

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
CITIZEN'S DISASTE RESPONSE, RECOVERY, & REVIEW COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024

The Caddo Parish Public Safety Funding Ad Hoc Committee, in conjunction with the Citizens Disaster Response, Recovery, and Review Committee, met in legal session on the above date at 1:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Epperson, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Epperson, Thomas, and G. Young (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and J. Young (2).

There were also members of the Citizens Disaster Committee in attendance.

Mr. G. Young gave the invocation, and Mr. Tony T. Williams led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no agenda additions or public comments, the Committee moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Introduction from the Public Safety Funding Committee Chair, Ken Epperson*

Mr. Epperson asked that all staff members and committee members introduce themselves.

- *Summary of One Pagers received*

Mr. Epperson said that these one pagers will be part of a book as a reference for the committee members. It is his hope that this will minimize miscommunication.

- *Q&A Session from Citizens Disaster Committee Members*

Mr. Thomas wanted to know if the Citizens Disaster Committee was included in the weather alerts from Mr. Jump's Office. Mr. Jump said that he could include whomever, if their email addresses are provided.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know the policy on opening the floodgates at Cross Lake. Mr. Brandon Snead, City of Shreveport, said that they are constantly looking at the weather to determine when those gates are opened. He further explained that if they open the gates too soon, and the rain doesn't come, they put the water production in detriment. It is a very delicate balancing act, he said. Mr. Snead also said that Cross Lake is East Texas' watershed, so if there is a torrential rain in Texas, they will open the gates. Mr. Snead said that there is a policy in place, but it is a loose policy.

Mr. G. Young then wanted to know the policy when the predictions are wrong. Mr. Snead said that they are limited on how low that can go. He believes that it is 168 ft media sea level. In the event that they do not get the rain that is expected, they will put a pump on Twelve Mile Bayou to try and fill that water. He said that they do this in the summertime.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know what the anticipated completion date for the spill gates. Mr. Snead said that he cannot give an exact ETA, but they are progressing forward.

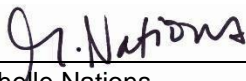
Mr. Cothran wanted to know at what point does a person's electricity get cut off. Mr. Epperson said that there are laws in place with the Public Service Commission that SWEPCO cannot cut off a person's electricity once the temperature reaches a certain point in the winter and in the summer. Mr. Tony T. Williams wanted to know what the mechanism was to make a citizen pay later. Mr. Epperson suggested that they contact Mr. Mike Corbin, SWEPCO. Mr. Thomas said that the citizen is still responsible for the bill.

Ms. Wendy Coker, Deaf Community Representative, requested sign language interpreters for emergency situations. Mr. Epperson agreed with this. Mr. Robert Jump also agreed with this and feels that this should be put into protocol.

Mr. Cothran also suggested that electric lines be buried instead of hanging. Mr. Tony T. Williams agreed with this and requested that SWEPCO provide an update on this. Mr. G. Young said that it costs more money to bury the lines in the ground, and those expenses are carried over to the consumer.

Mr. Rufus Thompson said that they are having a ribbon cutting at Morning Star for the first Community Lighthouse. Citizens can come to the facility in case of a power outage to charge their devices, cool down, CPAP machines, etc. Mr. Epperson requested that they submit a narrative to the Clerk's Office.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk