

	Minutes Nevada Commission On Homeland Security Finance Committee Meeting		
Attendance	Date	July 10, 2019	
	Time	9:00 a.m.	
	Northern Location	Legislative Counsel Bureau	
		Legislative Building – Room 2135	
		401 S. Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89701	
	Southern Location	Legislative Counsel Bureau	
		Grant Sawyer Building – Room 4412E	
		555 E. Washington Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	
Method	Video-Teleconference		
Recorder	Karen Hall		
Committee Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff, And Others	Present
Joseph Lombardo - Chair	X	Caleb Cage	X
Greg Herrera – Vice Chair	X	Samantha Ladich	X
Michael Brown	X		
Stacey Giomi	X	Karen Hall - DEM	X
Greg Herrera – Vice Chair	X	Meagan Werth-Ranson - DEM	X
Christopher Lake	X	Kendall Herzer – DEM	X
Carolyn Levering	Abs		
Erin Lynch	X		
Stan Smith	Abs		
Bill Welch	Abs		

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair, Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, called the meeting to order. Karen Hall, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS) performed roll call. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Lombardo opened discussion for public comment. No comment was presented in either the Carson City or Las Vegas venue.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Lombardo called for a motion to approve the draft minutes as presented from the May 28, 2019, Finance Committee (Committee) meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented with no changes was provided by Chief Michael Brown, R&R Partners, Inc., and a second was provided by Dr. Christopher Lake, Nevada Hospital Association. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Finance Committee

Chief Cage, DEM/HS, spoke to inquiries he had received from Committee members to increase the role of the Committee within the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) process. Chief Cage referenced Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 239C establishing the Committee under the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS), and the codification of the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) in 2019 as the primary vetting source for the HSGP in addition to elaborating on the current HSGP process.

Chair Lombardo inquired if Chief Cage had any specific input into potential changes in the Committee's role. Chief Cage indicated that Deputy Chief Steinbeck could also weigh in on this issue. One of the biggest concerns presented is that the Committee's role may be perceived as a rubber stamp for what the NRAC recommends rather than having any significant role in that outcome. Discussion ensued noting that the Committee may have agreed with the recommendations in the past, and tough decisions have been made that were instrumental in decisions regarding the HSGP funding allocations. Currently the NRAC vets HSGP projects using the recommendation from the Co-Chairs on strategic capacities to be maintained. A possible change to that process could be to have the NRAC perform the deep vetting, have the NRAC vote to approve which projects move forward, and then place the responsibility on the Committee to rank prioritize the projects and form a final recommendation that is moved to the NCHS.

Chief Stacey Giomi, Nevada Health Centers, spoke to disconnection with the Committee and the HSGP process as a result of the entire membership not being appointed to the HSGP vetting body. When the Committee membership was part of the vetting process, they obtained critical project background information which enhanced the ability to effectively review recommendations presented. Currently, there are Committee members that have no input in the vetting portion of the HSGP process. The Committee has historically requested that a balanced budget is provided coming out of the vetting process, and if one is presented, the Committee will make the tough decisions necessary as evidenced in past decisions to choose quality projects over quantity of projects. If the Committee continues to have decision making capabilities, it needs to be more involved in the vetting and investment justification process.

Deputy Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department, spoke to the fact that by no means does anyone want the Committee to be a rubber stamp. The Committee's work is considered an important check on the HSGP process. There is a tremendous amount of time spent in the current NRAC vetting process, and there is openness to more involvement by the Committee and specifically to identify what the NRAC may have missed during the process including if the project fits the strategic plan of the state, or if too much funding is being spent in one area year after year. Chair Lombardo asked for clarification on the synonymous nature between the former HSWG and the newly codified NRAC. Deputy Chief Steinbeck indicated that the NRAC meets monthly now, and the HSGP process is battled out there. There are benefits of the new structure and some challenges as well.

Dr. Lake suggested that the Committee has a say in where the funding goes prior to the

NRAC vetting process. Prior to the start of the HSGP process, the Committee could develop guidelines for funding mandatory and necessary projects, and take the funding applied to those projects out of consideration. The remaining funding allocation could become the competitive portion of the process which the NRAC could then vet and report to the Committee with supplementary information including past grant performance, grants balances, etc. Erin Lynch, Nevada Division of Health Care Financing & Policy, supports Dr. Lake's idea about pre-approval of core functions, and added that she would like to see the identification of specialty areas or gaps which could be improved upon. During the meeting, discussion in the south venue momentarily could not be heard, and Samantha Ladich, Nevada Office of the Attorney General, reminded the Committee that all communications during the meeting need to be on record.

Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to the strategic capacities to be maintained which were approved in 2019, and that the Committee has a role at taking a look at those capacities and how they are funded through submitted projects. It is critical to start asking the applicants more questions and performing a deeper review of the budgets submitted to determine what funding is vital. What is vital should receive priority funding. The NRAC serves as a broader base of questioning. As long as the NRAC and the Committee get a chance to weigh in on strategic capacities, that may be the best result moving forward. What no one wants is to just fund projects based on a vote which changes annually. Chief Giomi agreed with Deputy Chief Steinbeck, and to some extent, with Dr. Lake and Ms. Lynch's earlier comments. There is value in not just allocating the same funding to projects year after year, and strategically reviewing use of funding allocated. It is also important to involve the project submitters in the planning process.

Dr. Lake presented concern over the numbers of projects that are voted on by individuals that may not necessarily have the expertise to evaluate the projects effectively. Using a team strategy for like-based projects may be a better idea. Erin Lynch spoke to the focus of the HSGP process, and where the needle may need to be moved. It's imperative to know if the intention is to maintain or enhance capability. Chief Giomi indicated that how a project is funded, and what is accomplished through that funding process, is where the Committee is currently left out of the discussion. What the Committee is missing is the "how" of where a project is ranked and what it sees is far removed from what the actuality may be. The value of this process is that each member of the NRAC and Committee brings government and public safety expertise. Seeing a final product is not the whole story. HSGP projects do not always receive the same amount of funding, and there is not always the same deliverables requested.

Chair Lombardo spoke to the primary function of the HSGP process, and supports the Committee's involvement in the strategic capacities discussion. Chair Lombardo agreed with Chief Giomi, and noted that project justifications are still necessary. The homeland security environment changes over time, and defining where the Committee engages in that process moving forward is important. Chief Cage spoke to compliance with this agenda item should the Committee vote on how its role may change. From his perspective, Chief Giomi's emphasis on the separation of the two processes currently is spot on. Chief Cage also indicated that he agrees that if percentages are identified up front, control over the process is lost. The identification of strategic capacity and defending that endeavor is more important. There appears to be

repeated interest for the Committee to have a significant role prior to the NRAC meeting in addition to including the Committee membership either formally or informally in the NRAC process. Steps need to be taken to develop such innovations to the process.

Chief Giomi moved to direct the State Administrative Agent (SAA) and the Urban Area Administrator (UAA) to work on a strategy for improving the participation of the Committee in the HSGP process by 1) determining the role for the Committee in establishing strategic capacities, and 2) developing a process for Committee members to participate in vetting HSGP projects and investment justifications. The SAA and UAA have the right to add additional items as they see fit to bring back to the Committee for review. Chief Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously. Chief Cage indicated this motion is clear and actionable, with Samantha Ladich supporting the soundness of the motion.

5. Public Comment

Chair Lombardo opened discussion for public comment. The Committee members individually thanked Chief Cage for his service, leadership, and dedication to collaborative efforts throughout the state to address emergency management issues. Additional gratitude was provided the committee members to Chief Giomi for his service and leadership on the Committee and to the state.

6. Adjourn

Chair Lombardo called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was presented by Chief Deputy Herrera, and a second was provided by Chair Lombardo. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.