



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Friday, April 15, 2016	
	TIME	9:30 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Legislative Counsel Bureau Grant Sawyer Building – Room #4401 555. E. Washington Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Derek Armstrong	X
Joseph Lombardo	X	Laura Bucheit	
Chuck Allen	X	Karen Burke	X
Gregory Cassell		Caleb Cage	X
Lisa Christensen	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Robert Fisher	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Adam Garcia		Michael Roberson	X
Frank Gonzales	X		
Mark Hutchison		Samantha Ladich – Sr. DAG	X
Ikram Khan		Karen Hall (Analyst/Staff)	X
Tom Lozich	X		
William McDonald			
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 (Commission) 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. Battalion Chief and Bomb Squad Commander Todd Moss, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District (TDFPD) provided commentary on the

necessity of consistent funding awards to bomb squad projects in Nevada. Noting his willingness to work with the Commission, Chief Moss presented a request for a reconsideration of core capability rankings in addition to asking for funding to be applied to bomb squad projects as a priority. Concern was presented on the lack of funding potentially available due to projects not reducing initial requests, or in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) projects utilizing monies that could be applied to this statewide resource. As a possible solution, Chief Moss offered the suggestion of rotating funds allowing for new and innovative projects. As an asset to the state, the consolidated bomb squad comprised of law enforcement and firefighting personnel from Reno, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Sparks Police Department, Elko Police Department, TDFPD, and Douglas County Sheriff's Office in addition to representatives from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) serve as a taskforce providing service for 13 of Nevada's 17 counties covering 70,000 square miles and servicing over 6,000 residents. The role is part-time, with members having primary roles in law enforcement and firefighting. Bomb squad members are a limited and highly specialized resource with skillsets specific to unique equipment and readiness.

Governor asked for a copy of Chief Moss's remarks for the record, with the Chief indicating he would provide that information to the Governor.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Commission meeting held February 12, 2016. Motion to approve with no changes was provided by Richard Perkins, The Perkins Group, and a second provided by Tom Lozich, MGM Resorts International. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval spoke to his privilege and honor of attending the recent deployment ceremony for the Nevada National Guard's (NNG) 422 Signal Battalion leaving for service in Iraq and Kuwait. This is the second deployment of this battalion in the past five years consisting of up to 200 personnel. The Governor spoke to the sacrifice of this service and the families of the service personnel. Secondly, the NNG has received the designation as a modular firefighting system through a nationally competitive process allowing Nevada to use the additional resources of the NNG including C-130 aircraft. The unit will be based out of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport as early as the end of the 2016 fire season, and will be available to assist with firefighting activities in the lower 48 states, Canada, and Mexico. Photos were shared with the meeting participants of the type of aircraft firefighting efforts this unit would provide. The Governor complimented the efforts and skill of those individuals who were able to bring this capability to Nevada.

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

Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Finance Committee Vice-Chairman provided an overview on a project by project basis on NCHS-117 through NCHS-122 indicating all projects, as presented, and with clarification, were approved and now recommended for action by the Commission. The only change indicated was the correction of a typo on project NCHS-117 indicating the project was a UASI project. Kelli Anderson, NDEM, read into record that project NCHS-117 was a State Homeland Security Project (SHSP) change request. Governor Sandoval inquired if the Finance Committee's recommendations were unanimous and grant compliant, with Sheriff Lombardo and Kelli Anderson indicating that was the case.

Motion to approve the Finance Committee's recommendations to fund HSGP projects NCHS-117 through 122, as presented, was provided by Tom Lozich, with a second provided by Sheriff Chuck Allen, Washoe County Sheriff's Office. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

6. REVIEW AND UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2016 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) PROCESS AND ALLOCATIONS

Chief John Steinbeck, Urban Area Administrator (UAA) provided a brief overview of the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) efforts noting the spirit of cooperation between agencies in funding over half of the 20 projects submitted. Chief Steinbeck read into record those projects that were recommended for funding and the funding allocations applied to each project in addition to complimenting the efforts of several project managers in working together to identify the highest need for the community. There were no questions asked about the presented process.

Chief Caleb Cage, State Administrative Agent (SAA) provided a brief overview of the Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) process noting as well the efforts of all involved in recommending funding for 20 statewide projects. Chief Cage read into record the approved project rankings and project funding recommendations in addition to providing information on the rankings given by the Cyber Security Committee and the Nevada Public Safety Communications Committee. Chief Cage and Chief Steinbeck thanked the working groups, project managers, and NDEM staff for their participation in the process.

Governor Sandoval spoke to the core capability rankings made by the Commission and how the Commission now sees the projects presented before them for approval as a culmination of the process. The Governor presented concern over good projects that fell below the funding line, and Chief Cage indicated that there could be the possibility of deobligated funding in the future to help offset those projects that may not have been fully funded or funded at all.

Richard Perkins presented concern over the three sustainment projects falling below the line that, and new projects remaining above the red line, with specific reference

to whether the projects that fell below the red line could continue without funding. Chief Cage indicated that the question was asked of all project managers should funding not be available, could they continue with the project. The answer often was no. Chief Cage reiterated the concern brought up earlier by Chief Moss in regards to the bomb squad project and the loss of reimbursement for non-funded reimbursable budget items. Chief Steinbeck spoke to how working groups can assist with those projects not making the cut by looking for another funding source to maintain service or by combining projects if necessary.

Robert Fisher spoke to money that is unused in previous funding years, expressing hope that there can be a better system of accountability through the provision of a progress report on projects to indicate how money is being (or not being) expensed to avoid deobligation. Chief Cage agreed, indicating one of the challenges with this lengthy and work intensive process is that it requires projects to fit into the paradigm of the Commission's core capability selection which limits accountability with funding year to year as well as limits strategic development of certain projects. Chief Cage would like to present an update of the projects as they develop in future Commission meetings. Governor Sandoval inquired if these projects will improve the capability gaps shown on the current Nevada Heatmap, with Chief Cage indicating that the heatmap is a tool to show improvement, however, there again lies the challenge with the process wherein there is limited funding from years past, and the majority of funding is eaten up by sustainment requests.

Chief Cage and Chief Steinbeck would like to make recommendations on changes to the process to increase capability in the state. Governor Sandoval stressed the ranking process from the Commission is important. Sheriff Lombardo inquired on the check and balance of the current system as the grant year progresses, with Chief Cage indicating that updates on fiscal year spending are provided as a standard Commission and Finance Committee agenda item. Having a "by project" update at future meetings was suggested. Chief Steinbeck offered further explanation on deobligation of funding stemming from failure to complete the mission, but also where jurisdictions were able to find a less expensive method to complete the mission.

7. REPORT ON THE APRIL 7, 2016, MEETING OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON HOMELAND SECURITY FINANCE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FFY 2016 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) PROJECTS

Sheriff Lombardo provided an overview of the recommendations provided by the Finance Committee regarding HSGP funding for FFY 2016. While in support of the HSWG's recommendations, there were two questions presented throughout the process that Sheriff Lombardo wished to discuss. First, the concern with the amount of funding allocated to the third-ranked HSGP Project titled "Advanced Persistent (Cyber) Threats Project", and a large deobligation of funding from a 2013 associated project. The concern lay with a large deobligation of funding happening again with the 2016 project. Sheriff Lombardo indicated that he would like to see updates on cyber-specific project advancement and use of awarded funds. Secondly, Sheriff Lombardo spoke to the issue of Tribal NIMS and the funding of that project as a

result of reductions within the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center project request and the aforementioned Advanced Persistent (cyber) Threats Project.

Lisa Christensen, Washoe Tribes of Nevada, thanked Sheriff Lombardo and Brian Wilcox, Nevada Department of Administration for their contributions in order to keep Tribal NIMS a viable project for Nevada.

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adopt the 2016 Finance Committee recommendations for HSGP funding as presented. A motion to approve was presented by Richard Perkins, and a second provided by Rosemary Vassiliadis, Clark County. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval called for public commentary. Robert Fisher commented on the new membership of the Commission and the importance of that membership in outreach efforts. Mr. Fisher emphasized the inclusion of increased outreach efforts to the tribal community in Nevada as a result of the Governor's leadership. Governor Sandoval also complimented the legislative member's input to the Commission as a way to share insights during legislative season when there are funding issues.

9. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion presented by Sheriff Lombardo, and a second provided by Robert Fisher. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.