



Virginia Cybersecurity Planning Committee
October 21, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
7235 Beaufont Springs Dr, Mary Jackson Boardroom,
Richmond. VA. 23225



Call to Order:

A meeting of the Virginia Cybersecurity Planning Committee was called to order at 10:00 am. Mr. Watson welcomed the members.

Presiding:

Michael Watson, Committee Chair, Chief Information Security Officer, Virginia IT Agency

Members Present:

Diane Carnohan, Chief Information Security Officer, Virginia Department of Education
Charles DeKeyser, Major, Virginia Army National Guard
Brenna R. Doherty, Chief Information Security Officer, Department of Legislative Automated Systems
Charles Huntley, Director of Technology, County of Essex

Members Participating Remotely:

Troy Adkins, Broadband Infrastructure Program Manager, Chickahominy Indian Tribe.
Uma Marques, Information Technology Director, Roanoke County Government.
Wesley D. Williams, Executive Director of Technology, Roanoke City Public Schools
Glenn Schmitz, Chief Information Security Officer, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Mr. Adkins, Ms. Marques, and Mr. Williams participated from their principal residences as it is more than 60 miles from the meeting location. Mr. Schmitz participated remotely due to work reasons.

Members Not Present:

Brandon Smith, Chief Information Officer, Department of Elections
Derek Kestner, Information Security Officer, Supreme Court of Virginia
Robbie Coates, Director, Grant Management and Recovery, Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Beth Burgin Waller, Chair, Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Practice, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black

Staff Present:

Mylam Ly, Policy & Governmental Affairs Manager, Virginia IT Agency
Harper Minarik, CAO Associate, Virginia IT Agency
April Gaudin, Legal & Legislative Services Coordinator, Virginia IT Agency
Mary Fain, Director of Information Security Programs, Virginia IT Agency
Janet Logan, Project Manager, Virginia IT Agency
Erica Bland, IT Security Governance & Compliance Manager, Virginia IT Agency
Sam Taylor, Communications Specialist, Virginia IT Agency
Alexandra Ramirez Randazzo, Legal Compliance & Policy Manager, Virginia IT Agency

Review of Agenda:

Ms. Minarik provided an overview of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

As a physical quorum was not present, a vote to approve the minutes could not be conducted. This item will be carried forward to the agenda for the next meeting.

Finances

Ms. Fain presented the financial update. The program is currently working through Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 monies. The funds for FFY 2022 will be expended by the end of calendar year 2025 on licensing purchases. There have not been any significant changes in Year 2 and Year 3 plans. Ms. Fain discussed the Phase 2 allocation for firewalls, vulnerability endpoint detection and response (EDR) and asset inventory, data inventory, and secure remote access. Currently, the Security Operations Center (SOC) is still in process but taking longer than anticipated due to the procurement process. Chair Watson stated that there is consideration for upgrading the EDR licenses to Falcon Complete to address the timing difference. Ms. Fain reported that there were not as many requests from localities for firewalls and that Network Firewalls are currently under review. Asset and inventory price quotes will be committed to by the end of the calendar year.

Phase 2 Updates

Ms. Fain discussed Phase 2 application decision outcomes. There was a large pool of deferred applications for EDR. For these applications, 93% already had something comparable and sufficient in place. In addition, 48% of these applicants were at a 3 or higher (intermediary or higher current capability level). These applications will be reviewed to see if the localities were denied across the board or just for EDR. Applications for Secure Remote Network Access (SRNA) and Firewalls are currently in review. The review for SRNA will be completed by the end of November and for Firewalls will be completed by the end of December. For firewalls, cost and management are the challenge. Schools need Network Firewalls, but Web Application Firewalls (WAF) are easier to implement. Ms. Fain added that they will be working with applicants to see if WAF is an option to minimize costs. There was discussion on who would manage the WAF. Chair Watson noted that the locality SOC would provide advice and general information, but the localities would manage this. Ms. Fain reported that there were currently no concerns regarding implementation status. The timeline for the project areas EDR and response vulnerability, asset inventory, and secure remote access firewalls was reviewed. The implementation roadmap was then presented to the committee from Virginia Cybersecurity Plan through to Virginia Cybersecurity Ecosystem. A discussion was held on whether there was a possibility of Virginia taking on additional funds that have been unspent by other states in their grant programs. Chair Watson stated that it is a discussion that can be addressed later about re-allocation of those funds. The committee then discussed how to reach out to localities on firewalls. Chair Watson noted that there will be internal discussion first, and then we can reach out to the localities to discuss options. If there is a re-allocation of funds, this would be ideal to implement these larger purchases. Ms. Fain added that there needed to be further conversations with rural localities to determine project viability.

Public Comment Period:

There were no public comments.

Other Business:

Chair Watson opened the floor for other business. There was a discussion about the board responsibilities for the upcoming legislative session. It was also noted that a federal bill is currently pending to extend the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) with a 60/40 funding split.

There is currently a bill waiting to extend the SLCGP with a 60/40 split. Ms. Ly confirmed that the next reappointment for seats on the committee is October 2026. Ms. Gauldin discussed travel forms and noted the November meeting is cancelled and that the next meeting is on December 11 at 10am. Ms. Gauldin circulated the dates for the committee meetings in 2026.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by Major Dekeyser and duly seconded by Ms. Doherty, the Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:51 am.