



Meeting Minutes Emergency Preparedness Working Group

Attendance Record	DATE	Tuesday, June 2, 2026	
	TIME	2:00 p.m.	
	METHOD	Zoom Teleconference Conference line #: (669) 219-2599 Meeting ID# 202 331 8963	
	RECORDER	Loren Borst	
Committee Members	Present	Committee Members	Present
Lee Cabaniss—Elko County	X	Paul Melendrez—Esmeralda County	ABS
Eric Holt—Lincoln County	ABS	Mathias Rieske—White Pine County	X
Scott Lewis—Nye County	X	Chief Brian O’Neal—Clark County	X
Non-Voting Membership	Present	Non-Voting Membership	Present
Jared Franco, Chair—NV Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (OEM/HS)	X	Tiffany Gamero-Department of Energy (DOE) EM Nevada	X
Administrative and Legal Staff	Present	Administrative and Legal Staff	Present
Loren Borst – Support staff OEM/HS	X	Samantha Ladich—Senior Deputy Attorney General	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Jared Franco, Nevada Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEM/HS) called the meeting to order. Loren Borst, OEM/HS performed roll call, and quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Franco, OEM/HS, opened the first period of public comment.

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lee Cabaniss, Elko County Emergency Manager, moved for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the March 3, 2026, meeting. Scott Lewis, Nye County Emergency Manager, seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP (EPWG) GRANT BALANCE UPDATES

Judith Lyman, OEM/HS, started by stated the performance period expires June 30, 2026. She then provided updates on current available balances to be spent for counties as follows: Clark County, \$485,845.74; Elko County, \$261,940.09; Esmeralda County, \$264,328.70; Lincoln County, \$347,991.63, of which Ms. Lyman has the four reimbursement requests submitted, but are not included in the previously stated total; Nye County, \$324,664.82; White Pine County, \$460,464.40.

Ms. Lyman stated a discussion was had with DOE regarding an extension that was applied for. When and if received, it will be an extension of the current grant. Any money left over, it is possible that it will be spent after June 30th, but she strongly encouraged members to try and spend the funds before the performance period ends.

There were no member questions or comments.

5. COUNTY PRESENTATION

Chief Brian O'Neal, Clark County Emergency Manager, stated they just completed this travel and expects to submit that reimbursement request shortly. They had the opportunity to send members to SERTC, which is part of a pursuit to get the Hazmat technician program back. This program was dropped in 2008, when a fiscal decline started in Clark County, and was never brought back. The SERTC trip is the first big step taken to bring back the technician level capability for Clark County Fire Department.

Chief O'Neal explained that the Security and Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC) is a subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads. It is the premiere hazardous material training facility in the country, located in Pueblo, Colorado, offering several courses. The course taken by Chief O'Neal's team was the Hazmat Technician course. He sent two groups, 18 individuals in each, totaling 36 personnel. The surface transportation technician course takes two weeks to complete, totaling 80 hours.

Chief O'Neal further explained that, because of the size of his group, the SERTC instructors had to conduct two classes, specifically for Chief O'Neal's team. He stated that the main problem with sending a group this large is that they had to backfill all those positions while they were away at training. As Chief O'Neal's team doesn't have this many extra personnel, they had to be backfilled with overtime. Therefore, such an endeavor becomes quite expensive, especially for a two-week timespan.

Chief O'Neal elaborated that a rough breakdown of the budget for this training includes backfilling for 36 personnel for two weeks each is approximately \$300,000; travel costs included airfare, hotels, rental cars, per diem is approximately \$90,000; then, there is the cost of the SERTC training itself, with the additional cost of having to have two classes specifically for Chief O'Neal's group.

Chief O'Neal proudly explained that while his team was at the training, they represented the Clark County Fire Department the way they want members to represent their department in the community. His team was made aware that one of the instructors had a child that was going through an Eagle Scout project. There were several former Eagle Scouts in the Chief's group, so they did some outreach there in Pueblo, working with the child and his family, which included raising some money, helping him to develop his project, and be an asset to the community.

6. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S (DOE) ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (EM) NEVADA PROGRAM

Chair Jared Franco, OEM/HS, presented on the upcoming DOE-hosted Low Level Waste Stakeholders Forum and the OEM/HS's operation of the DOE supported EPWG program, including how it is managed and how the funds are used. Chair Franco stated OEM/HS was approached a couple of months ago about the forum happening in Pahrump, in July, with OEM/HS agreeing to participate.

Chair Franco stated their presentation will be on how the State of Nevada OEM manages their EPWG program and funds. A big part of the presentation will be on what Chief O'Neal presented on in Agenda Item 5 of today's meeting. Chair Franco indicated he will be reaching out to the individual counties to get a couple of projects that each county wants to highlight at the conference, with the Chair then weaving those projects from the perspective of how the state organizationally manages it.

Tiffany Gamero, DOE, added that they host this event for local stakeholders about two to three times a year. She noted that some EPWG members have historically attended. She stated presentation items of interest have been related to transportation or surrounding the Northern Nevada Security Site (NNSS). She was thankful that Chief Franco is presenting for EPWG, noting that Nye County has presented at this event in the past regarding equipment purchased with EPWG funds.

Chair Franco, stated he was looking forward to the presentation. He stated he will be reaching out to county managers and EMs soon, so please be alert for his contact and requests.

Chief Scott Lewis, Nye County, stated that they will have one of their two new F-500 trailers there on display, for whoever would like to look at them.

Chief Brian O'Neal, Clark County Emergency Manager, stated that it has been almost 18 years since they have had a technician-level capability on a major fire department in the State of Nevada, by size, with a culture of being prepared to respond to a Hazmat incident gone for that span of time, as well. He indicated they have a lot of suppression personnel, but none for Hazmat incidents. He stated the skills obtained from the Hazmat training provides the ability to respond safely and effectively to Hazmat-level incidents in the community and will be an example to other county Emergency Managers to look at the

way they spend their money when they add capabilities in the future.

7. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/HOMELAND SECURITY'S RADIATION TRAINING CALENDAR FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

Chair Jared Franco, Nevada (OEM/HS), stated he didn't see Jason Danon online, and indicated he would be present today. Chair Franco didn't have anything to report. They will be continuing the calibrations, as scheduled. Please be on the lookout for information from Jason Danon.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Cabaniss, Elko County Emergency Manager, asked if a \$77,000 purchase he submitted and approved was part of the report he received today. It indicates the same available funding amount as the one he received in March. He stated the available balance should be about \$190,000, instead of \$260,000.

Judith Lyman, OEM/HS, indicated this got hung up in the state financial system, but they are in the process of pushing it through. She apologized for the delay. She did state she would double-check the amounts but believed the \$77,000 was incorporated and is being processed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jared Franco, OEM/HS, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Lewis, Nye County Emergency Manager, motioned to adjourn. Chief Brian O'Neal, Clark County Emergency Manager, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM.