



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

Attendance	DATE		January 29, 2021		
	TIME		9:30 a.m.		
	METHOD		Teleconference		
	RECORDER		Nicole Kelleher		
Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
David Fogerson – Chair	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Tennile Periera	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Andrea Esp	X	Matthew Petersen	ABS
Andy Ancho	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X
Roy Anderson	X	Mike Heidemann	X	Misty Robinson	X
Travis Anderson	ABS	Eric Holt	X	Rachel Skidmore	ABS
Noah Boyer	X	David Hunkup	X	Corey Solferino	X
Elizabeth Breeden	X	Jeremy Hynds	ABS	Malinda Southard	X
James Chrisley	X	Graham Kent	ABS	Cary Underwood	X
Jason Danen	X	Mary Ann Laffoon	X	Mike Wilson	X
Cassandra Darrough	ABS	Chris Lake	ABS	Stephanie Woodard	ABS
Bob Dehnhardt	ABS	Carolyn Levering	ABS		
Craig dePolo	X	Ryan Miller	X		
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
Bunny Bishop	ABS	Melissa Friend	X	Kasey KC	ABS
Rebecca Bodnar	X	Sheryl Gonzales	ABS	Selby Marks	ABS
Kate Callaghan	ABS	Mojra Hauenstein	ABS	Catherine Neilson	ABS
Felix Castagnola	X	Jill Hemenway	ABS		
Mike Dyzak	ABS	Patricia Herzog	X		
Legal/Administrative Support Attendance					
Representative			Entity		Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General			Office of the Nevada Attorney General		X
Kelli Anderson – Emergency Management Program Manager			Nevada Division of Emergency Management		X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair David Fogerson, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS), called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Kelli Anderson, DEM. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Fogerson opened the first period of public comment for discussion. Chair Fogerson apologized for the technical challenges that occurred with the past meeting that was canceled. The decision was made to transition back to a low-tech version with this current conference call, although the committee has asked for the high-tech version to be able to see one another. Rebecca Bodnar, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), offered her agency's Lifesize account if another platform is required.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the December 14, 2020, Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting. Mike Heidemann, Churchill County Emergency Manager,

motioned to approve with no changes. Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Program Manager, seconded the motion to approve. Noah Boyer, Washoe County Sheriff's Office Consolidated Bomb Squad, stated that on the bottom of Page 3, it states that "we are down 15 bomb squad techs", and that is not just Consolidated Bomb Squad, that is statewide. Mr. Heidemann amended the motion to approve the minutes with the correction regarding the bomb squad. Ms. Echeverria amended her second to include the amended changes. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Review of the integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

Melissa Friend, Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM), states that with IPAWS, there is some confusion, and for clarity, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) goes to radio and television, and the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) goes through cell phone and mobile devices based on your location. Going deeper, we have Collaborative Operating Groups (COGs) which is how all alerts and warnings are situated throughout the system. Just recently, we moved to Code Red for the IPAWS (as you know from Alert Sense). With the transition, we are looking at how to realign the COGS that we have. What we would like to suggest is to move towards a regional aspect.

Currently, Clark County has four different COGS that are assigned to them. We would like to move underneath more of a county level so that we can have some redundancy. Like the Quad Counties are situated currently, if the situation arose, Carson City could send out an alert to Douglas County and vice versa. We are looking to align that messaging. This is up for discussion. The only issue is Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) (northern and southern command dispatch) and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) are the Amber and Silver Alert messaging systems. As we go forward, Ms. Friend will send out proposed collaborating groups. If there are questions or concerns, please let us know.

Billy Samuels, Deputy Fire Chief with Clark County Emergency Management, asked that Ms. Friend give the present COGS situation and the reason for the switch so that the group could visualize what is being shared. Ms. Friend will do so by the next meeting. Ms. Friend stated there really are no cons to this suggestion, just that there would be different numbers associated with them. Deputy Fire Chief Samuels said he understands and that works for him, but others may like to have more eyes on the plan prior. Ms. Friend states the benefit of switching over to Code Red is that some jurisdictions reached out and wanted their own COG, but we only have so many that are assigned to us with the amount of money allotted. Having a sub-COG underneath that allows that jurisdiction their own ability to send messages out without additional costs.

Chair Fogerson stated that IPAWS is the overall system (EAS and WEA) and the current program we are using to send the alerts is called Code Red, and the Federal Government uses the COGS to control who has the approval to send those messages out. What we are trying to do is coordination the COGS so they are not as dispersed and they are brought back up a level while still ensuring that every dispatch center in the state of Nevada (fire, law enforcement, EMS) would all have the ability to be under that COGS and sent those IPAWS messages out within their area, and if you are member of the COGS (like Clark county could be one COGS and the City of Henderson could sent out the alert for City of Las Vegas if another was unable to do so that there is an interoperability aspect). Ms. Friend stated that is correct that this change would increase our level of resilience. Chief Fogerson noted that at this time, some dispatch centers that are not members of COGS and to issue an alert they must reach out to another that is a member to be able to issue alert. Ms. Friend said this is correct and internally these issues are being addressed. Some counties do not have the FEMA MOU. We can coordinate and address these issues with the COGS. Clark County would have the ability to send out for Mojave County, Arizona.

Chair Fogerson noted that consolidating the COGS and bringing them up a level will come down to the issue as to what to call them. Chief Fogerson suggested changing the name COG. For example, "Clark County COG"

would then have City of Las Vegas, City of Mesquite, City of Henderson would all be licensed under the main COG to utilize those systems as well. There would be a naming issue to address.

Chair Fogerson, recognized the accidental issue of the civil disturbance test message that impacted five Nevada counties, the FCC was reported to and action was taken. After investigation, it was discovered that it was not a training issue. Chair Fogerson asked that Ms. Friend to bring forth the proposal and map of how the COGS will be aligned and utilized to share for the next meeting for everyone to review to ensure no one is missing.

5. Review of Project Submission for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Mitigation Grant Program

Janelle Woodward, DEM, provided a review and update on the BRIC program. January 29, 2021 was the due date for the application to FEMA. There were two categories for submitting the application for the BRIC Program this year. First, the State set aside \$600,000 for projects, planning, and scoping with caps and limitations. The plans have a \$300,000 cap; scoping projects also can only be put through the set aside. Second was the fully 100% competitive portion nationally and that is where all the projects go with the only caveat being if we wanted to put a small project in the set aside, we could do that, but the planning and scoping would have to be within that cost limitation.

One plan for Lincoln County and four project scoping applications were able to go through to meet that \$600,000 set aside. FEMA came back and, although the NOFO said management costs were in addition, included management costs. This is the first year they are allowed management costs as a sub applicant. The University Medical Center (UMC) resilience project scoping and City of Reno are both micro grid projects, which is a new application format, and those have been included. There are state management costs, and please note the changes to that as it can be slightly misleading because we apply based on every application we submit, so this would be assuming we got all that we submitted for. This number will adjust based on FEMA's ultimate decision; we hope the decisions will come out in May 2021. Projects should start to be awarded by August.

Kelli Anderson, DEM, wrapped up with stating that the projects submitted for set aside were the only projects that could fit in based on money amount and the two projects that were submitted competitively are the Hobart and Maxwell Basin. The management costs listed, if we are successful for the two large projects, will have to be recalculated based on what is received. Dr. dePolo, University of Nevada Reno, asked why the Henderson Generator project did not go forward. Ms. Woodward replied that the Henderson Project was found to not be eligible last year because it did not meet HMH Hazard and Mitigation Assistance requirements. We provided the technical review to Henderson but in the end, the same application was submitted with last year's same Bid Cost Analysis (BCA), which was incorrect. The project was found to not be financially cost effective, on that BCA. We are an Enhanced State and because of that, FEMA is cracking down on the applications that we submit. We felt we could not knowingly submit a project that would not be funded a second time. Our plan is to work with them if they want to re-submit throughout the year to be ready for next year if they so choose.

Dr. Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, motioned to approve the recommendation that staff has made to the Chief of DEM for the applications to FEMA. Dr. dePolo, seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Annual Review of the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee Bylaws

Deputy Fire Chief Samuels wanted to discuss and suggest that ranking issues that have arisen in the past be addressed in the bylaws, specifically the voting vs. non-voting members, to avoid future issues. Non-voting members should have a say as they are subject matter experts. Dr. Freeman suggests in the future that anything with a ranking or voting process not include the simultaneous addition of new members during the meeting or

replacement members during the meeting because that created some confusion. Deputy Fire Chief Samuels also mentioned that non-voting members could rank, which caused issues.

Dr. Freeman agreed and stated that the bylaws might not be the place to address this issue, but she does recognize that we need a better description between the differences between voting and non-voting members, with opportunities of contributions to be outlined clearer as well. Deputy Fire Chief Samuels read section #7 in the current bylaws regarding voting members. He noted the group did that ranking (last time), the non-voting members had the ability to rank, which would lead toward the official action. Dr. Freeman indicated the message last time was that ranking is not considered a vote, which was where the issues arose. Some non-voting members decided to abstain due to tension. This needs to be delineated clearer for the future which could be added to the bylaws accordingly or there needs to be a written and clear understanding of the difference between a voting member and a non-voting member. Deputy Fire Chief Samuels agrees.

Patty Herzog, Governor's Office of Economic Development, as a non-voting member of the committee, agreed with the previous comments. She is happy to participate and provide subject matter expertise, but the ranking was something she abstained from last time. She thinks non-voting members can provide advice but should not be a part of the decision making. Tennille Pereira, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, states that coming from the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center, and being a subject matter expert, that input is valuable to her. She likes to look at the rankings from the non-voting members to help inform her.

Chair Fogerson, agrees with the points made. The law limits the number of voting members assigned but does not limit the number of non-voting members. He likes the input of subject matter experts and likes the method of ranking all and then a vote where the voting members can see the ranking. Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Management, agrees with Chair Fogerson's viewpoint. Chair Fogerson asked the Committee if this needs to be outlined in the bylaws for clarity, and Deputy Fire Chief Samuels stated he would like it written to avoid hearsay.

Mike Heidemann agrees it needs to be written in bylaws as a two-phase type of situation, that the rankings include all, but the final vote is from the voting members. Chair Fogerson agrees to bring this back for discussion at the next NRAC meeting on how the committee can differentiate ranking discussion versus voting discussion.

7. Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee Annual Report

Chair Fogerson, would like the committee to send pictures to reflect all the different disciplines such as cyber security, communications, and not just COVID-19. Dr. Freeman suggested including committee transitions that have occurred over the last year, such as retirements and new people on board, and suggests showing the diversity of the committee (urban/rural/north/south/tribal) graphically, so it can be as valuable as well. Chair Fogerson will put something together and get this out to the committee. He wants to respect the past as well as the future.

8. Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council (NTECC) Updates

Crystal Harjo, DEM, gave an update on key activities that occurred in 2020 including information on COVID-19, COVID, 14 tribes that have official designated representatives to the NTECC board, and the quarterly NTECC meetings in accordance with NRS 414.165. Harriet Parker, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, and Chief Dave Fogerson joined NTECC, and there were two turnovers in Emergency Management Coordinator positions within DEM. Jackie Conway and Cassandra Darrough both have returned to their respective tribes to help in COVID-19 response, and Ryan Gerchman, DEM, was able to fill that role. COVID-19 response was a large focus, and work ensued to overcome remote locations of tribes that had huge impacts on their community. NTECC staff are now working to move towards recovery and provide that assistance. Coordination and support of community-based collection sites with the tribes at their respective locations by DEM and the Nevada National Guard was

provided with 12 tribes and one tribal organization hosted community-based collection. Some of the tribes have had multiple events to help their tribal communities. Abbott ID machines were provided to some of the tribes when they needed emergency assistance. About 10 Tribes have obtained the Abbott ID machines through the Indian Health Service; however, due to the increase in testing and relying on rapid testing, NTECC staff was able to reach out to tribal and local county partners to assist the tribes with obtaining the rapid testing. The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe assisted Churchill County with doing rapid testing for some of their emergency services personnel. NTECC coordinated with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, and Carson City Health and Human Services to get additional machines to help them to run 105 tests in a twelve hour period, with one positive test, through the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribal Clinic.

Ryan Gerchman, DEM, addressed a local tribal suicide spike. The local tribe partnered up with the Nevada Resilience Project and Behavioral Health to provide support to the local tribe that requested their assistance while being culturally sensitive to do only as asked. Many resources were pooled together to provide assistance including tribal site visits, assessments in person, and virtual/over the phone assistance. Since the resources were deployed to the local tribe, there have been no additional suicides. Additionally, zero COVID cases have been reported at that local Tribe. Completion of the first Tribal Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (TEPW), that was tribal specific, with 12 tribal partners involved, was a great success.

Chair Fogerson stated that he is proud of the NTECC and its staff's hard work and the partnerships that have been created. They are assisting without interfering which is important in Emergency Management to assist without telling them how to do it.

9. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 Strategies to be Maintained and Emerging Strategies

Chair Fogerson referred to the attachment in the agenda packet. These are capacities that have been discussed and need to be reviewed as to how we maintain these in the future. Chair Fogerson wanted to get these in front of the committee to show how these have been designated so that when we start looking at projects, that the strategic capacities to be maintained are the one that would be automatically funded. Emerging capacities are the ones to be voted on and ranked in order to move those projects forward when funding becomes available.

10. Overview of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program

Kelli Anderson, DEM, referred to the attachment in the agenda packet and reviewed the deliverables and estimated timelines/releases including a list of draft meeting dates and times. The Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) will meet to discuss and vet Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) applications, and the NRAC will meet to discuss and vet the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) applications. Ms. Anderson spoke to the understanding that we will have to take the recommendations provided by the NRAC to the Committee on Finance and the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FFY2021 should be released in February 2021, and DEM is anticipating similar provisions to last year, so there is hesitation to draft the application until the NOFO releases. With approximately 80 days to submit applications, there may be challenges should the UASI be forced to place their process in a fully competitive mode. DEM is hopeful that the NOFO is delayed to allow FEMA to rethink this process to allow states to set up the process should it move to a competitive platform. Outreach efforts and a request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been put forth, and advise to subgrantees to collect and prepare all documents in advance to streamline the challenges and tight turnarounds is suggested.

Dr. Freeman asked if there will be training on the ZOOM Grants, with Ms. Anderson indicating pre-recorded Zoom trainings will be sent out on how to apply, how to submit a Quarterly Financial Report (QFR), Quarterly Progress Report (QPR), Project Change Request (PCR), as well as individual technical assistance which will always

be provided as requested. Cary Underwood, Director of the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center, asked if Ms. Anderson had received the letter sent by the members of the House and Senate requesting the rejection of the changes in the FFY 2021 process and/or the delay of those changes. Ms. Anderson stated she would like to have a copy of that letter.

11. Public Comment

Chair Fogerson opened discussion on the second period of public comment. Dr. Freeman said thank you for making sure this meeting happened and did not cancel. Chair Fogerson recognized the proposed future agenda items for the next NRAC meeting as follows:

- COG reorganization draft
- Bylaws draft
- Presentation on flood issues in Nevada

12. Adjourn

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was presented by Misty Robinson, Southern Nevada Health District, and a second was provided by Roy Anderson, Washoe County School District. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.