



# Meeting Minutes

## Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

Attendance	DATE	Monday, February 5, 2024
	TIME	9:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference – DEM Policy Room
	RECORDER	Sherrean Whipple
Voting Membership		
Name	Designated/Appointed Representative:	Attendance Status
Harriett Parker – Tribal Co-Chair	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	X
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Jackie Conway	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	X
Duane Masters Sr.	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe	X
Don Pelt	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	X
Marian Perez	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	X
Kenneth Quiner	Washoe Tribes of Nevada/California	X
Ross Rivera	Ely Shoshone Tribe	X
Daniel Thayer	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	X
Non-Voting Membership		
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
Non-Member Representatives/Support		
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 David Fogerson, Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS), 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 David Fogerson opened the period of public comment for discussion.

There was no public comment.

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

Co-Chair David Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the November 1, 2023 NTECC meeting. Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, motioned to approve the minutes. Ken Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Update from the US Forest Service**

Melyssa Navis-Dolan was not available for this agenda item. This item is tabled.

### **5. The Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security's (DEM/HS) Tribal Equity and Engagement Framework**

Co-Chair David Fogerson indicated that approximately a year ago, this agenda item was developed and brought to NTECC to ensure that DEM/HS is working with its partners. Co-Chair Fogerson encouraged members' suggestions for updates to the document, and opened the floor for questions, comments, or thoughts.

There were no comments from the NTECC members on this agenda item.

### **6. Discussion on the Status of the DEM/HS Efforts to Assist our Tribal Nations**

Co-Chair David Fogerson informed the Council that DEM/HS is always open to ideas on how to serve the Tribal Nations better and to build the emergency management enterprise collectively among all parties. Co-Chair Fogerson welcomed any feedback regarding employees and staff, both positive and negative, as well as any feedback regarding what is or is not working.

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

Emily Gould, Public Health Preparedness Program, discussed the upcoming 12th Rural Preparedness Summit, which will be held in Elko this year rather than in Fallon, on May 15th through May 16th. Ms. Gould indicated that the theme this year is Resources Without Borders and explained that PHP is looking to explore cross-border relationships with health preparedness and emergency preparedness partners. Ms. Gould explained that PHP has been working closely with Josie Burnett on finding a keynote speaker and encouraged the Council to submit suggestions. Ms. Gould next discussed PHP's five-year strategic planning, which outlines the goals, objectives, and activities that PHP would like to complete over the next five years with its local health partners. Ms. Gould explained that once this project moves more into the planning states with work groups, activities to support tribal partners will be outlined, as well as more opportunities to work collectively in the future.

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

Clifford Banuelos, Tribal-State Environmental Liaison for ITCN, indicated that ITCN is coordinating ArcGIS Pro training with Ezra Bureau of Land Management, and is also

looking at other funding from nonprofits to support the tribes. Mr. Banuelos explained that this relates to emergency management and provided an example of unknown damage to tribal areas when post-disaster assessment teams come out because they are not mapped. Mr. Banuelos indicated that ITCN would like to get some of this GIS mapped, and that process will occur between July 29 and August 2 at the ITCN convention. Mr. Banuelos next explained that ITCN is coordinating with Mason Parizo and Josie Burnett from NTECC on ICS training in hopes of doing an ICS 300 class, which is a certified training class, as part of the ITCN Convention. Mr. Banuelos noted that ITCN is also trying to determine the possibility of a class for leadership and noted that Emerging Management Institute has training for tribal leaders, which is a half-day class that Mr. Banuelos indicated would be very helpful in avoiding some of the issues that arose during COVID and providing understanding as to how ICS works, why a certain structure is followed, and why a common language is being used through NIMS. Mr. Banuelos concluded his report by noting that ITCN is coordinating with area tribes on priority landscape of fire fuel management being done by Forest Services and that as such, ITCN visited the Ruby Mountains in an attempt to try and identify areas working with the tribes with the intent to follow up on that, along with the Bureau of Land Management.

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

Sarina Nez, NIC, stated that there was nothing significant to report, but indicated that she did submit the updated tribal leadership contact list and suggested that any members that need it contact her. Ms. Nez noted that the list is also available on the website. Ms. Nez informed the Council that both Lovelock and Duck Water recently held elections in which the leadership changed and that those changes are noted on the tribal contact list.

## **10. 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 (NRAC)**

Co-Chair David Fogerson reiterated that he tries to keep the agendas for NRAC and NTECC very similar, with the only difference potentially being grant opportunities.

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

Co-Chair David Fogerson informed the Council that a meeting was held last quarter between the NTECC meetings and involved a wrap up of some southern Nevada major events that had occurred. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that Clark County presented about Formula One and on the Hurricane Hillary response. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that nothing major came out of the fairly short meeting aside from some discussion points on different items. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that both NRAC and the Homeland Security Commission both have annual reports that were due and submitted to the Governor and the Legislative Council Bureau the previous week as to what actions those two committees did take.

**c. NCHS Finance Committee**

Co-Chair David Fogerson reported that the NCHS Finance Committee has not met since the last NTECC meeting.

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

Lance Chantler, Reno/Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC), informed the Council that grant season will open for SERC in March and April and encouraged the members to work with their local LEPCs on their wish lists so as to receive some SERC dollars.

Ross Rivera explained that the tribe has always taken part of the local emergency planning commission and that there were a few things mentioned in the few last meetings regarding state requirements for cybersecurity. Mr. Rivera further noted that in terms of public publication, a newspaper no longer exists and as such, Mr. Rivera questioned how the state would address this as currently Ely Shoshone is publicizing in other manners to meet the requirements for the annual SERC. Mr. Rivera suggested that SERC look at their criteria and what they ask of the counties and review this as it has been a long time since this has been done. Mr. Rivera noted that he would also like a list of the members of SERC.

Lance Chantler indicated that he would work with SERC staff on getting answers to Mr. Rivera's concerns. Mr. Chantler added that he would get a list to Mr. Rivera of SERC members and noted that this information can also be obtained by logging into the SERC website.

Ross Rivera indicated the need of a state public official to represent the SERC, noting that White Pine County and some of the other small counties do not have one although that is a requirement of the SERC committee.

Co-Chair David Fogerson explained that the state does have cybersecurity professionals, the Office of Cyber Defense Coordination, led by Aakin Patel, who can help guide with any cybersecurity issues. Co-Chair Fogerson further noted that at the federal level is CISA, Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Administration, and indicated that CISA is currently working with Pyramid Lake Tribe and Josie Burnett regarding some cybersecurity efforts.

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

Co-Chair David Fogerson indicated that the IMAC has not met between NTECC's last meeting and this meeting and therefore, there is no update.

**11. Updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX**

Vincent Martinez, Arizona Tribal Liaison, informed the Council that now that the regional tribal liaison in Nevada is no longer there, his role for the moment is to provide support to any tribal issues needing federal support and to assist Nevada in any possible way he can. Mr. Martinez encouraged that tribes reach out to him should they need any assistance or support.

Kris Haines, FEMA Region IX Integration Lead for Nevada, indicated that Region IX has posted the Emergency Management Specialist Nevada's Tribal L&O position the

previous week but due to administrative error, the posting was recalled. Mr. Haines explained that this will be edited and reposted as soon as possible, and that Region IX will share this with DEM/HS once it has been reposted. Mr. Haines reiterated that until that position is filled, Vince Martinez is the current POC. Mr. Haines next mentioned that there have been updates to the Declaration and IA (Individual Assistance) process and explained that as soon as trainings and more information is available, he will share that with the Tribal nations in the state.

Co-Chair David Fogerson explained that when Crystal Harjo left and went to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Co-Chair met with the supervisor of the Region IX's tribal liaison officers and Co-Chair Fogerson expressly requested that the California and Arizona tribal liaisons not come over for in-person visits without either Ms. Burnett or Mr. Parizo, the state tribal liaisons with them so as to ensure that expectations are managed appropriately. Co-Chair Fogerson suggested that tribes reach out to Kris Haines or any of the tribal liaisons at FEMA should they need to but encouraged tribes to use Ms. Burnett and Mr. Parizo as their primary points of contact.

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

Mason Parizo, DEM/HS Tribal Liaison, discussed the Rural Preparedness Summit and NEPA, which is coming up. Mr. Parizo indicated that he and Ms. Burnett have coordinated some guest speakers and will be working with NTECC members to ensure that travel is prepared for and taken care of. Mr. Parizo explained that Ms. Burnett is working on getting new quotes for sim cards and once the sim cards are received, distribution will begin. Mr. Parizo informed the Council that the tribal cybersecurity grant will be available soon and Liaison staff is hopeful to be able to push out more information on that soon. Mr. Parizo indicated that Amanda Jackson is a great resource on this. Mr. Parizo next explained that the liaisons have been doing site visits throughout the last couple of months to look at and coordinate and help review the mitigation plans for tribes so that everyone will be able to apply for BRIC grants. Mr. Parizo concluded by noting that liaisons are assisting with the mapping with Mr. Banuelos.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker questioned that if there is any update regarding the communication boxes, and asked about plans for a potential tribal communications drill exercise plan as the last one took place in 2021.

Mason Parizo explained that the black boxes will be an ongoing thing, that they will be collected and retrofitted and updated for a more appropriate response for every tribal nation and as such, Mr. Parizo will be working with tribes specifically on this. Mr. Parizo explained that the request for such an exercise would need to come from the deciding members and supported the idea of putting one in place with the appropriate parties.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker asked if tribes should get an inventory to the liaisons in preparation of that meeting.

Mason Parizo indicated that this would definitely be helpful.

### **13. Grant Status Report**

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS, indicated that the grant status report is attached in the meeting materials. Ms. Coyote explained that all grant programs with open sub-awards are listed in the report, and that the report shows the following information: the sub-recipient agency; project; original award amount; re-obligated funds received; amount spent as of the last report; the funding stream of grant; any de-obligated amount; and the percentage of awards spent as of the last report received. Ms. Coyote further noted that the federal reporting narratives for HSGP and NSGP are attached as well, which provides the program updates for those programs as of 9/30/2023. Ms. Coyote added that the late reporting as of 9/30/2023 is included with this agenda item as well and indicated that DEM/HS grant staff is working with the few remaining sub-grantees that are late on their reporting to bring them up to date.

Co-Chair David Fogerson reminded the Council that the Homeland Security Grant process will be 100-percent competitive in this upcoming cycle so everyone seeking grant funds from Homeland Security will have to present to NRAC and the UAWG for approval to move forward in the grant process requests. Co-Chair Fogerson encouraged everyone to look at the grant status report as it is a great place to find ideas for how to use grant funds.

### **14. Northern and Southern Center for Independent Living**

Co-Chair David Fogerson indicated that this project to produce a website to help those in a disability community find better avenues to become prepared for disasters was made possible through a grant. Co-Chair Fogerson further indicated that this not a state mandate, nor is it a state unfunded mandate, but rather funded by a grant program to the nonprofit, who then made the connection with Heather Lafferty and brought the program to DEM/HS for advice and counsel on how to improve the program.

Heather Lafferty, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Access and Function Needs Coordinator (DEI/AFN), indicated that one of her favorite and primary responsibilities as Access and Functional Needs Coordinator is to look for community projects where the community themselves are trying to close these gaps because it is the communities themselves that know best what is needed and how it needs to be done, but may lack the platforms to bring awareness to projects or resources. Ms. Lafferty provided a brief overview of the Centers for Independent Living, indicating that through their work and advocacy, hundreds of thousands of individuals living with disabilities have been allowed to live in their communities and thrive.

Jackie Shelton, NNCIC, began by informing the Council that today is an opportunity for members to ask questions and provide input on the upcoming project. Ms. Shelton noted that the goal with this project is statewide prevent, prepare, and respond, with the intent to educate older adults and people with disabilities on how they can protect themselves in the event of public emergencies. Ms. Shelton explained that in order to target the right audiences, input from government health and human services agencies

across the state has been solicited to ensure that as many people as possible are reached. Ms. Shelton discussed some of the various disabilities. Ms. Shelton next discussed some of the different emergency categories, noting that these differ depending on region and as such, the new website will be very specific to each area of the state. Ms. Shelton indicated the primary message, which is that we're all responsible for ourselves first, and the fact that this aligns with CIL, whose goal is for people to live as independently as possible and as they desire to, which means taking control of their own lives. Ms. Shelton clarified that people are not being asked to do this by themselves, but rather to be the first responder. Ms. Shelton further indicated that the message is what's your plan, where's your bag, and who's your buddy, with the idea being that people are more able to take care of themselves if they know what to do and they are prepared. In addition, Ms. Shelton indicated that being prepared for an emergency helps to relieve some of the fear people may experience. Ms. Shelton indicated that the intended, robust website will live on the NNCIL website, but will be statewide, cover every county in the state, cover different disabilities, and cover different emergencies with different priorities in different counties. Ms. Shelton added that the website will be mobile friendly, indicated the plan to create a series of short videos interviewing people with disabilities who have experienced emergencies, noted the intended message of hope and optimism on the website, and indicated the importance of also interviewing first responders throughout the state. Ms. Shelton next discussed the meetings already in place with PIOs so as to involve representation of as many counties as possible to ensure the feeling that this website is statewide. Ms. Shelton stated that the website and the videos will be accessible to people with different disabilities. Ms. Shelton further noted that once the website and the videos are done, her team will be doing outreach to work with the different communities to help get the word out to audiences so that people throughout the state understand that this resource is available to them to help be prepared ahead of an emergency. Ms. Shelton indicated the understanding that there are areas in the state that do not have access to internet and in hopes of preparedness in these areas, a series of emergency training curriculum are being prepared, in which Ms. Shelton requested the input of the members, that would then be shared out in places like senior centers, housing divisions, and other places that make sense where people could receive this information. Ms. Shelton further noted that the website will include a downloadable emergency plan as well as a go-bag list. Ms. Shelton indicated that the more prepared people are, the higher the likelihood that they will have what they need when arriving at an evacuation center, which in turn takes some of the pressure off of the personnel at the evacuation center itself. Ms. Shelton noted the hope that in partnership with the PIOs for public relations, word of the website will get out to media as much as possible so as to drive as many people as possible back to this site and indicated her desire to partner with members to help reach out to communities. Ms. Shelton informed the Council of the hope of the creation of a link that can be placed on members' websites for people with disabilities needing specific information. Ms. Shelton explained that currently, this project is in the research stage, which includes focus groups, and encouraged participation in a focus group specific to the tribes. Ms. Shelton indicated that participation in the focus groups is paid, as would the people who choose to participate in the videos. Ms. Shelton concluded her presentation by informing the members that before releasing the website, it will need to be vigorously tested by people with disabilities to ensure that it is truly accessible and meeting the needs of this demographic.

Dan Thayer requested the website address and asked if Ms. Shelton's team would be willing to do another presentation of this type for different programs within Reno Sparks.

Jackie Shelton indicated that the website is not up yet, but the current site is nncil.org, which is the Northern Nevada Center for Independent living, and then this site would be housed inside that site under another URL, potentially getreadynv.org and/or bereadynv.org. Ms. Shelton further indicated that her team would love to do another presentation if asked. Ms. Shelton added that there are a couple of spots available on focus groups, both this coming Wednesday and the following Tuesday, and noted that the intent to limit the groups to ten people to ensure that everyone has a chance to participate. Ms. Shelton explained that both focus groups will be held both in-person and on Zoom.

Co-Chair David Fogerson discussed the importance of this planned websites, particularly given the healthcare deserts that exist in the rural parts of the state. As such, Co-Chair Fogerson stressed the importance of representation of both the rurals and the tribal nations so as to incorporate their feedback.

Heather Lafferty indicated that members with questions or in need of more information could reach out to either Ms. Lafferty or Ms. Shelton.

## **15. Public Comment**

Co-Chair David Fogerson called for any public comment.

Ross Rivera suggested the state create a fillable asset list form in one format for use by all different entities within the state that need to provide this information.

Co-Chair David Fogerson commended this idea and indicated that this information would be conveyed to Eric Wilson, whose responsibility this would fall under. Co-Chair Fogerson reminded the Council that mutual aid in Nevada is covered under NRS 414(a) and that all the local governments are all parties to that agreement automatically and have to opt out, but tribal nations have to opt in by tribal resolution. Co-Chair Fogerson invited any tribal nations that have not yet opted in and would like to do so to talk with Mr. Parizo and/or Ms. Burnett. Co-Chair Fogerson noted that this is completely optional but would provide an additional revenue stream to the tribal nations during an incident.

Ross Rivera noted that the reason tribal partners need to opt in is because the Nevada government cannot make them automatic due to legal reasons about the state's jurisdiction versus the tribal governments' jurisdictions.

Co-Chair David Fogerson added that this was designed to protect the tribes' sovereign abilities from a state mandate that could potentially go against beliefs.

There was no additional public comment.

## **16. Adjournment**

Co-Chair David Fogerson asked for a motion to adjourn the February 5, 2024 NTECC meeting. Ken Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California, moved to adjourn the meeting. Don Pelt, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair David Fogerson adjourned the NTECC meeting at 9:56 a.m.