



## Office of the Adjutant General Department of Emergency Services

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Governor  
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To: DES Advisory Committee

From: Greg Wilz

Topic: Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee (DESAC) Meeting Executive Summary for June 5-6, 2006

Date: June 12, 2006

The DHS 2006 Allocation Agenda consisted of the following information and actions:

1. Wayne Baron, Homeland Security Program Chief, stated the complexity and significant changes in the 2006 grant process necessitated that local pre-applicant briefings be scheduled throughout the state in May. The purpose was to discuss methodology and funding formulas to prepare participants for the actual applicant briefings. To ensure inclusiveness, meetings were held in the evening and all past grant recipients, including emergency managers, first response personnel, and public officials, were invited. Seven hundred ninety-two invitations were mailed; a total of 234 individuals attended the meetings.
2. Applicant briefings have been scheduled in Mott, Williston, Rugby, Grand Forks, Valley City and Bismarck during June 20-29. Homeland Security staff will provide specific guidance and requirements for Interoperable Communications, CBRNE Equipment, Training, Exercise and Planning grants. The invitation process will mirror that used for pre-applicant briefings.
3. The total FY 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program Award was \$10,788,443 and consists of the following categories:

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)	\$6,270,000
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)	\$4,350,000
Citizen Corps Program (CERT)	\$ 168,443

4. Based upon the strength of the investment proposals, North Dakota fared extremely well compared to other states in this competitive process. Although North Dakota was ranked among the lower 25 percent of all states and territories in the DHS comparative risk analysis, proposed solutions were rated among the top 50 percent in the peer review process.
5. Merits of an 18 and 12 month grant budget cycle were explained; members were asked concur on a preferable choice. The committee reached consensus on a 12 month budget cycle because it allowed the Department to move forward in implementing a more comprehensive program that allows for Northern Border Operations, additional infrastructure equipment, initiating a State Communication Plan and statewide critical infrastructure planning.
6. Fairness in allocating the Communication Grant was discussed. The committee was asked if the process should be adopted or a cap be applied. The committee requested preparation of information illustrating different cap scenarios for study the following day.

It was decided to move forward with the regular agenda.

#### Homeland Security Update - Russ Timmreck

1. Operations staff continues to work with Web EOC pilot jurisdictions to establish training for other local entities.
2. Web EOC training is scheduled for the Northwest and Northeast Regional Emergency Manager meetings held June 16 and 20, in Minot and Cavalier, respectively. The goal is to train personnel from all local jurisdictions by the end of July so emergency managers will have experience in its use prior to the North Dakota Emergency Manager Association meeting in September.
3. A NIMS compliant resource manager module has been purchased for Web EOC.
4. The process involved in activating the Amber Alert for three year old Reachelle Smith was explained. The alert is ongoing due to law enforcement investigations and search party activity. An after-action review will be conducted once the Amber Alert is cancelled.
5. Staff is nearing completion to the Basic Plan of the State Emergency Operations Plan.
6. The state is awaiting notification of a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 11 Counties (Cass, Cavalier, Grand Forks, Pembina, Ransom, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Towner, Traill and Walsh) and the Turtle Mountain Tribe. (We did receive the Presidential Disaster Declaration; the estimate is \$6.3 million.)

The Presidential Disaster Declaration triggers the Public Assistance Program (PA), which provides funding for repairs to public infrastructure damages (roads, culverts, bridges, parks) as a direct result of a major event. It also initiates the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to provide funding for projects that will reduce or permanently eliminate future risk to lives and property.

Shared funding for both programs is 75% federal, 10% State and 15% local/tribal government.

The state process after notification of Presidential Disaster Declaration includes applicant briefings, training for state field inspectors and field operations, which involves completion of Project Worksheets (PWs) for damage repair by state inspectors. Processing PWs is completed and approved at the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Bismarck by federal and state staff.

#### State Radio Update - Russ Timmreck

1. The first of several Radio Information Workshops was held in Bismarck on May 30. Between now and the end of August, additional workshops will be held in hub cities for other sub-networks including Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Williston, and Dickinson. The critical message stresses that local jurisdictions need to program radios, continue the purchase of P-25 compliant communications equipment and develop a local communication plan to offset the potential lack in service when a tower is down for the 3-4 day period required for installation and repair. Completion is projected for the end of January 2007.
2. The analog to digital migration will begin Tuesday, June 6 beginning with the Bismarck Sub-network.
3. Paging issues will arise during and after fielding the system because changes will accommodate voice communication as the primary priority.
4. State Radio has one remaining position to fill.

### Budget Update - Ross Mushik

The draft budget proposal was presented and explained. The total general fund request will be \$5,167,598.

### Strategic Plan Update - Bill Sorensen

Emergency managers in the Southwest Region provided ideas and input to enhance effectiveness within DES and methods to streamline feedback. Meetings with Northwest and Northeast Regions will be held in June to obtain more input. More than 50 percent of the employee handbook policies are ready for review by Greg and Russ. The Professional Development and Environmental Training Policies have been submitted.

During the July DESAC meeting, Amy Anton, Operations Chief, will brief members about the progress in integrating protocols between State Radio and Homeland Security Operations.

### Legislative Initiatives - Russ Timmreck

The two initiatives not mentioned during other meetings include actions to seek state funding for the analog to digital migration and to increase local emergency manager FTE status based on a local match formula.

**Note: Legislation to establish an Emergency Relief Fund was inadvertently omitted from the list but was included in prior correspondence.**

Committee members asked that legislative proposals also include funding for a seamless statewide base map, computer assisted dispatch system and a statewide communications plan.

### Audit Review Subcommittee - Russ Timmreck

1. One proposal was submitted for the RFP to ascertain State Radio cost and fee structure.
2. On June 14, testimony will be presented to the Legislative Council Budget Section concerning the reorganization, justification of prior salary increases, and Homeland Security funding at the state and local levels.
3. On June 19, testimony will be provided to the Legislative Audit and Review Committee regarding the implementation of the State Auditor's Office performance audit recommendations concerning collection and use of 911 fees.

The following agenda items were executed June 6.

### Continuation of DHS 2006 Allocation Discussion

As directed by the DESAC, Wayne Baron provided communication allocation data using different cap amounts. Committee members formed consensus that a \$100,000 should be the maximum allotment in order to develop a more balanced process.

Detailed discussion ensued concerning the development of a true interoperable communications system through equipment purchases with Homeland Security Grant funds. It was determined all new radios funded to date have been VHF P-25 compliant. The input

resulted in agreement that implementing State Communications Plan was key to statewide interoperability.

Boys State - Ken Jarolimek

High school students placed in the role of elected and appointed city, county and state officials, experience a three day emergency management disaster exercise to learn how government functions in North Dakota. Emergency managers in North Dakota play a vital role in the successful completion of the event. The exercise was updated by NDSU students enrolled in the Emergency Management program. University students and one faculty member also work with Boys State participants during the event.

PSAP Coordinating Committee Legislative Report - Terry Traynor

Century Code established a Public Safety Answering Points Committee comprised of a representative from the Association of Counties, 911 Association and State Radio. Each biennium, the committee is required to provide a status report concerning emergency services communications issues in North Dakota including income and expenditures data of all PSAPs.

Terry Traynor, from the Association of Counties, compiled the information, produced and explained the report to the DESAC. Members were asked to provide input.

The report will be presented to the Electric Industry Competition Committee on June 27.

Other

The problem dealing with payment for fire suppression by aerial applicators was discussed. Guidelines, revised in 2000, indicate if the Aeronautics Commission, Fire Marshal's Office or DES do not have available funding, the issue will be brought before the emergency commission. The topic will be included in the July agenda.

<u>Meetings Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 10	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties
August 14	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties
August 15 ( <u>Tentative</u> )	8:00 a.m. - Noon	Association of Counties
September 11	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Association of Counties
September 12 ( <u>Tentative</u> )	8:00 a.m. - Noon	Association of Counties or DES