



# Meeting Minutes Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>		June 29, 2020		
	<b>TIME</b>		2:30 p.m.		
	<b>METHOD</b>		Teleconference		
	<b>RECORDER</b>		Karen Hall		
<b>Appointed Voting Member Attendance</b>					
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
Justin Luna – Chair	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Carolyn Levering	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Dave Fogerson	X	Ryan Miller	Abs
Andy Ancho	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Todd Moss	X
Roy Anderson	X	Mike Heidemann	X	Tenielle Pereira	X
Travis Anderson	Abs	Jill Hemenway	Abs	Shaun Rahmeyer	X
Elizabeth Breeden	X	Eric Holt	Abs	Misty Robinson	X
James Chrisley	X	David Hunkup	X	Rachel Skidmore	Abs
Casandra Darrough	Abs	Jeremy Hynds	X	Corey Solferino	X
Darcy Davis	X	Graham Kent	X	Malinda Southard	X
Craig dePolo	X	Mary Ann Laffoon	X	Chris Tomaino	X
Bob Dehnhardt	X	Chris Lake	Abs	Mike Wilson	Abs
<b>Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance</b>					
Bunny Bishop	X	Melissa Friend	X	Catherine Nielson	Abs
Rebecca Bodnar	Abs	Kacey KC	X		
Felix Castagnola	Abs	Aaron Kenneston	Abs		
<b>Staff/Legal Support Personnel Attendance</b>					
<b>Representative</b>		<b>Entity</b>		<b>Present</b>	
Samantha Ladich – Sr. Deputy Attorney General		Nevada Attorney General's Office		X	
Karen Hall		Nevada Division of Emergency Management - North		X	

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chief Justin Luna, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS), called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, DEM/HS. Quorum was established for the meeting.

### 2. Public Comment

Chief Luna opened discussion on public comment. No public comment was provided by teleconference attendees.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Chief Luna opened discussion on the review and approval of draft minutes for the May 13, 2020, Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (Committee) meeting. Mike Heidemann, Churchill County Office of Emergency Management, motioned to approve the draft minutes as presented, and Dave Fogerson, East Fork Fire Protection District, seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Fire Season Hazard Briefing

Kasey KC, State Forester/Fire Warden, Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), briefed the Committee on expectations for the current 2020 fire season in Nevada including available resources, areas of concern, and mutual aid opportunities. Summary highlights from the discussion were as follows:

- The 2020 fire season is shaping up as predicted after a very dry winter, below normal precipitation, and below normal snowpack. The fuel moisture content is low. Above normal fire behavior is expected in southern Nevada in June, above normal in July for the remainder of the state, above normal in August for northern Nevada and northeastern Nevada, and the remainder of the year looks to have average fire behavior potential.
- 100%-300% normal moisture in spring created a crop of flashy fuels subject to hotter days with record temperatures.
- So far this year, 258 fires have occurred burning over 61,000 acres. 214 of those fires were human caused, but most of the acreage burned was due to lightning. There are three large fires burning currently throughout the state.
- The Covid-19 effect on ground resources has been a concern, and a coordinated and collective response was put into place between local, state, and federal government to enhance state and federal forces in assisting local jurisdictions during fire season. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management brought on additional crews, telework and training was performed online, and the fire academy was not held due to class size. Great Basin created a plan for its region, and there is a tiered plan for Nevada. Additional air assets were brought on in case of ground crew loss. NDF is securing two super-scoopers that will be available for state use during the 2020 fire season.
- Due to the Covid-19 emergency, the Nevada Department of Corrections has held the large inmate labor force back from participating on fire crews; however, inmate crews are available now and being trained.
- DEM and NDF released a letter announcing a transition of duty officer responsibilities for local fire assets only. Nothing has changed yet, but once that happens, notification will be sent out for a smooth transition. NDF is looking at tiering agreements to help mobilize wildland assets.

Chief Luna opened discussion on questions pertaining to this presentation. No questions were presented.

#### 5. Overview of ALERTWildfire Cameras

Dr. Graham Kent, Director of the Nevada Seismological Laboratory, Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering, University of Nevada Reno, provided the Committee with an overview of the ALERTWildfire camera capabilities. Summary highlights from this discussion were as follows:

- The Nevada Seismological Laboratory operates 550 cameras that can be used for wildfire identification and monitoring.
- New cameras provided by NV Energy were used to monitor the recent Poeville and Monarch fires in northern Nevada. Dr. Kent thanked NV Energy for their contribution to that effort.
- A buildout of camera capability is starting for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and there will be between four to eight cameras pushed out to central and northern Nevada to fill camera gaps. Currently, Idaho and Oregon are also getting new cameras. More features are being added to these new camera systems including enhanced time-lapse features.

- There is better integration now into the camera packages and fire predictive services regionally. As a result, Nevada may see this technology in its landscape packages to allow better assessment of fire behavior and where fires may go.
- During the current Covid-19 emergency, it is critical to have early confirmation and detection of fire starts to better assess what assets are required and available.
- Dr. Darcy Davis, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, inquired how to access the ALERTWildfire site. Dr. Kent referred her to [www.alertwildfire.org](http://www.alertwildfire.org) website, and noted the process of using the camera maps to locate areas of interest. Dr. Kent also spoke to the spectacular clarity of the newer cameras.
- Chief Luna inquired on when the first camera was installed in Nevada, and what the timeline is for installing additional cameras. Dr. Kent indicated that the first camera was located at Snow Valley Peak in 2013, which coincided with the large Bison Fire start. For Nevada, BLM played a large part in getting cameras as did other entities. There was money set aside to support cameras in central and southern Nevada initially through legislative funding. NV Energy has also supported the camera effort. Kasey KC spoke to contracting with NV Energy for \$5M to help Nevada with its infrastructure and fuel reduction programs. Additionally, in the last legislative biennia, the ability of matching funds was made available, and Nevada was able to secure the full \$5M. Once that money is available, projects are slated throughout the state including the South Ruby Mountains Rehabilitation Project. It is imperative to ensure that high risk areas are covered.

## 6. Discussion on Recent Seismic Activity

Dr. Craig dePolo, Research Geologist, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, University of Nevada, Reno, Mackay School of Mines, presented the Committee information about the recent seismic activity within Nevada, in the region, and significant activity worldwide. Summary highlights from the discussion were as follows:

- The Monte Cristo Range Earthquake hit at 4:03am on May 15, 2020, near U.S. Highway 95 just north of Columbus Marsh. This is southwest of the town of Mina and approximately 35 miles East North East of Tonopah. The 6.5 magnitude earthquake was the largest Nevada earthquake event in 65 years. To date, there have been 76,500 aftershocks.
- The earthquake resulted in small lateral spread in three places along U.S. Highway 95. One of those spreads caused a 5" drop in the road, and a vehicle did hit this drop at a high rate of speed blowing out all four of its tires and going into a tailspin. This accident did not result in any injuries.
- The earthquake was felt widely outside of the epicenter. Damage in Tonopah resulted in broken store windows, damaged gas lines, road damage, and possible structural damage to the high school. In the Candelaria and Monte Cristo Range areas, rockfalls were seen in mining pits as well as cracking within leach pads. Some damage was noted to tombstones being knocked over in the Candelaria graveyard.
- Areas directly over the top of the earthquake epicenter with any earthen structures were mostly dissolved.
- Most, if not all fractures, are almost all on pre-existing faults lines. There was an interesting difference on U.S. Highway 95. On the eastern side, fractures are north to south with no progressive fracturing. On the western side, the fractures are north to east very small up to 15 centimeters maximum. Most of the faults showed fault orientation, and fracturing followed a similar pattern.
- Good geodetic signature in this area. There were some foreshocks.
- Entire town of Tonopah was moved 9-32nds eastward.
- In 1932, the Cedar Mountain earthquake was very similar, and there is concern with the White Mountain or Fish Lake Valley system with mid magnitude load. That system has continued to be active.
- On May 21, 2020, the Governor declared a State of Emergency primarily due to the road damage that ensued from the earthquake.

- Three science teams from the University of Nevada immediately deployed geologists, seismologists, and geodesists. Dr. dePolo was onsite by 10:00 a.m. the morning of the earthquake, and teams stayed in that region for several weeks to study this event. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) and California Geological Survey (CGS) also sent scientists to help document the effects of the earthquake.
- In the last 10 months, Nevada has seen three damaging earthquakes.
- Dr. Kent led discussion on concerns about this most recent earthquake triggering the North/North Northwest fault zone promoting a magnitude seven earthquake near Hawthorne. It will be helpful to understand where the aftershocks are moving. Movement can be tracked on cellular temporarily, but Verizon only works in that area for several hours per day. A team was put together to put in a link/access point around Pilot Point. Eight seismic stations were pointed back to Pilot Peak. That array has about 8,000 aftershocks noted to date. Most of the aftershocks early on were magnitude four and five and mostly tracked on the north-trending fault. Had this earthquake occurred in a higher populated area, the damages would have been significantly worse.
- Chief Luna spoke to the efforts of the Nevada Department of Transportation in compiling actual damage numbers, and work being done with federal partners for assistance in getting funding for repairs.
- Chief Luna emphasized earthquake preparedness considering recent events, and the importance of messaging. There is an opportunity to reach communities statewide with important earthquake information.
- Dr. dePolo urged southern Nevada residents to keep aware, as this event may have longer lasting effects. Earthquake mitigation should be a priority right now.

## **7. Public Comment**

Chief Luna opened discussion for public comment. Chief Luna spoke to looking forward to a time in the future to address regularly occurring issues and appreciating what the Committee membership is doing for the state. No other public comment was presented from teleconference attendees.

## **8. Adjourn**

Chief Luna called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Ann Laffoon, Northeast Nevada Citizen Corps, CERT Program Coordinator, motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chief Todd Moss, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.