

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



Dawson Primes  
CHAIRMAN

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

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 10:00 AM

7667 Independence Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Over Watch Meeting Room

**ATTENDEES**

Todd Smith, Megan DeJean, Jacie Maples, John Rahaim, Lee John, Darren Guidry, Ashley Beetz, Kenneth Moore, Clay Rives, Rubby Douglas, Neal Brown, Tracy Hilburn, Neal Fudge, Katie Underwood, Wayne Tedesco, Veronica Sizer, Jonathon McLemore, Dick Gremillion, Todd Derrick, Teresa Basco, Toni Rochelle, Earl Eues, Casey Tingle, Christina Dayries, Christopher Guilbeaux, Steve Burr, Katie Underwood, Seth Matherne, Jim Richard, Lynne Browning, Sean Wyatt, Matthew Hammons, and Jacie Maples.

**Call to Order /Welcome**

Earl Eues called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Toni Rochelle completed roll call and a quorum was established. Earl Eues welcomed the group.

Regions	Directors	Present	Absent
Region One	Patrick Harvey		A
Region Two	Clay Rives	P	
Region Three	Earl Eues	P	
Region Four	Liz Hill		A
Region Five	Dick Gremillion	P	
Region Six	Kenneth Moore	P	
Region Seven	Robert Jump		A
Region Eight	Neal Brown	P	
Region Nine	Dawson Primes		A

GOHSEP Director	Casey Tingle	P	
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from July 2022**

**Motion by:** Clay Rives

**Seconded by:** Kenneth Moore

There were no oppositions. July 2022 minutes approved.

**GOHSEP UPDATES\ REPORTS**

Casey Tingle, Director

• **Legislative Updates\ Requirements**

1. GOHSEP submitted its required annual report on LWIN to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) on August 1, 2022. The annual report included current objectives, improvement implementations, and a system overview.

2. Changes to WebEOC: GOHSEP completed the software updates to ensure the system is more accessible and increase the capabilities of requests updates.
  - a. Any update to a request now generates an email to the parish contact.
  - b. Addition of the Speaker of the House, Senate President, and chair of the two legislative homeland security committee chairman are complete.
  - c. GOHSEP is continuing to work with the vendor on other changes to WebEOC to improve transparency and tracking of resources.
3. GOHSEP completed the following, which were due by August 1<sup>st</sup>:
  - Emergency Management Training program be developed and facilitated at least once a term for elected officials and employees designated by the Parish President.
  - Portable generator inventory.
  - Coordinate with Office of State Procurement and other state agencies to have pre-positioned contract and submitted annual report.
  - Utilizes emergency rule making to develop administrative rules regarding dispersion of assets and diversion of resources during an emergency.
  - Prepared the Expedited Temporary Housing Assistance Waiver 2022 and will publish on GOHSEP's website by September 30, 2022.
  - GOHSEP is continuing its work to develop a housing program for temporary housing or sheltering assistance.

#### **FY 2023 EMPG Proposed Changes**

- Proposing 80% allocation for parishes and 20% for the state. Budget will have to change at the state level to make this change. GOHSEP is preparing its FY23-2024 budget request to reflect this change. As all disasters are local, then our funding should reflect that.
- Proposing changing from a 25k base to 50k base (majority of increase); would like every parish to have the budget to have a full time OHSEP director.
- Set-aside \$1 Million and distribute to nine regions to build regional capability. (100k plus, per region, per year).
- Re-institute local match (20% of parish by parish allocation) as a way to demonstrate that investments need to be made into emergency management
- Get feedback from other parishes to discuss at next meeting.

#### **FY 2023-2024 Budget Request**

- Request positions that are Non-TO positions to TO positions
- Proposed EMPG changes
  - Leasing new office space; roll over space for large activation
  - Proposing LA Safe School Center within GOHSEP; coordinated with other state partners.
  - Focus resources on school safety and provide one stop shop to school systems for support. This would move Rave and Crime Stoppers contracts from LSP to GOHSEP. Fusion center will remain partners in physical assessments.
  - Statewide request for additional Cyber resources. Acquire more staff and resources to make cybersecurity more proactive.
  - LWIN investments
  - State cost share from recent events

- **2023 LEMC Winter Educational Workshop**
  - January 9<sup>th</sup> - Half Day
  - January 10<sup>th</sup> - Full Day
  - January 11<sup>th</sup> Half Day
  - Track for PA, Track for Mitigation and Preparedness, Track for Emergency Management, and Safety and Technology Track.
  - Directors are responsible for registration fee and lodging.
- **School Safety Initiatives**
  - Director Tingle gave a brief update that GOHSEP participated in the first School Safety Summit.

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### **Debris Program**

Seth Matherne, State Debris Manager/ESF-3, DOTD

Jim Richard, Sr. Problem Resolution Officer, GOHSEP

- Debris management cooperation and coordination will continue to be a major topic as usable land space becomes more and more restricted; working together to use joint sites.
- Coordination around significant utility impacts, de-conflict where crews are at; help to expedite recovery.
- Awareness of DOTD progress and operations online.
- Launched a call center for citizens to create tickets to identify issues. Would like assistance pushing out call center information.
- Map on website showing FHWA routes statewide; DOTD is constantly turning over or assuming roads; need to know who needs to remove debris from certain roads.
- DOTD would like to work on illegal dumping with parishes.
- DOTD working with FEMA to assist with long term effects post storm (dead trees that may pose a hazard later down the line).
- GOHSEP Debris- maintains point of contact for every debris contract and every parish; focusing on transparency; knowing which contractor is with which parish.
- [Debris.help@la.gov](mailto:Debris.help@la.gov) for emergency assistance and support, assistance with procurement

### **Public Assistance Program Updates**

Lynne Browning, Asst. Deputy Director Public Assistance

- Lags in funding for permanent work; using this opportunity to open discussion with FEMA and FEMA recognizes that changes need to be made; FEMA put together a working group to reduce the complexity of PA.
- First item FEMA is addressing, power restoration work. FEMA is telling electrical co-ops if you say it is emergency work, we will write it as so, and same with permanent work.
- Eliminating cumbersome criteria for debris removal (measuring angles of branches/diameters etc.). Still need to show there is imminent danger.
- Removed consensus based codes requirements from repair/replace analysis.
- Reducing paperwork for EMAC Reimbursement.
- Change in small project threshold to \$1 million, retroactive to disaster declared after March 2020 if projects have not already been obligated.

## **Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants Allocation and Program Updates**

Sean Wyatt, Asst. Deputy Director Hazard Mitigation Assistance

- Governor announced HMPG funding sub-allocations; all parishes impacted by Ida received additional allocations. As a result, if there is a need in a parish for sub-application development or to build capacity to manage HMGP grants; the use of HGA is made available through a state contract.
- NOFOs released in August/Application periods open 9/30/2022 and close end of January 2023
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (\$800 million)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (\$2 billion) - looking for ways to be more successful with this grant.
- GOHSEP due date mid-December for interested sub-applicants.

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## **Louisiana Wireless Information Network - Ethernet and Assessment Update**

Neal Fudge, Asst. Deputy Director Homeland Security and Interoperability

MOTOROLA P25 System 700 MHz

144 Tower sites

- 46 owned by the State of Louisiana and 98 leased sites

114,000 plus users

- 585 different agencies
  - 472 Local Agencies – 81%
  - 76 State Agencies -13%
  - Only 2.4% (2500) of the devices belong to State Police
  - 36 Federal Agencies-6%
  - 2 Other Agencies-.3%
- Assets
  - Mobile tower trailers -3
  - Generator on wheels -8
  - Satellite flyaway kits 4- ODN is provider
  - LTE Wireless backhaul kits- 4
    - One at Bourg Tower Site
    - Three on standby ready for deployment
- Major issues during events- System Pain Points during Storms
  - AT&T, T-1 lines going down
- Ethernet backhaul upgrade provides a solution that will greatly improve network resiliency and disaster recovery capabilities. Current percentages of T-1 downtime is 85-90%.
- Project, switching to fiber (18-24 month timeline) all primary connections over fiber, secondary connections are wireless
  - Additional cost to parishes from vendor/ATT (\$500 per month for whomever has the console)
- Cell coverage going to roam
- Accessing damaged towers; can make drone assessments
- 245 total Starlinks were requested, 226 being funded

- Critical Infrastructure assessments will be used to acquire potential future funds

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### **FY 2022 EMPG Supplemental Grant Allocation**

Wayne Tedesco, Asst. Deputy Director Grants and Administration

- Starlinks are \$2500 a piece; \$500 a month fixed, \$1000 a month mobile
- Parish responsibility to fund ongoing cost—EMPG supplemental one time funding to pay for initial month and the equipment. You can turn off service after first month, and activate during disaster. Parishes may not have to seek bids; Christina Dayries is working with Office of State Procurement and vendor to get on state contracts.
- If the Parishes decide to permanently install a fixed unit, it will require EHP.
- You must use supplemental one time funding to purchase Starlinks. This will be a separate line item in your general project worksheet application.
- Motion was made to approve Starlinks

**Motioned by:** Kenneth Moore

**Seconded by:** Clay Rives

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### **Preparedness Updates**

Rubby Douglas, Section Chief Preparedness

- 2020 / 2021 AAR/Improvement Plan Update, completed numbers items and still working on the final ones.
- AHIMT update, working with Fire Marshall and other agencies to begin the National Qualification System required training (Per EMPG).
- Identification of Emergency Management SMEs - G Course, contact preparedness if you have staff interested.
- Elected Officials Training currently scheduled
- THIRA / SPR Selected Regional Focus Groups have begun.

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### **Regional OHSEP Directors Updates**

- Updates were given by the Regional Directors

### **Open Discussion**

- Next Meeting will be on October 11, 2022

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### **Adjournment**

Motion by: John Rahim

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.