

Cemetery Response Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2019

Members Present:

Lucy McCann – Louisiana Cemetery Board (LCB)  
Ryan M. Seidemann – Louisiana Department of Justice (LDOJ)  
Henry Yennie – Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)  
Amy Dawson – Governor’s Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness  
Ginesse Listi – LSU FACES Laboratory  
William “Beau” Clark – EBR Coroner, Louisiana Coroner’s Association Member

Others Present:

Rosanne Prats – Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)  
Christine Halling – Louisiana Department of Justice (LDOJ)  
David Schultz – Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)  
Carol Walker – Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)  
Arbie Goings – Goings Consulting Services (GCS)

Members Absent:

None

**1. Meeting Start time: 9:42 AM**

This was the first meeting of the Statewide Cemetery Response Task Force (“CRTF”). A quorum of members was present.

**2. Old business:**

None.

**3. New business:**

Rosanne Prats (LDH) indicated that she believes that the parishes need to own some of the responsibility for cemetery response. There was no substantive discussion of this topic.

Dr. Prats (LDH) suggested that LSU should track its time during response efforts for the purposes of using that time for volunteer hours matches. This could help for meeting the State/parish contribution for public assistance from FEMA.

Dr. Prats (LDH) also suggested that the CRTF should develop a wish list for equipment that is needed in the event of a disaster. Arbie Goings (GCS) indicated that this is something that he is working on under his mass fatality contract with LDH and that he will work with suppliers on this issue.

There was a general discussion regarding what person or entity would serve as the hub for contact purposes in an emergency. Amy Dawson (GOHSEP) noted that it appears that GOHSEP will be the central point of contact for this response work.

William “Beau” Clark advised the CRTF that coroners have no role in cemetery response work in emergencies and that he actively advises coroners against getting involved in such work. Dr. Clark did indicate that it is his belief that a coroner must be involved every time human remains are moved.

Dr. Prats asked whether regulations could be drafted pursuant to La. R.S. 29:726.4. She asked this question because she suggested that we use regulation drafting by the CRTF to put some responsibility for cemetery response on the parishes.

There was then a general discussion among Amy Dawson (GOHSEP), Christine Halling (DOJ), and others regarding the need to consider putting together trainings for parishes for cemetery response work and what venues might be appropriate for such trainings.

**4. Next meeting:**

Unknown at this time. Members will gauge availability and set up the next meeting at a later date.

**5. Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 10:34 AM.