



Virginia Cybersecurity Planning Committee
January 21, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual



Call to Order:

A meeting of the Virginia Cybersecurity Planning Committee was called to order at 10:01 am. Mr. Watson welcomed the members.

Presiding:

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

Members Participating Remotely:

Troy Adkins, Broadband Infrastructure Program Manager, Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Diane Carnohan, Chief Information Security Officer, Virginia Department of Education
Robbie Coates, Director of Grant Programs, Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Brenna R. Doherty, Chief Information Security Officer, Department of Legislative Automated Systems
Charles Huntley, Director of Technology, County of Essex
Derek Kestner, Information Security Officer, Supreme Court of Virginia
Chris Mowry, Chief Information Technology Officer, Virginia State Police
Beth Burgin Waller, Chair, Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Practice, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black
Wesley D. Williams, Executive Director of Technology, Roanoke City Public Schools
Timothy Wyatt, Director of Information Technology, County of York

Members Not Present:

Charles DeKeyser, Major, Virginia Army National Guard
Uma Marques, Information Technology Director, Roanoke County Government
Brandon Smith, Chief Information Officer, Department of Elections

Staff Present:

Jaime Hoyle, Director of Legal and Legislative Services, Virginia IT Agency
April Gauldin, Legal and Legislative Services Coordinator, Virginia IT Agency
Mary Fain, Project Manager, Virginia IT Agency
Janet Logan, Contractor, Virginia IT Agency
Sam Taylor, Communications Specialist, Virginia IT Agency
Matthew Umphlet, Security Solutions Manager, Virginia IT Agency

Review of Agenda:

Ms. Gauldin provided an overview of the agenda.

Project Updates

Financial Update

Ms. Fain presented the financial update. There are no significant changes for the finance update. Program Year 4 and award amounts for this year were added at \$3.6M for total award, with 40% cost share for the state in year 4. The asset and data inventory allocations will have updated numbers in the coming months. Chair Watson confirmed that the allocated monies committed for spending. The available funds represented are not yet committed

Phase 2 Update

Ms. Fain shared that Asset Inventory, Data Inventory and Secure Remote Network Access are in the review and approval stage. More insight into the reasons for deferment of localities within the Asset Inventory area will be given at the next committee meeting. Firewall has the potential to be the largest expenditure. Ms. Carnohan inquired whether the firewall projects would include both hardware and software. Chair Watson stated that they may include both, but given the costs often associated with hardware, we will determine appropriate approval amounts, potentially based on providing an equal percentage or flat amount for devices. Endpoint Detection Response (EDR) and Vulnerability project status is green and within our threshold of plus or minus 10 percent variance. The selected implementation partner is moving forward with approved localities with signed consent agreements to begin the steps necessary to deploy the tools. The EDR project has 5 consent agreements outstanding and we must have these within a short timeframe to move forward. If that does not happen, they will be removed from the project deployment list. There has been a significant growth for signed consent and notifications in Asset and Data Inventory and this remains on track with the timeline.

Phase 3 Discussion and Recommendations

Ms. Fain presented the top five opportunities for improvement based on capability assessments. These areas of growth include NIST/NICE framework, Disaster Recovery (DR) continuity plan and third-party testing, risk assessments and mitigation planning, training for security personnel (to become cybersecurity specialists), and SOC implementation. Localities were sent a survey to rank the most important areas for them moving forward and they were NIST/NICE framework, cybersecurity role training, risk and mitigation planning, DR recovery, data encryption for at-rest data, and migrating to the .gov domain.

In response to the localities survey, 27% filled in an open text response. A few responses overlapped, but included governance and policy related issues, templates, standard operating procedures, data governance, and operations and monitoring. Chair Watson noted that there are disparate needs for localities, but that it was expected and that we need to get a more diverse set of responses from places like local education entities. He also stated that legislation concerning migrating to .gov domains might be something that is necessary from the General Assembly and is where a funding effort might be decided to maintain the .gov presence. The committee was asked to review these ideas for the next meeting so that a vote for investment decisions for Phase 3 can be made.

Approval of Electronic Participation Policy:

The policy was displayed on the screen and summarized by Ms. Gauldin. Upon a motion by Ms. Waller and seconded by Ms. Carnohan, the Committee unanimously voted to adopt the updated electronic participation policy.

Approval of Minutes:

The August 19, October 21, and December 11 meeting minutes were displayed on the screen. Upon a motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Carnohan, the committee unanimously voted to approve all three meeting minutes.

Annual Review of Cybersecurity Plan:

Ms. Gauldin provided an overview of the changes to the cybersecurity plan. The edits were largely administrative non-substantive edits including:

- Beginning on the front page renaming the version and the date on the cover page of the document
- Updating the members of the committee
- Removing the Table of Contents
- Removing Web Application Scanning from CISA Services-this was removed from required services as of the 2023 NOFO

Upon a motion by Ms. Waller and seconded by Ms. Carnohan, the Committee unanimously voted to adopt the amended Cybersecurity Plan.

Officer Elections:

Chair Watson led the nomination and election of the Board Vice Chair, with the newly elected individuals to assume their roles at the next meeting in February. As previously discussed, nominations were solicited, and the position was uncontested.

Mr. Timothy Wyatt was nominated for the position of Vice Chair. A motion was made by Ms. Waller and seconded by Mr. Huntley to approve Mr. Wyatt as Vice Chair. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period:

There were no public comments.

Other Business:

Mr. Watson opened the floor for other business. Ms. Carnohan asked if there had been any discussion about VCPC with the new administration. Chair Watson stated that reappointments will be needed in the fall, but that he is not expecting any issues to arise. Mr. Huntley stated that he had received a reappointment email from the Secretary of Administration's office, but none of the other members stated that they had received it.

Mr. Watson noted the next meeting would be on February 18th, but that it may be cancelled dependent on updates available by then.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by Mr. Wyatt and seconded by Ms. Carnohan, the Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:47am.