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

Monday, May 6, 2024 at 2:00 PM

LEMC, Willowick 2 Meeting Room

Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, LA

**ATTENDEES**

Denda Ball, Neal Fudge, Sandy Gaspard, Lynne Browning, Jared Maze, Kenneth Moore, Robert Jump, Laura Beth Lott, Angella Sanders, Mark Ward, Zephie Douglas, John Gardner, Meg Dejean, Jake Chatfield, Amy Michiels, Teresa Basco, Brandon Migues, Dean Davis, Chris Boudreaux, Darren Guidry, Todd Smith, Todd Derrick, Ashley Beetz, Rodger McConnell, Earl Eues, Jacques Thibodeaux, Chris Guilbeaux, Terry Guidry, Deano Moran, Neal Brown, Joey Frank, Veronica Sizer, Thomas Mule

**Call to Order /Welcome**

Dawson Primes called the meeting to order at 2:09 PM. Dawson completed the roll call and a quorum was established. Dawson welcomed the group.

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| **Regions** | **Directors** | **Meeting Designee** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| Region One | Collin Arnold |  |  | A |
| Region Two | Clay Rives |  |  | A |
| 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 January 2024**

**Motion by**: Earl Eues

**Seconded by**: Robert Jump

There were no oppositions. March 2024 minutes were approved.

**GOHSEP Updates/ Reports**

Jacques Thibodeaux, Director

* Director Thibodeaux opted to share the GOHSEP report at the plenary session of the Louisiana Emergency Management Conference.

**Public Assistance Updates**

Lynne Browning, Asst. Director Public Assistance

* Some of the PA team attended a PA workshop in April. Highlights from this workshop include a new policy guide that will be coming out for public comment soon; mostly looking to take process and procedural language out of the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG) Version 4, and keep it strictly policy. Also, some major policy changes include re-looking at consensus based codes and standards, management cost policy, and their insurance policy.
* For those who use grants portal, there will be a re-vamp to reduce confusion between LA PA.

**Hazard Mitigation Updates**

Sandra Dugas Gaspard, Asst. Director Hazard Mitigation

* Submitted FY23 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) applications. Next round of funding NOFOs will come out in August or September with those applications being due in January or February.
* FEMA released the terms and conditions for the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Revolving Loan Fund; there is a lot of uncertainty due to the legal, programmatic, and financial concerns, we will be unable to proceed at this time with the program. Reach out to Sandy with any questions.
* HMPG Post Fire applications are due at the end of September. HM continues to work on statewide applications; Vernon, Beauregard, and Rapides will likely hear from HM for further information.
* Process improvements ongoing regarding express pay and quarterly reports. HM will be offering 90/10 express pay; they are working on the SOP. They are also working on an adjusted process for obtaining information for quarterly reports now that parishes are not required to submit quarterly.
* HM is looking forward to visiting with parishes more.

**Grants and Administration Updates**

Laura Beth Lott, Asst. Director Financial Operations and Administration

* EMPG FY 2023, each region has $110,000 for projects.
* EMPG FY 2024 NOFO has been released; application deadline is 5/24/2024.
* Non-Profit Security Grant Program applications will need to be submitted through GOHSEP Grants.
* School Safety grant of $5 Million applications are due May 15th. 100 schools to receive $50,000. Anticipate funding being offered next year as well.

**Emergency Management Updates**

Mark Ward, Asst. Director Emergency Management

* The data call information on school safety has been sent out. Please ensure information is being sent out to schools. Only 50 schools have applied for the grant and 1,100 schools responded to the data call.
* Statewide pre-storm declarations will not occur (other than a hurricane); the focus of any declaration made will be on the affected area. Criteria will be different for each event. The statewide declarations that were occurring before caused the emergency funds to be spent on state agency staffing and other resources. By not doing a statewide declaration, we are able to re-direct funds to the parish/municipality that needs the funds. The state’s emergency response fund will pay Cat A, with no debris monitor for 14 days, and Cat B.

**Homeland Security and Interoperability Updates**

Thomas Mule, Executive Officer Security and Interoperability

* Director Thibodeaux has placed an emphasis on the division of homeland security and interoperability to rebuild the program.
  + Cybersecurity division is bringing in personnel from OTS.
  + Center for Safe Schools is fully staffed. Legislative report was submitted on May 1st. If schools have not applied for the school safety grant, we need to encourage them to apply.
  + Criminal Intelligence section is strengthening the relationship with LSP and the Fusion Center.
  + Artificial Intelligence and Drone Mitigation efforts are a major focus of the section looking into the future.
  + Jacob Chatfield will be offering IPAWs training. Date and time to be determined.

**LEPA Updates**

Chris Guilbeaux, Executive Director LEPA

* As LEPA’s Executive Director, Chris Guilbeaux will be expanding the collaboration between LEPA and GOHSEP.
* Governor Landry will proclaim May 29th as Emergency Management Day. LEPA will set up at table at the State Capitol on May 29th and invites all OHSEP directors to attend to meet with legislators. The event will take place from 10am until 1pm.
* An educational conference will take place October 21-23 at the Doubletree in Lafayette.
* LEPA is working on a certification program similar to POST certification for OHSEP Directors. By having and maintaining this certification through a re-certification process, parishes may receive a stipend from the state. A funding source for this endeavor is required.
* If any parish is interested in EOC funds through the EOC grant, GOHSEP will write a letter for endorsement.

**OHSEP Directors Updates**

* Updates were given by the Regional Directors

**Adjourn**

Motion by: Earl Eues

Seconded by: Rodger McConnell

Meeting adjourned at 3:44 PM