



Meeting Minutes Emergency Preparedness Working Group

Attendance Record	DATE	Tuesday, June 6, 2023	
	TIME	1:00 p.m.	
	METHOD	Zoom Teleconference Conference line #: (669) 219-2599 Meeting ID# 686 738 8625	
	RECORDER	Sherrean Whipple	
Committee Members	Present	Non-Voting Membership	Present
Lee Cabaniss—Esmeralda County	ABS	Jon Bakkedahl, Chair—NV Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS)	X
Eric Holt—Lincoln County	X	Yuri Graves—Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Nevada Field Office	X
Scott Lewis—Nye County	X		
Paul Melendrez—Esmeralda County	X		
Michael Dalton—White Pine County	ABS	Legal Staff	Present
Billy Samuels—Clark County	X	Samantha Ladich—Senior Deputy Attorney General	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Jon Bakkedahl, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS) called the meeting to order. Sherrean Whipple, DEM/HS performed roll call, and quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Jon Bakkedahl opened the first period of public comment.

No public comment was provided during this period.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Jon Bakkedahl

Paul Melendrez, Esmeralda County, moved for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the November 9, 2022, Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) Meeting. Billy Samuels, Clark County, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. UPDATES FROM THE NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/HOMELAND SECURITY (DEM/HS)

Chair Jon Bakkedahl explained that this update is regarding the DEM/HS radiation program in regards to the annual calibrations, the new equipment, and the future training and exercise opportunities. The Chair indicated that most of the available instruments were calibrated from DEM's March and April calibration route. Chair Bakkedahl explained that there were 104 across 23 different agencies calibrated, as well as 30 from Nevada State Police, Nevada Highway Patrol Division. Chair Bakkedahl informed the Group that the Ludlum 9DP-1 ion chamber was used to calibrate the instrumentation, and then DEM purchased 8-Ludlum 26-1 instruments, which are going to go out to the hospitals along the I-80 corridor. Chair Bakkedahl indicated that DEM purchased 26-3s to replace the Ludlum 24-2S that are currently distributed across some of the southern agencies for mutual aid to the I-80 corridor. The Chair further indicated that the following devices have been distributed: one Ludlum 26-1 to William Bee Ririe Hospital; 4 Ludlum 26-3s to the Elko Fire Department; one Ludlum 26-3 to the Humboldt General EMS; five Ludlum 2241-2S to Esmeralda County; three Ludlum 2241-2s to Nye County; two 2241s to the Ely Fire Department; and two 2241-2s to White Pine County Fire Department. The Chair informed the Group that 14 older instruments have been taken out of service and that DEM is looking to increase 126-3 and 126-1 for its own stockpile. Chair Bakkedahl reminded the Group that all instrumentation is purchased by DEM, so DEM coordinates and facilitates all of the maintenance as well as the calibrations. Chair Bakkedahl next informed the Group that DEM will be doing three very short radiation refresher classes for Lake Tahoe during the week of June 20, which will include a two hour Rad refresher. Chair Bakkedahl further noted that DEM is working with Washoe County and the US Department of Energy to hold a 40-hour radiation specialist course in Reno later in the summer or in the fall. The Chair indicated that this training has never been hosted in Nevada; the farthest west it's come is to Utah in the past. Chair Bakkedahl warned that the first two days of this training are very math-intensive, and then the training becomes more fun with the hands-on portions throughout the week, but that the course is very intense, involves nightly homework, and then a take-home final exam to become certified. Chair Bakkedahl concluded his presentation by indicating that DEM is working with the local hazmat teams to determine if there is any need for any deliveries.

5. UPDATES FROM THE NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/HOMELAND SECURITY (DEM/HS) GRANTS SECTION

Zach Edler, DEM/HS, pointed the Group to the Agenda Item Number 5 materials, which includes a spreadsheet of the different grant years currently open for EPWG funding. Mr. Edler clarified that this spreadsheet is an actual of reimbursement, or in other words, what DEM has put back out to the counties as far as that funding. Mr. Edler indicated that the 2021 spent for Esmeralda County is at about \$25,907, and for White County is approximately \$83,759 pending.

Billy Samuels indicated that the 2019 White Pine shows \$96,000 in de-obligated funds and questioned where that money goes back to.

Chair Jon Bakkedahl explained that normally the money comes back to the EPWG to determine who needs the funding and where that money goes. Chair Bakkedahl indicated that this money does not ever come back to the Division, nor does it ever go back to any of the other counties unless for some reason, the six counties do not want it and want to de-ob some to the Division. Chair Bakkedahl noted that as such, he would need to follow up on where those funds had gone and share that information with the group once he had obtained it.

Billy Samuels requested that DEM have some projects in place should that money be sent back so as to keep the funding within the state.

Paul Melendrez indicated that Esmeralda County appears to be the most deserving county of the de-obligated \$96,598.

Chair Bakkedahl agreed and noted that this committee will need to determine where that money will go per an agendized item and indicated that an agenda item will be added for the next quarter about the de-obligation of 2019 White Pine County in order for the Group to make a determination on what to do with these funds.

Ross Rivera noted that White Pine County went for a period of time without an emergency manager and suggested that because they have one now, White Pine County should have first dibs on the funding that was theirs to begin with prior to reallocating those monies somewhere else.

Chair Bakkedahl concurred that this was correct but only if that funding is still available.

Billy Samuels questioned if the current extensions until June 30, 2023 will be changed.

Zach Edler noted that these grants were unanimously extended out due to the lag time of DEM administering them, but indicated that he would go back and double check.

Chair Bakkedahl noted that Mr. Edler is correct: the first two years received a two-year extension, one received a one-year extension, and the other is a current open performance period. Chair Bakkedahl explained that normally these would not be open at the same time but due to COVID and DEM's inability to get the funding out in a timely fashion, these were voted to be extended to end in 2023 along with the current performance period.

6. EPWG JURISDICTION PRESENTATION

Scott Lewis, Emergency Manager of Nye County, explained that Nye County Emergency Management is very small and consists of only four full-time staff, including himself. Chief

Lewis indicated that over the past several years, great strides have been made in purifying emergency management within Nye County, which included shedding some services, and focusing more on providing administrative, financial, logistical, and training support to seven volunteer fire departments, which include three volunteer EMS stations. Chief Lewis explained that while the emergency management team is small, Nye County is very large in size, but with a small population, with 92 percent of the county occupied by federal government. As a result, Chief Lewis indicated that there are long response times as the towns are not located geographically close to one another. Chief Lewis further indicated that the county seat from Pahrump is approximately two-and-a-quarter hours away, and there are several major highways for which emergency management is responsible including the 160, the 96, and the 6. In addition, Chief Lewis explained that there are sensitive areas, as well as NSSS, the Tonopah test range, and Nevada test and training range in Yucca Mountain. Chief Lewis indicated that while Yucca Mountain is not operational, it is still located in Nye County and people believe that there are still activities out there, thus requiring emergency management to assist with different initiatives or attempts to go out on that range. Chief Lewis explained that Nye County is comprised of 18, 159 square miles and 53,000 total residents plus 42,000 residents in Pahrump. Chief Lewis further explained that Pahrump includes a number of transient residents, and that Nye County has approximately 600,000 visitors annually, most in the Death Valley area. Chief Lewis next discussed spending for FY'19, noting that Nye purchased two SABRE 5000 handheld trace detectors for \$60,399, two SABRE 5000 consumable kits for \$5,680, and training for the eight operators within the organization. Chief Lewis indicated that for FY'20, \$102,000 was spent for one Gemini handheld integrated Raman spectroscopy devices and training for 12 operators, and noted that these types of instruments are extremely important due to the size of the county and the drive time to reach different destinations within the county. Chief Lewis explained that the county is divided into three response districts, and one of the first things emergency management did was to divide the hazmat responsibilities equally throughout the county. For FY'21, Chief Lewis noted that the endeavor was to acquire two 330-gallon single-tow foam trailers at the cost of \$27,000 apiece, indicating that this is critical to the creation of the foam task force that will cover the 95 corridor, critical to assist Pahrump and getting the valuable resources out there. Chief Lewis explained that the ten foam PRO/PAK systems are \$950 each, for a total of \$9,500. Chief Lewis further indicated that emergency management is also asking for six level hazmat suits for a total of \$12,000; the mini green ply synthetic chlorine-free firefighting foam, with a grand total for everything of \$83,750. Chief Lewis next discussed FY'22, indicating that Emergency Management has recognized the need to look at physical security updates and upgrades for DEM and EOC, which includes: automated keyless security gates; key card systems for the buildings; establishing a secondary breakout conference room for the EOC. Chief Lewis indicated that the EOC is no longer used as a training room but as a designated EOC, equipped to support missions. Chief Lewis explained that Nye has a great team of volunteers associated with the ARES and RACES, who are involved in a lot of different projects, and it is important to support them with the best equipment possible. Chief Lewis concluded his presentation by informing the Group that Nye County is looking to purchase three Wi-Fi multi gas detectors with calibration kits for a total grant request of just over \$82,000.

Chair Bakkedahl informed the Group that Health received a large amount of money in the narcotics settlement from Opioid US Federal Settlement and as such, Health has put together a plan to supply each of the 17 counties with two of the Thermo Fisher multi-spec analyzers. Chair Bakkedahl indicated that these are not as high-level as the Raman ones but that there are two more of them coming over the next 2024 fiscal year. Chair Bakkedahl indicated that DEM will go to IFC next week to get the authority to take on the fiscal money for the rest of the year, and this will include an immediate purchase for 17 of those units at \$40,000 apiece, with an additional 17 being purchased on July 1 at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Chair Bakkedahl further noted that FY'24 will include a contract position to work with the local emergency management law enforcement agencies to get those trained in the field as well as buy the kits that go with them and ensure that they are calibrated on an annual basis. Chair Bakkedahl indicated that DEM will establish a four-to-five year contract position to manage this program.

Chief Lewis added that it is instrumental to get the equipment out there because a scene simply can't be held in Nye County for multiple hours while waiting for emergency management to travel from one end of the county to another.

Chief Billy Samuels commended Chief Lewis on his presentation.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Jon Bakkedahl opened the second period of public comment.

Emily Gould, Public Health Preparedness, reminded the Group that the annual Rural Preparedness Summit out in Fallon will be held on June 14 and 15 from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Ms. Gould indicated that registration is about to close, with the final day for registration being June 7. Ms. Gould explained that the summit includes a full schedule with exciting plenary sessions, trainings, food trucks, and an amazing raffle.

There were no additional public comments.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jon Bakkedahl called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Billy Samuels motioned to adjourn. Scott Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.