



# Meeting Minutes

## Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Tuesday, May 9, 2023
	<b>TIME</b>	1:00 p.m.
	<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom/Teleconference
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Sherrean Whipple
<b>Voting Membership</b>		
Name	Designated/Appointed Representative:	Attendance Status
Harriett Parker – Tribal Co-Chair	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	X
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	X
Jackie Conway	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Duane Masters Sr.	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe	X
Don Pelt	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	X
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
<b>Non-Voting Membership</b>		
Name	Entity Represented:	Attendance Status
David Fogerson - Co-Chair	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X
Emily Gould	Nevada Department of Health and Human Resources	X
<b>Non-Member Representatives/Support</b>		
Samantha Ladich	Nevada Office of the Attorney General	X
Sherrean Whipple	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Harriett Parker, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean Whipple, DEM/HS, and a quorum was established for the meeting.

### 2. Public Comment

Co-Chair Harriett Parker opened the period of public comment for discussion.

There was no public comment.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Co-Chair Harriett Parker called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the November 2, 2022 NTECC meeting. Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Duane Master Sr., seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the February 2, 2023 NTECC meeting. Kenneth Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California, motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Ross Rivera, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Discussion on the Status of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security's (DEM/HS/HS) Efforts to Assist our Tribal Nations**

Co-Chair David Fogerson requested feedback from committee members on how DEM/HS can better support the tribal nations, indicating that he can always be reached via email or phone.

### **5. Discussion of Bill Draft Requests (BDR) for the 2023 Legislative Session**

Co-Chair David Fogerson indicated that DEM/HS has four bills in the Legislative Session: one related to schools safety and when school safety plans are due; one related to membership on the Homeland Security Commission; one related to the ability to spend funds during an emergency for the Division; and a fix to sharing protected health information following a major incident. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that all of them are in the first house and have now moved onto the second house.

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, added that there is another bill in the Legislative Session related to sheltering, specifically as an onus on the locals, noting that should a shelter be opened, every attempt needs to be made to open a shelter for pets, as well, and should include transportation to and from the shelter for the owner and the pet. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that since this BDR did not affect the state, DEM/HS did not step forward and testify for or against, but did work with local partners, the bill drafter and the supporter of it, the ASPCA, and the Senator out of Las Vegas on amending some of the language. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that DEM/HS has been tracking and monitoring the bill.

### **6. Update on the Tribal Health Preparedness Efforts**

Emily Gould, Public Health Preparedness Program, informed the Council of the Rural Preparedness Summit on June 14 and 15, noting that there are still quite a few openings available for people to register and attend. Ms. Gould next discussed the trainings, including an access and functional needs training held by Heather Lafferty from DEM/HS on June 14, as well as a training held by Cliff Banuelos from ITCN on June 15. Ms. Gould further noted that PHP is trying to find one more tribal-specific

session to include, as well. Ms. Gould next discussed PHP's work in rolling out some expired PPE from the Southern Nevada warehouse and indicated that there are still plenty of supplies and as such, PHP is accepting requests through this coming Friday. Ms. Gould informed the council of some large events being held by PHP this summer, including Night in the Country in Burning Man, ensuring that everything is in place and up to date with mass casualty response plans, as well as ensuring that everything in mass fatality trailers are up to date, as well.

Ross Rivera informed Ms. Gould that the Shoshone Tribe has a mass casualty trailer and could use some help from PHP to determine what inventory that trailer contains.

Emily Gould requested Mr. Rivera's email so as to follow up with him regarding this request.

Ken Quiner commended the previous year's preparedness summit and noted that this year's event is conflicting with the FEMA Region IX Preparedness Workshop in Arizona.

Emily Gould explained that unfortunately that was the only week that PHP was able to schedule with the conference center and was unable to move it to another date.

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, added that although the preparedness summit had been scheduled first and brought to FEMA's attention, FEMA also was unable to schedule their event on another date for similar reasons.

## **7. Update on the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration**

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, informed the Council that DEM/HS has received the Presidential Declaration and is starting to move into the recovery efforts. Mr. Franco indicated that DEM/HS has scheduled applicant briefings over the next two weeks for the affected counties that declared in the part of the Presidential Declaration. Mr. Franco explained that the first step for those declared counties is requesting public assistance (RPA), and that DEM/HS will be holding the first of those meetings over the next two weeks, noting that DEM/HS has a due date to get all of the RPAs in by May 26, which will then begin the process of recovering the damaged counties back to where they were prior to the disaster.

Co-Chair David Fogerson added that a number of tribal nations declared disaster and submitted the items to DEM/HS but that none of them had damage enough to amount to meeting the requirements for the federal declaration, with the possible exception of the Yomba Tribe.

## **8. Wildland Fire Season 2023 Potential**

Co-Chair, David Fogerson informed the Council that DEM/HS provided a Governor's briefing on the wildland fire season, which included the Nevada National Guard, DEM/HS, Nevada Division of Forestry, the forest supervisor for the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest, the State Director of Fire for Bureau of Land Management, along with the

Nevada Fire Chiefs Association to discuss the various issues and the cooperation that exists in this space. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that the governor, who has a master's degree in emergency management/homeland security, brought up more about the flood issue and how that ties into the fire issue. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that the prediction is for a good fire season that will begin late July starting with an expectation of fires to burn below 6,000, primarily in the cheatgrass. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that the significant snowfall this past winter has packed down all of last year's cheatgrasses, making it a bit more difficult to burn. Co-Chair Fogerson discussed the desire of the state to eliminate cheatgrass and prevent the growth of it in these areas. Co-Chair Fogerson next indicated that in the medium range, the sage brush ecosystem will be in place by the end of the season as the moistures begin to dry up and indicated the importance of remembering that the Lake Tahoe Basin has a lot of downed and dead trees, which present a hazard. Co-Chair Fogerson reminded the Council that local government is the largest resource provider and that the local government partners are the ones who are actually fighting the fires in the short term. Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that he and state forester Kasey KC are both members of the congressionally chartered Wildland Fire Mitigation Management Commission, which includes partners from local, state, federal government, and tribal nations. Co-Chair Fogerson described some of the conversation happening on that Commission, noting that one of the discussions involves how to push more good fire out, citing a tribal nation in California that is reintroducing fire to their landscape not only for fire prevention, but also for cultural heritage. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that the Commission's report is due to Congress in October, about the time Nevada's fire season will be ramping up and then dying down due to weather.

Stacey Montooth, Nevada Indian Commission, requested that council members save the date for the following year's Governor's briefing in May, noting that the highest elected officials from all of the different tribal nations will be extended an invitation.

## **9. Spring Thaw Update**

Bill Elliott, DEM/HS, informed the Council that the Nevada Operation Center is in the active monitoring state, and that DEM/HS is holding two regional calls per week that go along the major river basins: with Eastern Nevada, with the Humboldt range and most of the rural areas on that side; and with Truckee, Carson, and Walker River on the western side. Mr. Elliott explained that DEM/HS has staff active in the NDOC and anyone in need of sandbags for property protection should contact their tribal liaison. Mr. Elliott next noted expected peak flows in Carson and Walker River Basins in the next two to three weeks, depending on weather, and explained that DEM/HS is working very closely with National Weather Service and NOAA with the water predictive flows in order to be prepared should flooding become imminent. Mr. Elliott urged the Council to make a plan of protection for each member's vulnerable areas, and start in on things like sandbag protection, as well as training with staff. Mr. Elliott offered the services of DEM/HS on these trainings. Mr. Elliott cautioned the Council that the organizations need to be proactive in terms of protection as DEM/HS or FEMA may arrive too late in the case of a flooding emergency. Mr. Elliott further indicated the importance of utilizing the resources of county emergency managers, citing them as a potential asset.

## **10. Update from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)**

Clifford Banuelos, Tribal-State Environmental Liaison for ITCN, was unavailable to attend the meeting. Co-Chair Harriett Parker read Mr. Banuelos' report, which included promoting the June 1 Great Basin Event, where Desert Research Institute and Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada will start planning for a statewide tribal climate change resiliency plan in which drought mitigation and erosion caused by floods, heavy rain, and snowfall will be among the topics addressed. Ms. Parker noted according to Mr. Banuelos, there has not been any contamination caused by flooding near the Anaconda Copper Mine Cleanup site and that the flood devices put in place appear to have held.

## **11. Update from the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC)**

Stacy Montooth, NIC, informed the Council that the Nevada Indian Commission's overall charge is to improve the quality of life for the state's 28 tribal nations, bands, colonies, and the 62,000 urban Indians who choose to make Nevada their home, noting the tie between quality of life and emergency management. Ms. Montooth next discussed the BDRs pending in the Nevada Legislative Session, beginning with AB 19, which is specifically related to expanding channel clearances, maintenance, restoration, and surveying, and includes tribal programs. Ms. Montooth explained that the bill would revamp the approach of tribal professionals having to do certain licensing in order to participate in this. Ms. Montooth next indicated that NIC is watching AB 24 out of the Department of Human and Health Services, which revises the committee makeup of a committee on Emergency Medical Services and would add a member who is either a volunteer or is employed by emergency agencies, organizations, and those that operate to provide emergency medical services on tribal land. Ms. Montooth next discussed AB 71, which is related to environmental justice and involves climate change and allowing an organization to study concerns about environmental justice and then to provide assistance in future policies. Ms. Montooth informed the Council that AB 73 will be heard on Friday and proposes to allow anyone graduating from public high school to wear cultural or religious regalia. Ms. Montooth next indicated that AB 84 allows anyone with proper identification to be admitted to state parks, conservation, and natural resources for free. Ms. Montooth explained that Senator Shea Backus, a tribal citizen, is sponsoring a bill that attempts to fill some of the gaps with missing and murdered indigenous women and girls that could potentially involve special training for those pursuing a career in law enforcement. Ms. Montooth informed the Council that AB 150 would address the free waiver for any NSHE institution by trying to close some of the unintended gaps as well as potentially expand to include anyone from any tribal nation. Ms. Montooth next discussed AB 166 and 167, both related to foster care. Ms. Montooth concluded her presentation by discussing SB 94, the requirement for all departments in the state to have a tribal liaison, and involves a special position cut out with specific duties related to working with tribal liaisons.

## **12. 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**

Co-Chair David Fogerson informed the Council that the primary focus at the NRAC meeting is the same as the primary focus at the NTECC meeting, but that the last NRAC meeting included the recommendations to the Committee on Finance on how to spend approximately \$4.2 million worth of Homeland Security funds. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that these funds were fairly well spread out across the state. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that all projects that met the Homeland Security criteria were funded and that those that weren't funded were on the fence as to whether or not they truly qualified as Homeland Security requests.

**b. Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS)**

Co-Chair David Fogerson explained that NCHS is chaired by the Governor and that at the most recent meeting, Governor Lombardo appointed the incoming sheriff from Clark County as the Vice Chair of the Commission. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that the Commission also heard the recommendation from NRAC on spending the State Homeland Security Funds as well as the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds from southern Nevada. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that UASI funds are allocated to a very specific area within Clark County and includes an additional \$5.2 million that is then coupled with the state's \$4.25 million. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that DEM/HS grant staff is diligently working to try and get the grant in by the 18th of May. Co-Chair Fogerson next discussed cybersecurity, noting the robust discussion that took place among the various groups engaged in cybersecurity and their roles, as well as the importance of these groups working collectively together and not against one another. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that the last big piece of the meeting involved a discussion of incident management teams, the discussion of which at each meeting is a requirement under NRS. Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that this meeting involved a discussion on the work that has been done on building these teams for two legislative sessions since the passing of the bill.

An unidentified speaker asked if there was any tribe supply or any special funding for NTECC through Homeland Security.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that this funding comes not through Homeland Security but through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). Co-Chair Fogerson further indicated that it is important to continue to push FEMA because at the state level, there is only \$4 million to share among everyone and as such, Co-Chair Fogerson discussed the need to talk to a congressional delegation and expand the tribal Homeland Security grant process, particularly now that lithium mines are popping up in different areas along with other potential future threats. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that it would be nice to have grants specific for the tribal nations to go directly with the state's help, but unfortunately, this does not yet exist and as such, the more that a congressional delegation can push for this, the more likely this can come into existence.

**c. NCHS Finance Committee**

Co-Chair David Fogerson explained that the Committee on Finance heard the recommendations from the NRAC and UAWG and provided that recommendation to move forward to the Homeland Security Commission. Co-Chair Fogerson further noted that discussion took place regarding grant audits, grant status reports, and audit results, as well as a reallocation of funding for a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department project that was previously permitted but needed to be held again.

**d. Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)**

Lance Chantler, RSIC, was unable to attend the meeting but reported beforehand to another NTECC member that there was nothing new to report.

**e. Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee (IMAC)**

Eric Wilson, DEM/HS, was unable to attend the meeting but reported beforehand to Co-Chair Fogerson that there was no new information as there had been no IMAC meeting between the last NTECC meeting and this one.

**13. Updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Crystal Harjo, FEMA Region IX Tribal Liaison for Nevada, reported that she was deployed to Yomba for the March winter event to determine whether or not they would meet their threshold for a declaration. Ms. Harjo explained that she is awaiting orders to be deployed out for the Nevada Presidential Declaration and will be working with the team from FEMA in determining whether or not other tribal areas will be visited to determine their needs. Ms. Harjo next reported that she attended the 2023 Center of Domestic Preparedness Tribal Training Week, as well as a convening of all regional travel liaisons and tribal fits in Washington DC. Ms. Harjo indicated that a travel consultation was held for the tribal declaration pilot guidance, which included a discussion on options and recommendations on how to enhance the tribal affairs program to better serve the nations. Ms. Harjo explained that her team is currently working on a report that will be handed over to Administrator Chriswell to address specifically these issues. Ms. Harjo next indicated that Deputy Administrator Eric Hooks and CDP Superintendent Tony Russell requested her help in coordinating tribal trainings for the National Native American Law Enforcement Association Conference, which will be held in Las Vegas in August. Ms. Harjo explained that two of the highly requested courses based off of last year's events will be provided. Ms. Harjo discussed the Region IX Tribal Preparedness Workshop in Chandler, Arizona from June 13 through 15, noting that will include FEMA programs, the declaration process for the tribes, as well as mitigation planning. Ms. Harjo indicated a focus will include the importance of trying to streamline coordination between agencies, the tribes, and states so as not to duplicate efforts. Ms. Harjo explained that there is invitational travel for one person per tribe available, and that the save the dates and the registration information has already gone out to all of the emergency managers who are listed as state partners. Ms. Harjo indicated that the plan is to hold this workshop annually every June. Ms. Harjo concluded her presentation by discussing an opportunity for Region IX partners, tribes in Nevada to participate in FEMA Region IX's tribal emergency communications annex update. Ms. Harjo indicated that information was sent to all tribes' emergency managers' on the contact list. Ms. Harjo noted that tribe participation is a grant

justification and urged anyone interested in participating to contact her and she will in turn contact the people overseeing this project.

#### **14. Updates from the DEM/HS/HS Tribal Liaison Staff**

Josie Burnett, DEM/HS Tribal Liaison and Jay Martin, DEM/HS/HS Tribal Liaison.

##### **a. Tribal Preparedness Activities**

Josie Burnett reminded the Council of the Rural Preparedness Summit, noting her work with their team to incorporate tribal-specific sessions and speakers. Ms. Burnett indicated that they are still trying to lock in a tribal preliminary speaker. Ms. Burnett added that another tribal-specific session that will be offered is a Safe Talk training put on by Nevada's Office of Suicide Prevention. Ms. Burnett next indicated that she still has approximately 60 Stop the Bleed kits to distribute on a first come, first serve basis. Ms. Burnett further indicated that BGAN SIM Cards are in the process of being purchased for the satellite phones and once they are received, Ms. Burnett will begin distributing them out to tribes as soon as possible.

##### **b. Tribal Preparedness Projects**

Jay Martin informed the Council that the last quarter included Spring Valley events, most notably the Atmospheric River II event, which included multiple tribes working in coordination with one another. Mr. Martin explained that DEM/HS has been hosting monthly collaborative calls that include discussions on web preparedness, declaration recovery guidance, resource overview, different programs and their points of contact, and other things. Mr. Martin further indicated that DEM/HS has been providing individual technical assistance as needed, including things like resource acquisitions, declaration recovery guidance, and grant application guidance. Mr. Martin explained that he is currently involved in collaborating with various agencies, including NEPA, to include a tribal component for next year's summit, to have an event for environmental management and emergency management sometime within this or the following year, as well as a collaboration with ITCN to distribute some food and PPE. Mr. Martin further indicated that he is in the development stage of a resource manual, also in collaboration with ITCN.

##### **c. Tribal Meetings and Conferences**

Jay Martin next discussed the latest meetings and conferences, noting that he recently debriefed on the spring situation at the ITCN Environmental managers meeting. Mr. Martin further discussed the two flood exercises held: one for Lyon County, attended by the Yerington Paiute and Walker River Paiute Tribes; and one for Elko County, attended by the Southport and Wells Bands. Mr. Martin discussed the statewide blackout exercises attended by the Washoe Tribe and Pyramid Lake Tribe, and the NGT 403, underserved populations preparedness planning for rural responders and volunteers, held by the Reno Sparks Tribal Health Center, as well as an active shooter in public environment training. Mr. Martin added that DEM/HS is preparing for the R-9 conference, the Rural Preparedness Summit, as well as the National CERT Conference.



#### **d. Grants Spend Down Progress**

Jay Martin explained that DEM/HS has several grants accumulated that it is working to close out and that at the end of this fiscal year, there will be four grants closing out: the 2019 HSGP Tribal NIMS; the 2020 HSGP Tribal NIMS; a 2019 SERC grant; and a 2020 SERC grant, the latter two of which will be used to send a team to the National CERT conference for the development of CERT trainers to begin redeveloping CERT programs within the tribal communities.

Daniel Thayer asked if there are any tribal CERT trainings scheduled or upcoming.

Jay Martin indicated that there are none in the works currently, hence the intent to attend the National CERT Conference.

#### **15. DEM/HS/HS Audit Results for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 and 2023**

Jared Franco, DEM/HS discussed the three audits DEM/HS is currently undergoing: one for the Coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery fund; one by Nevada's Executive Audit Branch to go through DEM/HS's financial records; and the third by LCB's audit team for the support for federal grants testing. Mr. Franco explained that the third one is more research than audit and expects good things to come out of it, which could help DEM/HS with some of the match that it receives and needs for all the federal grants. Mr. Franco concluded by noting that at this time, there is no further information regarding any of these audits.

#### **16. Grant Status Report**

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS, informed the Council that DEM/HS's grant status report is attached to today's meeting materials and includes: all sub-awards for all open grant programs; the period of performance for each grant year; the sub-recipient agency; project; original award amount; re-obligated funds received; the amount spent as of the last report; the funding stream or grant; any de-obligated amount; and the percentage of the award spent as of the last report received. Ms. Coyote further noted that the federal reporting narratives for Homeland Security Grant Program and Nonprofit Security Grant Program are also attached, which provide the programmatic update for those grant programs. Ms. Coyote explained that this information is current as of 12/30/2022 and the next meeting will have an updated grant status report on Quarter 2. Ms. Coyote noted that the Homeland Security Program Grant, the Nonprofit Security Program Grant, and Emergency Management Performance Grant program's state applications are on track to be submitted by the due date of May 18. Ms. Coyote concluded her report by indicating that Nevada's Cybersecurity Plan is under review and that stakeholders will be notified when DEM/HS is able to release the applications for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

**17. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Harriett Parker called for any public comment.

There was no public comment.

**18. Adjournment**

Co-Chair Harriett Parker asked for a motion to adjourn the May 9, 2023 NTECC meeting.

Duane Masters Sr., made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ross Rivera, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.