

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Louisiana Emergency Response Commission (LERC)**

Meeting Title Louisiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Date of Meeting March 13, 2019
Where Louisiana State Police Headquarters
7919 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Start Time 10:04 a.m.

1. Lt. Col. Jay Oliphant called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. Tara Guidry, LSP/Right-to-Know Unit, called roll as follows:

Lt. Col. Jay Oliphant, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT
Dr. Chuck Brown, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ) NOT PRESENT
Dr. Brent Robbins, Designee for Department of Agriculture and Forestry, NOT PRESENT
James Waskom, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT
Command Technician (CT) John Porter, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT
James "Jim" Polk, Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association, PRESENT
Cecil "Keith" Bennett, Carroll L. Herring Fire and Emergency Training Institute, PRESENT
Marty Chabert, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office, NOT PRESENT
Edward "Ed" Flynn, Louisiana Chemical Association, PRESENT
Chief Bobby Black, PRESENT
Joel "Joey" Dugas, Dow Chemical, PRESENT
Jennifer Reynolds, Webster Parish Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT
Travis Perrilloux, St. John the Baptist Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness, PRESENT
Nissan Patel, Assistant HazMat Director, Jefferson Parish Fire Services, NOT PRESENT
Obed "Obie" Cambre, Jr., ExxonMobil, PRESENT
Sgt. Kenneth "Scott" Bowman, Baton Rouge Police Department, PRESENT
Chris Guilbeaux, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, PRESENT
Senator Mike Walsworth, NOT PRESENT
Senator Mack "Bodi" White, PRESENT

The records reflect that the following visitors were present:

Chris Keene, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Daniel Lambert, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Xiaoping Nie, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, (DHH)
Darcie Olexia, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Colette Stewart-Briley, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Clay Trachtman, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Chris Viator, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

The records reflect that the following LSP/Emergency Services Unit personnel were present:

Paeton Burkett, Office of Legal Affairs
Gene Dunegan
Tara Guidry

Alisa Monroe
Paul Schexnayder, Office of Legal Affairs

3. Lt. Col. Oliphant asked members to review the updated membership list, and to submit any changes to Ms. Guidry or Ms. Monroe of the Right-to-Know Unit.
4. Lt. Col. Oliphant asked the commission to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2018 LERC meeting. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.
5. **Committee Reports:**

Long Range Planning: Lt. Col. Oliphant passed the floor to Chief Bobby Black who presented the report from the Long Range Planning Committee. Chief Black referred members to the committee's annual report that was submitted.

Emergency Plans Review: Lt. Col. Oliphant passed the floor to Mr. Guilbeaux who presented the report from the Emergency Plans Review Committee. Since the previous meeting, the committee has reviewed plans from the following parishes: Lafayette, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, and St. Martin. The parish plans met all EPCRA (Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act) requirements. The next quarter plan reviews will include Grant, Sabine, St. Mary, and Winn Parishes. There may be six parishes reviewed during the next quarter to catch up with the schedule. Mr. Guilbeaux then introduced members to Ms. Chris Keene of GOHSEP, who will assist in reviewing the plans.

Mr. Edward Flynn asked about the criteria used when reviewing the parish emergency plans. Mr. Guilbeaux answered that the EPCRA requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency are used. Most local plans go far beyond these federal standards especially those in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor.

Training and Resources: Lt. Col. Oliphant passed the floor to Mr. Keith Bennett for the report from the Training and Resources Committee. Mr. Bennett said that 2018 was another good year for training, and next week includes training with the Baton Rouge Mutual Aid System, advanced technician classes, and officer classes.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Service: Lt. Col. Oliphant passed the floor to Mr. Polk for the report from the LEPC Service Committee. The committee is continuing its work on an outreach email that will be sent to all parish LEPCs, which will introduce the new leadership and also offer encouragement to LEPC chairpersons. The email will be sent to Mr. Gene Dunegan and Lt. Col. Oliphant for approval before it is sent.

Public Information: Lt. Col. Oliphant passed the floor to CT John Porter, the new committee head. CT Porter referred members to the committee's annual report, which included a list of accomplishments in 2018. CT Porter encouraged members to contact him or Mr. Dunegan with any concerns or comments.

Emergency Notification: Lt. Col. Oliphant passed the floor to Mr. Ed Flynn for the report from the Emergency Notification Committee. Mr. Flynn discussed an ongoing series of quarterly meetings conducted with industry, the Louisiana State Police, DEQ, DHH, and Department of Natural Resources (DNR). One beneficial outcome of these meetings is that DEQ will now receive follow-up letters on courtesy notifications so that they will be able to update the incident's status.

Mr. Flynn also discussed Information Exchange Workshops launched by industry in 2013 that bring together regulated facilities and government agencies to improve performance by developing effective practices to reduce or minimize releases from unplanned situations such as hurricanes, floods, or operator error. The next Information Exchange Workshop on March 27th will focus on extreme weather events as hurricane season approaches.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Bennett to approve the committee reports. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition

6. Old Business

The first item of old business concerned a request for information on the recent series of EPA and LEPC workshops. Mr. Dunegan presented the commission with a packet of comments and suggestions from participants in the workshops, many of whom represented Louisiana LEPCs.

The second item of old business concerned drones. Mr. Dunegan advised members on where he located information about drone regulations for Louisiana after receiving a request for information. Mr. Polk told the commission that St. Charles Parish continues to have issues with unidentified drones flying near Armstrong International Airport in a flight path that goes over a nuclear plant, a refinery, and several chemical industries. St. Charles Parish is investigating passive detection technology designed to pick up telemetry from a drone to identify their location, flight path, speed, and the physical area where the controller is. Currently if they need to find a drone pilot, they must deploy resources that could be used more efficiently elsewhere. Mr. Obie Cambre asked Mr. Polk to keep the commission updated on the drone project.

The third item of old business concerned the Allen Parish LEPC. The commission continues to work with Allen Parish to find more members for the committee. At the previous meeting, the Allen Parish LEPC membership update was not considered because the submitted list had only two persons.

The final item of old business concerned the upcoming Louisiana Emergency Management Conference. This year's conference is at the L'Auberge in Lake Charles from May 13th to May 16th. The next meeting of the LERC will tentatively be held on the first day of the conference.

7. New Business

The first item of new business concerned the 2018 LERC Annual Report. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Polk to approve the report. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The second item of new business concerned LEPC membership updates for four parishes: East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, Evangeline, and Rapides.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Guilbeaux to approve the updates for East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, Evangeline, and Rapides Parishes. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The final item of new business was an announcement by Mr. Guilbeaux about the current status of the Mississippi River. Mr. Guilbeaux has been speaking daily with the US Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg and New Orleans as well as the River Forecast Center. On March 13th the river was at crest from Vicksburg to New Orleans and is expected to remain at crest until March 16th. Between March 16th and March 24th, about five to six feet of water will recede, and there will be a subsequent crest around March 24th, but not higher than the current crest. Water from rains in Iowa takes about ten days to reach the Mississippi River in Louisiana. Currently there are no plans to open the Morganza Spillway. As of March 13th, 206 of 350 bays of the Bonnet Carré spillway were open. The Bonnet Carré spillway has been opened 7 times in 10 years.

8. Lt. Col. Oliphant gave the floor to Mr. Dunegan to discuss scheduling of the LERC's next quarterly meeting which normally occurs on the 2nd Wednesday of the 3rd month of the quarter. Historically, the second quarterly meeting is held in conjunction with the LEPA conference. This would set the next LERC meeting date as Monday, May 13, 2019, at 1:00 PM, in the Sycamore B Room of the L'Auberge in Lake Charles. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Polk to accept the next meeting date. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.
9. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Polk to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.