



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

Attendance	DATE	Monday, September 13, 2021
	TIME	10:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom/Western Nevada College
	RECORDER	Sherrean Whipple
Voting Membership		
Name	Designated/Appointed Representative:	Attendance Status
Harriett Parker – Co-Chair	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	X
Marla Stanton	Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	ABS
Marian Perez	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Alfreida Jake	Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	ABS
Ross Rivera	Ely Shoshone Tribe	X
Jackie Conway	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	X
Duane Masters Sr.	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe	X
Don Pelt	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	ABS
David Hunkup	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	X
Tanya Reynolds	South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	X
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	X
Tashina Jim	Walker River Paiute Tribe	X
Kenneth Quiner	Washoe Tribes of Nevada/California	X
Non-Member Representatives/Support		
Name	Entity Represented:	Attendance Status
David Fogerson, Co-Chair	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X
Samantha Ladich	Nevada Office of the Attorney General	X
Sherrean Whipple	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X
Sari Nichols	Nevada Indian Commission	X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Public Comment

Co-Chair David Fogerson opened the period of public comment for discussion.

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the June 28, 2021 NTECC meeting.

Ross Rivera moved to approve the June 28, 2021 minutes of the NTECC meeting. Kenneth Quiner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. NTECC Logo Review

Chair Harriet Parker informed the Council that one logo was submitted, it is in the packet distributed to the Council, and it is currently in rough-draft form. Chair Parker informed the Council that she had reached out to another friend who is a Las Vegas Paiute Tribal Member and the artist and author of the Captain Paiute Graphic Novels. Chair Parker indicated that this friend was busy working on his next graphic novel but would try and work on the logo for the Council. As of this meeting, Chair Parker had not yet received a response from him.

Co-Chair Dave Fogerson indicated his approval of the logo because it incorporates the response and mitigation side but indicated his belief that the logo is missing the tie to the tribal communities.

Chair Parker explained that she had mentioned this same concern to the artist, who had informed her that the tribal logos would be difficult to incorporate because there would be many of them and they would be very hard to see. Chair Parker instead suggested to the artist that he perhaps incorporate dots on the map to represent each tribe's location, and the artist indicated his willingness to work on this suggestion. Chair Parker opened the floor to questions and comments and asked the Council for suggestions of other artists.

Jackie Conway asked if it was possible to develop a flyer that could be sent out to tribes that includes the information and deadline for the submittal date.

Chair Parker agreed and reminded the Council that there had been discussion in the past regarding reaching out to the tribes for logo submittals but that this had been delayed due to COVID.

David Hunkup also expressed support for Ms. Conway's suggestion. Mr. Hunkup further indicated that there are multiple ways that a flyer could be distributed to the tribal communities.

Sari Nichols, Nevada Indian Commission, suggested doing a logo contest among high-school kids, which would potentially not only create a logo, but would also be a great educational tool.

Chair Parker discussed the possibility of providing incentives or rewards for the selective logo.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that although no cash award could be offered, perhaps special recognition and some sort of swag from the tribes and from DEM could be offered.

Chair Parker indicated that she would begin working on a flyer and will reach out to other NTECC members for suggestions for this flyer. Chair Parker further suggested tabling the item to the next meeting.

Ross Rivera suggested that each tribe could come up with a prize for their own tribe, thus justifying the provision of a prize for the logo contest winner.

Dave Hunkup concurred with this suggestion and informed the Council that he has resources where he could contribute something, perhaps a gift card, for his community, indicating that there are people within his community who certainly would be able to create a logo, particularly with the incentive of a prize.

Chair Parker discussed a tribal member in Las Vegas who did all the artwork for the pow-wows in his tribe but has since passed away. Chair Parker indicated that she had spoken with his wife to see if there was any of his artwork that could be used for the logo but explained that the loss for the wife is still too fresh for her to be able to look through the artwork. Nonetheless, the wife indicated her willingness to try and look to see if any of the gentleman's artwork would be appropriate to contribute toward the NTECC logo.

5. Update from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)

Clifford Banuelos, ITCN, informed the Council that the CDC COVID Response Grant ends June 2022 and that there are no more planned purchases of PPEs as there is a surplus in the Reno office. Rather, Mr. Banuelos explained, ITCN is going to focus on being more responsive to the variant circulating currently. Mr. Banuelos explained that the plan is to distribute the supplies currently in the office during site visits to tribes and informed the Council that if a tribe is currently in need of masks or sanitizer, pickup or delivery can be arranged.

Clifford Banuelos indicated that ITCN is working with some Nevada Tribes on the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) Grant. The combined application was submitted by the due date and Mr. Banuelos indicated his belief that the tribe that did go in with ITCN submitted individual grant applications, which is relevant as the grant helps with the deployment and use of broadband and other technologies to provide the groundwork for dependable internet and other communications abilities for tribes, which as evidenced by the pandemic, is a legitimate need.

Clifford Banuelos concluded his presentation by encouraging NTECC to continue to use ITCN as a hub for relaying information to and from tribes, as well as to let ITCN know if there are any items that need to be added to its Board agenda. Mr. Banuelos reported that the last Board meeting had been canceled and not been rescheduled.

Co-Chair Fogerson asked Mr. Banuelos to let NTECC know when ITCN has run out of PPE so that more can be provided.

6. Update on Tribal Health Preparedness Efforts

Malinda Southard, Public Health Preparedness (PHO) Program Manager, reported that state PHP has been working DEM to provide support to the state emergency operation center during the Caldor Fire response as well as working to distribute pod trailer supplies to all rural community health nurses for the start of flu season. Ms. Southard

further reported that PHP has been providing collaborative support to get out the vaccine operation in Southern Nevada in conjunction with DEM and Southern Nevada Health District in Clark County. Ms. Southard indicated that PHP has been starting planning operations for the Pandemic High Consequence Infectious Disease Plan, also known as the Statewide Pandemic Flu Plan. Ms. Southard indicated that there is a plan to put work groups in place similar to the ones created for the crisis standards of care plan, to ensure that all the partners are engaged. Ms. Southard further explained that crisis standards of care are still in effect in Nevada, so the document remains activated and moving along on those operations. Ms. Southard next discussed Project Expanded Testing (ET), which is a no-cost testing option offered by federal partners and in cooperation with PerkinElmer and Color Health. Ms. Southard explained that this is a swab-and-send method where after registering a testing site with Color Health, they will send all the testing materials to perform a dry, lower-nasal swab, and then Color Health will pay for the shipping back to the lab in Valencia, California with a guaranteed 48-hour testing turnaround time. Ms. Southard requested that any Council members interested in the program contact her via email and she will connect them with the partners at PerkinElmer and Color Health.

Co-Chair Fogerson asked the Council how well they are prepared for flu season, particularly with the trend of up and down spiking of COVID, and asked if there were any needs that State PHP or DEM could help with.

7. Nevada Public Bodies Updates

Tribal representatives appointed to the following Nevada public bodies provide an update on their role with each public body, as well as initiatives and projects that impact Nevada tribes:

a. Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

Dave Hunkup, Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC), reported that there was not much to report from NRAC. The last meeting had been in July. Mr. Hunkup reported that at the July meeting, Elizabeth Breeden, NV Energy, provided a presentation on energy mitigation for the state of Nevada. In addition, the bylaws for NRAC were discussed. Jon Bakkedahl, DEM, provided an update on the state warehouse transition, and Co-Chair Fogerson provided updates on the COVID-19 pandemic response status. The BRIC program and mitigation work group held a discussion, as well and Jennifer Taylor with the governor's office gave an energy sector update.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that the energy update provided at that meeting had been useful as much of what was discussed were strategies being used to mitigate the Tamarack and Caldor Fires and the discussion included what impacts that could have on other fires. Co-Chair Fogerson further explained that NRAC now will hold quarterly meetings and that the next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that he is trying to alternate NTECC and NRAC meetings by holding the NRAC quarterly meetings the month following NTECC's quarterly meetings given that some of the attendees are members of both groups.

b. Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS)

Lisa Christensen, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, was unable to attend the meeting. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that there was nothing significant to report.

c. NCHS Finance Committee

Co-Chair David Fogerson, DEM/HS, indicated that there was nothing significant to report.

d. Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM, indicated that SERC met last week for their quarterly meeting. The bulk of the discussion revolved around grant updates for the three different grants SERC is currently managing and trying to get approved for response agencies around the state. Mr. Bakkedahl further indicated that there was a large focus on getting applications approved for responders to attend the upcoming Fire Shows West in Reno conference.

e. Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee (IMAC)

Co-Chair David Fogerson, DEM/HS informed the Council that there has not been a meeting of this committee since the last one, but that the Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid Process has been used at the Caldor Fire, where a lot of wildland firefighters were needed. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that all the northern Nevada firefighters are cross-trained in structure and wildland, but additional firefighters needed to be deployed who did not have sufficient backfill to carry out the task. As a result, the intrastate mutual aid system was used to move Clark County, Vegas, Pahrump, Elko, and Wells resources over to backfill fire stations in order to allow local responders to assist with the fire, including Douglas County where out of 115 people assigned to the department, 60 were deployed because of the ability to backfill. Co-Chair Fogerson further explained the partnership between Nevada Division of Forestry, where they were able to fund the necessary resources. Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that there will be an after-action review to discuss how to make the process work better in the future.

8. Update from Nevada Indian Commission (NIC)

Sari Nichols, NIC, informed the Council that the Nevada tribal Missions Food Task Force, which that been meeting biweekly to discuss food scarcity and long-term solutions for food is moving away from the Nevada Indian Commission and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada will be taking that over and continuing the biweekly meetings for two reasons: the food bank is working closely with tribes and helping to develop food pantries for long-term food storage solutions; Sari Nichols is taking a position with NDOT and will no longer be working for NIC. Ms. Nichols touched on Nevada Indian Commission's assistance to the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada regarding the Federal Broadband Grant and expressed her enthusiasm at the number of tribes that are either in the coalition or have asked for and applied for the grant themselves. Ms. Nichols next indicated that Governor Sisolak will be starting a listening tour to hear from local governments on how they would like the state to use CARES Act funds. Part of this process will including meeting with tribal leaders to discuss things like how they dealt with COVID and what their needs are now. Ms. Nichols concluded her report by

indicating that the Nevada Indian Commission was continuing to monitor the Caldor Fire's movements because of encroachment upon the Washoe Tribe's land in California. As a result, the Walker River Tribe was poised to supply food if the people in Woodfords were again displaced; fortunately they were not.

Co-Chair Fogerson wished Sari Nichols the best of luck at NDOT and expressed his disappointment at her leaving NIC.

9. Update from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX

Chris Poehlmann, FEMA Region IX Tribal Liaison, indicated that FEMA is in contact with the Washoe Tribe as well as working with the tribal liaison for the State of California to see if there's anything that FEMA can do to help with the community there. Meetings are being setup currently to get aid to the location. Mr. Poehlmann indicated that the travel liaison has been assigned to fires and because of the uptick in COVID, Mr. Poehlmann will be covering COVID for the state of California as well as supporting Ron Hood (phonetic), who is currently in Las Vegas for COVID-related things. Nonetheless, Mr. Poehlmann indicated that he is also working for the state of Nevada for anything unrelated to COVID for the direct tribes. Mr. Poehlmann informed the Council that the all tribes in Nevada regional meeting is still on the schedule although it has been pushed out to the spring. As of now, the meeting is scheduled to be in-person, and FEMA will be providing the transportation and lodging for one person from each of the 157 tribes with whom Region IX is working. Mr. Poehlmann indicated that Clifford Banuelos will be helping to reach out to the tribal communities for their input. Mr. Poehlmann explained that this is something that has been in the works for two-and-a-half years. The funding is in place, but the delay is a result of the pandemic. Mr. Poehlmann next discussed the lands that have burned in California and Nevada and indicated the importance of FEMA being sensitive to cultural or historical sites that may have burned. As a result of this, there has been much interaction between the California and Nevada tribes, and Mr. Poehlmann requested that if any help is needed from FEMA in this regard, to please let him know.

Co-Chair Fogerson offered assistance from DEM, PHP, and NTECC if needed. Co-Chair Fogerson conveyed his concern about not only the loss of cultural resources, but the flooding potential that could affect the tribal nations as a result of the loss of the watershed. Co-Chair Fogerson next asked about the potential of a new FEMA department called Field Integration Technician.

Chris Poehlmann indicated that the department will be called the FEMA Integration Team.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that NTECC has been requesting a tribal liaison for the last few years and is now of the understanding that the position is going to be filled. Mr. Fogerson asked if anyone has knowledge regarding the filling of this position and the date when this will take place.

An unidentified speaker indicated that the position has been funded, interviews have taken place, and a person has been selected from a multitude of great candidates with a hopeful start date within the next month or so.

10. Interoperability Update

Melissa Friend, DEM/HS, informed the Council that the Nevada Shared Radio System upgrades are continuing. There have been some issues with agreements and permits and at this time, it appears that the first buildout will be in Clark County in 2022, followed by the rest of southern Nevada, then western Nevada and northeastern Nevada, with each section taking approximately a year to build out, with a completion date of 2025. Ms. Friend indicated that FirstNet is continuing to add towers throughout the rural areas. Ms. Friend requested that if Council members are aware of a specific location where a tower could be useful to please relay that information to her to pass onto AT&T and FirstNet, who are looking for feedback out in the field regarding best placement of towers. Ms. Friend informed the Council that the communications box SIM cards for both the satellite internet and satellite phones have been purchased and received and are in the process of being delivered out to all of the tribes. Ms. Friend concluded her report by informing the Council that DEM has been working collaboratively with the NTIA Broadband Grant and is hopeful for a successful outcome.

Dave Hunkup asked how the SIM cards and other equipment would be delivered to the tribes.

Crystal Harjo, DEM, indicated that the SIM cards have already been delivered to Lance at Reno Sparks, minus the Iridium SAT phone.

11. Updates from the DEM/HS NTECC Staff

a. Update and recruitment for Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 414.A, Intra-State Mutual Aid System (IMAS) and Compact IMAS/IMAC

Ryan Gerchman, DEM/HS, updated the Council on the Interstate Mutual Aid System (IMAS), NRS 414(a). Mr. Gerchman indicated that this is a great opportunity to get aid from and provide aid to neighboring communities. Mr. Gerchman informed the Council that he will send out a pamphlet to everyone in the NTECC Listserv as well as to other tribal partners across the state. Mr. Gerchman informed the Council that the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, when doing the mobile vaccine units, lent out their ambulances in order to help partners across the state, and in doing so, were able to make some money, thus benefitting themselves as well as their neighboring community. Mr. Gerchman indicated that any federally recognized tribe or nation that is located within the boundaries of the state can become a participant. Mr. Gerchman explained that a resolution is required to be submitted to DEM, and ultimately to the governor's office, and that this process can be done through each tribal council. Mr. Gerchman informed the Council that DEM can offer assistance with the sign-up process. Mr. Gerchman explained that there are currently four or five tribes that are partnered through IMAS. For the counties within Nevada, the opt-in is automatic; tribes need to decide whether or not they want to be a part of the system.

b. Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Workshop Participation in Carson, Elko, and Las Vegas

Ryan Gerchman, DEM, indicated that there are a number of upcoming workshops, the first one on September 20th for the eastern Nevada Tribes. Mr. Gerchman explained that information was sent out to the eastern tribes the previous week, and the location will be forthcoming. Mr. Gerchman indicated that anyone in the east should have received an email with the information, including all of the different workshops. Mr. Gerchman indicated that the workshop for the east will be on Monday, September 20, the workshop for the west is scheduled on September 23, and the workshop for the south will be held on September 27. Mr. Gerchman asked that anyone who did not receive the emails please reach out to him and he will resend the information.

Chair Harriet Parker indicated that she will not be available the day of the workshop and asked if the workshops would be recorded or if there was an alternative way to participate and how long the workshops would be.

Ryan Gerchman indicated that he is looking into whether or not the workshops will be available through Zoom and informed the Council that he is not certain regarding whether or not the workshops will be recorded. Mr. Gerchman informed the Council that he would report back once he had that information. Mr. Gerchman next informed the Council that the workshops are an all-day affair, running from 8 am to 4 pm but not each piece needs to be attended. As such, Mr. Gerchman encouraged attendees to look at the agendas for the workshops and attend those which are relevant to the attendees and their tribes.

Dave Hunkup asked if the fire workshop in the Reno area will be an in-person meeting workshop.

Ryan Gerchman indicated that it will be in-person and will take place at the National Guard Armory.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that there is not currently a training room at DEM because the space needed to be re-appropriated as office space. Mr. Fogerson further indicated that the fire training is a long and rather arduous training that involves much discussion and brainstorming. Mr. Fogerson next indicated that every disaster has a health impact and as a result of that, a list of the true hazards will be created, which will then be studied with after-action reviews to see what needs to be fixed. That will then all be built up into a training plan, a preparedness plan, and ultimately into a how-do-we-make-Nevada-more-resilient plan. Mr. Fogerson cautioned the Council that this goal will likely not be met in year one but rather over time and with revisions, and that some of the items may initially go unfunded given that despite the identification of the needs the funding may not yet be in place to meet those needs. Mr. Fogerson further indicated that FEMA Region IX has expressed excitement over having a single document for the state. Mr. Fogerson explained that the ultimate goal is to have one plan that defines what needs fixing to make Emergency Management, Public Health Preparedness, and Homeland Security better in the state that also outlines what funding will be used to do those things. Mr. Fogerson encouraged the participation of THIRA and commiserated with them regarding the pain and frustration of the process. Mr. Fogerson further acknowledged that the process that has been in place over the last couple of years has been better than in previous years due to the hiring of a contractor that does the

bulk of the work and who is asking more specific questions.

Dave Hunkup asked if the participation of the tribes in the brainstorming session mentioned by Co-Chair Fogerson would now be combined under the state's THIRA.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that this is correct and that this is the way the THIRA and the State Preparedness report has always worked; that it contains all of the jurisdictions. Mr. Fogerson indicated that there is a difference for the tribal nations and that it is important to look at these differences in the final report as a consolidated entity and to consider how best to fix the gaps by perhaps outlining whether the gaps are state, tribal, health, or emergency managers' gaps. Nonetheless, Mr. Fogerson reiterated that the state preparedness report does not differentiate between any of the jurisdictions in the state.

Ryan Gerchman added that the THIRAs created by the tribes are also important to the tribes' community partners. As such, it is essential for the tribal partners to attend these community workshops so that the tribes and the communities to which they attend understand one another's capabilities. Mr. Gerchman summarized this by stating that all of the different capabilities and needs that communities share on a localized level can be shared within those community workshops at the THIRAs in the different zones in which they're taking place. Mr. Gerchman also requested that Chris Poehlmann resend the information regarding the FEMA THIRA workshops via email to himself or Crystal Harjo, who would in turn resend the email to NTECC members. Mr. Gerchman then encouraged NTECC members to share that information, once received, with their local communities in order for it to ultimately be fed into the overall State Hazard Mitigation Program, the THIRA, and other important documentation.

Dave Hunkup questioned if tribes still had the option of creating their own THIRA if they so desired.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that they do have that option and suggested that if tribes do their own THIRA, to share that information and feedback into the state process so the data can be incorporated in hopes of addressing the gaps that are specific to certain tribal nations as well as to all the tribal nations. Mr. Fogerson further explained that the state learned much from the Caldor fire as it had affected three counties in Nevada out of which residents were evacuated. Mr. Fogerson indicated that as a result of this, he and Jon Bakkedahl, DEM, have been communicating with FEMA to try and find a way to better integrate and coordinate in these sorts of situations so that all emergency managers are working in tandem.

Crystal Harjo informed the Council that the distribution of SIM cards for both the SAT phones and satellite to the tribes is moving forward and there will be more to come. Ms. Harjo explained that some of the travel needed to be postponed as a result of both the Caldor Fire and COVID. Ms. Harjo next informed the Council that the DEM site visit for NTECC for CDC grants has taken place and that everything looks good. Ms. Harjo explained that a lot of the grant money has been spent down and now the next piece will be trying to figure out how the remaining funds through COVID and PHP will be spent moving forward. Ms. Harjo encouraged the tribes to reach out in terms of needs for PPE or other things regarding health. Ms. Harjo next informed

the Council that BinaxNOW Test Kits are running low so some of the tribes who requested these may be denied due to the lack of supply.

12. Public Comment

Dave Hunkup informed the Council that he will be retiring at the end of this year after 30-plus years of service to the Reno Sparks Indian Colony.

Co-Chair Fogerson thanked Mr. Hunkup for his many years of service and indicated that his work would be missed on the Council and in emergency management as a whole.

There was no additional public comment.

13. Adjourn

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a motion for adjournment.

Dave Hunkup, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, made a motion to adjourn. Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.