Well, with that, any other comments
15 from the group? Suggestions?

16 (No response from participants.)

17 DANNY WIEGAND:

18 All right. Well, I think -- first
19 off, if you don't mind, unless you
20 really want to keep these, they are
21 plastic cases, it would be nice to be
22 able to recycle those and use them
23 again, so if you could just leave on the
24 table, that would be great.

25 And it looks like there's still

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plenty of literature back there, so if
you want to take any on the way out,
have over a beer or something, for your
evening.

Again, thanks everybody. We'll be
in touch; you'll see my e-mails,
obviously, and thanks again.

(END OF MEETING)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I, Natasha D. Kahler, hereby certify that the above 113 pages represent true and correct transcript of the above-entitled meeting, held at the place and time indicated above, reported by me using a voice-writing method, and transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability and understanding.

Natasha D. Kahler, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Louisiana License #2010020