



Bay Area UASI
Approval Authority Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2024
10:00 AM

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Approval Authority Alternate Adrienne Bechelli, acting AA Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. General Manager Craig Dziedzic subsequently took the roll. Members Erica Arteseros, Dana Reed, Jessica Feil, Raymond Riordan, April Lockett-Fahimi, Steven Torrence, Kelsey Scanlon, and Jeff DuVall were present. Approval Authority Chair Mary Ellen Carroll, members Mike Casten and Chris Hsiung were absent, but their alternates Adrienne Bechelli, Jose Beltran and William Young were present.

General Manager Dziedzic declared a quorum. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:01:15](#))

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Acting Chair Bechelli asked for any comments or questions concerning the minutes from the June 13, 2024, meeting. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:02:35](#))

Seeing no comments from the Approval Authority members, Acting Chair Bechelli asked for public comment. There was one comment from the public. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:03:08](#))

Acting Chair Bechelli then requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Approve the minutes from the June 13, 2024 Approval Authority Meeting.

Moved: Member Reed **Seconded:** Member DuVall

Vote: The motion passed unanimously approved.

(Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:05:51](#))

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Craig Dzedzic provided updates on the status of the 2024 UASI Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), which was received in March 2024 in the amount of \$32,754,000. There was a 10% decrease across the board throughout all DHS grants this year. Cal OES reduced their share to 18.5% this year to help ease the burden on jurisdictions. Regarding the final risk profile, GM Dzedzic informed the group that the UASI's risk profile increased from 5 to 4 for the current year (UASI ranked 5 last year). The DHS risk profile ranking for UASIs is now: 1-New York; 2- Los Angeles; 3-Chicago; 4-Bay Area; and 5-Washington DC. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:06:05](#))

GM Dzedzic reported on other DHS grant programs that help supplement the decrease in UASI grant funding: (a) TVTP application in the amount of \$615,000 in partnership with the Oakland Unified School District regarding Behavioral Threat Assessments was submitted; (b) the BA UASI will be applying for \$3,000,000 for the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) to support regional community resilience efforts, and (c) the Securing the Cities (STC) program submitted a \$1.2M grant application to the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:7:43](#))

The GM also introduced the 2024 Annual Report which promotes the region in that it shares program accomplishments and deliverables during the FY23-24 year. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:13:01](#))

GM Dzedzic reviewed the three areas that needed action from the AA Members: (a) UASI Management Team Organization Chart – which shows the management team is broken into functionality; (b) Management Team Work Plans – which pertain to all management team members tasks and actual functions; and (c) Annual Budget – \$6,058,113 for FY24-25 broken into personnel \$5,538,113 and operating expenses \$520,000. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:13:25](#))

GM Dzedzic then reviewed the agenda topics for the next meeting in September 2024 which will be held at the Emergency Operations Center in Dublin.

Acting Chair Bechelli gave her commendation to the STC exercise at Levi's Stadium and thanked Member Reed for hosting the exercise which is essential to prepare for big events in 2026, like the Superbowl and World Cup. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 17:15](#))

Seeing no more comments, Acting Chair Bechelli asked for public comment. There was one comment from the public. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:19:16](#))

Acting Chair Bechelli then requested to approve the Organization Chart, Annual Work Plans, and FY24 Management Team Budget.

Motion: Approve the Organization Chart, Annual Work Plans, and FY24 Management Team Budget.

Moved: Member Lucket-Fahimi **Seconded:** Member Arteseros

Vote: The motion passed unanimously approved.

4. ALLOCATION OF FY 24 UASI GRANT FUNDS

UASI CFO Tristan Levarado reported on the allocation of the FY24 budget of \$27,088,298. A breakdown of allocations includes Core Cities- \$3,000,000; National Priority Projects - \$8,126,489; Management Team-\$3,721,980; Hub-\$6,393,481 and Sustainment Projects (NCRIC and BATEP)- \$5,846,348. The decrease in funding from FY23 to FY24 is very significant and the biggest decrease in the last 4 years. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:22:48](#)).

There was one public comment. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:25.23](#))

There were comments from the Approval Authority Members: (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:26:35](#))

Member Torrence inquired about when the allocation for the North hub will be reviewed and revisited. GM Dziejdzic responded that allocations are based on the three elements of the hub formula: population, economics, and risk. The next review of the allocation formula will be in the November 2025 AA meeting.

Questions and concerns were raised regarding the impact of the NCRIC’s budget reduction.

Member Reed thanked the group in their appreciation to their role in the Levi’s Stadium exercise. Moving forward, he would also like to re-shape the funding allocation budget.

GM Dziejdzic added that BA UASI will continue putting efforts in getting FEMA to recognize all 12 counties as part of the UASI region considering numerous big events and activities all over the UASI footprint that are not currently factored into DHS risk scores. Critical infrastructures are at risk and it is also important to note that cyber threats are underreported because companies do not want others to know they were attacked. BA UASI will continue submitting letters for recognition of these events/assets/risks and seeking additional funding that reflects the 12 counties in the region.

Seeing no more comments, Acting Chair Bechelli requested motion to approve the allocation of funds.

Motion: Approve the allocation for FY24 funds

Moved: Member Torrence

Second: Member Lockett-Fahimi

The motion to approve the allocation of FY24 funds was approved unanimously.

5. BAY AREA UASI WORK GROUP ANNUAL PLANS UPDATE

Regional Program Manager Corinne Bartshire presented an update on the UASI Work Group Annual Plans for the 2024 calendar year. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:41:12](#))

Ms. Bartshire reported that BA UASI takes this opportunity to review the work group structure. Per the Bay Area UASI By-laws, the GM has the discretion and may create discipline-specific and/or functionally determined work groups to make comprehensive assessments and recommendations that address the risk reduction, grant allocations, and ultimately increase regional disaster readiness capabilities.

The current work groups are as follows: (a) Cyber Resilience; (b) Emergency Management; (c) Medical & Public Health; (d) Public Information; (e) Risk Management; (f) CBRNE; and (g) Training & Exercise. Ms. Bartshire noted that the UASI Team will close operations of 2 work groups by the end of calendar year 2024: Medical and Health, and Public Information. Current regional investments do not warrant specific meetings for these disciplines as they are duplicative in the Emergency Management Work Group. Acting Chair Bechelli raised a concern about the discontinuation of the two Work Groups but understands the rationale behind it.

Member Arteseros asked for clarification that members on the Medical & Health and Public Information will still remain involved. Ms. Bartshire assured that members will be directed to the Emergency Management Work Plan, their names will remain in the distribution list, and they will be participating in quarterly meetings and receiving quarterly updates and reports.

Acting Chair Bechelli also notified the group that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors just approved changes to the local Language Access Ordinance for equitable release of information. Public safety signages are being revised, adding Vietnamese to the signages. She requested to have a separate conversation regarding language access among jurisdictions so that people will understand/comprehend information as it is being distributed.

Member Feil commented that she appreciates the consolidation of work that the BA UASI Management team is doing considering that staff capacity is limited, positions have been cut, and the current budget crunches being hard on everyone. Ms. Feil wants to ensure other grant programs are being leveraged to increase and foster the ability to communicate with different cultural communities, such as the RCPGP community resilience work which has been effective in this way.

Seeing no more comments, Acting Chair Bechelli asked for public comments of which there was one. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:51:30](#))

6. REGIONAL CATASTROPHIC PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAM (RCPGP) UPDATES

Regional Project Manager, Christophe Arnold presented an update on the Equitable Community Resilience- Phase 1 Project (FY22) and Equitable Community Resilience – Phase 2 Project (FY23) minus the Supply Chain Resilience. The two grants focused on Equity, Climate, Resilience, and Preparedness, and providing special attention to disadvantaged communities. The combined award for these grants is \$2,800,000 for the region. The grant components include: (a) local and regional planning initiatives; (b) training; and (c) exercise. Equipment is not covered. Mr. Arnold confirmed that the BA UASI will apply for the RCPGP FY 24 grant in July for Phase 3 of the Project for \$3,000,000. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 00:54:00](#))

Acting Chair Bechelli asked for Members comments. Member Arteseros inquired about how jurisdictions can better engage in the community and resilience projects. Mr. Arnold stated that there is a screening tool being used called the Climate, Economic and Social Justice screening tool that identifies the targeted disadvantaged communities but that in the FY24 proposal, BA UASI

will add more communities. Member Arteseros added that it seems that SFFD was not a part of the selection process. Acting Chair Bechelli said, she will find out for Member Arteseros.

(Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:05:06](#))

Member Reed thanked Mr. Arnold and sees the upcoming Public Safety Summit as a good opportunity to look at the Emergency Management sustainability vs. other sustainability issues. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:07:49](#))

Acting Chair Bechelli asked for public comments. There was one comment from the public. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:10:43](#))

7. NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS PROJECT UPDATES

Regional Grants Manager Molly Giesen-Fields introduced the presenters for two National Priority Area updates:

(a) Community Preparedness Analyst, Meredith Terrell reported about the Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience. The NPA received \$2,646,963 for FY22, \$1,736,808 for FY23 and \$1,044,757 allocated for FY24 (pending). The investments included equipment, training, exercises, and planning. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:13:40](#))

(b) BATEP Regional Program Manager, Corinne Bartshire provided an update on the Enhancing Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places. She updated the group that this National Priority Area received \$905,848 for FY22, \$892,260 for FY23 and \$150,000 for FY24 (pending). The components include equipment, training, exercises, and planning. Ms. Bartshire introduced the new CBRNE Regional Project Manager Thomas English. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:26:48](#))

Acting Chair Bechelli asked for Member comments. Member Arteseros thanked Ms. Bartshire for the incident management and coordination training. She also thanked Ms. Terrell in augmenting mini trainings in communities.

Member Feil asked about the Student Tools Emergency Planning if the training materials package is also provided? Meredith said it was not included right now but it is something that can be discussed, if so desired.

Member Torrence commented that his jurisdiction has started to see some CERT programs being pushed out due to the challenges of not having CERT programs in making use of the equipment available like the back packs. He asked if there is flexibility when funding is available, as jurisdictions could use the funds in ways that are best for their needs to meet or align with the grant objective. Meredith took note of Member Torrance's input and will schedule a separate discussion with him and his team. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:33:22](#))

Seeing no more comments, Acting Chair Bechelli asked for public comments. There was one comment from the public. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:36:47](#))

8. NCRIC THREAT BRIEFING

Director of the NCRIC Mike Sena provided updates with a briefing on the current threat environment or landscape related to elections and homeland security. He added an update on growing cyber-attacks in government offices. Mr. Sena also briefed the group on projects that are planned to improve information sharing and provide public safety personnel with the resources that they need to identify, mitigate, and respond to threats across Northern California. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:39:56](#))

Acting Chair Bechelli asked for Member comments. Member Riordan gave a comment on the tabletop exercise (comments were not recorded completely due to technical issue) (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:51:27](#))

Member Feil asked about the requirements for the tools that are built to be implemented in jurisdictions. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:53:24](#))

Seeing no more comments, Acting Chair Bechelli asked for public comments. There was one comment from the public. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 01:57:15](#))

9. REALLOCATIONS OF GRANT FUNDS

CFO Tristan Levardo presented on the reallocation of grant funds (less than \$250K) for the period June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 02:00:29](#)).

Acting Chair Bechelli asked for Member comments. Seeing none, Acting Chair Bechelli asked for public comments. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 02:02 :07](#))

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS – GOOD OF THE ORDER

Acting Chair Bechelli asked for any announcements. GM Dziejdzic reminded the board about the upcoming National Homeland Security Conference in Miami, FL from July 22-25. The Management Team is coordinating a dinner at a close venue; details to follow. Acting Chair Bechelli announced that San Francisco, in collaboration with the Department of Defense is preparing for Fleet Week 2024. There are 2 tabletop exercises scheduled in July and one in September, then leading up to a full-scale exercise in October. She has requested the BA UASI Management Team to include a community resilience track in future Summits. Member Riordan announced that the City of San Jose began its planning for the election 2024, and he is concerned about election security. He added that San Jose also has several major trainings and planning meetings in preparation for 2026 major events. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 02:02:15](#))

11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair Bechelli opened the floor for public comments. There was one comment from the public. (Reference audio here: [June UASI Approval Authority Meeting Audio at 02:07:34](#))

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 P.M.