

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

Meeting Title Louisiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Date of Meeting March 9, 2022
Where Louisiana State Police Headquarters
7919 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Start Time 10:08 a.m.

1. Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. Lt. Col. Cammon asked members to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Tara Guidry, LSP/Right-to-Know Unit, called roll as follows:

Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon, 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
Mr. Casey B. Tingle, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT
Command Technician (CT) John Porter, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT
Mr. Terry E. Guidry, Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association, NOT PRESENT
Mr. Cecil "Keith" Bennett, LSU Fire and Emergency Training Institute, PRESENT
Mr. Sam Jones, NOT PRESENT
Ms. Tokesha M. Collins-Wright, Louisiana Chemical Association, PRESENT
Chief Robert L. "Bobby" Black, PRESENT
Joel "Joey" Dugas, Dow Chemical, PRESENT
Mr. Chris J. Guilbeaux, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, PRESENT
Mr. Nissan Patel, Assistant HazMat Director, Jefferson Parish Fire Services, PRESENT
Mr. Travis B. Perrilloux, St. John the Baptist Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness, PRESENT
Mr. James "Jim" Polk, St. Charles Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, PRESENT
Senator Mike Walsworth, NOT PRESENT
Senator Mack "Bodi" White, NOT PRESENT

The records reflect that the following visitors were present:

Jeff Dauzat, Department of Environmental Quality
Jan Herrington, Positive Results Inc.
Colette Duhe, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)
Darcie Olexia, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)
Clint Trachtman, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

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

Major Frank Besson, Command Inspector, Transportation Safety Services
Gene Dunegan
Tara Guidry
Connor Junkin, Office of Legal Affairs

4. Lt. Col. Cammon asked members to review the updated membership list, and to submit any changes to Ms. Guidry of the Right-to-Know Unit.
5. Lt. Col. Cammon asked the commission to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2019 LERC meeting. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.
6. **Committee Reports:**

Long Range Planning: Lt. Col. Cammon 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. Chief Black added links to helpful websites that explain the Federal guidelines regarding drone operations, including their lawful and unlawful uses. Mr. Jim Polk mentioned that St. Charles Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness has used a system to monitor drones since October 2020, and have detected over 200 drone flights since going online. Mr. Polk offered to make a presentation to the committee at its next meeting on the parish's drone monitoring system

Emergency Plans Review: Lt. Col. Cammon passed the floor to Mr. Chris Guilbeaux who presented the report from the Emergency Plans Review Committee. The committee is working to catch up on parish ESF-10/Annex H plans. Due to COVID, the committee has not been able to visit parishes that have inadequate planning to help them fix their plans. Since the previous meeting, the committee has reviewed plans from the following parishes: Acadia, Allen, Evangeline, and Jefferson Davis.

Training and Resources: Lt. Col. Cammon passed the floor to Mr. Keith Bennett for the report from the Training and Resources Committee. Mr. Bennett said that the ongoing COVID pandemic had affected training, causing the LSU training center to close briefly. When the training center reopened, classes were smaller than they had been. Mr. Bennett also gave an update about changes coming to the training center. The State Fire Marshal's Office is taking over training, and the center will now be called The Louisiana State University Fire Training Academy.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Service: Lt. Col. Cammon passed the floor to Mr. Jim Polk for the report from the LEPC Service Committee. Mr. Polk is now an At-Large member of LERC representing St. Charles Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Outreach is conducted mostly through email, so he is working on updating the email list of the LEPC chairs. Once the list is compiled, he will send individual emails to each chair. Mr. Gene Dunegan advised that members were sent a zip file before the meeting that contains such a list that was most recently updated in February 2022.

Public Information: Lt. Col. Cammon passed the floor to CT John Porter, the new committee head. CT Porter began by noting that there have been recent legislative changes regarding reporting of hazmat events, and that the committee has been meeting quarterly with the Louisiana Chemical Association to work through any issues that industry may have. One of the great outreaches for public information is through instruction and teaching classes, and they still have HMEP money

to do so. LSP Emergency services is still available to teach classes to the public sector and the industry side.

Emergency Notification: Mr. Gene Dunegan announced that the chair of the Emergency Notification Committee, Mr. Ed Flynn, had retired from the Louisiana Chemical Association, and introduced to the commission Ms. Tokesha Collins-Wright, who has been appointed as the commission representative from the LCA. Ms. Collins-Wright stated that she didn't mind stepping into the role of chair of the Emergency Notification Committee previously held by Mr. Flynn.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Polk to appoint Ms. Collins-Wright as the new chair of the Emergency Notification Committee. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

7. Old Business

The only item of old business concerned drones. Mr. Polk requested that he be allowed to make a presentation to commission members regarding drones. Since October 2020, St. Charles Parish has utilized software to track drones flying in the parish. They have monitored over 200 drones since they began using this software. Lt. Col. Cammon agreed to add the presentation to the agenda for the next meeting.

8. New Business

The first item of new business concerned the 2019, 2020, and 2021 LERC Annual Report. These reports were sent out via email.

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 all 64 parishes.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Guilbeaux to approve the updates for all 64 parishes. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The final item of new business concerned vacant positions on the Louisiana Emergency Response Commission. At least two commission seats are empty. Lt. Col. Cammon has spoken with Mr. Dunegan and Capt. Porter on compiling a list of possible candidates. Mr. Dunegan advised that the two outstanding vacancies on the commission were at-large seats held by Obie Cambre Jr. of ExxonMobil and Jennifer Reynolds of Webster Parish LEPC. Historically, vacancies of this sort were filled by recommendations from other commission members. Members who were retiring from the board were asked to provide recommendations of persons who could fill their commission seats. Lt. Col. Cammon encouraged the commission to submit names of possible candidates to Mr. Dunegan within the next two weeks.

8. Lt. Col. Cammon 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 16, 2022, at 1:00 PM at the Golden Nugget in Lake Charles.

9. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Guilbeaux to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.