

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee
State of Louisiana

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR



Dawson Primes
CHAIRMAN

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 10:00 am
Over Watch Meeting Room
7667 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

ATTENDEES

Brent Lewis, Mark Ward, Melton Gaspard, Matthew McKey, Neal Brown, Dean Davis, Sandra Gaspard, Dawson Primes, Earl Eues, Brandon Miguez, Rodger McConnell, Joey Frank, Clay Rives, Raymond Guedry, Christopher Trosclair, Scott Atkins, Jared Maze, Melvin Jackson, Darren Guidry, Todd Smith, Todd Derrick, Amy Michiels, Meg Dejean, Teresa Basco, Ashley Leblanc, Matt Hammons, Marcella Horne, and Jamie Coley

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	Raymond Guedry		P	
Region Two	Clay Rives		P	
Region Three	Earl Eues		P	
Region Four	Brandon Miguez		P	
Region Five	Jared Maze		P	
Region Six	Joey Frank		P	
Region Seven	Ian Snellgrove	Scott Atkins	P	
Region Eight	Rodger McConnell		P	
Region Nine	Dawson Primes		P	
GOHSEP Director	Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz	Brent Lewis	P	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from February 2026

Motion by: Earl Eues

Seconded by: Rodger McConnell

There were no oppositions. February 2026 minutes were approved.

GOHSEP Updates/ Reports

Brent Lewis, GOHSEP Chief of Staff

- **Legislative Updates-** tracking several bills with potential impacts on emergency operations:
 - **Emergency Preparedness (HB 329):** provides to expand definition of “first responders” to include United Cajun Navy.
 - **School Safety (HB 821):** proposes moving LA Center for Safe Schools from GOHSEP to LA Commission of Law Enforcement.
 - **Inactive Boards (HB 861)-** proposes to eliminate several subcommittees that were identified as inactive; including Intrastate Mutual Aid, First Responders Subcommittee, and Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC).
 - **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (HB 940):** requires GOHSEP and OTS to serve as principal agencies for technical and procurement coordination of UAS; also proposes a Counter-UAS Joint Taskforce.
 - **Credit/Consumer Loans (HB 952)-** provides to suspend late charges, delinquency fees, repossession actions, and collections lawsuits for 60 days following major disaster declaration by Louisiana and FEMA in designated parishes.
 - **Cybersecurity Standards (SB 75)-** requires GOHSEP to establish minimum cybersecurity standards; also allows State to seek reimbursement for response costs.
 - **Emergency Preparedness (SB 164)-** provides to expand definition of “first responders” to include public works employees.
 - **Critical Infrastructure Protections (SB 251)-** establishes LA Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, Foreign Adversary Fraud Office (FAFO) within AG’s Office; also creates Foreign Adversary Technology Rip and Replace (FATRRP) fund within GOHSEP.
 - **Members encouraged to monitor legislative hearings and contact their local legislators to express any concerns.**

Preparedness Division Updates

Matthew McKey, Preparedness Division Director

- **Preparedness Grants**
 - DHS shutdown continues to delay movement of EMPG and HSGP funding.
 - Multiple grant cycles (FY22-FY24) approaching closeout between now and September.
- **Plans, Training, and Exercises**
 - Statewide Exercise is scheduled for April 14–16.
 - ROC Drill- March 18th

- Parish EOP updates ongoing with SDMI:
 - 4 parishes currently in final draft status- Tensas, Richland, East Carroll
 - 9 parishes currently in progress- Lincoln, Jackson, West Carroll, Union, Ouachita, Madison, St. Bernard, Terrebonne, and St. Tammany
 - Next on list- Acadia, Webster, and Jeff Davis
- **School Safety**
 - School Safety Grants
 - FY25 School Safety Grant invoices processed; approximately \$413,000 de-obligated.
 - FY26 School Safety Grant- started receiving invoices and have paid out over \$700K; approximately \$4.5M remaining.
 - School Safety Summit- July 7th & 8th
- **Cyber Security**
 - Cyber activity remains elevated nationally; no major incidents in LA.
 - Major chemical industry company compromised in Texas last week; had to shift to manual operations
 - Grant application period for FY23, FY24, and FY25 closed March 6th.
 - Committee will convene to score applications.

Response Division Updates

Mark Ward, Response Division Director

- **Logistics**
 - GOHSEP refining LSA Request for Proposal (RFP) with Office of State Procurement.
 - GOHSEP is renewing emergency response contracts.
 - GOHSEP is restocking commodities utilized during Winter Weather event.
- **Operations**
 - Monitoring following events/incidents:
 - Heightened awareness for cyber and other threats tied to U.S.-Iran conflict
 - Saltwater intrusion (Region 1)
 - Sulphur Salt Domes (Calcasieu)
 - Earthquakes- increased activity in North LA; GOHSEP meeting with USGS and LSU to assess causes and potential impact to Red River levee system
 - UAS threats- suspicious drone activity over military installations
 - Natural Gas leak (Lafourche)- active recovery ongoing with responsible party and LOSCO

- Severe weather and drought/wildfire activity
- **Intelligence Coordination Center (ICC)**
 - Ongoing concerns:
 - '764 NVE' nihilistic violent extremist group remains active online targeting minors; ICC preparing flyer to distribute among partner agencies
 - Islamic extremist calls for lone wolf attacks; recent incidents in TX and NY
- **Homeland Security & Interoperability**
 - Updates provided on legislation affecting critical infrastructure and approved technology; rising costs associated with LWIN being tracked as part of FY27 budget
- **Regional Support**
 - Parish and Regional Hurricane Workshops currently being scheduled across the state.
 - P2P Sheltering Coordination meeting is scheduled for March 24-26.

Recovery Division Updates

Sandra Gaspard, Recovery Division Deputy Director

- **Individual Assistance**
 - Crisis Track- enhancements ongoing; after GIS loading and GOHSEP testing, parish testers will engage.
- **Public Assistance**
 - EM-3638- Cat B for all 64 parishes
 - DR-4900 (declared Feb 18)
 - Initially Cat A/B for 9 parishes
 - Amended March 4 to add Cat C-G for 8 parishes (Bienville, Desoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, & West Carroll); Tensas still under review
 - Additional request (submitted Feb 20) for Cat A-G for Caldwell, Caddo, Catahoula, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Union, Webster, and Winn
 - Grants Management Basics webinar held; additional trainings to be scheduled.
 - Katrina PA- appeal submitted Feb 28 for SMC denial and POP concerns
 - DHS review freed significant obligations (approx. \$529M plus approx. \$77M freed last week)

- **Hazard Mitigation**
 - Recent obligations totaled \$84M; approx. \$70M still held
 - POP extension requests remain major issue

Financial Operations and Administration Updates

- No update given.

OHSEP Directors Updates

- Updates given by the Regional Directors.

Motion made to host next Regional Directors meeting at LEPA Conference in May.

Motion by: Clay Rives

Seconded by: Brandon Miguez

There were no oppositions; motion carried.

Next Meeting

- Date: May 4, 2026
- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Location: Golden Nugget (Conference room location TBD)

Adjourn

- Motion by: Rodger McConnell
- Seconded by: Earl Eues
- Meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.