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

Monday, October 21, 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, Todd Smith, Dean Davis, Teresa Basco, Amy Michiels, Archie Neal Brown, Darren Guidry, Zephna Douglas, Clay Rives, Sandra Gaspard, Jeffrey Giering, Matthew Hammons, Melton Gaspard, Meg DeJean, Terry Guidry, Angella Sanders, Marcella Horne, Dana Michelli, Ashley Leblanc, Sonya Sharrow, Earl Eues, Cheri Scott, Neal Fudge, Mark Ward, Jacques Thibodeaux, Nathan Gary, Lynne Browning, Laura Beth Lott, Shera Adams, Christopher Guilbeaux

**Call to Order /Welcome**

Dawson Primes called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Mr. Primes completed the roll call and a quorum was established. Mr. Primes welcomed the group.

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| **Regions** | **Directors** | **Meeting Designee** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| Region One | Collin Arnold |  |  | A |
| 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 | Sonya Sharrow (served as proxy) | P |  |
| Region Eight | Rodger McConnell |  | P |  |
| Region Nine | Dawson Primes |  | P |  |
| GOHSEP Director | Jacques Thibodeaux |  | P |  |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from September 2024**

**Motion by**: Earl Eues

**Seconded by**: Director Jacques Thibodeaux

There were no oppositions. September 2024 minutes were approved.

**GOHSEP Updates/ Reports**

Jacques Thibodeaux, Director

* Director Thibodeaux began his updates by introducing any new staff and or new staff positions present at the meeting: New GOHSEP Quality Control Staff Assistant Director Dee Ball, Quality Control specialists Dana Michelli and Marcella Horne; Preparedness Grants Section Chief, Shera Adams; New Regional Support Director, Dean Davis; New Region 4 Regional Coordinator Ashley Leblanc and the New Area Director for Regions 2, 4 and 5 is Darren Guidry.

**Public Assistance Updates**

Lynne Browning, Asst. Director Public Assistance

* Update: Last year’s FMAG Grant projects have not been obligated yet but should see some obligated soon. There’s about $7.7 million across all disasters with FEMA and should be obligated in next 2 weeks.
* FEMA recently closed the public comment period on changes in the CFR for PA. Most changes are being attributed to attempt to move the program along more efficiently but really equates to more administrative burden on the applicant and the state. The changes proposed by FEMA includes a plan to give applicants only 120 days from their Request for Public Assistance (RPA) submission to identify damages. Currently the applicants have 60 days from the recovery scoping meeting (RSM) and that would be detrimental to our applicants. GOHSEP opposes this proposal.
* FEMA Proposed Policy Changes:

1. Proposes a change to the policy that says that within 30 days following a site inspection, the applicant must submit all documentation to determine eligible work and costs. Failure to do so could find an applicant’s project ineligible if a time extension is not submitted. GOHSEP strongly opposes this proposition.
2. Proposes a change to the policy concerning site specific project thresholds. FEMA has a minimum project threshold of $3,800 and now they would like to tie the specific project threshold to individual project line items within each project. GOHSEP strongly opposes this proposition.

* FEMA also asked GOHSEP PA to generate a staffing plan specific to each disaster and GOHSEP feels this is unnecessary. The Federal Public registry should still be open to review any comments.
* Last year’s FMAGs were predominantly in Regions 5, 6 and 7 but also includes multiple fire departments from across the state. The State Fire Marshal and State Attorney General are watching its progression.
* A new PAPPG is expected in October 2024.

**Hazard Mitigation Updates**

Sandra Dugas Gaspard, Asst. Director Hazard Mitigation

* 2024 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Projects and FMA Grants will not open in October and at this time FEMA has not issued any tentative opening dates. The INF was lifted, so any pending projects should be obligated once the RFIs are resolved. FY 23 BRIC and FMA selections =31 projects for $206 million, the 23 BRIC selections were announced and there were 15 projects for $99.8 million. This includes 5 competitive selections which is the highest number Louisiana has ever received.
* “FMA Swift Current” was a pilot program two years ago and required a major Flood declaration. Hurricane Francine met that requirement for this grant and Louisiana is now eligible for this $40 million grant. The associated application should open in November and GOHSEP HM will be holding calls to discuss the program and applicant eligibility. The applications will be due in April 2025.
* HM Staff is supporting Senator Cassidy’s Rural Recovery Funding Summit. Attended his summits in regions 6, 7 and 8. 3 more in Rayne, Gonzales and Madisonville (week of October 27, 2024).
* Preparedness Grants- continues to process reimbursements closeouts from previous grant funding years. Awaiting FEMA grant funding for FY’24 awards. GOHSEP has set a few deadlines in case FEMA drops short notice deadlines.

Preparedness Grants has identified GOHSEP Grants system issues with the vendor, asking for Parish OHSEP input on any further issues. Making customer service improvements and changes. Please be patient with Sandy, Jeffrey and Shera.

GOHSEP plans to have assistant Regional Coordinators present in all Regions to provide Preparedness Grants assistance to Parishes. Currently in the process of hiring 3 Preparedness Grants personnel in the 3 Regional Areas.

**Financial Operations and Administration Updates**

Laura Beth Lott, Assistant Director

* FY25- GOHSEP has not been asked to make any financial cuts to its operating budget.
* FY26 GOHSEP budget will be submitted to DOA for review shortly.
* GOHSEP’s Capital Outlay document has been submitted to DOA for a brand new GOHSEP EOC building, parking lot, safe room and helipad (will house all GOHSEP staff). However, per Director Thibodeaux, should Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump win the presidency, GOHSEP will be asking for Federal funding to build a new EOC, thus eliminating the need for Capital Outlay funding. Will also ask that the Costshare for Hurricanes Laura and Delta be recouped (approx. $500 million dollars could be returned to State). There is also ongoing discussions relative to the planned Tax renewal/Tax restructuring.
* GOHSEP and National Guard are the only two State agencies not asked to take a 2.3% budget cut.

**Emergency Management Updates**

Mark Ward, Asst. Director Emergency Management

* The AAR and improvement plan for Francine should be available this week. IA PDAs were the hot topic from the AAR. GOHSEP Survey 123 and the Parishes surveys need to match up. Emergency Management will have meetings with the Parishes early in the new year to discuss best practices for PDAs.
* EMAC has supported 17 missions in 5 states, 900 Louisiana personnel.
* GOHSEP and Hagerty will begin conducting introductory IPPW TEAMs calls with the Regions during the week of October 27, 2024 and beyond. Will conduct formal in-person workshops with Regions in January 2025.
* The GOHSEP Academy will hold courses in weather, cyber and K-12 Safe Schools this fall/early winter 2024. Asking for assistance in which courses you would like to see in Spring/Summer 2025 (HM, PA, Grants training, etc).
* WEBEOC has been migrated to the Cloud, easier to utilize on mobile devices.
* Tracking Mississippi River Saltwater Intrusion, drought conditions and the potential for wildfires. October through December also coincides with severe weather and tornados.
* Individual Assistance- Per Director Thibodeaux and Chris Guilbeaux, when in doubt, open a POD post-disaster. It will help support the need for a Federal IA Declaration for Parishes.

**Security and Interoperability Updates**

Neal Fudge, Deputy Director

* GOHSEP now has multiple divisions within Security and Interoperability: The Division has been broken down into 2 sections (includes Intel, Critical Infrastructure and School Safety, supports Fusion Center) and lead by Assistant Director Euclid Talley. Cyber and Emergent Threats will be managed by Assistant Director, Stephen Durel.
* Critical Infrastructure will serve as lead for Safe Schools assessments (Joint Local and State School Security Assessments). State Police assisting with assessments as well.
* SDMI is building a database of all Louisiana Public and Private Schools and the status of the safe school assessments. All OHSEP directors will have access to the listing. This log-in will be kept private.

**OHSEP Directors Updates**

* Updates were given by the Regional Directors
* Dawson Primes brought up for discussion a plan for the upcoming 20th Anniversary of Katrina. He would like to create a committee to discuss how best to commemorate the Anniversary. Ideas included, a Gulf States Hurricane Conference or a Katrina themed LEPA Conference.

**Next Regional Directors Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Location TBD.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:59 AM.**