

Regional Parish OHSEP Directors Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:00 PM

Baton Rouge Parish – GOHSEP – Overwatch

ATTENDEES

Dick Gremillion, Mark Harrel, Kevin Davis, Kevin Breaux, Chris Guilbeaux, Christina Dayries, James Smith, Vernie McNamee, Mark Riley, Lee John, Kip Franklin, Earl Eues, Joe Stewart, Pam Roussel, Collins Simoneaux, Doug Zettlemoyer, Teresa Basco, Dawson Primes, Mike Steele, James Clark, Jerry Reynolds and Casey Tingle.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting started promptly at 1:00 PM

Dick Gremillion called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

The following handouts were given to those in attendance: March 18, 2014, Agenda, December 10, 2013 Minutes, GOHSEP Grant Extensions and Deobligations as of March 14, 2014 and the EMPG Funding Overview and Funding Allocation Scenarios.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Earl Eues made a motion to accept the December 10, 2013 minutes

Dick Gremillion seconded the motion.

The December 10, 2013 minutes were approved.

GOHSEP UPDATE

Kevin Davis

GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis stated that he testified at House Appropriations Committee on GOHSEP's fiscal year 2014/2015 budget and he will be testifying soon for Senate Finance.

He also mentioned that DHS recently announce 2014 State allocations and Louisiana received a 5% increase in EMPG Funding and a 15% increase in SHSP funding. The New Orleans UASI Region 1 will be a recipient of the 2014 UASI grants.

He reminded Directors of the State Agency LNO training for Parishes in Ascension Parish on April 10, 2014.

He announced the GOHSEP's Hazard Mitigation (HM) Workshop starting in late May through June and highly recommends elected officials, project management and finance personnel to be attend to better understand documentation involved in this HM application process. It's a two day workshop, first half day recommended for high level elected officials and the second day suggested for grant staff.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT UPDATES

Christina Dayries

Christina Dayries referred to Grant and Deobligation handouts indicating that GOHSEP recently deobligated \$37,629.58 in FY12 EMPG funding from various parishes. After discussion among the regional director Earl Eues made motion to allocate the funding towards interoperability projects, Mark Harrell seconded the motion. All attendees agreed.

Christina stated she will meet with First Responders Subcommittee the first week of April to discuss the FY11 SHSP deobligated funding in amount of \$13,730.75. Dick Gremillion made a motion that the First Responders consider interoperability projects for the remaining funding. Mark Harrell seconded the motion. All attendees agreed.

Christina reviewed funding allocations for the EMPG FY14 for the parishes. After discussion on the various options, Kip Franklin made motion to recommend that the parishes receive a \$25,000 base allocation and the remaining funding be allocated on population, Mark Harrell seconded the motion. All attendees agreed.

2014 SPRING FLOOD OUTLOOK

Chris Guilbeaux

Chris reminded the attendees of the Spring Flood Forecast will be held on the March 25, 2014 all parishes were welcome to attend. Dick questioned if Chris could provide the directors with any details about the flooding outlook. Chris stated that the forecast was for moderate flooding to affect parishes, mostly to the east of Mississippi and north of the Ohio River/Valley which will not go into our basin. Chris cautioned that everything depends on the weather at this time.

NEW PARISH DIRECTOR NOTIFICATIONS

Chris Guilbeaux

Chris reviewed the required information needed for new director appointments by Parish Presidents: 1) Executed Letter of Appointment or copy of the minutes stating appointment 2) correct phone numbers, emails, addresses, 3) Louisiana driver's license number.

LEPC WORKSHOPS

Chris Guilbeaux

Chris gave a brief overview of the upcoming LEPC workshop locations and dates, the first workshop will be in the Calcasieu Parish EOC May 20th, Pam is working on site in St. Charles/St. John area for May 21st; Teresa is working on a

location in Alexandra area for May 23rd and August 13th in West Monroe at Ouachita Parish Fire Training Center.

Chris asked the attendees to get the information out and members to attend LEPA's conference the first week of May.

Chris stated that the LERC would like to get LEPC committee members active. GOHSEP and LSP are currently preparing a LEPC handbook similar to other states.

Chris stated there is a Statewide Exercise at the GOHSEP EOC on April 2nd & 3rd in addition to LANG DRX Exercise on Saturday, April 5th at the following locations North of I-10 in Westlake, Bonnet Carre and Belle Chase.

Chris also reminded attendees of the LNO training in Ascension Parish EOC with ESF Leads and selected DOTD, LSP, LDWF and LANG personnel to conduct a Train the Trainer session with Parish OEP Directors. GOHSEP will cover information that Parish LNO's are required to acquire during an emergency event. Once the personnel are trained then each agency will have trainers to train additional Parish LNO's.

Chris mentioned that the LEPA exercise will be eligible for EMPG exercise credit.

RECOVERY UPDATES

Mark Riley/Casey Tingle

Mark informed the attendees of changes in the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant administration. FEMA has put metrics on closeout process for completion of closeout.

Casey Tingle stated some parishes have grant funding that are in the process of closeout and have audit issues. There are essentially three areas to resolve; 1) Documentation, 2) Compliance with elevation requirements 10 years ago, and 3) Project Management firms used to manage the projects.

Casey advised that FEMA assigned new staff to head this project. GOHSEP is anticipating issues with several parishes and will meet with each regarding their issues.

Lee John questioned if there was a format for the HM Plan. Casey stated there is no format but the HM Plan is broken into Sections according to the FEMA guide and each Section has to be approved before going forward. Casey indicated that he will make that clear on the communication GOHSEP sends out to the parishes.

Director Davis questioned if a booklet/guide has been developed yet for Safe Rooms, but Casey stated that has not been completed as of yet.

OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Dick discussed two Senate Bills #407 and #537. SB407 is sponsored by Senator Walsworth, the preemption under the Right-to-Know Law. This Bill is a reaction to a series of incidents in Ascension parish; this will involve not notifying local parishes but go directly to the State. SB537 sponsored by Senator Martiny provides for electronic notification of hazardous material incidents which is a good thing by enhancing the progress. Dick recommended that Directors look up the bill and is not making any recommendations but would be beneficial to be aware of these two bills. Mark Harrell stated if you already have an ordinance in the parish, State cannot override local charter law.

Dick commented that Sandy Davis expressed he would like to hold a Director's Meeting in Caddo. The subcommittee discussed holding a face-to-face meeting on May 13th at LEPA in Lake Charles and then June in Shreveport. All attendees agreed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dick Gremilion
Motion was seconded by Mark Harrell
Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM

END OF REPORT