



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Friday, March 21, 2014	
	TIME	9:30 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Legislative Counsel Bureau Grant Sawyer Building – Room 4401 555 E. Washington Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Karen Burke	X
Michael Haley	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Laura Bucheit	X	James Healey – Assemblyman	X
Robert Fisher		Chris Ipsen	X
Adam Garcia	X	Christopher Smith	X
Dr. Warren Gilbert. M.D.	X	Pat Spearman - Senator	X
Doug Gillespie	X		
Frank Gonzales	X	Karen Hall (Staff)	X
Alfreida Jake	X	Samantha Ladich (AG Rep)	X
Dr. Ikram Khan	X		
Tom Lozich	X		
William McDonald	X		
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins			
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Troy Wade	X		
Bertral Washington	X		
Bill Welch			

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. Angela Krutsinger, Nevada Hospital Association informed the body that she was sitting in for Bill Welch, with instruction from the Governor that Ms. Krutsinger could not participate as a voting member. No public commentary in either location.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS) meeting held February 28, 2014. Chief Bertral Washington, Clark County Fire Department asked for a correction on Page 5, Paragraph 3, second sentence. Correction is to insert verb making sentence whole. Motion to approve minutes with correction was presented by Dr. Khan, Quality Care Consultants, with a second provided by Sheriff Doug Gillespie, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval brought to the attention of the Commission a letter dated March 6, 2014 authored by Barb Groff, Chair of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) indicating that full accreditation has been given to the State of Nevada. The letter was read into record, with Governor Sandoval praising both Chief Christopher Smith, (NDEM/HS) and Bud Marshall, NDEM for their efforts in this endeavor.

5. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA NETWORK (SONNet) COMMITTEE

Sheriff Michael Haley, SONNet Committee Chair presented a detailed overview to the Commission of the historical events, efforts and upcoming actions that must be taken moving forward as a result of the wireless broadband communications initiatives involving FirstNet and Executive Order 2014-01 establishing the Nevada Public Safety Communications Committee (NPSCC). That Committee will absorb the duties of the SONNet body and the Nevada Communications Steering Committee (NCSC) to better align the state to address important communications initiatives.

Sheriff Haley stressed the enormous challenge in furthering efforts in communication despite grant funding reiterating the work of SONNet's efforts to enhance Nevada's wireless communications network which will improve interoperability among federal, state, regional, local, tribal, and public safety agencies to ensure the effectiveness and safety of Nevada's residents and visitors. SONNet's primary responsibility was to develop a process and planned structure for Nevada to follow in moving forward with the First Responders Network (FirstNet) initiative. Positive relationships have been built with FirstNet, and Nevada is highly respected in that community. Workshops with the Department of Homeland Security and Office of Emergency Communications in addition to regular meeting have kept Nevada at the forefront in this process. Emphasis was placed on planning, education, and data collection ensuring the governing structure is adequate to fulfill Nevada's role in the upcoming consultation with FirstNet. With the new EO addressing the necessity for the implementation of the Act, the role of the NPSCC will continue to move Nevada forward.

Sheriff Haley also shared with the Commission the Preliminary Consultation and State Plan Process Chart noting the parallel action items which will bring the state to a final plan to be presented to the Governor for review and discussion with FirstNet. Emphasis was placed on the numerous tasks which need to be completed between now, and prior to, meeting with FirstNet. The Sheriff stressed the importance of the new NPSCC in working simultaneously in these areas to keep the Governor fully informed of the condition of the State as to whether to opt in or out of the process. Sheriff Haley asked that SONNet be dissolved and that the Governor move forward with populating the new NPSCC as quickly as possible.

Governor Sandoval thanked Sheriff Haley for his leadership and hard work with this process as well as all of those involved. No questions presented from Commission. At the request of the Governor, Sheriff Haley motioned to dissolve SONNet as a committee of the Commission.

Sheriff Haley presented to motion to dissolve SONNet as result of EO 2014-01, with Sheriff Gillespie seconding the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

6. UPDATE ON THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE (CIC) AND REQUEST TO ALLOW A CLOSED SESSION OF THE JUNE 2, 2014 CIC MEETING.

Chief Washington, CIC Chair, thanked the CIC Committee as a whole for their efforts to date in addition to speaking to the retirement of member Steve Moyer. Chief Washington also spoke to the CIC's efforts to acquire feedback from federal partners in relation to critical infrastructure needs in Nevada. Emphasis was placed on efforts in the training area such as the Cajon Pass exercise and the efforts of Irene Navis, Clark County Office of Emergency Management on the State, Local, Tribal, and the State, Local, Tribal, Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC) efforts.

Chief Washington spoke to the Nevada Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan (NCIPP) status indicating it is being aligned with the national plan. The plan will be reviewed at the next CIC meeting. Chief Washington recommended that priorities set by the Commission be included in the NCIPP. Chief Washington also asked for a closed session at the June 2, 2014 CIC meeting to hear information from the federal government. Samantha Ladich, Senior Deputy Attorney General referred to NRS 239C requirements. Governor Sandoval asked for a motion to allow the CIC to conduct a closed session pursuant to NRS 239C.140. Senator Pat Spearman, Nevada State Senate motioned to approve, with Dr. Khan seconding the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

7. UPDATE ON STATEWIDE INITIATIVES FOR CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP), AND PUBLIC WARNING/PUBLIC INFORMATION (PW/PI)

Dr. Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County briefed the Commission on the continued closure of capability gaps, progress made, and remaining challenges on the Statewide COOP and PW/PI project. The presentation included a background of statewide initiatives and methodologies, what both the COOP and Continuity of Government (COG) plans address, Nevada's priorities, a linear view of this multi-year initiative, and the fact that this project covers capabilities that span all mission areas. 2014 project deliverables were discussed in addition to complex issues being addressed by this project. Dr. Kenneston also briefly touched on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) schematic showing the flow of information from alerting authorities to the public. Regional workshops and associated training will continue in 2014 with a plans-writer available to assist with existing plans including state and tribal plans.

Robert Fisher, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nevada Broadcasters Association thanked Dr. Kenneston for his efforts in this area noting the coordination between Washoe County and Mr. Fisher's agency in Washington D.C., to meet with congress members to push public warning and the importance of television and radio to be at the forefront.

8. DISCUSSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CYBER SECURITY COMMITTEE UNDER THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Chris Ipsen, Nevada Department of Administration presented a detailed overview on the request to establish a Cyber Security Committee under the Commission. Mr. Ipsen noted the extent to which all people use technology is fundamental to the way people live, and it's important this technology is protected and resilient. In order to do this, a clear strategic plan must be in place to make intelligent business decisions, and a Cyber Security Committee could address complex problems while providing technical answers. Under the Commission, this committee could:

- Create a statewide cyber security plan;
- Recommending suggestions for grant funding based on state objectives;
- Report on the posture of the State to create measurable metrics;
- Enhance understanding around cyber security by communicating in non-technical terms;
- Improve cyber resilience of the state by coordinating cyber professionals and entities;
- Improve sensitive communications through the authority of the Commission.

The Governor thanked Mr. Ipsen for this request, and supports the development of this Committee. Dr. Khan and Mr. Ipsen discussed briefly the list of agencies to be coordinated and timeline for the creation of this committee. Also discussed were challenges in sharing information between entities. Sheriff Haley, Commission Vice-Chair, Washoe County Sheriff's Office supported the initiative in addition to General Frank Gonzales, Nevada National Guard and NV Energy presenting concern about having the right people, Chief Information Officers both in public and private sector willing to work on this issue. Governor Sandoval noted support by the Commission with a request for a more formal presentation in the future. Chief Washington presented concern about overlap with CIC focus on cyber-related issues. Mr. Ipsen was mindful of the collaboration required. Chief Smith spoke to a national committee on critical infrastructure which he chairs, and that committee does have a stand-alone cyber committee due to the depth of the conversations. As an organization, splitting cyber and CI gave dual focus while allowing the technical side to improve the platform of interaction. Senator Pat Spearman, Nevada Senate is in full support of this and wants to acknowledge the redundancy needed to ensure what's put in place for planning will not be cheap. Cyber security is expensive in respect to people, equipment, and systems. Governor Sandoval requested that Mr. Ipsen work with Chief Washington and make a presentation to the Commission in the summer of 2014.

9. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP (HSWG) PROCESS

Chief Smith presented a brief discussion on ideas surrounding how the HSWG and Finance Committee interact, and asked if changing that process would be beneficial moving forward. Chief Smith spoke to the historical events creating the HSWG and the current process in place. As grant funding diminishes, the need for efficiency increases. The question was posed if the Finance Committee as it's currently structured, or restructured, could take on the responsibility of the HSWG including state, public, private, and tribal representation. The current process is labor intensive for a dramatically reduced amount of money. Chief Smith opened up the discussion to share thoughts on if this process should stay the same or if changes need to be made.

Governor Sandoval inquired if this meant the dissolution of the HSWG in lieu of the Finance Committee taking over the responsibility. Chief Smith said that could be a possibility. Sheriff Gillespie indicated that he thinks the process currently works well, with the request to not eliminate HSWG but to amending membership to the Finance Committee to ensure Finance Committee membership has no investment in the outcome of decisions made by the Finance Committee. Sheriff Gillespie also said that amending the HSWG membership as well if necessary. Sheriff Haley referred to past discussions on having the Finance Committee over the HSWG and the confidence gathered with having the recommendations given to the Finance Committee by the HSWG. Chief Smith indicated that DHS considers what Nevada does with its grant fund process to be highly democratic. Not all states have this transparency. The value of the HSWG cannot be stressed enough even with the cost. Financial and time constraints led to this discussion, and the Governor feels it was appropriate to bring this question to the Commission to explore possibilities. Chief Smith indicated his appreciation for both Sheriff's comments. Dr. Khan inquired if the limited funding available to support the HSWG is causing any issues with productivity, with Chief

Smith indicating that technology improvements and venue changes have allowed a strong product to be produced. Governor Sandoval asked Chief Smith to meet with Sheriff Gillespie to explore possible options moving forward. For this grant period in 2014, the HSWG will continue as is with no changes.

10. UPDATE ON THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP). REVIEW OF COMMISSION PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2014 PRIORITIES

Chief Smith briefed the Commission on a review of the HSGP and review of Commission priorities for FY 2014. Emphasis was placed on the grant and its requirement to support those projects which are related to terrorism-related issues and prepare for threats and hazards posing the greatest risk to the nation and Nevada. Grant guidance requirements were read into record. The presentation included federal budget allocation status, timing of requirements for grant applications, alignment of processes, summary of top funding projects by year, the FY 2014 priorities selection process, and provision or stipulations to consider in ranking priorities. Chief Smith also spoke to the great effort by the urban area in moving the Las Vegas back onto the funding list.

Discussion moved to the ranking of priorities by the Commission body, with membership reading into record their own individual ranking sheets which had been analyzed to identify the top priorities for FFY 2014. Due to the decreased amount of funding, Governor Sandoval asked to limit the rankings to the top five priorities which represented the full spectrum of capabilities. The Commission agreed on using the top 5 priorities established for the FFY 2014 grant process, and they were as follows:

- Priority 1: Cybersecurity (Mission area: Protection)
- Priority 2: Intelligence and Information Sharing (Mission area: Prevention)
- Priority 3: Public Information and Warning (Mission area: ALL)
- Priority 4: Operational Coordination (Mission area: ALL)
- Priority 5: Operational Communications (Mission area: Response)

A motion to approve the rankings as shown was presented by Dr. Khan, with a second presented by Chief Washington. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval asked for public commentary in both venues. The Governor complimented the Commissioners for their input and engagement in this process.

12. ADJOURN

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