



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Friday, March 6, 2015	
	TIME	9:30 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Highway Patrol – Southern Command Training Room A-105 4615 W. Sunset Road Las Vegas, Nevada 89118	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Laura Bucheit	
Chuck Allen	X	Karen Burke	X
Robert Cassell	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Robert Fisher	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Adam Garcia	X	Christopher Smith	X
Warren Gilbert	X	Pat Spearman - Senator	
Frank Gonzales	X		
Ikram Khan	X		
Joseph Lombardo	X	Samantha Ladich (AG Rep)	X
Tom Lozich	X	Karen Hall (Analyst/Staff)	X
William McDonald	X		
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Troy Wade			
Bill Welch	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Brian Sandoval, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security called meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (NDEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary in both the northern and southern venues. No commentary was presented in either venue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS) meeting held February 13, 2015. Motion presented by Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants, with a second provided by Frank Gonzales, NV Energy. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously. Governor Sandoval complimented administrative staff for their efforts in effectively summarizing business conducted on the minutes presented for approval.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval inquired if thank you letters have been prepared for those entities or organizations presenting information to the Commission, specifically Ghost Systems, LLC, and the Department of Homeland Security. Administrative staff assured the Governor that such letters will be going out to both entities.

5. REQUEST TO REALLOCATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) FUNDS

Chief Christopher Smith, NDEM/HS briefed the Commission on the recommendation put forth by the Finance Committee on March 2, 2015 to approve all three projects requests as presented. Those projects are noted below:

NCHS-112: City of Las Vegas Fire and Rescue - \$66,577.52.

- Project requesting to move cost savings on personnel/planning to equipment/training for FFY2013 Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) program. This change request is to procure FirstWatch Community Ambulance Software, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE)/Commercial Chemical/Hazard, Southern Nevada Mass Causality Incident Go-Kits, and Heavy Rescue Air Monitoring Equipment for Confined Space Air Monitoring in addition to providing a Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness Course at University Medical Center Hospital.

NCHS-113 De-Obligation: State of Nevada, Department of Administration and Enterprise IT Services - \$91,200.00.

- Project requesting a scope change to eliminate a full-time position and move additional funding to consultants/contracts in addition to a de-obligation of \$39,652.00 from FFY2013 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) grant funds for re-obligation.

NCHS-114 Re-Obligation: City of Mesquite - \$62,985.00.

- Project requesting \$62,985.00 of de-obligated funding from FFY2013 for an upgrade to a communication radio system to join the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's radio system.

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to approve the projects as presented. Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants, motioned to approve. Tom Lozich, MGM International, seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

6. UPDATE ON THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP). REVIEW OF COMMISSION PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2015 PRIORITIES.

Chief Smith, NDEM/HS presented the Commission with an update on the HSGP, review of prior year Commission priorities, instruction on the development of FFY2015 priorities, and lastly a report on the results of the Commission's FFY2015 priority rankings. The presentation including the following highlights:

- An overview of the Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA), State Preparedness Report (SPR), current year grant guidance, and how efforts tie to National Preparedness;
- Federal versus State allocations received in FFY2014;
- FFY2015 Urban Area Security Initiative award uncertainty, noting the considerable efforts local, state, and congressional delegations provided to convey the importance of these funds for the Las Vegas urban area;
- An overview of HSGP timelines from 2012 to present emphasizing grant application and award projected dates;
- Emphasis on aligning priorities based on core capabilities, the SPR and THIRA, establishing FFY2015 priorities, and efforts to be made by both the Homeland Security Working Group and Urban Area Working Group in supplying recommendations to the Commission;
- An overview of the meeting timeline;
- An overview of the top funded projects from 2007 through present noting how the Commission has moved to supporting projects that align with core capabilities;
- An overview of the percentage change in HSGP funding awarded federally versus to Nevada from 2006 to present noting a downward overall trend;
- An overview of the FFY2015 Commission's priorities selection process including the inclusion of Commissioner's rankings and explanation of the inverse rank method used to determine rankings;

Governor Sandoval opened discussion on the Commission's ranking results for FFY2015. Considerable discussion ensued as summarized below:

- Karen Burke, Transportation Safety Administration inquired if there had been any direction from DHS on what their priorities will be in FFY2015, with Chief Smith indicating not as yet, but he is not expecting major changes. Ms. Burke also indicated that her views on what the priorities are for Nevada have changed based on the needs of the state;
- Ret. General Frank Gonzales, NV Energy spoke to changes in how rankings have evolved from project-based to core capability. He wants to ensure that projects are directly tied to outcome. Chief Smith indicated that by going through this process, the Commission is using factored scoring that sends a message that the Commission expects investment justifications to support the core capabilities chosen by the Commission;
- Robert Fisher and Dr. Khan inquired if Nevada has seen significant decline in funding as compared to other states, with Chief Smith indicating Nevada is experiencing similar decline as are other like-states. Mr. Fisher also urged Commissioners to attend a HSWG meeting, noting the process is impressive;
- Director Adam Garcia, University of Nevada Reno emphasized the importance of a standard credentialing process noting the importance of such a process to the state in addition the areas of interdiction and disruption on school campuses;

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- Dr. Warren Gilbert spoke to mass care and its importance in his career, noting how threats have changed throughout the years noting that the priorities lean toward prevention. There are very real threats, and he wants to ensure disaster plans are updated;
- Considerable Commission discussion led by Governor Sandoval on the Commission's authority to not only review recommendations from the HSWG, but to make changes to those recommendations if necessary. Chief Smith provided a scenario in which the Finance Committee may not recommend a project for funding as it sits outside the priorities given; emphasizing the Commission also has the purview to not approve any project it feels does not align with the needs of the state. Discussion ensued on the compressed timeline making it nearly impossible to go back through the process with the Working Group, Finance Committee, and ultimately the Commission. Chief Smith spoke to remedies of that situation including SAA review in looking at those projects already put forth through the process. It was determined that the Commission has the decisive authority to approve project funding requests which best align with the needs of Nevada in support of the HSGP during this process.
- Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department inquired if the HSWG membership best represents the entire state, with Chief Smith indicating that the Executive Order includes membership from city, county, rural, governmental, and private industries. It is a well-rounded group.
- The top five capabilities/priorities, as ranked by the Commission for FFY2015, were determined as follows:
 - #1 - Cybersecurity
 - #2 - Intelligence and Information Sharing
 - #3 - Public Information and Warning
 - #4 - Operational Coordination
 - #5 - Mass Care Services

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to approve the rankings of the Commission's priorities for FFY2015. Dr. Khan motioned to approve, with Ret. General Gonzales seconding the motion. No further questions were discussed. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

- Chief Smith emphasized that although Cybersecurity ranked as the number one priority, the state in fact has other needs that require funding as well. The cost of a project is not necessarily indicative of the overall impact of the project to the state.
- Governor Sandoval spoke to documents providing showing how monies have been allocated throughout the years, noting that the Working Group should not have to feel obligated to fund proportionally the priorities established by the Commission. The process works.
- Discussion ensued noting that the priorities established at this meeting will be emphasized and communicated to the HSWG and the UASI moving forward in the process at the request of the Governor.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary. Dr. Warren Gilbert requested an updated list of Homeland Security related acronyms. Commission staff responded and will provide as requested. Robert Fisher inquired if there would be any follow-up with legislators to ensure there is a common understanding of the process involved with vetting projects and creating priorities. Governor Sandoval indicated that the legislators who are members of the Commission have been historically involved in these

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processes, deferring to the fact that Senator Spearman was heavily engaged in the Legislation process currently in addition to noting that there has not been an appointment by the Assembly to fill the current open seat on the Commission. Governor Sandoval will reach out to the Assembly Leader.

8. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion presented by Dr. Gilbert, with a second provided by Dr. Khan. All were in favor with no opposition, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.