

**Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee**  
**State of Louisiana**

**Jeff Landry**  
GOVERNOR



**Dawson Primes**  
CHAIRMAN

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

Monday, May 5, 2025 at 2:00 PM  
Golden Nugget- Willowick 1 Conference Room  
2550 Golden Nugget Blvd.  
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601

**ATTENDEES**

Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz, Dawson Primes, Earl Eues, Clay Rives, Terry Guidry, John Rahaim, Rodger McConnell, Kenneth Moore, Jared Maze, Jake Chatfield, Kim Beetz, Teresa Basco, Todd Smith, John Gardner, Ashley Beetz, Melvin Jackson, Todd Derrick, Darren Guidry, Ashley LeBlanc, Amy Michiels, Matt Hammons, Dean Davis, Nathan Gray, Sandra Dugas, Angella Sanders, Mark Ward, and Matthew McKee

**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.

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Directors</b>	<b>Meeting Designee</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Region One	Collin Arnold	John Rahaim	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	Ian Snellgrove	P	
Region Eight	Rodger McConnell		P	
Region Nine	Dawson Primes		P	
Interim GOHSEP Director	Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz		P	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from March 2025**

**Motion by:** Earl Eues

**Seconded by:** Terry Guidry

There were no oppositions. March 2025 minutes were approved.

## **GOHSEP Updates/ Reports**

Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz, Interim GOHSEP Director

- Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz provided an update on the transition and merger of GOHSEP and LANG.
  - Noted that day-to-day operations of GOHSEP remain unchanged.
- Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz has been a part of several meetings with the Governor's Council focusing on what changes may be coming from the FEMA Advisory Committee.
  - In the most recent meeting with the Governor's Council, they began looking at model grant programs that exist outside of emergency management.
  - Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz has also met with Acting Administrator Hamilton and Tony Robinson at length.
    - Not a lot of substantiated information coming out regarding FEMA changes, aside from the BRIC Program ending.
    - FEMA Review Council is requesting public input on experiences with FEMA Disaster Responses through constituent and stakeholder portal; comments must be received by May 15, 2025.
- Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz encouraged audience to review House Bill 274, Amendment 9, sponsored by Representative Chuck Owen.
  - House Bill 274, Amendment 9 is currently in an open comment period. If anyone has a concern regard the bill, they are encouraged to reach out to Rep. Owen, LANG, or GOHSEP

## **Public Assistance Updates**

Nathan Gary, Section Chief for Public Assistance

- PA 101 course will be offered at ULL on July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>; those interested should register through STEMS.
- Important deadlines:
  - For COVID Projects obligated prior to 4/1/2025, the closeout deadline is 6/30/2025.
  - For COVID Projects obligated after 4/1/2025, the closeout deadline is 90 days after obligation.

## **Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness Updates**

Sandra Dugas Gaspard, Executive Officer of Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness

- Application period for FY 24 BRIC FMA & FMA Swift Current closed mid-April.
  - Statewide totals:
    - 44 applications for FMA (\$229M)
    - 36 applications for FMA Swift Current (\$39M)

- BRIC Program canceled abruptly; GOHSEP was able to move 11 applications from the BRIC program to the traditional FMA program for \$43M.
  - FEMA has indicated GOHSEP can move forward with BRIC grants that have been fully obligated and approved.
- Regarding Hurricane Katrina HMGP (DR1603), GOHSEP has asked for an extension from FEMA through May 2028.
- For Hurricane Francine (DR4817), FEMA provided six-month lock-in on April 29<sup>th</sup>. HM will present strategy to Brig. Gen. Mahfouz and Neal Fudge so GOHSEP can move forward with those allocations.
- Regarding FY24 EMPG, FEMA continues sending requests for more information to release the funding hold.
  - GOHSEP has a commitment from FEMA Region 6 that if this is not resolved this week, Tony Robinson will engage in conversations next week and will see this through the approval process.
- Question: Will Regions receive Regional EMPG allocation for FY24 and FY25.
  - HM will follow-up with parishes.

### **Financial Operations and Administration Updates**

Angella Sanders, Deputy Undersecretary of Financial Operations and Administration

- Currently tracking HB 421, HB 218, SB 100, HB 274, and SB 229.
- GOHSEP has submitted the FY26 budget. As included in HB 1, there are no significant changes from FY25 appropriation for GOHSEP.
- Regarding federal reimbursement from GOHSEP, all payments have been turned back on with the exception of Non-Security Grant Program (NSGP).

### **Emergency Management Updates**

Mark Ward, Asst Director Emergency Management

- Current incidents being tracked by GOHSEP:
  - High water on the Mississippi River
  - Leaking well in Plaquemines Parish
- Statewide exercise
  - AAR complete
  - Looking for feedback to improve next year's exercise
- ULL Academy in Lafayette
  - Looking for feedback on types of training parishes would like to see offered
- Logistics staging area pre-bid meeting
  - Meeting held the week of 4/28; great participation from different vendors
  - Anticipate that going out for bid around June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Regional Hurricane meetings are being held across the state over the next few weeks. GOHSEP's intent is help identify and bridge any gaps within each region on the response side.

- Annual ESF meeting will be held at GOHSEP on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. All OHSEP Directors are welcome to attend. Registration will be on STEMS.

### **Security and Interoperability Updates**

Jake Chatfield, Interoperability Program Manager

- No updates.

### **Cybersecurity Updates**

Matthew McKey, Executive Officer of Cyber and Emerging Threats

- Current cybersecurity trends:
  - Downward trend in ransomware attacks that GOHSEP is responding to
  - Upward trend in business email compromises
  - Feels attackers are changing tactics; advised not to let our guards down
- Zydeco Project:
  - Long-term hardening project with 54 Sheriff Offices across the state
  - Deployment of Wave 3 for the Zydeco project is coming to an end.
  - On July 1<sup>st</sup>, GOHSEP Cybersecurity will transition to a sustainment phase of operation.
- Cybersecurity assessments for public critical infrastructure:
  - 373 assessments requested; 33% complete
  - A lot of agencies requested the surveys but have not responded in a timely manner or at all.
- End-point detection software
  - GOHSEP is working through the renewal process for an additional year (through June 2026).
  - Matthew will send out QR code for anyone wanting to sign-up.
  - All public agencies are eligible for endpoint detection software including parish government, school boards, charter schools, public schools (K-12)
- Security Operations Center- network monitoring for any qualifying agency
  - GOHSEP Cybersecurity began reaching out to public entities enrolled in other services to try and bring them onboard with the second wave.

### **OHSEP Directors Updates**

- Updates given by the Regional Directors.
- Next meeting date and time is June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Meeting will be held at the Ouachita EOC- 1000 New Natchitoches Rd. West Monroe, LA 71292

### **Adjourn**

Motion by: Earl Eues

Seconded by: unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM

