



Minutes Nevada Homeland Security Commission Finance Committee Meeting

ATTENDANCE

DATE	29 March 2011
TIME	3:00 PM
LOCATION	4000 W Flamingo, Las Vegas NV 2478 Fairview Drive, Carson City NV
METHOD	Videoconference
RECORDER	Larry Casey

Committee Members	Present	Staff & Others in Attendance	Present
Doug Gillespie, Chairman	X	James Wright, Director DEM	X
Dr. Dale Carrison	X	Irene Navis, Clark County Emergency Manager	X
Bill Welch			
Mike McClary	X		
Stacey Giomi	X		
Doug Stevens			
Carolyn Levering	X		
Jeff Page			
Kyle Devine	X		
Angela Krutsinger	X		
Stan Smith	X		
Adam Sandler	X	Larry Casey, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X
Terry Bohl	X	Glade Myler, AG representative to the Commission	X

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 3:08 PM Chairman Gillespie called the meeting to order. A roll call was held and it was determined that there was a quorum present.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Gillespie moved directly to the agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Gillespie asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the 26 March 2010 and 21 January 2011 meetings and hearing none he entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Dale Carrison made the motion and Ms. Carolyn Levering seconded it. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved

REVIEW AND COMMENT ON CONCERNS RAISED DURING THE 29 MARCH 2011 MEETING OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP. (HSWG).

Chairman Doug Gillespie asked Mr. Larry Casey to provide comments on the HSWG meeting.

Mr. Larry Casey reported on issues that the HSWG wanted to have brought to the attention of the Finance Committee.

The first issue was a question of what constituted "Public Awareness" (a Commission on Homeland Security 2011 priority). This issue came up during the discussion that assigned

projects to the various Investment Justifications (IJs) and the HSWG is seeking a definition to assist them in assigning projects to IJs.

Mr. Glade Myler stated that one of the problems came from a discussion on whether the Citizen Corps projects should be considered as part of "Public Awareness".

Ms. Carolyn Levering clarified that the discussion was if a project had a community education and training component (like the project proposed by the Institute for Security Studies - ISS) should be put into this priority or possibly broken into parts that are associated with Public Awareness or Fusion Centers.

Mr. Staci Giomi stated that during the HSWG meeting discussion he had heard the statement that Citizen Corps should not be associated with Public Awareness. The working group wanted to hear from us if Citizen Corps should be part of Public Awareness. In his mind it is associated and Citizen Corps is a part of Public Awareness. (NOTE: Mr. Terry Bohl stated that he concurred with this statement.

Dr. Dale Carrison asked Mr. Cordova (as our DHS representative) what is the DHS definition of the function of Citizen Corps.

Mr. Gonzalo Cordova stated the question that came up in the HSWG session covered both the educational component of the ISS project and the Citizen Corps training. Both projects have Public Awareness components.

Mr. Giomi stated a summary of the problem – the issue concerns the development of a special IJ for Public Awareness and then put all the projects with a public education program into it.

Ms. Irene Navis stated the issue is how to best group projects into IJs and where is the best place to put the projects. Right now we do not have an IJ called "Public Awareness" yet it is one of the Commission's top priorities. Do we need to create a special IJ?

Dr. Carrison stated that when the goals were formed Citizen Corps was not part of the discussion on what constituted public awareness.

Deputy-Chief Greg McCurdy offered to the HSWG that we need to table this discussion and allow his office to work with the Fusion Center and the ISS and work out any details on where to put this project.

Chairman Gillespie stated that in thinking back IJs are not always attached to a single project. We as the Finance Committee would look at an IJ and award funds on it's ability to impact the priority areas. My feedback to the HSWG would be it is a mistake to try and make IJs into one priority. You are better off looking at the IJ as a whole then determining what priorities the IJ meets. We should carry this particular priority back to the full Commission for their input. Don't take an existing IJ that has been funded on other priorities in years past and now try to change those priorities so it will meet the priorities the Commission set for this year.

Ms. Levering there are two things in general about the Citizen Corps program. First of all it is not just a volunteer training program. It covers Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Fire Corps academies, neighborhood watch programs, volunteers in police service all of which are programs that in our community are used for outreach to the public. There is a training component but Citizen Corps is much more then a volunteer training program.

The second point is we need to take caution, although the Commission has developed guidelines for the 2011 cycle we would be remiss to turn our backs on programs that have had a higher priority in the past but still need funding for sustainment. To cut them off cold may be a poor idea.

Citizen Corps has a dedicated funding stream and will probably remain in place for the near future. However in the past we have augmented this funding from other funding streams.

Chairman Gillespie asked if there were any other concerns that had been identified by the HSWG. Hearing that there were no other concerns he directed this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the full commission. He also expressed it would be a good idea to have a number of individuals who are here from the HSWG who can express their concerns to the Commission.

Mr. Doug Lyon stated it might be useful to have a discussion about what to do with any project that does not fall into one of the 5 commission priorities.

Chairman Gillespie stated that in the past that if there is an existing program that has been receiving funding and now as we move into the 2011 cycle they are not precluded from receiving some funding. However if they are not a priority then the program managers have to make a good case on why they should receive any sustainment funds.

Building on what Ms. Levering has said on Citizen Corps. We have to find a way to bring conclusion to IJs as well as build in sustainment for the projects that will not be going away. The current funding stream is not going to continue. Right now there is a move to reduce the number of UASI cities to 25 which could mean in the future we are removed from the list. This will make a significant impact on the amount of funds Nevada receives.

It should be a clear message to us all that we use these funds for that which it is intended for. There cannot be any supplanting costs to pay for operational needs with Homeland Security Funds. We all know the focus for these funds is for preparedness, response and prevention.

You can submit a project that is outside the list of priorities but you must have a compelling and convincing reason to send in forward.

Ms. Irene Navis asked if the committee will be looking at funding by IJ or by individual projects.

Chairman Gillespie stated they would be looking at projects.

Mr. Mike McClary mentioned that there has been in the past a clear delineation of personnel costs. The project worksheet does not explain these costs very well. It would be valuable if we could see what the personnel costs are and what it is being spent on.

Chairman Gillespie restated that Mr. McClary was looking for information on if the funds requested were for new personnel, sustainment for older personnel and details on if they would be contractors. We would also get a description of what those individuals were supposed to be doing.

Ms. Nichole Hart talked about a briefing Ms. Kelli Anderson gave the HSWG on the new guidelines that are part of this years application that cover these concerns.

Dr. Carrison noted some of the proposed projects are very vague. He expressed his concerns that someone is trying to push something through so they can get it. We need to have detailed explanations of what it is you are trying to accomplish with your request.

Ms. Navis stated the HSWG is meeting on 11 April to prioritize their projects and suggested it would be a good idea to have a joint meeting afterward to discuss those priorities.

Chairman Gillespie stated that the Finance Committee will be meeting some time after the 11 April meeting of the HSWG and will need to work on those priorities.

REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE 7 MARCH 2011 MEETING REALLOCATING HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) FUNDS

Chairman Gillespie reported on the 7 March meeting that was held to perform a time sensitive reallocation of funds. The requests concerned were:

- 97067U09 (Silver Shield)
- 97067U10 (Silver Shield)
- 9706HL9 (Mass Fatality)

There were two projects that were impacted – Silver Shield and the Mass Fatality project. The Chairman asked the Silver Shield project manager (Ms. Michelle Belmont) to provide background on the requests to the committee.

Ms. Michelle Belmont stated that the requests resulted from a detailed project review that, combined, saved a total of \$114,000. The changes allow for better project oversight and the approval allowed for the completion of the IT system backup.

Mr. Bohl asked if the \$114,000 was all UASI or some other combination of funding sources.

Ms. Belmont indicated the money was all from the UASI program.

After a brief discussion concerning if the Committee should vote to recommend approval of the reallocation requests Chairman Gillespie asked if there were any further comments on the changes. Hearing no further comments he entertained a motion to approve the changes to the three projects. Mr. Terry Bohl made the motion and Ms. Carolyn Levering seconded it. The motion passed unanimously and the committee elected to recommend approval of the three reallocation requests to the full commission at their next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gillespie asked whether or not there was any public comment. Hearing no other Public Comment Chairman Gillespie entertained a motion for adjournment. Dr. Carrison made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Stan Smith, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting notes completed by Larry Casey, for questions call (702) 486-0797 or email LFCasey@dhs.nv.gov