



Minutes Nevada Homeland Security Commission

ATTENDANCE

DATE	January 7, 2012
TIME	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
LOCATION	Metropolitan Police Headquarters 400 S. Martin Luther King, Bldg. B Las Vegas, NV 89101
METHOD	Conference
RECORDER	Selby Marks

Committee Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Sandoval, Chairman	X	Christopher B. Smith	X
Michael Haley	X	Assemblyman Horne	X
Maureen Peckman		Senator Lee	X
Andy Flock	X	Kevin Favreau	
Robert Fisher	X	Karen Burke	X
Bertral Washington	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Bill Welch	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Doug Gillespie	X		
Adam Garcia	X		
Dr. Warren Gilbert	X		
Troy Wade	X		
Tom Lozich	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X	Selby Marks, (Staff)	X
		Samantha Ladich, (AG rep)	X

#1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 10:00 am Chairman Sandoval called the meeting to order. Selby Marks called the roll and a quorum was established.

#2. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman thanked the members for their attendance at this special meeting and wished them all a Happy New Year.

#3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Sandoval asked if there was any public comment and hearing none moved to the next item on the agenda.

#4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Welch wanted it added to the minutes that Angela Krutsinger sat in for him at the last meeting.

Chairman Sandoval entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2011 Commission on Homeland Security Meeting. Sheriff Haley moved to approve the minutes and Sheriff Gillespie seconded the motion.

#5. BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF NEVADA'S REQUEST FOR WAIVER WITH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) IN REGARDS TO THE 700MHZ PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND SPECTRUM

Chris Magenheimer, Project Manager for the Tahoe Regional Interoperability Partnership, was introduced. He introduced Rick Nelson, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), in charge of statewide radio systems. They were there to give a briefing on how the 700 MHZ broadband relates to the state of Nevada. Mr. Nelson explained that he is Assistant Director of Operations for NDOT. He explained how he became involved with this project and pointed out the handouts each of the members had in front of them. He discussed the project and how he met with personnel from Sen. Reid's office and what the focus of the project was. He also discussed the funding for the project and the sense of urgency for the waiver. He asked the commission to make a motion to accept the briefing proposal: 1. Urge the FCC to approve the Nevada labor request. 2. The Homeland Security Commission (HSC) has prioritized the development of the State of Nevada planned statewide public safety wireless broadband network in the year 2012. 3. Funds be redirected on March 1, 2012, unless the FCC has approved Nevada's waiver request.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions regarding the motion. Sheriff Haley supports the endeavor, and thought the FCC would provide the waiver if it is funded. Mr. Perkins asked if this obligation from the commission would affect future obligations in terms of priorities. Mr. Nelson felt the motion did not obligate the commission or prioritize funds, but sends a message to the FCC that if we don't support this effort going forward, we will lose any opportunity for those funds.

The Governor asked Mr. Magenheimer to be specific with the motion. He repeated the three parts of the motion and Mr. Fisher moved to accept the motion and Sheriff Haley seconded the motion.

#6. REPORT TO THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON HOMELAND SECURITY – OVERVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (FFY 2011). REVIEW OF COMMISSION PRIORITIES, DEVELOPMENT OF FFY 2012 PRIORITIES

Each of the commissioners was given a copy of this presentation.

Chris Smith, Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, and Irene Navis, Emergency Manager for Clark County (Urban Area Administrator, UAA), gave an information summary of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The summary contained information on the HSGP (including UASI – Urban Area Security Initiative) projects from FFY 2006 to FFY 2011 and provided an overview of Nevada homeland security efforts funded through HSGP grants. To include a discussion outlining the progress of Nevada homeland security preparedness and what vulnerabilities and risks still challenge Nevada's homeland. The summary included changes to the HSGP FFY 2012, citing the Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8), and the overall framework and context for the FFY 2012 HSGP process focusing on the alignment of the commission priorities with national policy direction. It also included a summary of results from the State Preparedness Report (SPR) and a discussion UASI projects and progress. The recently passed federal budget 2012 appropriation funding the HSGP and the potential impact to Nevada was included.

Mr. Perkins asked Chief Smith how the relative scoring for the State Preparedness Report (SPR) was determined. Paul Burke, DEM Planning and Training Supervisor, responded to the question by explaining that the measurements in the SPR are determined by the emergency managers who are surveyed for the SPR, and that the levels are based on the level of the event in which we plan for in Nevada. When asked how the data for the SPR was evaluated, Mr. Burke stated that the various emergency managers who participated in the evaluation developed the ranking and measurements through collaboration and consensus. Irene Navis agreed with Mr. Burke that consensus is the driving force to establishing the metrics identified in the SPR. Senator Lee then asked what the meaning is for “steady state” as it related to the SPR. Mr. Burke said that the steady state is a measure of readiness for a community at any given time based on their capabilities. Bob Fisher expressed concern that the metrics for “public information” and “public warning” appear too high based on his perceptions. Mr. Burke answered by saying that the metric used in the SPR relies on the level of planning and written plans that exist for a jurisdiction, along with training and exercises that relate these core capabilities. Ms. Navis followed up saying that information for public information is derived from Public Information Officer briefs and web based systems for alerts and warnings.

Sheriff Doug Gillespie asked about the definition of “organization.” Ms. Navis and Chief Smith both responded saying that an organization is related to personnel committed to an area, the level of planning, governance structure, and policies used. Chief Adam Garcia asked about the definitions used in the SPR. Mr. Burke replied that the definitions used are in the National Preparedness Report and that the SPR has a tool that keeps the data clear and consistent in areas of planning, training, exercise, and organization. Dr. Warren Gilbert asked about information sharing across state borders, specifically with California. Chief Smith explained that there is considerable sharing involving the Nevada Air National Guard and its California counterpart, citing the New Year’s Eve event in Las Vegas where considerable information sharing between states took place. Dr. Gilbert followed up by suggesting that possibly the gaming industry could provide some direct financial support to protective efforts since they are beneficiaries of current prevention efforts. Sheriff Gillespie mentioned that other grant programs, such as the COPS program and the Byrne Jag program could be looked at to leverage statewide preparedness in areas of the core capabilities as the DHS grant funds are diminishing.

Governor Sandoval commended Chief Smith, Ms. Navis, and the large number of staff who assisted with the preparation of the briefing material. Governor Sandoval expressed the importance of the information discussed at this meeting and encouraged the Commissioners to take the time necessary to complete the exercise (selection of core capabilities). He added that the Commission’s task is one “that will touch every man, woman, and child in the Silver State.” The Governor continued, saying that the work the Commission is tasked with will send a positive message nationally that Nevada is serious about its use of Homeland Security grant funds. He cited a conversation with the FEMA Regional Director who paid high complement to Nevada’s use of the homeland security grant dollars.

#7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Bohl commented on the cost and ability to bring communication systems to the tribes and stressed that Senator Reid supported this project. He asked if the commission would support the project also. Some of the commissioners had questions on Mr. Bohl’s comments.

#8. CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION BRIEFING AND CAPABILITIES DEMONSTRATION OF THE SOUTHERN NEVADA COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTER (SNCTC)

The Governor announced the commission was going into closed session, per NRS 239C.140/ subsection B. Deputy Attorney General Samantha Ladich noted that no action may be taken during closed session and it will be recorded. The Chairman asked for a motion to go into a closed session. Sheriff Gillespie moved to accept the motion and Dr. Gilbert seconded the motion.

#9. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#10. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Haley asked for a motion to adjourn.

Sheriff Gillespie moved to adjourn and Dr. Gilbert seconded the motion.