



Minutes Nevada Homeland Security Commission Workshop

ATTENDANCE

DATE	5 April 2011
TIME	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
LOCATION	NHP Southern Cmd, 4615 W Sunset Las Vegas DEM, 2478 Fairview, Carson City NV
METHOD	Conference
RECORDER	Larry Casey

Committee Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Sandoval, Chairman	X		
Dr. Dale Carrison, Vice-Chairman	X	Assemblyman John Ocegüera	
Jerry Keller	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Maureen Peckman		Kevin Favreau	X
Andy Flock	X	Karen Burke	X
Robert Fisher	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Bertral Washington	X	Karen Coyne (Pending appointment)	X
Bill Welch	X		
Michael Haley		Greg McCurdy (ILO Sheriff Gillespie)	X
Adam Garcia	X		X
Doug Gillespie			X
Troy Wade	X		
Tom Lozich	X		
		Larry Casey, (Staff)	X
		Glade Myler, (AG rep)	X

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 9:07 am Chairman Sandoval called the meeting to order. Larry Casey called the roll and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Sandoval entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the 1 February 2011 Commission on Homeland Security Meeting. Hearing no comments or requested changes Mr. Jerry Keller motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. James Wright seconded the motion. After a unanimous voice vote the minutes were approved.

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

Noting the absence of Committee Chairman Gillespie Chairman Sandoval asked if anyone could speak to this agenda item. Deputy Chief McCurdy mentioned that he had been at the meeting of the Finance committee and could answer basic questions on the items.

Mr. Glade Myler provided a quick overview of the process that was used to reallocate grant funds and why this is an informational item to inform the Commission of the action taken on 7 March.

Chairman Sandoval noted the absence of signatures on the agreements presented as supporting documentation and asked if these requests had been properly signed. Mr. James Wright (speaking as the approving authority for these requests) stated he would follow this up and make sure proper procedures were followed and signatures obtained.

Chairman Sandoval noted that funds were moved from the personnel category to the equipment category and asked council if this was appropriate (Mr. Myler indicated it was and state that the person who oversees the grants in DEM – Kelli Anderson – had confirmed that in these cases it was appropriate to move funds between categories).

Vice-Chairman Carrison provided a more in depth discussion of the 7 March phone conversation that resulted in this agenda item and how this process was developed to move cost savings in one area to other areas or programs that could use additional funding.

Chairman Sandoval asked for a description of why it was important to shift funds for the Silver Shield project.

Ms. Michelle Belmont (program manager for the Silver Shield program) provided a brief update on the process that lead up to the change request. As part of her taking over the program there was an internal audit to see if funds and processes could be completed more efficiently. The result did not change the scope of the work but it did build in systems to better manage operations. The changes requested were for the purchase of some needed equipment and extend the contract with Urban Environmental Research (UER). Both needed to be accomplished in a short period of time and failure to do them would have a negative impact on the success of the Program.

Chairman Sandoval asked if the equipment mentioned in the request was an “add on” to the equipment purchased in 2008. Ms. Belmont indicated it is additional equipment to that which was purchased in 2008 and improves their capabilities.

After hearing the explanations Chairman Sandoval expressed his concern over the lack of signatures on the requests and asked the Commission if anyone had any questions on this action. A brief discussion occurred where Mr. Wright stated that he was comfortable with the process and would insure the correct signatures were obtained.

Mr. Adam Garcia asked about the \$5,000 in the Mass Fatality program that was shifted from overtime personnel costs in Washoe County to equipment. He was informed that Washoe County Commission will not authorize any overtime payments so the request was made to move these now excess funds to pay for equipment that had originally been included in the program request but had been dropped due to lack of available funds in 2009.

Chairman Sandoval noted the errors in the descriptions on the change request paperwork. He went on to ask Mr. Wright to get the change requests signed so they are accurate. Hearing no further discussion he then called of a motion to approve the requests subject to the acquisition of the proper signatures. Vice-Chairman Carrison made the motion with Mr. Tom Lozich seconding it. After a unanimous voice vote the motion was approved.

REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE 29 MARCH 2011 MEETING OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP (HSWG) AND SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Vice-Chairman Carrison provided a briefing on the 29 March Finance Committee meeting and some comment on the work of the HSWG. He expressed a concern that some items were being submitted as projects that were rejected as not meeting the Commission's goals in previous years are coming back with this year's list of programs. Some of the new programs are outside the priorities. The Finance Committee asked the HSWG to take a solid look at those programs to see if they meet the guidance from the Commission. Currently we are scheduled to meet with the HSWG on 11 April and we will take another look at how the programs are maintaining the priorities.

REPORT FROM THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (CI) COMMITTEE –

CPT Brett Primas, Chairman Critical Infrastructure Committee, provided a report and spreadsheet on some initial work on prioritizing sectors of CI. The spreadsheet is a starting point and needs to be refined. Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR) is an important part of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). CI/KR is a key factor that drives the amount of HSGP funding.

CPT Primas talked briefly about the spreadsheet. It provides an initial idea where priorities should be placed. The question the CI committee has is where to go from here; the next step will be to expand the study to get a more complete picture of CI in Nevada. He recalled that because of improper identification and reporting of CI Nevada almost lost their UASI status. Because of this it is important to not lose sight of how important CI is to Nevada.

He then went on to state the steps he would be taking as the new Chairman of the committee:

- The committee will take CI/KR seriously – the committee has to be more involved in providing guidance on what is important to our communities.
- Make sure the data used for this information is a larger cross section of stakeholders that represent all 18 sectors of CI from all areas of the state.
- Identify and define the interdependencies such as those between physical CI locations and how it crosses over with Cyber and the utilities.
- Merge the current threat stream and how it relates to the US and more specifically to Nevada. This will have to show how it ties to our CI/KR funds and how well we are using them to counter these threats.
- Recommend a sustainable program for Silver Shield and increase the stakeholder participation.

Some key dates for the committee:

- 15 April – this is when the Data Call input is completed. We can take that information and see how this matches up with this material.
- 17 May – this is the next date of the CI committee. We will be assigning out tasks so we can move forward.
- 7 June – is the next meeting on the Commission. From here on in every meeting you will be getting an update on where the CI committee is at regarding these goals.
- By August 2011 we are planning on producing the first annual report on CI for the Commission.

Chairman Sandoval asked about the current make up of the committee. CPT Primas discussed who the current members are and what they do. He stated they are looking for ways to reach out to more representation from both private and public sectors.

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF LEGISLATION PENDING BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE

Bob Fisher, Chairman Legislative and By-Laws Committee, distributed a quick one page lobbying strategy. He talked about the process that had been followed up to this date. He noted that the Founding Fathers never considered a situation where sharing information in the private sector

means you also share that information in the public sector.

The ACLU has expressed a strong opinion against this bill. When we started this process we also included them in the process and have been very transparent with them. As for their questions on the language of the Bill they are doing their job and we are doing ours.

This process started a year and a half ago and since then we have gone over this bill line by line. He stated his understanding that when it gets to the Legislative Council Bureau they will craft it into language for a bill.

We did notice there is a fiscal note attached to this bill. There are no costs to Nevada in this bill and are working on getting the fiscal note removed.

Besides the transparency with the ACLU we also worked closely with the Tribes. They had originally asked for a voting member but because they are sovereign nations it was felt that they would fall into the same category as the Federal Government and as such would be ex-officio members.

As it is this bill is filled with compromises. Currently the bill is not scheduled for a committee hearing. It must pass out of committee by 15 April.

It is important to take into account the concerns from the Governor's office. Mr. Fisher noted that the bill has the support from the AG's office. Mr. Fisher suggested Mr. Keller open any testimony in committee and outlined a strategy for statements supporting the bill.

Chairman Sandoval asked about section 26 of the bill and wanted to know the background on removing the Governor's review from NRS 239C. It was noted there were some additional items noted in the bill by other parties and it was agreed that the Chairman and Mr. Fisher would work those out.

REPORT ON SPARTAN PROJECT

Mr. Chris Smith, Washoe County School District Emergency Manager, provided a briefing on the status of the project.

He started by answering the question "What is SPARTAN". Basically it is a Nevada Homeland Security Commission Investment in the Schools/Communities in Nevada. It is designed to bring people together and establish a common language. SPARTAN has a direct impact on safety and security for schools and by extension all children in the State of Nevada.

The process followed a series of steps:

- Create Task Force – Members from Public Safety and Education Community.
- Develop Online State of Nevada School District Emergency Planning Guide.
- Conduct Regional School Emergency Management Trainings in Las Vegas, Elko, Reno, and Eureka
- Conduct Statewide School Emergency Conferences in Las Vegas, Reno.

Mr. Smith showed some of the on line products that came out of these meetings.

SPARTAN involvement includes:

- All Counties in the State were represented in this initiative.
- Emergency Medical, Law Enforcement and Fire Officers were involved in every event.
- School Principals, Teachers, Parents and Central Office Staff involvement.
- State Representation from Public Health, Public Safety, Transportation, Education.
- FEMA – Emergency Management Institute

Currently we are in a sustainment phase for this project which includes:

- Training School Districts / First Responders to use Online Plan.
- Task Force Members to become instructors of FEMA School Emergency Training
- Statewide Conference on School Emergency Management – Las Vegas & Reno
 - June 14-15, Las Vegas
 - July 26-27, Reno

Mr. Jerry Keller stated this is exactly the kind of plan and coordination that we need in Nevada. He went on to thank Mr. Smith for his concise briefing.

Mr. Fisher stated that he was at the meeting in Eureka and observed there was a wide range of participants who participated in an extraordinarily successful meeting.

REPORT ON THE LATEST FUSION LIAISON OFFICER (FLO) TRAINING VIDEO AND PROGRAM

Mr. Ross Bryant, UNLV Institute for Security Studies, gave a briefing on the series of training video's and what they are designed to do (supply a quick 10 minute training package to members of the transportation industry on how to recognize a terrorist threat).

After his briefing the DVD was played for the Commission.

Mr. Fisher asked what the availability will be for these videos. (Answer – they will be on the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center –SNCTC – website as well as being distributed to the Nevada taxi-cab authority and be available to shuttle bus and limousine companies all over Nevada.)

Mr. Garcia wanted to know if the videos would be available in multiple languages. (Answer – each video has an advisory panel who work on the content of the videos. In the past the DVDs have both an English and Spanish version. In this case the panel stated that the target audience would have to speak English so there is no plan for additional languages.)

BRIEFING ON THE REQUIREMENTS TO EQUIP ANIMAL DISEASE AND FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY.

Dr. Keith Forbes, Veterinarian, Nevada Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory (NADFSL), provided an update briefing on the laboratory. This item was requested during the November 2010 Commission meeting and Dr. Forbes presented a background brief and the estimated costs of what it would take to equip/supply the NADFSL lab in order to be eligible for possible re-certification by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory system.

The lab would be located in Sparks Nevada. Is is part of the Division of Animal Industry and it operates with 4 full time employees. The Silver Shield program has listed the Lab as a piece Critical Infrastructure. It originally was created to serve livestock industry and companion animals but has expanded into public health (zoonotic diseases). Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases transmitted between animals and people. Animals act as sentinels for human diseases so ongoing surveillance of animal diseases is crucial for predicting disease outbreaks in humans. Currently it is the only animal disease laboratory in the state. It also is the only rabies lab in Nevada.

Nevada has areas where anthrax occurs naturally. The Lab maintains a Select Agent repository which houses the natural strains of anthrax endemic to Nevada. When we have outbreaks we compare the involved strain of anthrax with our repository strains to determine whether the outbreaks are caused by a strain native to Nevada or by a possible bioterrorism strain. We lost our certification in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) due to lack of funding.

The Lab performs > 31,000 tests/year and the cost to the citizens of Nevada to maintain the laboratory services and state veterinarian's office is \$1.11/ Nevada household/year based on FY2010 budget.

Dr. Forbes went on to discuss the most damaging animal diseases (foot and mouth/rift valley fever) as well as the costs associated with losses incurred during outbreaks of these diseases.

The proposal he has prepared for the HSWG will fund the purchase of a 7500 Fast RTPCR machine, maintenance contract, and testing reagents/supplies (DNA probes, primers, etc.). This would enable the lab to test for high impact diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian and Swine Influenza, Exotic Newcastle Disease, Classical Swine Fever, and African Swine Fever. Some of these diseases have zoonotic potential. The costs associated with this proposal are:

- 7500 Fast RTPCR machine- \$49,500.00
- Maintenance contract (yearly) \$5590.00
- Testing reagents/supplies \$8400.00

TOTAL \$63,490.00

Chairman Sandoval asked what happens now without a certified lab. (Answer – The samples have to be sent out of state to Iowa which changed the turn around time from 3 to 10+ days).

Mr. Keller asked if Dr. Forbes office can provide the annual \$14,000 annual maintenance costs for the equipment? (Answer – The intent is to have the costs covered by fees charged for their testing services – this worked in the past, it really depends on how many tests they have to perform).

Mr Andy Flock asked if there was a way to pay some extra on the start up and get individuals certified as maintenance technicians. (Answer – He was not aware of that opportunity but indicated he would look into it).

Chairman Sandoval asked for a motion from the Commission to the HSWG on making the funding for this project a priority. Vice-Chairman Carrison made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Troy Wade. Hearing no further discussion the Chair called for a vote and the motion to make the funding of the NADFSL lab a priority for 2011 HSGP funding. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Sandoval called for public comment.

Mr. Terry Bohl, on behalf of the Nevada Tribes, wanted to thank the Commission for all the work with the tribes they have been supporting. Currently there are two major projects underway that will allow the state and the Tribes to work much more closely. He mentioned specifically the participation of Mr. Wright and DEM as well as the efforts of the Chairman to improve the relationship with the tribes.

Mr. Bob Fisher thanked the Governor for taking the Chairmanship of this committee. It is important to Nevada to have a Governor who has taken a direct interest in Homeland Security.

Hearing no further comments from the public Chairman Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Carrison made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Keller and after a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned.

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