March 2026 AHC Board Meeting - Minutes

Date: March 17, 2026
Meeting Type: Virtual

Attendees:

- Chris Geldart – Board President
- Ira Tannenbaum – Board Member, Remote
- Mike Ambrosio – Board Member
- Jim Sheehan– Board Member
- Mike Sprayberry– Board Member
- Carlos Torres – Board Member
- Tom Hyatt – General Counsel, All Hazards Consortium
- John Molnar – Director, Program Management Office
- Tom Moran – Executive Director

Unable to Attend:

- Bud Mertz – Board Member
- Kelly McKinney – Board Member
- Chris Eisenbrey – Board Member

Guest:

- Chris Essid (Guest / prospective contributor; former DHS, Emergency Communications)

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1. Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

- The Board reviewed the February 2026 Board Meeting minutes.
- Motion to approve: Chris Geldart
- Second: Ira Tannenbaum
- Vote: Unanimous “Aye”
- Result: Minutes approved

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2. Finance Update

Presenter: John Molnar

- Financials remain **stable and consistent with prior reports**.

- Key revenue sources include:
  - SISE-related income
  - Membership revenue streams
- Current revenue is tracked on an **accrual basis**, showing increasing monthly inflows.
- Recent funding highlights:
  - ~$400,000 received in the current month
  - Additional **~$500,000 pending**, potentially bringing close to $1M in new funds
- Monthly revenue is projected to increase from:
  - ~$10,000/month → **~$20,000/month** in upcoming months
- Major funding sources include DCHSEMA **UASI and SHSGP grants**, though total funding levels have decreased from ~$2M to ~$1M year-over-year

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3. Legal Update

Presenter: Tom Hyatt

- No major legal issues or concerns were raised during this session.
- Routine legal oversight continues in support of AHC programs and grant activities.

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4. Guest Speaker Discussion – Chris Essid, Former DHS Office of Emergency Communications (now CISA), Former Virginia Statewide Interoperability Coordinator

Overview of Discussion:

- Chris Essid introduced his background in:
  - Foundational interoperability governance efforts in Virginia
  - Leadership in establishing national emergency communications capabilities at DHS
- Key themes from discussion:
  - Interoperable communications remains an unresolved national issue, despite years of effort
  - Persistent gaps exist in:
    - Coordination across jurisdictions
    - Technology integration
    - Governance alignment
  - Emphasis on front-end coordination vs. post-incident fixes
  - Interest in re-engaging with AHC to:
    - Contribute expertise
    - Help address ongoing systemic gaps
    - Advance solutions in communications and emerging areas (e.g., UAS/counter-UAS)
- Board members expressed:

- Strong familiarity with Essid's prior work
- Confidence in his expertise
- Interest in exploring future collaboration

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6. Other Topics Discussed

1. **2026 Summit Report**
    a. Recently released and updated multiple times
    b. Positive feedback on quality and in-person engagement value
2. **Board Governance / Administration**
    a. Conflict of Interest (COI) forms reminder and follow-up process discussed
3. **Organizational Direction**
    a. Continued focus on:
        i. Public-private coordination
        ii. Use case development
        iii. Leveraging AHC's network and working groups

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7. Action Items

1. **COI Forms Follow-Up**
    a. Send direct email reminders to board members to complete/update forms
2. **Financial Monitoring**
    a. Track incoming grant funding and adjust projections accordingly
3. **Engagement with Chris Essid**
    a. Explore opportunities for involvement in:
        i. Interoperable communications initiatives
        ii. Emerging technology areas (UAS, communications coordination)
4. **AHC 2026 Summit Report Distribution**
    a. Continue promotion and dissemination of the 2026 Summit Report
5. **Future Planning Discussions**
    a. Continue refining initiatives and use cases for board review and approval

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8. Adjournment

- A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.