



Meeting Minutes

Governor's Cyber Security Task Force

Attendance		DATE: July 31, 2023	
		TIME: 11:00 AM	
		METHOD: Zoom	
		RECORDER: Sherrean Whipple	
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Tim Robb – Chair Office of the Governor – Director of Strategic Initiatives	X	Jeffrey Lewis – Director of Security & IT Compliance – NV Energy	X
Bob Dehnhardt – Vice Chair Chief - Information Security Officer of the State of Nevada	X	Aakin Patel Division Administrator - Office of Cyber Defense	X
Frank Abella – Chief Information Office for Carson City	X	Brandon Peterson – Assistant VP of Information & Research Computing – NV System of Higher Education	ABS
Paul Embley Representative from the Judicial Branch	X	Sandie Ruybalid Chief IT Manager - Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	X
David Fogerson Chief - Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS)	X	Billy Samuels – Deputy Fire Chief – Clark County Emergency manager	X
Sanford Graves IT Professional I - Representative from the Legislative Branch	ABS	James Wood Technology Project Coordinator - Washoe County Technology Services	ABS
Tim Horgan Chief IT Manager - Representative from the Secretary of State's Office	X	Martin Mueller Reno Tahoe International Airport	X
Dr. Marilyn Delmont Senior Information & Technology Security Manager – Clark County School District	ABS		
Representative			
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General			
Sherrean Whipple – Administrative Assistant			

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Tim Robb, Office of the Governor – Director of Strategic Initiatives, called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean Whipple, Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Tim Robb opened the first period of public comment for discussion.
There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Tim Robb called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the June 30, 2023, Cyber Security Task Force meeting. Billy Samuels, Deputy Fire Chief – Clark County Emergency Manager, motioned to approve the minutes. Brandon Peterson, Assistant Vice-President of Information & Research Computing - Nevada System of Higher Education, seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All others were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed.

4. Remaining Funds from the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

David Fogerson, State Administrative Agent (SAA) and Chief of DEM/HS, reminded the group that at the last meeting, DEM/HS was able to provide a couple million dollars' worth of federal grant money to sub-recipients throughout the state through the state and local cyber security grant program, with a remaining balance of \$318,882.20. Chief Fogerson explained that branch manager for the program, Amanda Jackson, will be reaching out to all the rural emergency managers to see if they can connect with IT departments to use that money, in an attempt to get that money where it's needed most. Chief Fogerson further explained that because the rural communities might not have some of the services that some of the bigger communities have, this was an easier process administratively. Chief Fogerson informed the group that there is another grant process coming out.

Billy Samuels asked if all requirements were met with the previous grants, as well as if the rural's decide not to take advantage of these grants, if they could be put toward the urban areas as well.

David Fogerson explained that there is wiggle room to do so, but DEM/HS wanted to ensure that opportunity went out to the rural's first.

5. Review and Approve Final Cyber Plan

Vice Chair Bob Dehnhardt informed the group that creation of the final plan was a difficult road, with plenty of obstacles in the way. Vice Chair Dehnhardt expressed his gratitude to all that worked on and contributed to the plan.

Deputy Fire Chief Billy Samuels commended the creation of the plan and its creators, noting that it is thorough and in-depth, but expressed concern about the fact that the multi-year plan includes this year's projects. Deputy Fire Chief Samuels suggested the addition of an addendum or an appendix that listed those projects separately.

David Fogerson concurred with Deputy Fire Chief Samuels but explained that Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) required the inclusion of the actual projects, which is why they were included directly in the plan rather than as a separate document.

Chair Robb concurred and suggested providing feedback to the federal government, should there be a way to do so, and also commended the creators of the plan and the plan itself.

Chair Tim Robb called for a motion to approve the final cyber plan. Bob Dehnhardt, Chief Information Security Officer of the State of Nevada, motioned to approve the cyber plan. Paul Embley, Judicial Branch Representative, seconded the motion to approve the cyber plan. All others were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed.

6. Overview of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 SLCGP

Amanda Jackson, DEM/HS, discussed the timeline, noting that it was sent out in the meeting attachments. Ms. Jackson indicated that the Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), normally the first item in the timeline, has not yet been released and that DEM/HS is still waiting for a response from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as to when it will be released. Ms. Jackson next discussed the survey sent out at the end of FY'22 to applicants for the grant requesting their feedback on the application process. Ms. Jackson indicated that although not many responses were received, there were more than expected, and the results of the survey were discussed at an after-action review along with the successes and challenges DEM/HS faced internally. Ms. Jackson informed the group that this feedback will be used to make updates to the application process and to the technical assistance sessions going forward in FY'23. Ms. Jackson next explained that no big changes in 2023 are expected and noted that the application period will run from July 18 through August 18 and is currently available on Zoom grants. Ms. Jackson further indicated that once the NOFO is released, DEM/HS will reach out to sub-applicants regarding any required updates to their application, should there be any big changes with the NOFO. Ms. Jackson next informed the group that the grant technical assistance sessions have begun, with two being held last week, another one scheduled the day following this meeting, as well as another on the 14th of August. Ms. Jackson explained that once the sub-recipient application period closes on August 18, DEM/HS staff will review applications for allowability and interoperability, and that DEM/HS expects this to occur between August 21 and August 25, with the ranking and voting meeting for FY'23 projects scheduled for August 29 at 10:00 am. Ms. Jackson indicated that at this time, the deadline to submit the state application is September 12, but reiterated that because the NOFO has not yet been released, it is possible that the deadline may be pushed back.

David Fogerson added that the grant announcement was sent to Bob Dehnhardt and to Aakin Patel with the request to share it with their biweekly intel update, as well as sent to Las Vegas Metro government cyber security group. Chief Fogerson informed the group that anyone who needs that grant announcement should touch base with Ms. Jackson so as to get the announcement on every possible listserv.

Mr. Brantley, City of Reno, questioned why surveys were only sent out to those who applied, noting that many didn't apply because the rollout was so botched, and indicated that there would likely be feedback regarding the lack of communication and everything else from DEM/HS.

Amanda Jackson explained that the intended audience for the survey was applicants, and it did go out to everyone on the DEM/HS grants listserv, noting that DEM/HS did responses from people that did not apply, who communicated that they felt they did not receive a lot of communication or that the communication didn't match between what they were hearing at meetings and what was being provided by DEM/HS.

7. Public Comment

Chair Tim Robb called for any public comment.

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

Chair Tim Robb adjourned the meeting, and all were in favor of adjournment with no discussion.