



# Minutes

## SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION

### MEETING NUMBER 860<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 11:00AM



**DATE:** November 13, 2024

**ORDERED BY:** Robby Trahan, President –

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Robby Trahan, President –

**INVOCATION BY:** Mason Lindsay –

**BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Robby Trahan, President –

*Richard Joseph “Dick” Gremillion, Sr., 70, passed away Saturday, October 26, 2024, in a local hospital following a brief illness:*



- Dick was born October 25, 1954, in Alexandria, LA to Dalton Moore Joseph Gremillion and Harriet O’Quin Gremillion. He was a 1972 graduate of Alexandria High School and studied to obtain his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Northwestern State University. In 1989, he made Lake Charles his home. Dick began his career in Insurance Claims, working for thirteen years as a Claims Supervisor for USF&G Insurance Company. In 1993 he took a position with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury as Parish Risk Manager and in May of 2024 he retired with 31 years of service, with 28 years as the Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. He served as Co-Chair (2010 to Present) and Chairman (2010 to Present), and Secretary/Treasurer on the Local Emergency Planning Committee; Secretary for the **SWLA Mutual Aid Association** and **SWLA Fire Chief’s Association**; and Supervisor, Calcasieu Parish Fire District #2 of Ward 3. Dick also served as the Louisiana Region Homeland Security Coordinator and was the Incident Commander through twenty-five presidentially declared disasters, including Hurricanes Lili, Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. His current memberships include: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), National Association of EMS Educators, Louisiana Claims Association, Lake Charles Claims Association, Louisiana Public Risk Management Association (LA PRIMA), National Association of Insurance Women (NAIW), Insurance Professionals of Southwest Louisiana (IPSL), Louisiana Region 18 Communications Planning Task Force (APCO), Federal Coordinator of Meteorology Committee on Homeland Security, Louisiana State Executive Interoperability Committee, Southwest Louisiana Joint Terrorism Task Force, POST certified reserve deputy, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office, Louisiana Emergency Manager certification (LEM) and SWLA/SETX Interoperability working group. As an expert in his field, he was well respected throughout the state by countless many. He took pride in meeting two United States Presidents in his official capacity. Upon his retirement he stated, “I’m going to miss meeting with people, collaborating, building teams, mentoring people into the future... just leadership issues in general.”

**INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:** Robby Trahan, President –

- Doug Fournet, Manage Area, w/**Boardwalk Louisiana Midstream, LLC**
- Billy Flagel, Senior Emergency Response Specialist, w/**US Fire Pump Company, LLC**
- Tonya Petix, Official Business Development, w/**US Fire Pump Company, LLC**

**HOST ENTITY:** Robby Trahan, President –

*Discussed - Ward 4 Fire Protection District No. 4/Houston River (VFD):*

- Power Point Presentation – Presented by; “*Chief Dean Lappe*”
- Luncheon provided by “*The Hut*”

**NEW APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS:** Robby Trahan, President –

*Discussed - New Applicant “US Fire Pump Company, LLC” for Associate Member:*

- Brief - Introduction/description of their organization to the General Board Members
  - ☞ Company Profile – *US Fire Pump Company, LLC*, founded by firefighting veteran Chris Ferrara, combines over 200 years of experience in design, manufacturing, marketing, and purchasing to deliver manufacturing cutting-edge firefighting equipment tailored to the needs of emergency responders across the world.
- New applicant, *US Fire Pump Company, LLC*, will be over for one (1) month and will be brought to the General Board Members, as a “**VOTING ISSUE**” at the next SWLAMA regular scheduled General Board Meeting, *Wednesday, December 11, 2024*

**MUTUAL AID INCIDENTS:** Robby Trahan, President –

*Discussed - Calcasieu Parish E-911:*

- Mutual Aid Calls for Month of **October** 2024 - (66)

## **APPOINTED COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET/FINANCE:** Bill Wilkie, Chairman –

*TREASURERS REPORT:*

- Account Balance Ending as of *October 31, 2024* – **\$65,355.77**

**BY LAWS:** Richard McGuire, Chairman – *N/A*

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Richard McGuire, Chairman – *N/A*

**DRILL:** Mike Estes, LOTTE Chemical, Chairman –

*Discussed – Upcoming drill between Lyondell/Basell & SASOL:*

- Friday, December 6, 2024

**EMS 8 HEALTHCARE:** Mark Conner, Acadian Ambulance, Chairman –

*Discussed - Louisiana Region R5 ESF-8 Health & Medical Coalition Meeting, met on Monday, October 28, 2024, to discuss:*

- **Richard “Dick” Gremillion Funeral Services:**
  - ☞ Date of Funeral – Friday, November 1, 2024
  - ☞ Location of Funeral – Trinity Baptist Church
  - ☞ Visitation of Funeral – 1000 to 1400 hours
  - ☞ Time/Service of Funeral – 1400 hours
- **HPP Rounds:**
  - ☞ Heather Gauthier, LHA provided an update on the new HPP grant and its requirements
  - ☞ Some requirements have already been completed
- **Cajun Dust-Off:**
  - ☞ Vence Beches, LERN and Paul DeStout, OPH described how the military does not typically use assets for civilian air rescue
  - ☞ However, a plan has been developed and the highlights follow as they were used in the house explosion in Ragley

➤Cajun Dust-Off

- Used during the Ragley Home Explosion
  - Commercial Air resources could not respond
  - Sheriff’s Office paged out Cajun Dust-Off



- **Last resort** option for air transport
  - Limited options for hospitals to land
  - May be expensive
  - They have the right to deny any requests
  - In progress: LERN to dispatch Cajun Dust-off, not other agencies

● **LCMH Trauma Symposium:**

- ☞ Scott Kyle, LCMH, shared the highlights of the Symposium
- ☞ The Pediatric Trauma Surgeon spoke on topics that had recently impacted Region 5
- ☞ They had approximately 150 participants and it is generally received as the best symposium in the State
- ☞ The next symposium – Nov 2025

● **Airport Exercise:**

- ☞ LCH Airport Exercise-AAR
  - MCI
  - Strengths
  - Areas of Improvement

● **Hazmat/Decon Training - Thursday, November 14, 2024:**

<https://stems.gohsep.la.gov/courses/2517/offerings/2072>

- ☞ Objectives:
  1. Develop an understanding of chemical, biological, and radiological threats with the latest concerns.
  2. Develop an understanding of the selection and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
  3. Demonstrate the ability to properly don/doff Level-C PPE.

*Next R5 ESF-8 Health & Medical Coalition Meeting:*

- **CANCELLED** - Monday, November 25, 2024, at 2:30PM/OHSEP:

**HAZMAT:** Chief, Mark Ware, Ward 4 Fire Protection District No. 2/Carlyss, Chairman – *N/A*

**EQUIPMENT LIST/WEBSITE DATABASE:** Rob Daughdril, Inspector Chairman –

*Discussed - Equipment List/Website Database Report:*

- Jerry Pierrottie - Addressed to the Board Members about the **new** SWLAMA Website and all the new updates
  - ☞ Dates TBD on when the **new** SWLAMA Website will be fully functional

**INSPECTION:** Rob Daughdril, Inspector Chairman – *N/A*

*Inspection Report:*

**MARINE USCG:** Cade McLemore, Port Security Specialist/USCG MSU – *N/A*

**NOMINATING:** Bill Wilkie, Chairman – *N/A*

**VOTING:** Robby Trahan, President – *N/A*

**SAR:** Lt. Ty Istre, CPSO, Chairman – *N/A*

**TRAINING:** Jimmy Boyette, Assist. Chief, w/WFD & Cpt. Chris Smith, Training Officer w/CFD Chairman – *N/A*

**WEATHER UPDATE (NWS):** Doug Cramer, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – *KPLC 7 Weather First Alert Forecast, Joseph Enk, Wednesday, November 13, 2024:*

- LAKE CHARLES, La. (KPLC) – It’s feeling a little damp again in SWLA, but it won’t last long this go around.
- Wednesday will be a mixed bag for some, with sprinkles and misting for many in the first half of the day, and even a few bigger showers possible for those on the more eastern edge of our viewing area in parts of Jeff-Davis and Allen parishes. This time however compared to the weekend, rain will be very limited and as we push into the afternoon the approaching cold front will already be shoving most activity back out of the region.
- Clearing skies will bring some sunshine for the afternoon with temperatures still expected to reach the low 80’s in spots, but cooler temperatures are on the way!



- Behind the front, low temps should fall into the 50’s for most areas Friday morning. Some spots could even dip into the upper 40’s! Afternoon highs will also be closer to normal with most areas only reaching the mid-to-upper 70s, maybe closer to 80. Lot’s of sunshine and drier conditions should make for nice outdoor weather!



- The upcoming weekend should be nice too with Saturday being the best of the 2 days. A warming trend will begin Sunday and we continue warming early next week. Another cold front will likely arrive sometime early next week; and temperatures could be significantly colder behind that front!



- The tropics are mostly quiet, but we are still watching the western Caribbean for likely development as storms slowly get more organized. It will likely become a tropical depression over the next few days before slowly moving westward into the weekend. Depending on how long it lingers, it will have at least some potential to turn stronger and drift northwest into next week. However, it does not look like this system will pose any issues for southwest Louisiana and it’s very hard for systems to survive further north this time of year, but we will still keep you posted on any changes.
- For a look at current conditions, our hour-by-hour forecast, radar, and other forecasting tools, visit the KPLC weather page: <https://www.kplctv.com/weather/>

**US National Weather Service Lake Charles, Wednesday, November 13, 2024:**

- A cold front will push through the region today accompanied by showers and thunderstorms this morning through early afternoon. A few of these storms will have the potential to become severe with damaging winds being the biggest overall threat. Periods of heavy rainfall could also lead to nuisance street flooding. This risk will be highest across areas that saw significant rainfall last weekend. Once the front pushes through the region, drier and much more fall like air will filter in through the end of the week.



### **KPLC 7 Weather First Alert Forecast, Joseph Enk, Tuesday, November 12, 2024:**

- LAKE CHARLES, La. (KPLC) - A cool morning for SWLA is starting to feel more like November, and there's more on the way later this week.
- Tuesday will be a beautiful day to roll into the swing of the work week. Clear skies will let plenty of sunshine in to let temperatures steadily warm out of the upper 50's to near 80° again for the afternoon. Coupled with the gentle north-northeastern breeze, humidity will be staying lower for the day as well, making for great conditions to enjoy some outdoor time!



- Another front is quickly approaching though, and will arrive sometime Wednesday into early Thursday. Out ahead of it, gulf moisture will be trying to drift back into the region, and may manage to kick up a few scattered showers for some. However rain may be very limited this time, and nothing like what we saw over the weekend.



- Temperatures are expected to continue the cooler trend on the back end. Low temps should fall into the 50's for most areas Friday morning. Some spots could even dip into the upper 40's! Afternoon highs will also be closer to normal with most areas only reaching the mid-to-upper 70s, maybe closer to 80.
- The upcoming weekend should be nice too with Saturday being the best of the 2 days. A warming trend will begin Sunday and we continue warming early next week. Another cold front will likely arrive sometime early next week; and temperatures could be significantly colder behind that front!



- The tropics are mostly quiet, but we are still watching the western Caribbean for steady development during the week as storms slowly get more organized. It will likely become a tropical depression over the next few days before slowly moving westward into the weekend. It does not look like this system will pose any issues for southwest Louisiana and it's very hard for systems to survive further north this time of year, but we will still keep you posted on any changes.
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**OLD BUSINESS:** Robby Trahan, President – *N/A*

**NEW BUSINESS:** Robby Trahan, President –**Discussed – The 2025 SWLA Mutual Aid Association Host Entity List:**

- The SWLAMA Steering Committee held their regular scheduled committee meeting on **Thursday, November 7, 2024**, to discussed/approve of the **2025 SWLAMA Host Entity List** and/or as follows;
 

☞ Acadian Ambulance & Air Med Services, Inc.	-	January 15, 2025
☞ Calca Solutions, LLC	-	February 12, 2025
☞ Cameron Parish Ambulance Dist. No. 2	-	March 12, 2025
☞ Cheniere-Sabine Pass LNG, L.P.	-	April 9, 2025
☞ Chennault International Airport Authority	-	May 14, 2025
☞ CHRISTUS Ochsner St. Patrick Hospital	-	June 11, 2025
☞ CITGO	-	July 9, 2025
☞ DeQuincy Fire Department	-	August 13, 2025
☞ Entergy-Nelson Station	-	September 10, 2025
☞ Equistar Chemical-Lyondell/Basell USA	-	October 8, 2025
☞ Grandlake-Sweetlake VFD	-	November 12, 2025
☞ Jeff Davis Fire District No. 3	-	December 10, 2025
- The **2025 SWLAMA Host Entity List** has been submitted to each hosting entity by VIA-USA Postal Service and/or VIA-Email

**Discussed – The 2025 SWLA Mutual Aid Association Membership Dues:**

- Invoices for the **2025 SWLAMA General & Associate Members** have been mailed out, billing date; **Thursday, October 31, 2024**
- **Reminder** - Membership dues are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April each calendar year

**Discussed – The 2025 Budget Reports:**

- All **2025** proposed Budget Reports, from each committee, need to be submitted, **NO** later than **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**, to **Tonya Pousson, Secretary**
- Any proposed Budget items, that are submitted after deadline date, will **not** be considered for approval

**Discussed – The Burn Ban Lifted:**

- As of Friday, **November 8, 2024**, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury has lifted the **Burn Ban** for all Calcasieu Parish, effective **Immediately**
- The Calcasieu Parish Police Jury issued the **Burn Ban** on **Thursday, October 17, 2024**, due to lack of rain and drought Conditions
  - ☞ Residents are asked to use caution when doing any outdoor burning

**Cody Prosser w/Calcasieu Refining:**

- Handed out **Challenge Coins** to those **I<sup>st</sup> Responders**, who responded/assisted with the **Calcasieu Refining Incident** on **Saturday, June 3, 2023**

## **NEXT MONTH'S MEETING EVENTS:**

**NEXT MEETING HOST:** Ward 8 Fire Protection District No. 1 (*Iowa VFD*)

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 11, 2024

**TIME:** 11:00AM

**LOCATION:** Managan Center - 1221 Sampson Street - Westlake, LA 70669

**ADJOURNED:**

- Motion to adjourn – **Todd Parker, Chief of Ward 6 Fire Protection District No. 1**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – **Brent Smith, SASOL**
- Meeting adjourned – **11:29AM**

### **THE NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD**

**Thursday, December 5, 2024 @ 2PM**

**901 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 200**

**Charles, LA 70601**