**Regional Parish OHSEP Director’s Subcommittee Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Over Watch Meeting Room

7667 Independence Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**ATTENDEES**

Denda Ball, Dawson Primes, Kenneth Moore, Jared Maze, Rodger McConnell, Todd Derrick, Brandon Migues, Teresa Basco, Archie Brown, Zephna Douglas, Todd Smith, Clay Rives, Sandra Gaspard, Matt Hammons, Ashley Beetz, Melton Gaspard, Byron Brooks, Meg Dejean, Terry Guidry, Jezreel Joseph, Robert Jump, Jason Tastet, Earl Eues, Neal Fudge, Collin Arnold, Mark Ward, Jacques Thibodeaux, Nathan Gary, Thomas Mule, Scott Adams

**Call to Order /Welcome**

Dawson Primes called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Dawson completed the roll call and a quorum was established. Dawson welcomed the group.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Regions** | **Directors** | **Meeting Designee** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| Region One | Collin Arnold |  | P |  |
| Region Two | Clay Rives |  | P |  |
| Region Three | Earl Eues |  | P |  |
| Region Four | Terry Guidry |  | P |  |
| Region Five | Jared Maze |  | P |  |
| Region Six | Kenneth Moore |  | P |  |
| Region Seven | Robert Jump |  | P |  |
| Region Eight | Rodger McConnell |  | P |  |
| Region Nine | Dawson Primes |  | P |  |
| GOHSEP Director | Jacques Thibodeaux |  | P |  |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from June 2024**

**Motion by**: Earl Eues

**Seconded by**: Collin Arnold

There were no oppositions. June 2024 minutes were approved.

**GOHSEP Updates/ Reports**

Jacques Thibodeaux, Director

* Intel processes at GOHSEP have increased due to current events. GOHSEP had an intel meeting with the Louisiana State Police and determined that collectively intel was not where it needed to be. This meeting led to GOHSEP and Fusion Center Intel personnel going to NYPD to develop the ability to have intel sharing on a national level. GOHSEP also met with the Department of Homeland Security Secretary for Intel to explain that federal intelligence, by the time it reaches the field, has been insufficient. Documents from GOHSEP will begin coming out with a classification levels listed.
* GOHSEP Academy at ULL hosted a Cyber Training that had 50 attendees. Jay Grimes will be teaching a Weather Interpretation course for OEP directors. This Academy is the product of a public/private partnership with LEPA. Chris Guilbeaux and Jacques were able to raise $250k for participants to be able to attend courses for free with meals and lodging. The goal is to have an EMI in the South. Once ULL is established, this model will be replicated at other universities.
* GOHSEP would like to begin having the Regional Director’s Meetings at alternate locations around the state. The Governor has mandated that we begin pushing Baton Rouge operations out to the field. Dawson Primes entertained a motion to approve alternating meeting locations across the state.

**Motion by: Kenneth Moore**

**Seconded by: Robert Jump**

* Jezreel Joseph is the new Chief Legal Officer; the legal division has been restructured.
* Scott Adams is the new Special Assistant to Director Jacques Thibodeaux.

**Hazard Mitigation Updates**

Sandra Dugas Gaspard, Asst. Director Hazard Mitigation

* FEMA issued notifications for the FY 23 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) projects that were identified for further review. You should have been notified if you have one of these projects. There were 5 competitive projects for $90 million. The National Technical Review memos were released, you should be receiving those for any projects not selected for further review. If you have questions, please reach out.
* FY 2023 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants selections anticipated this Fall; may or may not be affected by the immediate needs funding (INF).
* FY 2024 FMA and BRIC notices of funding opportunities are expected to be released in October. Currently, it is unknown if INF will affect this.
* Hazard Mitigation (HM) has been pushing messaging on INF; the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) balance is low, so FEMA is reserving this funding for life saving/preserving measures. Last year the INF ran from 8/29-10/02. We do not have a timeframe for this year.
* The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and DRF funded BRIC programs will be affected by the INF; there will be no new obligations for new project applications and no overrun amendments will be obligated until INF is lifted.
* INF should not impact FMA.
* The Non-Disaster Grants section (EMPG, SHSP, etc) will be moved under the HM Division; this is still in process. This will include staffing area positions in the field.
* Getting a lot of questions on the HMA Generator projects; this has been a struggle with RFIs, but they are pushing back on FEMA to relieve issues. Once INF is lifted and issues are dealt with, they should be able to fund the HMA Generator projects.
* Still making plans for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance roadshow across the state.
* HM is participating in the Rural Community Funding Summits across the state in October.

**Financial Operations and Administration Updates**

Neal Fudge, Deputy Director

* The carry forward was approved for FY 2024; our funding for FY25 has been approved, and now we are planning for FY26.
* 8 towers that had been on the LWIN list have been approved at $5.6 million.
  + There has never been a LWIN assessment of all of the towers; between December and January, GOHSEP is moving forward with a Motorola supplemental that will be requested to look at the 148 LWIN towers to reduce outages. This project is approximately $11 million.
* The purchase of the Roseland warehouse is being completed.
* GOHSEP is renting a warehouse in Winnsboro to store 50-75 trailers to quickly be able to respond to disasters.
* Per Dawson Primes, the Region 9 warehouse is in its final stages, and there is a spot reserved for GOHSEP.

**Emergency Management Updates**

Mark Ward, Asst. Director Emergency Management

* The GOHSEP Academy’s overall goal is to reach OEP directors and their staff; GOHSEP is willing to develop and bring instructors in for any training. The upcoming Weather training with Jay Grimes and NWS pertains to weather products and their utilization. GOHSEP is planning to conduct an EOC best practices training in the future.
* Emergency Management (EM) is in planning mode for the statewide exercise; the exercise should be parish driven. If there is something that you want to see in the exercise, reach out to Kelly Feet or Carmen Smith.
* Justin Gremillion is working on the Emergency Management Accreditation Program re-accreditation.
* RSF lead meeting was held to discuss recovery improvements.
* ESF meeting was held to discuss recent incidents.
* EM will be reinstating the Shelter Taskforce meetings.
* Lessons learned from Hurricane Beryl include gathering preliminary damage assessments and damage assessments from the parishes. GOHSEP plans to develop a better process to complete this task.
* LEPA/GOHSEP Conference will be in Lafayette October 21st -23rd.
* Five vendors have been selected for POD contracts. The guard is to set up the PODs, then turn over operations to civilian contractors. Eventually the plan is to get the guard out of POD operations altogether.
* Logistics Staging Area Warehouse contract has been submitted to Office of State Procurement (OSP).

**Security and Interoperability Updates**

Euclid Talley, Asst. Director Security and Interoperability

* 2024 Physical Security State Grant funding will be available as early as September. CEAs are at OSP. Pushing out to the schools in the next two weeks. Receiving another $5 million for FY2025.
* New hire for Center for Safe Schools will focus on grants to bring in funding for the program.
* Projecting a new hire in radiological.
* Workshops will occur with the Louisiana Department of Education to collaborate with the Center for School Safety.
* There will be a National Election TTX hosted by the FBI tomorrow (August 14th).
* August 26th there will be a Super Bowl TTX led by CISA.
* GOHSEP Academy Center for School Safety Trainings will be September 10-11 and November 6-7.
* Train the trainer courses upcoming for Stop the Bleed.

**Public Assistance Updates**

Nathan Gary, Executive Officer Public Assistance

* As of August 7th, INF was implemented. There will be no obligations for permanent work; previously obligated projects should not be held up.
* Public Assistance (PA) hired 22 new people to assist with PA grant admin and closeout.
* PA recently conducted a joint outreach with FEMA to explain PA process for Houses of Worship.

**OHSEP Directors Updates**

* Updates were given by the Regional Directors

**Adjourn**

Motion by: Collin Arnold

Seconded by:

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM