



Meeting Minutes Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

Attendance	DATE	Tuesday, June 3, 2025
	TIME	10:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference
	RECORDER	Sherrean Whipple
Voting Membership		
Name	Designated/Appointed Representative:	Attendance Status
Harriett Vegas – Tribal Co-Chair	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	X
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Jackie Conway	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Duane Masters Sr.	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe	X
Don Pelt	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	ABS
Marian Perez	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Kenneth Quiner	Washoe Tribes of Nevada/California	X
Ross Rivera	Ely Shoshone Tribe	X
Daniel Thayer	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	X
Laurie Thom	Yerington Paiute Tribe	X
Non-Voting Membership		
Name	Entity Represented:	Attendance Status
Brett Compston - Co-Chair	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X
Emily Gould-Monaghan or appointee Doug Dame	Nevada Department of Health and Human Resources	X
Non-Member Representatives/Support		
Samantha Ladich	Nevada Office of the Attorney General	X
Loren Borst	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	ABS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean Whipple, Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS), and a quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, opened the period of public comment for discussion.

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the March 4, 2025, NTECC meeting.

Ken Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada/California, motioned to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2025, meeting with the date of the meeting corrected.

Daniel Thayer, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously

4. Tribal Nations

Co-Chair Brett Compston, DEM/HS, began with personnel updates and organizational changes at the Division. Co-Chair Compston described the following changes: Heather Lafferty is now serving as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer as well as the Chief Resilience Officer; Bill Elliott is now serving as a special projects manager; Lindey Downey is now serving as the Preparedness Portfolio Manager; Eric Wilson is now serving as the State Exercise Officer; Laney Parow is now leading the mitigation and recovery grants team; Janae Johnson is now leading the non-profit security grants; Janell Woodward is now performing financial reviews on the grants team; Cailean Demmon is the new purchasing clerk; and Jill Pickern, Samantha O'Brien, and Brent Harper have now left the Division.

Co-Chair Brett Compston next provided updates regarding FEMA, noting that he will provide updates on the tribal partner listserv once he has them. Co-Chair Compston indicated that the threshold to qualify for fire management assistance grants is increasing and that cost shares will be going up and there will be more requirements for state, local, and tribal partners to meet. Co-Chair Compston indicated that at this time, DEM has no information regarding the release of the HSGP or EMPG grants and explained that set quarterly meetings have been delayed for those Boards, Committees, and Commissions until the grants have been released. Co-Chair Compston explained that BRIC has been terminated and FEMA is no longer supporting that program. Chief Compston did discuss the conditions of BRIC regarding existing awards. FEMA is determining which programs will continue and which will not be funded. It appears that projects which were awarded but have not started will have their funding pulled. It appears that projects that are in progress are going to be ok, however no extensions will likely be granted. Ms. Lafferty is working through the final determinations with FEMA. Chief Compston explained that the FEMA National Review Committee has convened and that guidance was issued during their first meeting to repackage FEMA under a new name and reorganize roles and responsibilities. Co-Chair Compston indicated that the final report from that committee is due in October.

Co-Chair Brett Compston informed the Council that the physical remodel of the emergency operations center in Carson City has been completed and further noted that an incident support model exercise will be conducted in the operations center on the 14th of August.

Co-Chair Compston next discussed legislative actions, noting that all agency bills

passed and are either at the Governor's Office or have already been signed by the Governor. Co-Chair Compston informed the Council that the following bills have passed: IMAC will now be co-chaired by DEM and the Division of Forestry; the Storm Act will allow DEM to establish revolving loan accounts to help with the mitigation or match portions of mitigation projects; and SB38 allows DEM to share school plans with local responders. The Co-Chair indicated that all of these will take effect on 1 July. Co-Chair Compston concluded the section on legislation by noting that the Division of Emergency Management will become the Office of Emergency Management.

Co-Chair Compston informed the Council that a one-page info sheet of common evacuation language related to the Ready Set Go program has been provided to emergency managers.

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, opened discussion for feedback on the status of the DEM/HS programs.

There were no questions or discussion from the members.

5. Update on Tribal Health Preparedness Efforts.

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, stated this agenda item was to update the NTECC on the Division of Public and Behavioral Health's Health Preparedness Efforts.

Doug Dame, Department of Public and Behavioral Health, informed the Council that the five-year strategic plan is finished and that now review is taking place of the next steps for that plan. Mr. Dame informed the Council that the annual rural preparedness summit was held the previous month at the Elko Convention Center and was attended by many of the tribal partners. Mr. Dame explained that planning for the following year will begin in July and that public health will be reaching out to partners at that time to get steps for next year's planning.

Doug Dame explained that two new employees have been onboarded: Health Emergency Exercise Planner, William; and Rural Health Coordinator, Olivia.

Mr. Dame concluded by informing the Council that currently plans are being updated, MCI trailers in the south are being restocked, and H1N5 and measles are being monitored, with the threat of H1N5 being very low.

6. Tribal Travel Funding Assistance

Aaron Thacker, DEM/HS Tribal, informed the Council that he will be meeting with the budget officer in the upcoming weeks to get a breakdown of the final travel funding and once the update is complete, he will be reaching out to tribal partners with the information.

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, asked about local vs. out of state.

Aaron Thacker explained that it will definitely be for local, and then depending on the breakdown, out of state may also be explored.

7. Update From The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)

Aaron Thacker, DEM/HS, informed the Council that ITCN will be holding its upcoming convention from July 13-17 at the Atlantis in Reno.

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, asked for comments.

There were no comments.

8. Update From Nevada Indian Commission (NIC)

Stacy Montooth, NIC, not present. Agenda item was tabled.

9. Updates From The DEM/HS Chief Resilience Officer (CRO)/State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) and Tribal Staff

Heather Lafferty, CRO/SHMO DEM/HS, Aaron Thacker (Tribal EM), Kimberly Palma-Ortega (Tribal PHP) briefed the NTECC.

Heather Lafferty informed the Council that she will continue to serve as the State Chief Resilience Officer but is also taking on the additional duties of State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). Ms. Lafferty indicated that DEM is working diligently with the Grants team and FEMA Region IX to try and get fidelity on the status of some of the BRIC grants, and any ongoing impacts in Nevada. Ms. Lafferty indicated that the ongoing tribal emergency managers coordination call continues to happen every third Thursday. Ms. Lafferty added that she is still running the Nevada Access and Functional Needs Disaster coalition jointly with Kimberly Palma-Ortega, and encouraged members to reach out to herself, Aaron, or Kimberly with any new staff that would benefit. Ms. Lafferty closed by informing the Council that she will be conducting an impact of extreme heat in indigenous communities webinar in partnership with the Great Basin Tribal Alliance on June 17.

Aaron Thacker discussed the World Preparedness Conference in Elko, noting that while there, he met with Chairwoman Dackota York from the Fort McDermitt Paiute Tribe and got many good ideas from her. Mr. Thacker noted that on the way back from Elko, he set up booths at the Lovelock health fair.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega informed the Council of the development of a public tribal public health district list with NDEM, which will allow to share real-time information. Ms. Palma-Ortega discussed her attendance at the Nevada Division of Native American Affairs state liaison call in April, noting that there was great turnout and allowed for great networking opportunities. Ms. Palma-Ortega explained that she and Mr. Thacker will be coordinating with tribes regarding onsite visits to review and evaluate things like communication boxes, as well as to continue navigating with mission support on all the alternatives that can be offered within future years. Ms. Palma-Ortega indicated that she and Mr. Thacker have collaborated together and created a survey that will be issued out to all of the tribes to gather information as to what works best for tribes regarding communication. Ms. Palma-Ortega concluded by informing the Council that

she has been tasked to lead the EFS-6 Mass Care desk for the state.

10. Grant Status Reports

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, informed the Council that the grant status report along with all updated and current members is included in the reading materials. Mr. Franco reiterated the lack of status on the NOFOs for FY'25 EMPG or HSGP suite of grants, but noted that DEM has opened applications up for them so as to front load and plan for the inevitable quick turnaround for when the NOFOs are released. Mr. Franco encouraged members to work with the grants team on any application questions they might have.

11. Public Comment

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas called for any public comment.

There was no public comment.

12. Adjournment

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas asked for a motion to adjourn the June 3, 2025, NTECC meeting.

Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe moved to adjourn the meeting.

Duane Masters Sr., Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas adjourned the NTECC meeting at 10:39 a.m.