



# Meeting Minutes

## Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Monday, June 28, 2021
	<b>TIME</b>	2:30 p.m.
	<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom/Teleconference/Public
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Sherrean Whipple
<b>Voting Membership</b>		
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
Justin Bloom	Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe	X
Marian Perez	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	X
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	X
David Hunkup	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	X
Tanya Reynolds	Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	ABS
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Tashina Jim	Walker River Paiute Tribe	X
Kenneth Quiner	Washoe Tribes of Nevada/California	X
<b>Non-Member Representatives/Support</b>		
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

### 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/HS, and a quorum was established for the meeting.

### 2. Public Comment

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

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the March 16, 2021 NTECC meeting. Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, noted that the

minutes state that he was the White House Liaison, but he actually is not. This was noted by Sherrean Whipple, DEM/HS.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that he would look into the matter.

Ross Rivera moved to approve the March 16, 2021 minutes of the NTECC meeting. David Hunkup, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Legislative Update**

Co-Chair Fogerson led a discussion on legislative efforts impacting emergency management in the State of Nevada, including, an overview of the current status of Bill Draft Requests (BDR) submitted by the Division of Emergency Management.

Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, sent out the list of all the bills that had passed on all listservs prior to the meeting and indicated that he had removed all of the bills that didn't pass. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that the three that had passed were: AB14, SB14, and the move of the Council under the Office of the Military. Co-Chair Fogerson further explained that one of the bills pertained to the emergency plans from different utilities and who is required to submit plans to the Division. The second bill coordinated some of the meeting dates such as Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC), who used to meet monthly, will now be meeting quarterly. In terms of the move to the Office of Military, Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that the only noticeable change for the end user is that any complaints about the Co-Chair should now go to General Berry rather than to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) director. Co-Chair Fogerson further indicated that the move will give NRAC the opportunity to see what needs to be fixed and cleaned up, and how best to go about doing so.

#### **5. NTECC Logo Review**

Co-Chair Harriett Parker provided background on Item 5. The creation of a logo was discussed in February of 2019, and at that time, there was discussion of opening the work for submissions, with flyers being left at local schools. By March of 2019, there had been only two submissions. The matter was then removed from the agenda. COVID-19 delayed further progress on the creation of a logo.

Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, suggested the logo include the state of Nevada with an outline of the Indian on the state and depicting all the Tribes and including DPS.

Kenneth Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California, indicated his support of Mr. Rivera's suggestion and added that it would be nice to find a way to depict the area of the state is covered by tribal lands, thus giving a good perspective of how much of Nevada is tribal-managed.

David Hunkup, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, indicated that the logo with the Indian on the front of the State of Nevada is not representative of the Great Basin Tribes.

Co-Chair Parker asked if anyone on the Council had artistic ability and could help to design a logo representative of the State of Nevada and all of its Tribes.

Daniel Thayer, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, suggested a design with an all-hazard Tribal logo or something related to hazard response as that is the role of NTECC. Mr. Thayer further indicated that he would try and locate an artist.

Co-Chair Parker indicated her agreement that the logo should represent all Nevada Tribes and indicate all hazards and explained that the logo with the Native outline was submitted by someone from Arizona, and that perhaps was the reason all Nevada Tribes were not represented. Co-Chair Parker further explained that the second logo submitted was a petroglyph at the Valley of Fire. Ms. Parker further indicated that she would like to query artists via email and the website and stated that she would reach out further to some local artists to include the things listed by members of the Council in a logo.

Kenneth Quiner indicated that if each Tribe has its own logo, perhaps those logos could be incorporated.

Co-Chair Parker explained that the goal of the logo was for NTECC letterhead, business cards, and the website and as such, she was uncertain of the amount of room available to depict each Tribe's individual logo but explained her hope that the Council's different ideas could come together into one logo. Co-Chair Parker further suggested advertising the need for a logo via the mediums she suggested earlier and indicated that based on how many are received, perhaps an agenda item on the next meeting could be to decide on a logo based on additional submissions.

Daniel Thayer showed an example of a logo from his Tribal fire department to give the Council an idea and indicated his desire to keep the logo as Tribal as possible. Mr. Thayer further stated his approval of having a logo that includes each Tribe's individual logo, and also stated that there are multiple Tribal fire departments whose logos could be included to showcase both the tribes and NTECC's role.

Co-Chair Parker asked if there was a central location where the logos can be found for a potential artist to view and incorporate.

Daniel Thayer indicated that the logos can be found by Googling Tribal emergency response.

Co-Chair Fogerson suggested tabling the item, putting out the call for logo submissions, and re-visiting the item at the next meeting.

Co-Chair Parker agreed.

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

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) was to provide an update on activities by Clifford Banuelos.

Clifford Banuelos explained that the first thing that needs to be done is that Shelby O'Daye, needs to be replaced with Clifford Banuelos as she is no longer in that capacity for ITCN.

Co-Chair Fogerson asked Mr. Banuelos to have an email sent from Deserea Quintana with that request, and then he can take care of it from there.

Clifford Banuelos informed the Council that ITCN is continuing to provide supplies to help Tribal people suffering through the pandemic. Mr. Banuelos indicated that supplies can be picked up at the Reno office and in addition, ITCN is also going out to the Tribes. An event was held for the Pahrump Tribe, which is state-recognized but not federally recognized as well as the Fort McDermitt Tribe. Executive Director Quintana also just visited the Te-Moak bands to arrange events in process and to provide more supplies. Mr. Banuelos further explained that as the state continues to open up, ITCN is doing more in-person visits to arrange food banks and other services to get supplies out to the people who are still in need. Mr. Banuelos informed the Council that ITCN continues to coordinate with Nevada Indian Commission through biweekly meetings on these activities.

Clifford Banuelos informed the Council that ITCN is working on a national telecommunications information administrative Tribal broadband connectivity program to help rural Tribes to get the internet access they need. The grant for this is due on September 1. ITCN is coordinating to help some of the Tribes that are at lower capacity levels as well as these rural areas to get broadband connectivity to them. Mr. Banuelos explained that some of the more rural Tribes have a very difficult time participating in the virtual world; even simply ordering supplies was a significant challenge to some of these Tribes.

Clifford Banuelos explained that ITCN is conducting inventory of equipment and is still in possession of ITCN emergency box supplies, which are in the works to be transferred. Mr. Banuelos informed the Council that the finance department requested that NDN or NTECC draft an official letter listing all the supplies that Tribes have received from ITCN, and the locations of those supplies. Mr. Banuelos indicated that with an inventory write-off list, the auditors can then confirm that the supplies are no longer on the books and that the value can then be listed as, what Mr. Banuelos assumes, will be close to zero as the supplies have likely depreciated over the ten years they have been in Tribal possession.

Co-Chair Fogerson informed Mr. Banuelos that he will have Ryan Gerchman, DEM/HS, follow up on this issue offline with Mr. Banuelos so that this can be resolved.

## **7. Update from Nevada Indian Commission (NIC)**

Sari Nichols, NIC, informed the Council that NIC is still meeting biweekly with ITCN, as Mr. Banuelos had indicated, and explained that the Tribal Food Task Force has been established. Ms. Nichols explained that they are working with Tribes to ensure pantries are in place in case of another disaster of some sort so that Tribes are more set in terms of food needs and will not have to rely as much on outside sources. Ms. Nichols reported that NIC is also meeting with the Governor's Office of Energy regarding providing broadband service to the rural's and requested a meeting with Clifford Banuelos to ensure that efforts are not being duplicated.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that come the next meeting, the subject matter would be broader, rather than just to include COVID-19, to allow the ITCN, NIC, and DPBH representatives to present on the broader items of routine management and public health rather than just the COVID-19 reporting.

## **8. Update on Tribal Health Preparedness Efforts**

Dr. Malinda Southard, Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Program Manager. The NTECC was provided an update on the Division of Public and Behavioral Health's (DPBH) Tribal Health Preparedness efforts to include updates on COVID-19 response support. Dr. Southard reported that the Nevada hospital and health care capacity remains at healthy levels. Crisis standards of care is still activated at this point, and Dr. Southard reported that DPBH is still working on providing everyone at least a 60-day notice of deactivation of crisis standards of care, if possible. Dr. Southard explained that crisis standards of care is tied to the state declaration of emergency, as well as the federal declaration of emergency, and the federal declaration of a public health emergency. Dr. Southard indicated that the goal is to remain communicative with all partners and ensure that everyone is on the same page when looking to deactivate crisis standards of care.

Dr. Malinda Southard informed the Council that a letter was just sent out outlining different survey results from the Nevada Hospital Association and DPBH, gauging the healthcare community's standing when operating under crisis standards of care, contingency standards of care, or conventional standards of care, to all healthcare partners and should have been passed on to tribal health clinics as well.

Dr. Malinda Southard informed the Council that the Public Health Preparedness Program at the state level has been working with the Division of Emergency Management (DEM/HS) on the state warehouse needs regarding PPE for the remainder of 2021 and 2022. Dr. Southard also informed the Council that if there is a need for Abbot BinaxNOW tests for COVID, to please let her know and she will get tests to those who need them. Dr. Southard concluded her presentation by informing the Council that the State Public Health Preparedness Program will be updating the statewide pandemic influenza plan and renaming it to something along the lines of a highly infectious disease plan so as not to have a separate contingency plan for every highly infectious disease, thus allowing more of an all-hazards approach.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) is in discussions with the governor's office regarding when to lift the emergency declaration as one of the considerations is when to lift the crisis standard of care. Co-Chair Fogerson further informed the Council of Vax-Nevada, which is offering \$5 million in prizes and a \$1 million grand prize for anyone in the state who has begun and/or completed the vaccination process. Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that NRAC has reached out to NIC to reach out to tribal leaders about this effort and requested that NTECC members reach out to the Tribal health centers to ensure that the information regarding the drawings is getting out to the Tribes.

## 9. Nevada Public Bodies Updates

Co-Chair Fogerson opened the discussion on the Nevada Public Bodies updates. The following are the highlights from each update provided:

- a. Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee – Dave Hunkup, Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC).

Dave Hunkup informed the Council that NRAC Tribal representatives held a meeting on May 27 and provided the highlights. Mr. Hunkup referred back to Kasey KC's presentation regarding the wildfire presentation earlier in the meeting and informed the Council that this was a discussion item during the meeting on May 27. Mr. Hunkup next discussed the Homeland Security Grants and informed the Council that the agenda and minutes of the meeting had been sent out to Tribes with information. Mr. Hunkup finished his presentation with a discussion of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) work plan, indicating that this was a discussion-only item and that the information regarding EMPG had also been sent out to tribes.

Co-Chair Fogerson added that a second NRAC meeting took place last week and his goal was to ensure that this meeting's agenda and that meeting's agenda were consistent. Co-Chair Fogerson further added that he is going to try to do that moving forward so that the same issues are addressed in both Councils so that the meetings are more similar than disparate.

- b. Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS) – Lisa Christensen, Washoe Tribe of Nevada, and California, was not available for comment. Co-Chair Fogerson updated the Council regarding the activities of the NCHS. The NCHS reviewed strategic capabilities and looked at grant performances.
- c. NCHS Finance Committee – Co-Chair Fogerson, DEM/HS.  
Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that there has not been a recent meeting and that the purpose of the last meeting was to recommend the Homeland Security Grants.
- d. Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) – Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS.  
Jon Bakkedahl informed the Council that the last meeting focused heavily on the grant approval for different grants, adopting the United We Stand grant and some of the HMEP money received from DOT. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that everything was forwarded on to the funding committee for approval with the exception of some counties still needing to submit additional paperwork, but that the funding committee was moving forward with approving the grants pending receipt of the information. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Council that there was significant discussion from each of the committees, particularly the policy committee, so each policy was studied and updated to meet current times to try and keep SERC Commission policies and procedures up-to-date. Mr. Bakkedahl further informed the Council that all Commission seats have been filled, all committees are approaching full, and all have met within the last quarter regarding their associated duties and responsibilities. Mr. Bakkedahl concluded by informing the Council of the upcoming SERC RAD Committee meeting to approve the newly updated concept of operations and sustainment plans for statewide radiological response.

- e. Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee (IMAC) – Co-Chair David Fogerson, DEM/HS. Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that this committee has not met since the last NTECC meeting. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that the committee has communicated with NTECC staff, who will be speaking with each of the members regarding opting into the statewide mutual-aid plan, 414 (a). Co-Chair indicated that all government and state agencies are automatically opted in and have to opt out if they wish not to participate; however, tribal nations have to opt in and so far, only a handful have done so. As such, Co-Chair Fogerson asked the Council to go back and speak with their Councils about opting in as there is no cost to do so and that it gives the legal protection in order to be able to share resources without requiring depletion of those resources. Co-Chair Fogerson gave the example of an ambulance that was provided to follow the Northern Mobile Vaccine Unit and indicated that they will be reimbursed for the services they provided to the state, indicating that there is opportunity not only for occasional money-making, but also for liability protection when helping out other locations.
  
- f. Nevada Legislative Commission on Wildfire Mitigation – Clifford Banuelos, ITCN. Clifford Banuelos informed the Council that the committee is actually not titled correctly as it is actually a committee to conduct an interim study concerning wildfires. Mr. Banuelos explained that the interim study has concluded and that there is a proposal for a bill to stop allowing these interim studies. Mr. Banuelos further indicated that there were three proposals put to the legislature based on the interim study and some bills did go forward as a result. Mr. Banuelos stated that better facilitation from interagency cooperation and these private partnerships will benefit Tribes as better ways to respond will speed things up for the tribes. Otherwise, Mr. Banuelos stated, he did not see anything coming directly from tribal input and suggested removing the agenda item from future meetings as the work for the study has concluded. Mr. Banuelos informed the Council that he was struggling to track the bills that came out as a result of the Commission's findings but would email the status to the members of the Council following today's meeting.

## **10. Update from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX**

Chris Poehlmann, FEMA Region IX Tribal Liaison, was not available for this update so the agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

## **11. Interoperability Update**

Melissa Friend, DEM/HS. Ms. Friend was not available for update. Co-Chair, David Fogerson gave an update to the Council. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that NRAC is working to get DEM/HS recognized as the state's 911 coordinator as Nevada is one of four states that does not have a statewide coordinator, keeping the state from receiving some federal funding. Co-Chair Fogerson further explained that Melissa Friend has been working with FirstNet and AT&T regarding where and how to locate the different sites in order to improve FirstNet capabilities in the state.

## **12. Updates from the DEM/HS NTECC Staff**

DEM/HS representative, Ryan Gerchman, will be providing NTECC with updates.

Ryan Gerchman informed the Council that NTECC was awarded additional funds through the Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) grant which allows anyone with National Incident Management System (NIMS) Basic Academy or Professional Development Series potential eligibility to use those funds through NTECC to travel to different training classes.

Ryan Gerchman next discussed the communication boxes and explained that he had sent out an email to Tribal emergency managers regarding the subject, asking that they communicate to him if they did not receive the email. Mr. Gerchman explained that COVID delayed the disaster communication box situation and asked Council members to take inventory of them using the Excel sheet attached to the email by marking if the communication boxes are usable, not usable, or if something else is needed.

Ryan Gerchman discussed the Nevada Training Qualification System (NTQS) and its new online portal that is planned to go live July 1. In the portal, people can upload their training certificates from different courses and trainings and then see the schedule of classes in the system, which will then inform the user of their eligibility for a class based their prerequisites. In addition, if a user is missing a class, the system will inform the user what class they need to take. Mr. Gerchman reminded the Council that EMPG funding is available to help pay for those courses once the professional development series has been completed. Mr. Gerchman asked the Council for patience as it is a new system and there will be bugs to work out, but did indicate that in the end, the system will make things simpler for the state to track and access and provide more equitable access to training platforms across the state.

Ryan Gerchman informed the Council that he, Crystal Harjo, DEM/HS, and Dave Fogerson, DEM/HS, will be heading out on the road to visit everyone in their towns to see their communities soon and that he is looking forward to meeting the Council members face-to-face.

Ryan Gerchman concluded his presentation by informing the Council that there is still PPE available. Mr. Gerchman asked the Council to put in a resource request for any needed PPE and he will deliver it to the communities in need.

## **13. Wildland Fire Potential in Nevada**

(This Item taken out of order) Kacey KC, State Forester, will provide the Council with a presentation of Nevada's wildland fire outlook in 2021.

Kasey KC discussed the fire season of 2020 and indicated that there were 801 total starts across the state. Ms. KC explained that the average number of acres burned is 500,000 per year, so 2020 was a moderate fire season, with just under 300,000 acres burned. Ms. KC further explained that the increased number of human-started fires causes concern nationwide, not just in the state. Ms. KC informed the Council that the overall human-cause starts in 2020 in Nevada equaled 68 percent of the fires and 76 percent of the acres burned in 2020 whereas the five-year average prior to 2020 equaled approximately 52 percent of fires and 28 percent of overall acres burned.



Thus, the elevated rise has been attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic as more people have been outdoors than ever before. Ms. KC continued on to say that in 2021 there have been 216 fires so far with approximately 40,000 acres burned across the state. Nevada is currently at 90 percent human-cause starts, but at 28 percent of acres burned, which is closer to the average.

Kasey KC used the example of the Humboldt Watershed to illustrate the nature of fire in Nevada. Ms. KC informed the Council that the large fire years in Nevada tend to follow the wet years by three to four years, likely because of all the grasses that grow in the interspaces that likely are not growing during drought years. Ms. KC discussed the recorded fire trends, indicating that between 1980 and 1999, Nevada had the highest recorded year in its history for fires with 1.8 million burned acres. Ms. KC explained that this was an anomaly year as this does not happen often. In looking at the trends between 2000 and 2020, Ms. KC indicated that there are more peak years, and a million acres has been passed approximately six times in this 20-year period versus the one time in the 20-year period preceding it. Ms. KC indicated that the rise of this statistic is indicative of multiple things: the continued fire that is natural in the ecosystems; fire being brought into these ecosystems and used as a tool; denser vegetation including more cheat grass and broom grasses; and more fire starts.

Kasey KC next discussed the state of the drought in Nevada, explaining that the state is currently in a cycle of drought, which is pretty extreme in most areas. Ms. KC attributed the lack of winter and the lack of the usual snowpack as a large contributor to the drought situation. Ms. KC indicated that this year is worrisome because although large fire years traditionally follow wet years, notable large fires in the state do tend to happen during drought years, particularly at higher elevations because there is no snowpack to rely on and the water is drying out. As such, Ms. KC explained that some of the largest fires in Nevada have occurred during drought years. Ms. KC informed the Council that the state is prepared for these types of fire, indicating that firefighters across the state, federal and local governments are working together and watching what's happening with neighboring states to ensure an appropriate response.

Kasey KC indicated that the National Interagency Fire Center is studying fuel conditions, fuel moistures, and fire behavior to try and predict the national fire potential based on all of those factors and explained that the predictions for May and June for Nevada were correct. Southern Nevada, an early area of concern, was very dry and hot and not seeing the usual monsoonal flows, thus precipitating more fire activity beginning in the southern portion of the state and moving up the eastern and northern portions of the state. The high fire potential will move up north in July and August as the monsoons start to come into the southern portion of the state and the western higher elevations.

Kasey KC next explained that the Nevada Division of Forestry, as a natural resource management agency, is charged with wildland fire response for the state. Ms. KC informed the Council that the problem of increasing fires in the west can't simply be attached by deploying more firefighters and engines; the state is in need of trained firefighters, of additional engines, of air assets, and also needs to ensure that the pace and scale of fuel reduction and forest, range, and land health projects are increasing across the state in the areas of highest concern. Ms. KC also discussed the importance of ensuring that resilient landscapes are being created in case of fire so that the fire

does not cause a catastrophic loss in the ecosystem, working with the communities in these fire-prone areas to ensure that homeowners are taking the necessary steps to become fire-adapted in their communities, as well as ensuring a safe and effective, coordinated fire response. Ms. KC discussed the importance of different entities working and planning together in order to coordinate this safe and effective response. Ms. KC informed the Council that this year, the Division of Forestry have fewer hand crews, which is their primary contribution to the state. Historically, the Division of Forestry provides approximately 15 fire crews consisting of 22 to 24 staff members, but this year has only seven qualified fire crews across the state, which reflects the current national shortage of hand crews. Ms. KC explained that last year, between the shortage of hand crews and COVID fears, additional air assets were placed under contract, such as a helicopter with the forest service. Ms. KC further explained that the Division of Forestry is working on a super-scooper contract for the state of Nevada as the scoopers under federal contract are obligated to move to highest-priority areas, which may not necessarily include Nevada in times of need.

Kasey KC next discussed the planning that takes place, including detailing several COVID precautions that were taken for first responders. Ms. KC informed the Council that many of these measures will continue into the upcoming fire seasons, including some things that can be managed remotely, such as some fiscal tasks and staff checking in and out. Ms. KC also discussed the agreements that run in the state of Nevada, including federal, state, and local, as well as national, and informed the Council that the agreements are looked at regularly so ensure that everyone is going and responding as required.

Kasey KC discussed the resilient landscapes across the state and indicated the recognition a while back that pace and scale needed to be increased. As such, 182,000 acres across the state were treated in 2020, which is a 48-percent increase in acres treated from previous years. Ms. KC informed the Council that larger landscape scale treatments are in the works including fuel breaks; reduction of cheat grass; modifications of landscapes; thinning of trees; and working in Sage STEP ecosystems. Ms. KC indicated that all of these plans include wildlife habitat and look closely at how fires, animals, and humans may move through the ecosystem. Ms. KC further informed the Council that the BLM alone was 159,000 of these acres and that the BLM Nevada won the award out of all 50 states for treatment acres this year. Ms. KC indicated her hopes that this increase will continue to grow in the future.

Kasey KC next discussed the highlights of 2019, one of which was that Governor Sisolak signed the shared stewardship agreement for the state of Nevada, which is an agreement that solidifies the roles of all the different entities and indicates the need for all the entities to expand knowledge and understanding of projects underway as well as pool limited funding and resources to aggressively attack high-priority areas in regards to fire-risk reduction. Ms. KC explained that the agreement was between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Wildlife, the Department of Agriculture on the state side, and with federal agencies on the federal side. Ms. KC indicated that the agreement is not limited to only those partnerships and will ultimately include tribal entities, ranchers, and mining communities among others. Ms. KC further indicated that this shared stewardship agreement now involves giving input of how staff can make things work at the ground level to push priorities and projects up to the state level. Ms. KC informed the Council that there are currently 47

shared stewardship agreements in the United States and Nevada was the first to sign will all partners, not just between the State Division of Forestry and the US Forest Service.

Kasey KC informed the Council that the shared stewardship executive committee with a technical advisory committee has identified 13 priority landscapes based on risk and values at risk. The agreement states that treated acres need to be increased by 50 percent. As such, two projects have been identified per the agreement that need to be implemented by the end of this year: Elko Spring Creek, Lamoille and Spring Mountains, Pahrump. Steps taken so far include directing staff to identify projects at the ground level, start local Council discussions, and start pushing project ideas up so that they can be implemented.

Kasey KC indicated that in the legislative session preceding the most recent one, the Division of Forestry was awarded five million dollars as matching funds through Senate Bill 508 to fund projects. Ms. KC indicated that the Division partnered with the US Forest Service on a project in the Ruby Lake Estates. Ms. Kasey further indicated that the Division has partnered with NV Energy for the bulk of the \$5 million on projects that will be implemented across the state that have a tie to NV Energy infrastructure and also expand from that infrastructure to create landscape-scale fuel-reduction projects. Ms. KC explained that there have been approximately 52 projects identified across the state and just shy of 10,000 acres has been treated. Ms. KC further explained that the Division was aware of not having the staffing necessary to attack the problem as well as an issue with getting contractors to come and do the work and as a result, the Division beefed up local government forces by hiring an additional 170 firefighters throughout the state. Additional infrastructure, from engines to chip trucks to chippers to masticators, have been brought in to try and address the issues, as well. Ms. KC further explained that the local government crews are available for initial attack across the state, so the Division moves them based on priority. Ms. KC explained that these crews are checking in with local wildland fire dispatch centers while deployed to the area in question and are available for initial attack only, meaning that they do not go on large assignments but have been able to keep many fires small throughout this process.

Clifford Banuelos, Intertribal Council Nevada, Tribal State Environment Liaison, asked Ms. KC for information regarding the proposals for the committee conduct interim study concerning wildfires.

Kasey KC explained a discussion that took place among stakeholders, Tribal liaison members, local and state government, federal agencies, homeowners, and companies on how better to attack the problems of wildfire in the state. Ms. KC explained that once COVID hit, there was no money behind the initiatives, but that some changes to her statutes, all assembly bills, did move forward. Ms. KC explained that a change in statutes 472 and 474 allowed ability to prosecute for negligent and willful fire starts to try and recuperate some of the cost. Ms. KC also discussed Nevada Insurance Commission's creation of insurance incentives for people who live in high fire-prone areas to receive an insurance incentive for maintaining a fire-wise or fire-adapted community. Ms. KC informed the Council that she will be working with the Nevada Insurance Commission on this beginning in July. Ms. KC further informed the Commission that the relationship between the state, local government, and federal FMOs was codified in statute. Ms. KC also indicated that the wildland fire protection

program was added into statute.

Co-Chair Parker thanked Ms. KC for her presentation and explained her gratitude regarding the work that will be done at Mount Charleston given the millions of dollars' worth of damage the Carpenter 1 fire had done and the affect it had on the Las Vegas Paiute a Tribe.

Kasey KC informed the Council that a bill was put into the Department's statute regarding the Spring Valley Swamp Cedar, which is tribally significant in the state of Nevada, for the Department to monitor that area although it is largely under federal jurisdiction. Ms. KC explained that the first part of this involved a meeting with the BLM to see what their area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) covered and what work is allowed to be done in that area. Ms. KC explained that there is no plan drafted for that area and indicated that this is a good starting point for the BLM and the Department to come together with the tribes to discuss the cultural significance of the area and to formulate a plan to manage it so that fire or other natural disaster does not destroy it.

Ross Rivera asked Kasey KC if the NDF Honor Camp crews are ever going to return to full capacity, go away, or if there is a plan for the area in the eastern side of the state.

Kasey KC informed the Council that the intent is to get all camps back up and running. Ms. KC informed the Council that due to the Pandemic; the Ely camp is still closed as a result of staffing issues in maximum security prisons requiring camp corrections staff to temporarily relocate. As such, Ms. KC explained that there are not fire crews coming out of the Ely camp this year, but everywhere else is getting back up to minimum staffing standards. Ms. KC further explained that due to the COVID-19 related budget cuts, the Department held 15 crew supervisor positions vacant in order to avoid layoffs and those positions are now available for rehire although the applicant pool has been limited. Ms. KC informed the Council that there are currently 25 crew supervisor positions open across the state and thus far only 11 applicants.

#### **14. Nevada Energy Related Issues**

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that the subject of the East Coast pipeline cyberattack was addressed at NRAC. Co-Chair Fogerson further discussed the need for every county to have an energy/resiliency plan in place for how they would handle this sort of situation in terms of ensuring fuel for first responders, generators, and frontline workers to get to work. Co-Chair Fogerson further explained that Nevada obviously has petroleum fuel that runs the vehicles and also natural gas fuel that heats homes and makes about 70 percent of the electricity in the state. Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that there is a planning team that will be meeting next week to start scoping out a potential response to this type of threat. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that DEM does not get into local business but does support requests from the locals and will need to anticipate what the locals may need in terms of support in the case of this type of situation.

#### **15. State Warehouse Emergency Operations Plan**

Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that DEM/HS is coordinating with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Public Health Preparedness, and the Division of Purchasing for a long-term plan for PPE and other emergency response resources.

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, informed the Council that July 1 is a big transition date between DEM/HS and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to begin to move some of the COVID response responsibilities back to DPBH after DEM/HS's assistance over the last 18 months approximately. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the warehouse is the largest part of that operation and informed the Council that there is still roughly \$60 million in PPE stationed primarily in southern Nevada and quite a bit in northern Nevada. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that the southern Nevada warehouse is in the process of a very large move, including moving out of the convention center so the state can use the space to begin to rebuild Nevada's economy, and into a space rented through the end of the year in the south. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the National Guard and the warehouse manager have taken on the responsibility of relocating the supplies and DEM/HS has contracted with an agency doing the deliveries via several hundred trucks. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the northern warehouse's lease was extended at its current location out of the Tahoe Regional Industrial Park through the end of the year and DEM/HS is hoping to extend that lease to run through June 30, 2022. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Council that once everything is in place, DEM/HS hopes to use up the PPE that's in the northern Nevada warehouse, stock up the jurisdictions as much as possible, and move the remainder to the southern Nevada warehouse, which will be the only PPE warehouse in the state of Nevada.

Jon Bakkedahl informed the Council that over the time period between now and the June of 2022, DEM is looking to work with state purchasing to purchase a warehouse in southern Nevada to utilize for federal program needs such as furniture and vehicles, along with a section to permanently house PPE. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Council that DEM/HS has just received the guidance from the feds on the available funding avenues, so the multi-page document needs to be ready to determine how best to move forward with this plan. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the size warehouse needed costs between 24 and \$26 million dollars in southern Nevada and even more in the north. Mr. Bakkedahl further explained that there is not much available and similar to the current housing market, the bid needs to be higher than the asking price and needs to be made at least nine months before the building is completed to even have a chance of getting possession of the building. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that state purchasing and DPBH is working with DEM/HS regarding this property issue.

Jon Bakkedahl informed the Council that there is still a lot of PPE that DEM/HS is looking to unload but that it has to be used for COVID response or vaccination and testing efforts. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that if any tribe or jurisdiction is looking for PPE to support those efforts, DEM has it available. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that because the PPE came from FEMA public assistance, DEM/HS cannot house it once the incident is over--it needs to go out for use to jurisdictions or DEM/HS will need to compensate FEMA financially for what is left.

Jon Bakkedahl next explained that the timeline for transitioning resource ordering from DEM/HS to DPBH is July 1. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Council that nothing will change for users; they will continue to use the resource request form and continue to submit it to the ndem@gmail.com email address. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that

DEM/HS will invite DPBH and add them as recipients of those emails and they will then take control of some of the efforts. In addition, DEM/HS will train and support DPBH over the coming months. DEM/HS is hopeful that come September 13, when the National Guard leaves, that DPBH will be comfortable with the efforts and be able to take over the warehouse management of the PPE entirely. Mr. Bakkedahl further informed the Council that as of July 8, National Guard people will be on civilian, DEM/HS contracts and working for DEM/HS and not the National Guard any longer in hopes of continuity with the ongoing efforts regarding resource orders coming in. Mr. Bakkedahl did inform the Council that the one big change is that there will be no more delivery vehicles for PPE after July; DEM/HS will work with jurisdictions to come pick up PPE to try and cut away the National Guard efforts as they are in the process of downsizing and training for deployment around the world. Mr. Bakkedahl requested that Council members who experience any issues as a result of these changes contact him directly to resolve them.

Jon Bakkedahl further explained that the warehouse plan will be published, and that DEM/HS is still awaiting comments between leadership among health, purchasing and DEM/HS as well as the intricacies of the plan to ensure everyone's agreement prior to publishing. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Council that when the plan is ready, it will be released on DEM/HS's listserv and available to everyone.

## **16. Tribal Updates**

Tribal representatives will be given the opportunity to provide an update on any initiatives, projects, current events, or upcoming training opportunities related to emergency management within their tribal jurisdiction. Tribal updates discussed have been provided to DEM/HS prior to this meeting for transparency, and any update provided that was not submitted in advance of this meeting may not be heard by the NTECC under this agenda item. Tribal updates will be heard from the following tribes:

- Introduction of Ken Quiner, Emergency manager of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Ken Quiner introduced himself to the Council and invited anyone with comments, ideas, or thoughts to reach out to him at the provided contact information. Mr. Quiner further indicated that he looks forward to meeting and working with everyone to collaborate on ideas and plans.

## **17. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Fogerson opened up the discussion to public comment. There was none.

## **18. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a motion for adjournment.

Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, made a motion to adjourn. Ken Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.