



# Meeting Minutes

## Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>		January 24, 2023		
	<b>TIME</b>		1:00 p.m.		
	<b>METHOD</b>		Zoom		
	<b>RECORDER</b>		Sherrean K. Whipple		
<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>
David Fogerson – Chair	ABS	Kelly Echeverria	X	Tennille Pereira	ABS
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Andrea Esp	X	Matthew Petersen	X
Andy Ancho	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Misty Robinson	X
Roy Anderson	X	Mike Heidemann	X	Rachel Skidmore	X
Travis Anderson	ABS	Eric Holt	X	Corey Solferino	X
Noah Boyer	X	Graham Kent	ABS	Cary Underwood	X
Elizabeth Paulsen	X	Mary Ann Laffoon	X	Mike Wilson	ABS
James Chrisley	X	Chris Lake	X	Stephanie Woodard	ABS
COL. Brett D. Compston	X	Carolyn Levering	X	Aakin Patel	X
Jason Danen	X	Rachel Marchetti	X	Ken Quiner	X
Bob Dehnhardt	X	Ryan Miller	X	Cassandra Darrough	X
<b>Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance</b>					
Bunny Bishop	X	Melissa Friend	X	Selby Marks	X
Heather Lafferty	X	Kasey KC	ABS	Catherine Neilson	ABS
<b>Legal/Administrative Support Attendance</b>					
<b>Representative</b>		<b>Entity</b>			<b>Present</b>
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General		Office of the Nevada Attorney General			X
Sherrean K. Whipple – Administrative Assistant		Nevada Division of Emergency Management			X

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chair Deputy Billy Samuels, Urban Area Administrator (UAA), called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean K. Whipple. Quorum was established for the meeting.

## **2. Public Comment**

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, informed the Committee that the COVID after-action report has gone through all of its appropriate DEM/HS committee subsets and has been finalized and is ready to present to all NRAC members. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that Sherrean Whipple will email this out in digital form to all Committee members for their review. Mr. Bakkedahl further indicated that it will not be posted on DEM/HS's website as the report is not meant to lead politics or show blame toward any specific person or agency, but rather has some candid information on things upon which DEM/HS can improve. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the report will be available to members of the emergency management community, as well.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels thanked all Committee members for attending.

There was no additional public comment.

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

Vice-Chair Billy Samuels called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the October 25, 2022 Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting.

Mary Ann Laffoon, Northern Nevada Citizen Corps, noted that she was in attendance at the meeting.

Matt Petersen, Elko County Fire Chief, motioned to approve the minutes with the change of Mary Ann Laffoon's attendance.

COL. Brett Compston, Nevada National Guard, seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

All others were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed.

## **4. Discussion on the Status of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS) Efforts to Assist its Partners**

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, indicated that Chief Dave Fogerson had requested that DEM/HS continue to ask for efforts as to how DEM/HS can better assist local government as well as private partners in all preparedness activities, as well as in response, coordination, recovery efforts, and the mitigation program. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that moving forward, DEM/HS will be sending people out into members' environments with the preparedness workshops for the fall. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that there is a new Rural and Frontier Preparedness Coordinator who will be out representing all of DEM/HS in the smaller counties and jurisdictions, and that her voice is a conduit for the person that may run that program. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the members that there are plenty of people at DEM/HS that members can use as their point of contact if need be. Mr. Bakkedahl next explained that DEM/HS is developing an organizational chart that will contain everyone's photo as well as their position for the purposes of alignment and promoting a more user-friendly environment. Mr. Bakkedahl stressed that DEM/HS's purpose is to bring the right person to the table for exchanges of ideas and information so as to make the Nevada Emergency Management enterprise better.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels requested a finalization of preparedness workshops dates for all the jurisdictions.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that the hope is to have the dates locked down within the next couple of weeks.

Mike Heidemann commended the appointment of the new Rural and Frontier Preparedness Coordinator and indicated that he has already scheduled a meeting with her so as to introduce her to Churchill County's LEPC.

## **5. Discussion on the Role and Purpose of the Office of Cyber Defense and Coordination**

Aakin Patel, Administrator of the Office of Cyber Defense Coordination, indicated that the Office of Cyber Defense Coordination's (OCDC) mission is to serve as the primary focal point for cyber security strategy, planning, policy, and coordination for all of the entities across the state. Mr. Patel explained a few specific programs to support this mission, including: providing biweekly cybersecurity threat intelligence briefings; managing the incident response plan repository per NRS 489.035; incident response coordination with the Governor's Office and the Nevada Chapters of the National Guard. Mr. Patel indicated that OCDC intends to start up other additional services and is very open to feedback on what is desired, as well as looking at starting up training and ways in which the OCDC Can achieve efficiencies of scale for various cybersecurity programs by working with multiple entities on large-scale purchasing and other projects that will benefit from efficiencies of scale. Mr. Patel concluded his presentation by providing his contact information and encouraging members to reach out.

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

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, noted that the items highlighted on attachment 6 are those that specifically mention the words emergency management. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that AB43 was submitted by DEM/HS in conjunction with the Nevada School Superintendent, noting that AB43 indicates the change to the date of which school emergency response plans are due to their jurisdiction and to the state, pushing it back to August 15 from July 1 by request of the school emergency managers, who are not in school on July 1 and therefore requested the date to coincide with a time when they are on the job. Mr. Bakkedahl next discussed SB2, the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that in the 2019 legislature, DEM/HS had asked for some changes and that the information was accidentally wiped out of that particular rule. As such, Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that DEM/HS submitted a BDR to have that information put back in, specifically allowing local emergency management and local responders accessible to certain public health information during a declared disaster so as to make awareness to the appropriate people of the identity of those involved in the disaster. Mr. Bakkedahl discussed SB3, changing the Homeland Security Commission position to an employee of Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the roster. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that SB5 refers to DEM/HS's emergency assistance account and terminology that will allow DEM/HS to have access to that money before, during, and after declarations of emergency or declarations of disaster. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that the additional highlighted items came primarily from legislators of people of concern over the three years of having a state of disaster during COVID who are looking to submit information on changing the governor's unilateral authority on states of disaster. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that DEM/HS will be sending out regular email updates following the hearings, and that members can go to the LCB website, type in emergency management, and will be able to see the list of bills in their entirety and track the text as submitted by whomever submitted the bill draft.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels asked about SB5, questioning if DEM/HS is asking for additional funding or simply asking to have more access to existing funding that is already available to DEM/HS.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that the money is already allocated to DEM/HS and set aside for two things: to run the duty officer program and then for activation by a declaration of emergency or disaster. As such, Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that there would be no impact to local government.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels asked, in regard to SB3, if DPS is in favor of the request for the membership of the Nevada Commission of Homeland Security.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that DEM/HS submitted the BDR and that DPS was in favor of it.

Matt Petersen asked how the introduced bills relate to the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and the declaration of in use of the Wildfire Protection Fund and moving and support to wildfire operations.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated that the only relationship applied to NDF is that DEM/HS uses some of their technology because they have access to their specific emergency account when needed, whereas DEM/HS does not. Mr. Bakkedahl assured the Committee that these BDRs will not impact current projects, programs, agreements, and contracts with NDF and their use of the account.

## **7. Cyber Security Task Force (CSTF) Update**

Tim Robb, Governor Liaison, explained that the CSTF was established through an executive order to ensure that the state was eligible for federal funding made possible through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Mr. Robb discussed the amount of money, and the 90-10 percent cost share with local governments, which also allows for 20 percent of the funding coming to the state to be retained by the state for both the administrative piece and for implementation of any cyber strategies that fit within the strategic plan established by the task force. Mr. Robb indicated that the strategic plan was submitted to FEMA for review, and CSTF is waiting for the pieces to come together prior to putting out notice of the grant. Mr. Robb encouraged the Committee to reach out to Aakin Patel and leverage his expertise and experience as members to see fit for their individual organizations. Mr. Robb explained that in the last meeting, some federal partners from the Critical Infrastructure and Cybersecurity Administration provided an overview of their roles, purpose, and vision for how they can support the state and credited them as an asset to the state in its preparedness efforts. Mr. Robb next indicated that the Nevada National Guard has stood up a joint task force for cybersecurity to ensure that the state is able to get a response team put together within federal assets and supported by state funding. Mr. Robb further indicated that DEM/HS has leaned heavily into cyber space and provided an overview of how they will help in the case of a cyber event to ensure that people are taken care of and that needs are met. Mr. Robb encouraged the members of the Committee to lean into the Office of Cyber Defense and Coordination and to use them as an asset as they will be helpful going forward. Mr. Robb explained that there is a lot of opportunity for collaboration and cooperation and the task force's goal is to be used as one of those venues to ensure that everyone is learning from one another. Mr. Robb concluded his presentation by informing the Committee that a lot of information is still forthcoming on how the federal funding will be administered.

## **8. Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Stakeholders Preparedness Report (SPR)**

Bill Elliott, DEM/HS, indicated that the THIRA SPR process was covered in three regional workshops. Mr. Elliott informed the Committee that he is happy to provide the members who may want it with the hundreds of pages of the THIRA and SPR but indicated that DEM/HS has been able to distill them down to about a 12-page summary. Mr. Elliott discussed using a THIRA SPR process to identify the main threats and hazards for the state and established capability targets for each of the 32 core capabilities and identified core capability gaps and priorities. Mr. Elliott discussed the things learned in the results, including the fact that the state does not have

the money received through funding to make large gap reductions in terms of organization or equipment. As such, Mr. Elliott indicated the focus is on planning, training, and exercise to reduce those gaps. Mr. Elliott explained that increases in capabilities have far outstripped the losses and the statewide gaps. Mr. Elliott next explained the three priority areas identified for this year: operational coordination; operational communication; and supply chain security and integrity. Mr. Elliott indicated that the threats and hazards of main concern identified included: earthquakes; active assailants; wildfire; hazard material accidents; flooding in northern Nevada; and cyber-attacks. Mr. Elliott next discussed some of the core capabilities where there are greater increases for declining results and increases in the state's capabilities in the past year, including; operational coordination; immunity resilience; fire management and suppression; mass care services, shelter, and commodities; on-scene security; operational communication; increases in public healthcare and EMS.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, indicated that she will be reaching out for the reports so as to align them with the FEMA preparedness report and the grants that will be coming out of public health for the next five-year cooperative agreement so as to figure out what can be done statewide and to determine what aspects the ESF-8 can be addressing.

Carolyn Levering, City of Las Vegas Emergency Manager, also requested the reports so as to align her plan with the state plans.

Bill Elliott explained that he will be sending the Ems the expanded executive summary and will be happy to send the full report to anyone needing it.

Andrea Esp, Washoe County Public Health Preparedness, echoed Jeanne Freeman's comments, noting that she would like to see increased collaboration with public health and DEM/HS.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated that the vision of DEM/HS is to keep the public health people engaged through the JRA process and combine DEM/HS's efforts with them so as to impact them less and provide for their needs more.

Misty Robinson echoed Jeanne Freeman's and Andrea Esp's comments.

## **9. Election Integrity in Nevada**

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, explained that DEM/HS did a series of events leading up to the 2022 election, not only for election security, but for election integrity and the peace of mind of the people. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that DEM undertook a series of briefs from the Secretary of State's Office as well as from the Department of Homeland Security so as to go through a number of different scenarios. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that DEM/HS then took on several training classes as well as exercises within the Nevada Operations Center. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that going into the actual election series, three different tabletops were held in hopes of trying to define gaps and priorities: an active assailant event; a bomb threat; and a regional loss of power. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that following the election cycle, DEM/HS followed up with the Secretary of State's office to determine what went right and what went wrong. Mr. Bakkedahl next indicated that in August of 2023, DEM/HS will provide an election security lessons learned brief, followed by another tabletop at DEM/HS, to which everyone will be invited, including election clerks. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that in April of 2024, DEM/HS will be putting together a functional exercise for election security to ensure that the issues brought up are being dealt with, followed by an election brief from the Secretary of State's office come August of 2024.

Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary of State for elections, indicated that an additional opportunity has just emerged, consisting of a special election in Henderson Ward 1 in April to replace the city councilman. Mr.

Wlaschin indicated that the specific date for the TTX is still to be determined but is something on which collaboration has begun so as to ensure the appropriate individuals and groups can be involved as necessary.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels indicated that those at the county level would like to be apprised.

Jon Bakkedahl requested that when the counties do work with Brad (phonetic) on the tabletop exercise, that they allow DEM/HS to facilitate that so as to include anyone necessary, noting that this would be a good opportunity to take advantage of partners to be facilitators.

Mark Wlaschin noted that a special election may be coming in Nye County, which would then allow the ability to shift focus and do something similar again as what is being done in Henderson from a statewide perspective.

Noah Boyer asked about the best way to get the message out at the state level of the availability of bomb techs for elections.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated the importance of making this known so as to be included on the invite list for a list of trainings and tabletops and noted that Mr. Boyer's team will always be able to provide very specific input for these types of situations.

#### **10. Nevada Task Force – 1 (NV-TF1) and the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team**

Kenyon Leavitt, Program Manager, provided a quick overview of the history of the National Urban Search and Rescue system. Mr. Leavitt explained that the initial system was set up with 25 teams throughout the nation, with Nevada being one of those 25, and provided the list of the original teams from around the country. Mr. Leavitt indicated that Nevada Task Force-1 is made up from six fire departments in the Clark County area and includes a number of civilians on the team with a wide variety of skillsets, including doctors, structural engineers, and heavy equipment. Mr. Leavitt then provided a quick overview of the different specialties within the task force. Mr. Leavitt explained that the team is required to be fully self-sufficient for 72 hours and discussed the necessary members of the team in order to make that happen, such as comm members and mechanics. Mr. Leavitt indicated that Nevada Task Force-1 is able to deploy in multiple configurations: Type 1, Type 3, MRPs, and single-resource configuration. Mr. Leavitt discussed some of the deployments, including Hurricane Katrina, where he noted there were not enough boats. As a result, Mr. Leavitt indicated that FEMA has added a water resource as part of the team. Mr. Leavitt informed the group that the Type 1 team consists of 70 members and the Type 2 team consists of 35, so designed so that teams can be divided in half and work 24-hour shifts if need be. Mr. Leavitt next discussed deployment of the task force, indicating that disaster response is locally executed and then escalated from there, and noted that Nevada Task Force-1 deployment needs to come from the president. Mr. Leavitt explained that once activated, Nevada Task Force 1 has four hours to be on the road to anywhere in the continental US and six hours to be in the air.

Noah Boyer discussed Argent Hall, noting that the structural engineer from Nevada Task Force-1 was an invaluable asset.

Matt Petersen asked about training that could be brought to rural areas in the case of a disaster that would require support from the scene.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels encouraged anyone requesting this to come through his office as Task Force-1 sits under Clark County's Office of Emergency Management, who can coordinate some of the training to show the capabilities.

## **11. DEM/HA Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Audit Results for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 and 2023**

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, noted that the past audits upon which he briefed at the last meeting can be found in the meeting minutes for October 25, 2022. Mr. Franco indicated that since that time, DEM/HS has been pulled into two more audits, one requesting documents to go over the coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery, and the second that will be starting the following week, at which time DEM/HS will receive the information regarding what is being audited.

## **12. Grant Status Report**

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS, indicated that the grant statuses are attached in the meeting materials and noted that all grant programs with open sub-awards are listed in the report. Ms. Coyote explained that the FY 22 Emergency Preparedness Working Group Grant application has been released in Zoom Grants for applicants to complete their applications. Ms. Coyote indicated that this is open only to the six counties who have received it before. Ms. Coyote further indicated that the late reporting as of 12/31/2022 is included with the agenda item.

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, explained that the materials attached to Agenda Item Number 12 are the list of grants and their missing reports, specifically their quarterly progress and quarterly financial reports. Mr. Franco explained the difficulties with receiving accurate and timely accounts for the de-obligations for each grant year, which ultimately could result in having to send the money back to the federal government rather than to the jurisdictions to help fund the projects passed in previous meetings. Mr. Franco noted that DEM/HS will begin sending out reminders the day before the reports are due, ten days after the report is late, at 30 days late, and then at 60 days late, warning sub-recipients and program managers that if the issue is not remedied, the process of administratively de-obligating the grant will begin.

Carolyn Levering noted that all the 2019 SHSP and UASI awards that were not spent were automatically de-obligated and asked if the same thing would happen with 2020, which closed in September of 2022 or if extensions for these projects were still being entertained.

Jared Franco explained that this is on a case-by-case basis, and that this is still open, and DEM/HS is still looking at extensions.

## **13. Public Comment**

Vice-Chair Billy Samuels opened the second period of public comment for discussion.

A person from the City of Henderson indicated that he will be sending an email regarding the special election.

There was no additional public comment.

## **14. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Billy Samuels called for a motion to adjourn.

Andrea Esp, Washoe County Public Health Preparedness, motioned for adjournment.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, seconded the motion.

All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.