



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

Attendance		DATE	April 12, 2022			
		TIME	1:00 p.m.			
		METHOD	Zoom			
		RECORDER	Sherrean Whipple			
Appointed Voting Member Attendance						
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	
David Fogerson – Chair	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Tennille Pereira	ABS	
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Andrea Esp	X	Matthew Petersen	ABS	
Andy Ancho	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	ABS	
Roy Anderson	ABS	Mike Heidemann	X	Misty Robinson	X	
Travis Anderson	ABS	Eric Holt	X	Rachel Skidmore	X	
Noah Boyer	X	Jeremy Hynds	ABS	Corey Solferino	X	
Elizabeth Breeden	X	Graham Kent	ABS	Cary Underwood	ABS	
James Chrisley	X	Mary Ann Laffoon	X	Mike Wilson	ABS	
COL. Brett D. Compston	ABS	Chris Lake	X	Stephanie Woodard	ABS	
Jason Danen	X	Carolyn Levering	X			
Bob Dehnhardt	X	Ryan Miller	X			
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance						
Bunny Bishop	X	Sheryl Gonzales	X	Kasey KC	ABS	
Rebecca Bodnar	X	Mojra Hauenstein	ABS	Selby Marks	X	
Melissa Friend	X	Patricia Herzog	ABS	Catherine Neilson	ABS	
Legal/Administrative Support Attendance						
Representative			Entity		Present	
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General			Office of the Nevada Attorney General		X	
Sherrean Whipple – Administrative Assistant			Nevada Division of Emergency Management		X	

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair David Fogerson, State Administrative Agent (SAA), Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS) called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean Whipple. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Fogerson opened the first period of public comment for discussion.

Chair Fogerson introduced new Preparedness Manager, Michael Xavier, who is in charge of planning, training, exercise, and operations for DEM/HS.

There was no additional public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the February 22, 2021, Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting.

Carolyn Levering , Emergency Manager for the City of Las Vegas, indicated that on page 13 of the public comment section of minutes, the speech-to-text feature was not working well and as such, this should state USC grants and not UFC grants. In addition, Ms. Levering noted that FEMA's utilization of GDP should say feature rather than feather.

Noah Boyer indicated that under membership, the title should be Northern Nevada Bomb Squad Federal Task Force.

Chair David Fogerson clarified that this was on the agenda rather than the minutes, but would be corrected.

Misty Robinson, Senior Public Health Preparedness Planner, indicated that on page 7, second paragraph, she had misspoken and said \$1 trillion rather than \$1 billion.

Bob Dehnhardt, State Chief Information Security Officer, Nevada Department of Administration, motioned to approve the minutes with the proposed changes. Kelly Echeverria, Emergency Manager, Washoe County Emergency Management and Homeland Security seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Review of Homeland Security Grant Program Timeline

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS, explained that many of the dates on the original timeline were pending or TBD, and that the updated timeline provided to the Committee establishes some of those dates and covers some key items. Ms. Coyote discussed the release of the Homeland Security Grant Program FFY22 application, indicating the DEM/HS has not yet received the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) but will be opening up the application in ZoomGrants beginning Monday, April 18 through May 20, followed by an NRAC Review meeting on May 31, 2022, a Funding Committee meeting on June 2, 2022, and the Homeland Security Commission meeting on June 3, 2022. Ms. Coyote explained that DEM/HS disseminated bulletins the previous week regarding the key changes for FFY22 in the Homeland Security Grant Program and indicated that these are being used by DEM/HS as guidance for ensuring that DEM/HS is within the national priority areas for FFY22. Ms. Coyote indicated that the NOFO drop should occur no later than May 13, 2022. Ms. Coyote further indicated that the grant needs to be submitted in grants.gov@ndgrants by June 6, 2022 in order to meet the deadline. As such, the drop-dead is June 13 in order to complete the entire process.

Chair David Fogerson added that DEM/HS has sent out some warning orders about this grant throughout the process, explaining that DEM/HS is limited to a 30-day timeline following the NOFO. Chair Fogerson indicated

that today's meeting is intended to discuss how to streamline the process for everyone in terms of getting in the grant applications in. Chair Fogerson assured the Committee that the updated list of dates would be distributed to all members. Chair Fogerson next informed the Committee that DEM/HS would like to follow the process as it has in years past, where NRAC gets the first right of review of all the grants, followed by the Finance Committee, and then the Homeland Security Commission, following which the final say will come down to Chief Samuels, UASI and Chair Fogerson, SAA.

Jeanne Freeman, Public Health Preparedness Manager, indicated the importance of communicating the need to include everything necessary to individuals applying for the funding as there is no available timeline to add additional information later. Ms. Freeman further expressed her concern regarding the short timelines allowing no room for error and indicated the willingness of the Committee to do whatever needs to be done to help support this push from DEM/HS. Ms. Freeman next asked if any changes have been made to ZoomGrants or if the process is the same as the previous year.

Suz Coyote responded that the changes in ZoomGrants for the HSGP application include the reflection of the key changes from the 2022 bits of information that have been submitted thus far as well as that Grants.gov is now accepting only a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number in place of the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, which was used in the past. Ms. Coyote explained that a bulletin was sent out the previous week for applicants to go to SAM.gov in order to obtain a UEI number. Ms. Coyote next indicated that DEM/HS will be issuing a procurement policy that simplifies the rules around procurement, clarifying the usage of NRS 332 versus NRS 333 and the requirements of 2 CFR and how all those things work together.

Chair David Fogerson asked for confirmation that this year information will be reviewed prior to the NRAC meeting rather than following the meeting as in years past.

Suz Coyote confirmed that this was correct, indicating that one of the benefits of opening up the application now gives DEM/HS the opportunity to review projects as they come in rather than after the fact. Ms. Coyote indicated that DEM/HS will vet the projects to ensure that they are in alignment with the information DEM/HS has on file and that they provide sufficient information and documentation to merit review. Ms. Coyote explained that if the justification is not clear or enough details are not provided, DEM/HS will reach out to the applicant to make corrections prior to the application going to the Committee for review.

Jeanne Freeman indicated that NRAC review meetings for grants typically run longer than average meetings and asked about an anticipated timeframe for the purposes of planning.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that the meeting would begin in the morning and likely be booked out for the day, but the actual amount of time would depend upon the amount accomplished under agenda item 5 in today's meeting. Chair Fogerson did indicate his belief that the meeting would likely go through at least lunchtime.

Noah Boyer explained that in past years, when the bomb squad had submitted projects, DEM/HS would reach out and work with the project to help fulfill some of the strategic capacities and asked if the process would be the same for this year, particularly if the project was submitted early.

Chair David Fogerson replied in the affirmative, assuring the Committee that this is the piece staff would be covering under the initial review of the project so that NRAC could vote on the finalized project in its meeting.

5. Recommendation for FFY 2022 State Homeland Security Program (SHGP) Project Funding for the Strategic Priorities Listed Within the Enterprise Strategy

Chair David Fogerson indicated that given the short timeframe for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHGP), the Committee will discuss proposals to recommend to the SAA and the Urban Area Administrator (UAA) to approve the projects listed on page 6 within Nevada Homeland Security Emergency Management Enterprise Strategic Priorities 2022 and 2024 as adopted by Homeland Security Commission. Chair Fogerson reminded the Committee that at the in-person meeting in Las Vegas, NRAC approved the strategic priorities for the next three years, in which were listed the strategic programs critical for the state, including: two fusion centers; the Citizen Corps Program; and National Incident Management System (NIMS), among others. Chair Fogerson explained that this provides funding to multiple different entities. Chair Fogerson indicated that he would like to try and have a group discussion of some of these ahead of time, followed by a motion, as applications are opening early. Chair Fogerson further indicated that the previous year, NRAC had only asked for discussion regarding anything over 10 percent, and suggested discussion to see if there was a way to possibly simplify the approval process for core capabilities.

Chris Lake, Nevada Hospital Association, concurred that if these core capabilities are within 10 percent of the previous year, they could be added to a consent agenda and any over 10 percent could be expected to provide a three-minute presentation on the reasons behind the overage.

Jeanne Freeman indicated that this should not just be based on the 10 percent and explained the importance of looking at the intent behind the application, as well, to ensure that that intent falls in line with the additional 10 percent. Ms. Freeman questioned if NRAC members would be able to ask questions regarding any of the items on the consent agenda and suggested that perhaps those people could be on standby to respond.

Chair David Fogerson confirmed that the review should be more than just budgetary and should ensure the mission and reiterated the idea of streamlining the approval process for NRAC.

Jeanne Freeman questioned if the Committee would still have the ability to see all of these if the streamlining was approved.

Chair David Fogerson confirmed that everything would still be sent out to members and clarified that he is looking to potentially remove the three-minute speech window for programs that remain within scope, both budget and mission-wise.

Mary Ann Laffoon, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Coordinator, reiterated Ms. Freeman's suggestion that all programs need to be available in case of questions or concerns from Committee members.

Chair David Fogerson concurred.

Bob Dehnhardt concurred with Ms. Freeman and suggested a model where vetting takes place in advance during which certain programs are recommended to be heard in order to be studied more closely by the committee and others that are more self-explanatory are recommended to be passed.

Carolyn Levering concurred that this would be a good solution for programs that are repeated and sustained each year, and questioned Chair Fogerson regarding his plan for handling something that has not been funded previously but still fits the criteria set forth in the strategic priorities, indicating that she would like to see a presentation in this instance.

Chair David Fogerson concurred and assured the Committee that this proposal of streamlining applies only to recurring projects that members have decided are the priorities based on Chair Fogerson's and Vice Chair Billy Samuels' proposals to the group. Chair Fogerson confirmed that new projects would still need to present to the Committee and as such, the streamlining would potentially provide more time for the Committee to delve into the new projects than has been allotted in the past.

Carolyn Levering asked if last year's grant application would be copied into the format in order to easily make updates.

Suz Coyote explained that because there is not a copy/paste function and some of the things will be different, applicants will need to begin the process from the beginning.

Chris Lake asked how the usual bartering process among projects would work should NRAC find that another substantial amount of money is needed to fund all that NRAC wishes to fund.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that this process would likely not change from years past in that new projects would be voted, vetted, ranked, and placed into a final tally that includes the new projects and current projects in order to move money around between them should need be.

Carolyn Levering, Emergency Manager, City of Las Vegas, motioned to allow administrative privileges to the Chair and Co-Chair to vet the projects in advance of the next Committee Advisory meeting for consent agenda consideration with the ability to pull consent items out for additional discussion as needed and to ensure tie and access for new project proposals to be presented for NRAC's consideration. Misty Robinson, Senior Public Health Preparedness Planner, Southern Nevada Health District, seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Cybersecurity Grant and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHGP)

Chair David Fogerson informed the Commission that the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Grant will be released in the summer of 2022 and that the SHSP has no requirements to spend a portion of the state of urban area investment on cybersecurity programs. Chair Fogerson next indicated that the Committee will discuss the option of allowing the cybersecurity project to apply within the SHSP or consider pushing those towards a funding request and new Cybersecurity Grant program following the release of the NOFO, followed by a Committee vote to determine the appropriate funding stream for cybersecurity funding requests. Chair Fogerson explained to the members that the inference DEM/HS received from the federal government is that the Cybersecurity Grants and the Homeland Security Grant will be released at the same time. Chair Fogerson further explained that given the current geopolitical tensions, he wished to revisit the topic of the funding for cyber grants under the Homeland Security Grant program.

Carolyn Levering questioned how much Congress has approved for funding for this program.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that the amount for Nevada is not yet known but that it has been approved for three years for all states.

Carolyn Levering questioned if the grant was formula-funded or competitive.

Chair David Fogerson informed the Committee that this has not yet been explained well but that his understanding is that there will be a component of both.

Misty Robinson indicated that there will be a baseline allocation plus a population-based allocation formula by which some percentage must be passed through local or to local entities and another percentage must go to rural communities. Ms. Robinson further indicated that multi-entity grants can be made to groups of eligible entities. Ms. Robinson next asked if any members are aware of whether or not there is going to be a cybersecurity requirement in the SHSP grants.

Suz Coyote indicated that there is no minimum requirement for cybersecurity in the FFY22 Homeland Security Grant.

Misty Robinson explained that annual funding FFY22 is \$200 million with 90 percent federal cost share, FFY23 is \$400 million with 80 percent federal cost share, FFY24 is \$300 million with 70 percent federal cost share, and FFY25 is \$100 million with 60 percent federal cost share. Ms. Robinson further indicated that funds can be used to develop or revise cybersecurity plans or implement cybersecurity plans and that the government realizes that these may take a long time to contract out. Ms. Robinson explained that grant administration is 5 percent. Ms. Robinson indicated that eligible entities must have a planning committee and representatives from varying densities. Ms. Robinson further indicated that public education and public health need to be part of the committee and that 50 percent of the members must have professional experience relating to cybersecurity or information technology. Ms. Robinson informed the Commission that the roles of the planning committee must be development, implementation, revision of cybersecurity plans, approval of cybersecurity plans, and assist with effective funding priorities. Ms. Robinson further indicated that the cybersecurity plan must include 16 cyber-specific elements, including a list of projects, description of state, local, tribal territorial roles in the overarching plan, an assessment of capabilities, resources and timeline for implementing the plan, and metrics. Ms. Robinson explained that there are four objectives: to develop and establish appropriate governance structures as well as plans to improve capabilities to respond to cybersecurity incidents and ensure continuity of operations; for SLTT agencies to understand their current cybersecurity posture and areas for improvement based on continuous testing, evaluation, and structured assessment; to implement security protections commensurate with risk outcomes of objectives 1 and 2; to ensure organization personnel is appropriately trained in cybersecurity commensurate with responsibility. Ms. Robinson reiterated that because this documentation was distributed in March, it is possible that some of these things may change by the time the NOFO comes out.

Carolyn Levering suggested NRAC allow applications to come through for review, discussion, and consideration given that more information about what should be expected come the summer release, which may prompt a compelling argument for the need to fund certain projects in this current funding stream as well as allow applicants unable to be funded under the Homeland Security Grant to be ahead in the process for the summer release.

Misty Robinson informed the Committee that more information may be available on April 13 following the working group meeting on this particular project.

Jeanne Freeman suggested that the cybersecurity priorities remain under the Homeland Security Grant so as not to lose focus on the cybersecurity issues upon which the Committee has been building for years. Ms. Freeman acknowledged that these projects are expensive when they come in, but indicated her belief that removing them from where they currently exist and trying to restore them later could be difficult. As such, Ms. Freeman suggested that new cybersecurity projects fall under the summer funding whereas existing ones remain under the Homeland Security Grant process.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that the discussion at the last meeting included trying to find a way to get more of the Homeland Security funds out by diversifying the portfolio and letting the cyber things go, but acknowledged that this may no longer be the best fit. As such, Chair Fogerson concurred with Ms. Levering and Ms. Robinson that everyone should be allowed to apply and the Committee can vote following the application process.

Bob Dehnhardt indicated his hope that the cybersecurity funding becomes a continuing funding stream separate from but parallel to the Homeland Security Grant funds so that the assessments no longer need to be conducted. Mr. Dehnhardt stressed the importance of flexibility given that this is still a moving target as of this year.

Chair David Fogerson concurred.

Misty Robinson concurred and reminded the Committee that the Cybersecurity Grant is not a lot of money, indicating that the \$1 billion will be divided among 50 states with a focus on multi-jurisdictional projects rather than local and statewide projects, which should perhaps continue to be funded with the SHSP funds.

Noah Boyer informed the Committee that he would request that Jim Cox, who runs the cybercrimes task force, and has traditionally come to this grant to help support the regional team and respond to internet crimes against children, reach out to Misty Robinson regarding the best course of action and some direction on whether or not the Cybersecurity Grant is the right avenue for certain projects.

Chair David Fogerson reiterated the importance of the Cybersecurity Grant in protecting internet crimes against children as well as protecting cyber systems and acknowledged the divergence needing to be made between cybersecurity versus Homeland Security.

Misty Robinson concurred.

Chair David Fogerson called for a motion on allowing cyber grants to apply via the State Homeland Security Grant Process to then be vetted by NRAC. Jeannie Freeman, Public Health Preparedness Manager, Carson City Health and Human Services, motioned to allow cybersecurity applications to the Homeland Security Grant Process. Bob Dehnhardt, State Chief Information Security Officer, Nevada Department of Administration, seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

7. NRAC Re-Appointment Letters

Chair David Fogerson indicated that the Committee will be advised on the issuance of reappointment letters for current members of the Committee, and that members who do not wish to extend their service for the

next two-year period can contact the Chair outside of the meeting with a recommended replacement. Chair Fogerson explained that through the cleanup of the staff changes, it was discovered that initial appointment dates and two-year renewal letter had only been tracked for approximately the last 18 months and as such, anyone that does not have a letter appointing them to the Committee within the last 18 months will receive a letter from the Chair appointing them for the next two years. Chair Fogerson explained that anyone wishing to not be reappointed contact him outside the meeting and requested that folks provide a recommendation for a replacement.

8. Public Comment

Chair David Fogerson opened discussion on the second period of public comment.

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Chair David Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was presented by Eric Holt, Emergency Manager Lincoln County, and second was provided by Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Public Health and Human Services. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.