



## Meeting Minutes Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

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| <b>Attendance</b>                         | <b>DATE</b>   | Wednesday, November 1, 2023           |
|   | <b>TIME</b>   | 9:00 a.m.                             |
|   | <b>METHOD</b>   | Zoom/Teleconference – DEM Policy Room |
|   | <b>RECORDER</b>   | Sherrean Whipple                      |
| <b>Voting Membership</b>                  |   |                                       |
| 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                                 | ABS                                   |
| 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                                     |
| <b>Non-Voting Membership</b>              |   |                                       |
| 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           | ABS                                   |
| <b>Non-Member Representatives/Support</b> |   |                                       |
| 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 Harriett Parker, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, 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 Harriett Parker opened the period of public comment for discussion.

Jim Lopey, Fusion Center Coordinator for the Nevada Threat Analysis Center (NTAC), reminded tribal members that NTAC does provide free training to all of the tribes, training that includes but is not limited to active shooter and fusion liaison. Mr. Lopey indicated anyone interested should email him at [jllopey@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:jllopey@dps.state.nv.us).

There was no additional public comment.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Co-Chair Harriett Parker called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the August 8, 2023 NTECC meeting. Co-Chair Parker noted that her name was misspelled throughout the document and motioned to correct her name. Kenneth Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California, motioned to approve the minutes with the correcting of Co-Chair's Harriett Parker's name. Marian Perez, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Cyber Security Task Force (CSTF) Update**

Co-Chair David Fogerson and voting member of the CSTF, indicated that at the last meeting, all the grant monies that were available for the previous year and the current year were allocated out, and the task force made recommendations to the state administrative agent, and the Division is moving forward with those. Co-Chair Fogerson further indicated that CISA released a tribal grant, which will be addressed in Agenda Item 13b. Co-Chair Fogerson concluded by informing the Council that the CSTF has reviewed the state cybersecurity plan to ensure that it was in compliance with all CISA and DHS standards.

**5. Report on the Nevada Operation Center (NVOC) Activations**

Co-Chair David Fogerson discussed the increasing frequency and impact of the disasters in the state this year. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that duty officer status has been activated for the Emergency Operations Center nine times since the start of the year, many of which have included Council Members to ensure good communication. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that the disasters have ranged from small-scale things such as the Burning Man issue, to larger-scale things like the four-month spring thaw and Hurricane Hillary. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated the understanding that the disasters are affecting emergency managers, as well as the state emergency managers supporting them. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that DEM/HS is lobbying and supporting with the congressional delegation to try and raise awareness of the amount of work now faced by emergency managers in hopes of increasing the federal grant funds that are used to support these endeavors as things continue to grow more expensive. Co-Chair Fogerson welcomed questions and feedback from Council Members either in the meeting, or offline through tribal liaisons or EOC manager Rodney Wright.

Ken Quiner requested more information on the Kinder Morgan Pipeline disruption.

Co-Chair David Fogerson explained that the Kinder Morgan Pipeline disruption in southern Nevada occurred right around Valentine's Day. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that at the Cajon Pass, there was a pipeline issue requiring the need to turn off the pipeline, which then resulted in a pending fuel shortage issue in Las Vegas. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that DEM/HS then needed to deal with everything that comes with a fuel shortage issue, and cited price gouging as an example. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that DEM/HS consulted the Attorney General's office to produce messaging

regarding the illegality of price gouging, as well as to make plans on how to ensure that everyone has fuel. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that follow-up meetings have taken place both with the Governor's Office and with the Kinder Morgan Corporation about how to improve the process. Co-Chair Fogerson discussed the fact that Clark County is working on an updated fuel shortage plan to make sure that all partners are engaged in this process and indicated that one of the biggest concerns is the potential for large earthquakes that could shut off the pipeline to Cajon Pass. Co-Chair Fogerson concluded by noting that there is a new director for the Governor's Office of Energy who is heavily engaged in these discussions.

## **6. Regional Preparedness Workshops**

Rodney Wright, DEM/HS, thanked everyone who participated in the regional workshops the last week of September in Elko, the following week in Las Vegas, and then the week after that in Carson City. Mr. Wright indicated that good feedback has been received from the regions, including that the regions like when the workshops come to them, rather than having to travel exclusively to Carson City for the workshops. Mr. Wright thanked all tribal members that attended, indicating that requests and information have been noted and a rough draft report should be completed by the end of December. Mr. Wright explained that emails have gone out to the members in the regions to review the rough draft of the notes that were obtained from the threats hazard and risk assessment sessions, and for the THIRA. Mr. Wright reported that the planning process is beginning for next year's regional workshop and requested feedback and suggestions from members via email to DEM/HS.

Co-Chair David Fogerson added that this year DEM/HS brought the American Red Cross to each of the regional workshops, along with the health and human services partners and Public Health Preparedness, as well as OCDC, the Office of Cyber Defense Coordination. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that OCDC is the state entity responsible for helping everyone with cybersecurity with the exception of the executive branch of government. Co-Chair Fogerson reported that good discussions regarding the cyber mission took place, including what is meant by the consequence-management piece, and how to keep people safe in the cyber world. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that other state agencies are already expressing interest in attending and encouraged Councils members to provide feedback on how to improve the workshop experiencing.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker asked about the tribal participation at the workshops in northern Nevada, and if that participation exceeded last year's participation.

Rodney Wright indicated that eight tribal nations participated overall in all of the regional workshops: two in Elko; one in southern Nevada; and the rest in Carson City. Mr. Wright indicated that he would need to look at last year's list to determine whether this was an increase in participation and would provide that information back to the Council at a later date.

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

Co-Chair David Fogerson requested feedback on how DEM/HS is doing to assist the entire enterprise across the realm of the different levels of government. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated the DEM/HS wants to be sure of open, honest communication and transparency, and requested feedback on what is being done well, what is not being done well, what is being done that is helpful or not helpful, and what is not being done currently that would be helpful. Co-Chair Fogerson encouraged new emergency managers to join the Council in representation of the tribes, indicating that Dean Hennessey from Moapa is a new addition.

Daniel Thayer indicated that the current Chairman, Arlan Melendez, of Reno Sparks Indian Colony is stepping down after 32 years and indicated the importance of DEM/HS's transparency to the tribe as it comes under new leadership so that the new tribal leadership will be aware of everything that DEM/HS has to offer.

Co-Chair David Fogerson thanked Mr. Thayer and assured him that DEM/HS will support the tribe in any way needed.

Clifford Banuelos requested information regarding this group, indicating his interest in becoming involved based on his years of experience both as an emergency manager and working with state and federal agencies. Mr. Banuelos explained that he represents the Elko Band Council on a few committees already and would be interested in representing them in this Council, as well.

Ken Quiner commended liaisons Josie Burnett and Mason Parizo, noting their value to the Council members.

Dean Hennessey, Moapa River, introduced himself to the Council and thanked the members for the invitation. Mr. Hennessey explained that representing the tribal nations is new to him and he will likely be leaning heavily on the liaisons and the Council members for support.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker expressed her happiness at the fact that Moapa has become involved, indicating that she had reached out to Moapa many times in the past.

Dean Hennessey provided his background for the Council, indicating that he came from Las Vegas Metro, where he was on the MACTAC (Multi Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities), which did much of the terror-related training. Mr. Hennessey explained that he worked regularly with EM in his work with Metro.

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

Faith Beekman, Health Emergency Preparedness Evaluator, informed the Council that flu season has arrived, and that RSV is about a month out from arriving. Ms. Beekman further indicated that COVID-19 cases have increased by 45 percent mostly in southern Nevada, which is considerably low compared to last season. Ms. Beekman explained that CDC surveillance models are predicting higher rates of flu and RSV during the upcoming season. Ms. Beekman next discussed PHP's recent participation in the CSI Anthrax full scale exercise with the Southern Nevada Health District in preparation for

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the Super Bowl in Las Vegas in February. Ms. Beekman informed the Council of discussions that took place at the preparedness workshop regarding the building of a potential deacon trailer. Ms. Beekman concluded her presentation by indicating that PHP is beginning its five-year strategic planning efforts and will have updates and contacts for input soon.

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

Clifford Banuelos, Tribal-State Environmental Liaison for ITCN, discussed the two-to-three day Esri ArcGIS Pro training and indicated that the ITCN conference has been moved from spring to summer, in late July or mid-August. Mr. Banuelos indicated that the bids have not yet been decided, but that the conference will likely take place in Reno, and it is at this conference that the Esri ArcGIS Pro certified training will occur. Mr. Banuelos explained that this relates to emergency management in that the training includes discussion on flooding and its impact, something Mr. Banuelos believes is vital for tribes, particularly in terms of data storage. Mr. Banuelos concluded by noting that he is working on where ITCN will store the data for some low-capacity tribes.

**10. Update from the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC)**

Sarina Nez, NIC, stated that there was nothing significant to report.

**11. 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 indicated the last NRAC meeting took place approximately two weeks prior to today's meeting and reiterated the idea of agenda consistency between NTECC and NRAC meetings. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that the only real difference is that NRAC looks at the entire homeland security/emergency management enterprise of public health, law enforcement, the fusion centers, and emergency management with local, tribal, state, and federal agencies all engaged, whereas the NTECC's focus is specifically on how the enterprises interact to help the tribal nations. Co-Chair Fogerson reported that the only thing on the NRAC agenda that was not on today's agenda was a discussion regarding the Homeland Security Threat Assessment done by DHS, which Co-Chair Fogerson offered to forward to Council members. The Co-Chair indicated the importance of not losing the failure to imagine so as not to have repeats of incidents like 9-11, 1 October, and the Maine shootings, among others, and indicated that the Homeland Security Threat Assessment being forwarded to members focuses specifically on this idea.

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

Co-Chair Harriett Parker, noted that the last meeting was on September 7 and included discussions on cybersecurity efforts within Nevada. Co-Chair Parker reported that through the Cyber Security Task Force, there is now a CISA-approved



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stated cybersecurity plan that DEM/HS is currently working to implement, and that this plan helps to drive the grant process. Co-Chair Parker discussed the outreach that has taken place, noting that this has helped the cybersecurity landscape to come together, combing the efforts with the Governor's Office, CISA, DEM/HS, the FBI, the Office of Cyber Defense and Coordination (OCDC), and the National Guard. Co-Chair Parker explained that the OCDC serves as the state coordinating body for cyber defense in the role of working and partnering with all other state, local, tribal, and territorial entities in the state to serve as a cybersecurity resource for research, collecting advice, coordinating conversations, and maintaining a centralized set of resources into which all other entities can tap. Co-Chair Parker discussed State Chief Information Office, Bob Dehnhardt's role as managing the Office of Information Security while also chairing the State information Security Committee. Co-Chair Parker next shared General Waters' discussion with the Commission regarding the Nevada National Guard moving forward with the establishment of a joint cyber task force with emphasis on cyber intelligence, planning assessments, and defense preparations of state infrastructure and response. Co-Chair Parker explained that General Waters informed the members that of the sourcing decision in FY'25 to make structure adjustment within the Air Force, noting that if this is approved, Nevada will convert one squadron of the 152nd Air Wing to a cyber mission. The Co-Chair explained that approximately 75 positions will be provided for that cyber mission, and that training is currently underway in anticipation of that possible mission adjustment. Co-Chair Parker next discussed the statewide adoption of NIMS, which included discussion of updating the task books, along with heavy emphasis on the fall workshops being more robust with needed information, as well as the addition of additional partners. Co-Chair Parker relayed the discussion of school safety plans, noting that AB 43 has a deadline of November 15 for all plans to be turned in for review and approval. Co-Chair Parker indicated that this is the first time school plans have been reviewed by outside entities, specifically to ensure that the NRS is being followed. Co-Chair Parker explained that DEM/HS has already reviewed these plans and submitted their suggestions.

Co-Chair David Fogerson added that a second Homeland Security meeting has taken place since the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, but it was a closed executive session to discuss the Israeli/Hamas issues and to ensure that all Commission Members were up to date on all of the unclassified information available at that time. Co-Chair Fogerson informed the Council that this meeting took place on the order of the Governor on the first Monday following the event.

**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)**

Daniel Thayer, RSIC, explained that the SERC had their fourth quarter meeting the week prior to today's meeting and that the first-quarter meeting for 2024 will be scheduled for January. Mr. Thayer explained that the Opti (phonetic) and United We Stand grants will open in April and May of 2024.

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

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Co-Chair David Fogerson reminded the Council that according to NRS 414(a), all local and state government agencies are in the Mutual Aid system, and that tribal entities have to opt in. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that five or six tribal nations have opted in at this time, and that IMAC continues to request for more tribal nations to opt in as this provides for the ability to share resources more easily during times of disaster while at the same time providing for liability protection and a method for reimbursement of cost through that process. Co-Chair Fogerson encouraged interested parties to connect with the tribal liaisons regarding the opt-in process.

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

Crystal Harjo, FEMA Region IX Tribal Liaison for Nevada, explained that she will be transferring to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Emergency Management with her last day at FEMA being this coming Friday, and that her position will be backfilled by Vince Martinez and/or the rest of the team in Arizona. Ms. Harjo introduced Pamela Joe, Emergency Management Specialist for FEMA Region IX out of California, noting that Ms. Joe would be providing today's briefing.

Pamela Joe, Emergency Management Specialist for FEMA Region IX, explained that Region IX did participate in the THIRA workshop this past month and also held the Region IX EPA conference in the south. Ms. Joe indicated that a couple of tribes participated in the L-583 course, emergency management for tribal leaders, and further indicated that if there is interest, that course can be brought to Nevada, as well, along with any of the L-580 series of classes. Ms. Joe noted that she can resend that information to Council members. Ms. Joe next discussed the NLE 2024 evaluation and workshop and indicated that Region IX will be holding its tribal partnership workshop the following June in Southern California, with more information to come regarding venue. Ms. Joe informed the Council that tribal partnership calls will begin in January and that Council members should be receiving the invites soon. Ms. Joe next indicated that Region IX will be starting the site visits the first quarter with all tribes, and information regarding those site visits will be forthcoming. Ms. Joe discussed the BRIC and the FMA, noting that the NOFOs are out, and that the information is available in grants.gov. Ms. Joe concluded her presentation by encouraging anyone with COVID projects still requiring Region IX's help to make sure to meet the November 7 deadline or to reach out to Ms. Joe or Vince Martinez for an extension.

Co-Chair David Fogerson highlighted the important role that Crystal Harjo has played with her work through Nevada, commending her for always being engaged and doing a great job. On behalf of the Governor, General Barry, and himself, Co-Chair Fogerson thanked Ms. Harjo for all she's done for the state of Nevada.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker echoed the sentiments and noted that she looks forward to working with Ms. Harjo in her new role at the BIA.

Ken Quiner questioned if the BIA would become a part of the NTECC.

Crystal Harjo indicated that once she gets her bearings with BIA and determines exactly what the mission will be, she will be reaching out to state agencies and tribes and move forward.

**13. Updates from the DEM/HS Tribal Liaison Staff**

Mason Parizo, DEM/HS Tribal Liaison.

**a. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Trailer**

Mason Parizo reported that the CERT trailer is close to fully operational. Mr. Parizo indicated that the inner area of the trailer still needs to be internalized in order to be travel-worthy with everything stored within it. Mr. Parizo discussed the need to reschedule the Duckwater CERT training. Mr. Parizo next indicated the plan for more outreach and CERT training and noted his hope to have the trailer organized and photographed for presentation to the Council at the next meeting.

**b. Next 2024 Cybersecurity Grant Opportunity**

Mason Parizo indicated that he is working with Aakin Patel, OCDC, to tailor an email and packet to send out to members that describes potential cybersecurity grant opportunities. Mr. Parizo pointed out that this does have the potential to allow for a dot-gov email domain name, which could help to streamline everyone's efficiency. Mr. Parizo noted that the liaisons will continue to maintain communication and are available should anyone need to contact them.

Daniel Thayer asked how many tribal emergency managers from Nevada attended the CERT training in San Francisco.

Mason Parizo noted his belief that two were in attendance and indicated the goal to set up more trainers' meetings in different regions to include more tribes.

Co-Chair David Fogerson added that because of the nation status of the tribal nations, they can either go through the state for the cybersecurity grant or apply for it directly with FEMA. Co-Chair Fogerson encouraged Council Members to take advantage of the ability to use either route.

**14. Grant Status Report**

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, informed the council that the meeting materials contain a grant packet outlining the HSGP, EMPG, and EPWG grants for Fiscal Years 2019 through 2022. Mr. Franco indicated that the FY'22 and FY'23 cyber EMPG and HSGP grants were released this week, that the passthrough letters have been sent to FEMA, and the applications that were submitted for these grants will be released and sent to recipients for spending.

Co-Chair David Fogerson noted that this grant report is a good way for members to hold DEM/HS accountable for where the monies are being spent, as well as a good way to provide information of what the different members are doing with the different grant funds and the different opportunities available. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that DEM/HS prefers that Council members work through the tribal liaisons to let DEM/HS know of their needs, which can then be rolled up into a Homeland Security grant with DEM/HS doing all the back work of obtaining the grants.



Jared Franco indicated that this is the last year of the HSGP grant for sustains and the next grant cycle will be all competitive. As such, Mr. Franco reported that this will be a good time to submit an application to become part of the strategic plan for the next three years.

Co-Chair David Fogerson indicated that this was correct and added that the recommendation was made at NRAC that all homeland Security grants will be competitive for one year with the intent to reboot the system. Co-chair Fogerson further indicated that this is where the partnership between the state and the tribes will come into play because there will be more bargaining power as a group in terms of using those funds. Co-Chair Fogerson explained that Nevada only gets \$4 million of Homeland Security funds, that Clark County gets \$4 million to the Clark County Urban area, and noted that out of that total of \$8 million, only four is available to everybody outside of Clark County, increasing the competitiveness of the process.

Ken Quiner asked if cybersecurity grant funding is still available that has not yet been allocated.

Co-Chair David Fogerson reported that from the state side, both years have been allocated, but now that the feds are opening up for the tribal nation, the tribes can go directly to FEMA. Co-Chair Fogerson noted, however, that the state will get a third year of the grants coming to the state for distribution in approximately eight to nine months.

## **15. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Harriett Parker called for any public comment.

Desiree Mattice, DPS Lieutenant and Nevada Threat Analysis Center Director, introduced herself to the Council. Ms. Mattice indicated that she has not had a lot of direct communication with tribal and territorial partners within the state and noted her desire to reach out. Ms. Mattice explained that she has been working directly with Chief David Fogerson regarding some of the current events and briefings with all of the happenings around the world. Ms. Mattice informed the Council that one of the things NTAC provides is assistance within the tribal and territorial areas across the state with information, whether by addressing concerns, providing notifications, or providing alerts. Ms. Mattice indicated that when DEM/HS branched off under the Office of the Military, DPS lost its tribal liaison person, and as a result, will now be putting out a notification regarding this position.

Melyssa Navis, Tribal Liaison for Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, shared an update on the Wildfire Community Defense grants, noting that the applications are out and are due back on Saturday, November 4. Ms. Navis indicated that this is the second round, and part of a 10-year wildfire crisis strategy with the Forest Service. Ms. Navis informed the Council that there will be upcoming tribal meetings regarding wildfire crisis strategy projects taking place over the course of the next year, and that Elko District Ranger Josh Nichols will be working with Ms. Navis to organize tribal discussions related to the wildfire crisis strategy projects. Ms. Navis concluded by informing the Council of the rolling application for firewood banks available for

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tribes for up to \$20,000 and indicated that her department can provide assistance in putting together those applications.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker reminded the Council that NTECC was created for the tribes and indicated her desire to see more updates from the tribes themselves regarding their needs and/or activities. As such, Co-Chair Parker requested that Council members add agenda items for upcoming meetings to provide tribal updates. Co-Chair Parker indicated that for the next meeting, she will be adding the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and its updates to the agenda.

Ken Quiner suggested the possibility of having a standing agenda item for tribal updates.

Co-Chair David Fogerson indicated that in order to comply with NRS, an agenda item has to be specific as to the intended discussion and as such, cannot just say update from tribe, but must include the topic being discussed.

Ken Quiner thanked Co-Chair Parker and indicated his support for her suggestion.

Co-Chair David Fogerson concurred. Co-Chair Fogerson reminded the Council that the purpose of the NTECC meeting is to provide advice and counsel to DEM/HS on the tribal liaisons and on how business is conducted but indicated that a meeting does take place that does not fall under OML because it is simply an information sharing meeting done once a month with all the counties, cities, and tribal nations. Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that this would be a great venue to share tribal updates not only among the tribal nations, but also with the counties and the cities so as to potentially fix problems at the local level prior to escalating them up the chain.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker requested a reminder of the dates of those meetings.

Rodney Wright indicated that they are currently the fourth Tuesday of every month, but following a suggestion after the workshops, a survey will be sent out to all groups to potentially choose a different week and day of the week so as to minimize conflicts with other meetings, and as such, lose membership because of those other meetings.

There was no additional public comment.

## **16. Adjournment**

Co-Chair Harriett Parker asked for a motion to adjourn the November 1, 2023 NTECC meeting. Duane Masters Sr., Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, moved to adjourn the November 1, 2023 NTECC meeting. Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Harriett Parker adjourned the November 1, 2023 NTECC meeting at 10:24 a.m.