



Bay Area UASI
Approval Authority Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2024
10:00 AM

Alameda County Sheriff's Office
4985 Broder Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568
OES Assembly Room

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Approval Authority Chair Mary Ellen Carroll called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and General Manager Craig Dziedzic subsequently took the roll. Present were Chair Mary Ellen Carroll, members Erica Arteseros, Raymond Riordan, Dana Reed, Chris Hsiung and Jeff Duval. Member April Luckett-Fahimi was absent, but her alternate Danny McNaughton was present. Member Jessica Feil was absent, but her alternate Olga Crowe was present. Mike Casten was absent, but his alternate, Jason Vorhauer was present. Member Steven Torrence was absent but his alternate, Jason Weber was present. Member Kelsey Scanlon was absent and so was her alternate.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Carroll asked for any comments or questions concerning the minutes from the November 09, 2023 meeting. She then called for public comment. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 1:05](#))

No member of the public commented.

Chair Carroll then requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Approve the minutes from the November 09, 2023 Approval Authority Meeting.

Moved: Member Riordan **Seconded:** Member Hsiung

Vote: The motion was passed unanimously.

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Craig Dziedzic reported on the FY24 UASI Grant update, management team update, and the upcoming National Homeland Security Conference. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 2:10](#))

GM Dziedzic reported that the UASI is waiting for the appropriation of grants for the full year. There were a number of short-term stop gap measures passed. The net allocation will depend on

several variables such as the State Retention fund. Last year the state retained 18.5%; however, we have not been informed of the retention for FY24. The other variable is whether the Secretary of State will add more UASIs. We look forward to having a full year appropriation passed and expect that the Notice of Funding Opportunity or NOFO will be issued in April 2024.

GM Dziedzic stated that DHS /FEMA issued its annual threat/risk profile of the region. The Bay Area UASI also received DHS/FEMA's response to the letter about including the region's five (5) counties (Solano, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Monterey, Napa) to our MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area). The 5 counties are not included; yet have critical infrastructure and soft targets.

GM Dziedzic stated that Mikyung Kim-Molina has been promoted to Regional Program Manager, which is a backfill to Janell Myhre's position who has retired. Thomas English, accepted to serve as the CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive) regional project manager position. Mr. English earned a bachelor's degree from Sonoma State University. He served in the US Army as a CBRNE response team supervisor and trainer.

GM Dziedzic mentioned that the National Homeland Security Conference will occur in Miami July 22-25, 2024. If interested in attending the conference, the Approval Authority member should notify the BA UASI Management Team BA UASI submitted presentations for the conference and four (4) have been accepted.

Chair Carroll welcomed the new staff and congratulated Ms. Kim-Molina on the promotion. Seeing no comments or questions, she requested public comment.

No member of the public commented.

4. SPECIAL ELECTION OF UASI VICE-CHAIR

GM Dziedzic presented the background and reason for the special election of UASI Vice-Chair. Former Rich Lucia and Alternate Colby Staysa retired at the same time after the November 2023 AA Meeting, leaving the Vice-Chair position open and unfilled. [Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 2:05](#)

Motion: Nominate and vote for the UASI Vice-Chair

Moved: Alternate McNaughton nominated Member Lockett-Fahimi to the AA Vice-Chair position.

Second: Member Arteseros

Vote: Members unanimously voted for Member Lockett-Fahimi

By proxy, Alternate McNaughton read new Vice-Chair Lockett-Fahimi's statement and accepted the Vice-Chair position. Vice-Chair Lockett-Fahimi was travelling at the time of the meeting.

No member of the public commented.

5. SUSTAINMENT PROGRAMS, ANNUAL REPORTS, and FY24 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

UASI Regional Grants Manager, Molly Giesen-Fields introduced Corinne Bartshire, UASI Bay Area Training and Exercise Program and Mike Sena, NCRIC Director to present their annual reports and funding recommendations. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 14.10](#))

BATEP Program Manager Bartshire reported on the 2023 BATEP accomplishments: courses delivered, and number of students trained. She also presented the integrated preparedness plan for 2024-2026 and BATEP budget recommendation for 2024. Ms. Bartshire informed the group about the Public Safety Preparedness Summit which is scheduled for October 28-30, 2024. There will be a Workshop on Domestic Violent Extremism and Pre-Conference Training Opportunities. She presented the FY2024 BATEP Budget Proposal for conditional approval by the Board since the NOFO has not yet been released. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 15.07](#))

NCRIC Director Mike Sena presented the NCRIC 2023 Annual Report and provided an overview of the current threat environment and the threat prevention models that are being developed to improve threat identification, reporting, analysis, mitigation, response, and investigation, while protecting privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. The threat topics included domestic violent extremism, swatting, cyber threats, distribution of lethal illicit narcotics, and election threats. He also reported on the staffing update and how events are staffed and supported by NCRIC analysts. Mr. Sena also presented the FY24 NCRIC budget, seeking conditional approval on the FY24 NCRIC budget since the NOFO has not yet been released. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 15.07](#))

There were questions and comments from the group: Members Riordan and Reed asked about the 2026 Superbowl preparation and NCRIC plan of action. Chair Carroll and member Arteseros expressed appreciation of FBI and other law enforcement's collaboration in supporting sporting events, election, and other big events. Alternate Crowe brought up the idea of on-line communication platform to support other jurisdictions to mitigate the understaffing issue being faced by law enforcement and other emergency operations centers. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 25.40](#))

No member of the public commented.

Motion: Vote for the approval of the proposed budget for UASI BATEP and NCRIC

Moved: Member Arteseros

Second: Member Reed

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

6. FY23 NATIONAL PRIORITY PROJECTS UPDATES

Regional Program Manager Mikyung Kim-Molina provided an update on the national priority projects. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 57:49](#))

Ms. Kim-Molina reported that FEMA, on an annual basis identifies different areas that they want the locals to concentrate their money on. In 2023, UASI was mandated to spend 30% of the UASI funding in National Priority Areas. There are 6 eligible NPAs: Intelligence & Information Sharing, Soft Targets/Crowded Places, Elections Security, Community Preparedness and Resilience, Domestic Violent Extremism and Cybersecurity. In five of the six NPAs, UASI is required to spend 3% each in terms of minimum spending (no minimum spend for Cybersecurity). Ms. Kim-Molina's memo and funding recommendation is based on the 2023 guidance until we get the FY24 NOFO and learn otherwise.

No member from the AA board has questions or comments on this item.

No member of the public commented.

Motion: To vote for the conditional approval of the 2024 NPA funding recommendation.

Moved: Alternate Weber

Second: Member Duval

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

7. **FY2024 and FY2025 HUB FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

UASI Regional Grants Manager Molly Giesen-Fields presented an overview of the FY24 and FY25 Hub funding recommendations. [\(Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 1:01:10\)](#)

Ms. Giesen-Fields presented the FY24-FY25 prioritized funding projects that the hubs recommended for approval. She refreshed Approval Authority members on the grant process and how the money was divided up. Each major city, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose receives \$1M/year. The four hubs (North Bay, South Bay, East Bay, and West Bay) collectively receive just under \$6.4M for FY24 and again for FY25. There is a formula that determines the allocation of funds per hub - the total amount per year for FY24 plus FY25, including hub and core city funds, is close to \$19 million.

Ms. Giesen-Fields walked the group through the timeline for determining hub projects. In June 2023, the grants application guidance was released; September 2023, the kick-off meeting was held for potential applicants and the portal for grant applications was opened for a three week period; October 2023, UASI Management Team reviewed proposals for compliance; November 2023, Approval Authority members reviewed submitted proposals; December 2023, hub voting members received proposals from their hubs to prioritize; and in January 2024, hub voting members met to select projects for funding. The Bay Area UASI received about twice as many proposals as could be funded for FY24 and FY25. The selected projects were shared with the Approval Authority for approval.

No member from the Approval Authority had questions or comments on this item.

No member of the public commented.

Motion: Vote for the approval of the FY24 and FY25 Hub project proposals for funding.

Moved: Chair Carroll

Second: Member Riordan

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Risk Regional Project Manager, Craig Mohar, presented updates about the Risk Management Program for discussion only. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 1:08:51](#))

Mr. Mohar reported that the Management Team has completed its planning for the 2024 risk management with jurisdictions, the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC), and stakeholders. The highlights include jurisdictions' annual asset review to fill information gaps; NCRIC annual asset update on soft target and public gathering locations; NCRIC continuous coordination and outreach with utility partners including critical infrastructure protection specialists that mitigate vulnerabilities of critical utilities; and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) updates.

Member Arteseros asked if someone will be assigned to collect the jurisdictions' asset update. Mr. Mohar will find out who will be assigned for each jurisdiction and will inform the Approval Authority.

No further questions from the Approval Authority were asked.

No member of the public commented.

9. SECURING THE CITIES (STC) PROGRAM UPDATE

STC Regional Program Manager Matt Devine presented updates about the STC program for discussion only. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 1:12:10](#))

Mr. Devine presented the project accomplishments and the continuing full-scale exercises happening throughout the bay area (especially in jurisdictions that face challenges in protecting large-scale events) and other extended coverage like Reno. He also emphasized the STC's ability to provide jurisdictions with necessary equipment as a high priority.

Member Arteseros asked if STC needs volunteers for the exercises.

Member Reed asked Mr. Devine to confirm the STC prevention exercises for April 15, 16 and 18 were still on, and the answer was yes.

No member of the public commented.

10. UASI FINANCIAL REPORTS – FY22 UASI SPENDING REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Tristan Levardo provided an update on FY22 spending for discussion only. ([Reference audio here: March 2024 Approval Authority Meeting @ 1:12:10](#)).

CFO Levardo reported that the FY22 standard performance period has expired. However, some projects have been extended to 6/30/24, others that needed more time have been extended until 12/31/24. Petaluma is the only jurisdiction that has fully completed its projects on time.

No Approval Authority members had comments on this item.

No member of the public commented.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS - GOOD OF THE ORDER

Reminder that the next AA meeting in June will be in the new San Jose EOC.

12. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.