

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee
State of Louisiana

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR



Dawson Primes
CHAIRMAN

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Tangipahoa OHSEP

114 N. Laurel St.

Amite, LA 70422

ATTENDEES

Mark Ward, Daniel Crothers, Laura Beth Lott, Noel Bellas, Steve Durel, Sandra Gaspard, Shera Adams, Dawson Primes, Earl Eues, Clay Rives, Terry Guidry, Rodger McConnell, Joey Frank, Jared Maze, Rich Chatman, Tom Schrilla, Mark Fontenot, Kim Beetz, Todd Smith, Melvin Jackson, Darren Guidry, Ashley LeBlanc, Amy Michiels, Matt Hammons, Meg Dejean, Dean Davis, Allison Saari, Jacqueline Gazzea, Neal Brown, 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	Collin Arnold	Rich Chapman	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	Joey Frank	P	
Region Seven	Robert Jump	Dean Davis	P	
Region Eight	Rodger McConnell		P	
Region Nine	Dawson Primes		P	
GOHSEP Director	Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz	Mark Ward	P	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from August 2025

Motion by: Earl Eues

Seconded by: Terry Guidry

There were no oppositions. August 2025 minutes were approved.

GOHSEP Updates/ Reports

Mark Ward, Asst. Director of Emergency Management

- FEMA/GOHSEP ESF meeting on 9/11 at GOHSEP
- GOHSEP is monitoring the following incidents:
 - Smitty's Industry fire (Tangipahoa)
 - Sulphur Salt Mines (Calcasieu)
 - Saltwater intrusion (Plaquemines)

Public Assistance Updates

Daniel Crothers, Section Chief of Public Assistance

- Mosquito Abatement SOP discussed. Contact information for State Entomologist- Kyle Moppert- is provided on the second page.
- FEMA has indicated that obtaining extensions will be more difficult moving forward.

Individual Assistance Updates

Allison Saari, Asst. Director of Recovery Ops

- Non-congregate sheltering program is wrapping up. One unit left in each of the following parishes- Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Jefferson- from Ida.
 - Laura & Delta housing missions are closed.
- SBA Economic Injury Disaster Declaration for Smitty's fire incident was awarded on September 5th. Working with Dawson on press releases and such.
- GOHSEP has entered into a contract with a Disability Assessment Coordination Entity (DACE). Team will come out and help parishes identify individuals with disabilities.
 - Bambi Polotzola will be in contact with GOHSEP RCs to facilitate meetings in each Region.

Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness Updates

Sandra Gaspard, Assistant Director of Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness

- Preparedness Grants Workshop held in August was a success.
 - >140 applications totaling \$17.5M submitted.
- FEMA has communicated that their intent is to still award by September 30th.
- Hurricane Francine applications due to GOHSEP by November 13th.
- Period of Performance for Katrina, Isaac, and 2016 floods ends next year.
- New DHS procedure- any contracts, grants, or amendments go to DHS to review even after FEMA has approved. Currently have 21 projects in review for \$66M. DHS is referring to this process as "QA QC Review at Headquarters".

Financial Operations and Administration Updates

Laura Beth Lott, Assistant Director of Financial Operations and Administration

- \$1.8M from State General Fund earmarked for LWIN project.
- Merger of LMD/GOHSEP Financial Operations and Administration- continue to communicate with those that you are familiar with until told otherwise.

Emergency Management Updates

Mark Ward, Asst. Director of Emergency Management

- The All-Hazards Incident Management Team Governance Committee is reconvening, with a meeting scheduled for September 10th at GOHSEP. Efforts are focused on strengthening response capacity across Louisiana and nationwide.
- The Fall LEMC Conference will be held at the DoubleTree in Lafayette from October 20th through 22nd
- In August, GOHSEP conducted 31 trainings, reaching a total of 617 personnel.
- Mark attended the University of Louisiana System Presidents retreat; invited attendees to attend LEMC Fall Conference.
 - The System will be looking for places to house interns in the future.

Security and Interoperability Updates

Euclid Talley, Asst. Director of Security and Interoperability

- Data call for Special Events due 9/11.
- In August 2025, Louisiana became the first state to enact a counter-drone law that authorizes state and local law enforcement to take action against unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).
- GOHSEP approved to have a brand new S.H.I.E.L.D. chapter. The Global SHIELD network is an law enforcement and intelligence collaboration that was founded by NYPD and has since expanded. Mark Fontenot is heading this up for GOHSEP.
 - Hoping to have the new SHIELD chapter built out in the next 90-180 days.
- Bi-weekly GOSHEP Intelligence Summary report will be sent weekly, beginning this month.
- DOTD looking to decommission or walk away from 27 towers across the State. GOHSEP will complete site assessments for structural analysis before submitting to Legal.
- The Center for Safe Schools grant has allocated \$5M for the year, with the goal of reaching more than 1,600 campuses statewide over the coming years
- Jackie Manton, Director for Center of Safe Schools, now has access to a DOE repository of school plans.

Cybersecurity Updates

Stephen Durel, Assistant Director of Cybersecurity Incident Response

- Louisiana Cyber Assurance program
 - Assessments are being conducted statewide. To date, 177 out of 472 assessments have been completed, with 11 currently in progress. Of the completed assessments, 110 critical vulnerabilities have been identified.
- Approximately 135,000 endpoint detection software installations are deployed across state networks to help protect against intrusions.
- Have responded to 198 incidents over the past six years.
- *Reminder: If you encounter a cyberattack, **do not power down the machine.** You may unplug it from the network, but do not turn it off.

OHSEP Directors Updates

- Updates given by the Regional Directors.

**Motion made to have next Regional Directors meeting at the LEMC Fall Conference.
Date and time to be determined.**

Motion by: Clay Rives

Seconded by: Rodger McConnell

Adjourn

Motion by: Earl Eues

Seconded by: Rodger McConnell

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM