



# Meeting Minutes Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Tuesday, August 8, 2023
	<b>TIME</b>	1:00 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
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Jackie Conway	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	ABS
Duane Masters Sr.	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe	X
Don Pelt	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	X
Marian Perez	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	X
Kenneth Quiner	Washoe Tribes of Nevada/California	X
Ross Rivera	Ely Shoshone Tribe	X
Daniel Thayer	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	X
<b>Non-Member Representatives/Support</b>		
Name	Entity Represented:	Attendance Status
David Fogerson, Co-Chair	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	ABS
Emily Gould	Department of Health and Human Services	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 Harriet Parker called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean Whipple, Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS), and a quorum was established for the meeting.

## 2. Public Comment

Co-Chair Harriet Parker opened the period of public comment for discussion.

There was no public comment.

## 3. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Parker called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the May 9, 2023 NTECC meeting. Ross Rivera noted that on page 2, the minutes say, "travel specific session" when they should say "tribal specific session."

Sherrean Whipple noted that she would make the correction.

Ross Rivera moved to approve the May 9, 2023 minutes of the NTECC meeting, with the correction. Ken Quiner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Tim Robb, Governor Liaison, informed the Council that CSTF was able to get approved and submit the CSTF plan, and that both the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) '22 and FFY '23 grants are open. Mr. Robb indicated that technical assistance for the FFY '22 will be available the day following this meeting at 3:00 p.m., and on the upcoming Thursday 11:00 a.m. to work on spending down a remaining balance of \$300,000 in that program for this fiscal year. Mr. Robb further noted that the CSTF will be working through the FFY '23 grant process in its meetings, and indicated that anyone wishing to get more information, could reach out to [dhsgrants@dem.nv.gov](mailto:dhsgrants@dem.nv.gov) to get on the listserv and to receive future calendar invites for technical assistance with this grant.

#### **5. Nevada Threat Analysis Center (NTAC) Training Resources**

Jim Lopey, Fusion Center Coordinator, explained that NTAC seeks to include all the tribal areas into the Fusion Liaison Center program and that there are currently approximately 10 involved. Mr. Lopey explained NTAC's all-crimes, all-hazards approach emphasis on training, outreach in addition to critical resources and critical infrastructure, and strategies for rural and tribal partnerships. Mr. Lopey further explained that tribal training focus provides an overview of training offerings, including but not limited to: basic threat assessment; threat liaison officer training; active shooter; anti-government; sovereigns; first amendment audit training; international/domestic terrorism training. Mr. Lopey provided the Council with a map of the areas in which training has already taken place and noted that NTAC has responsibility for collection of information related to crime and/or terrorism in 16 out of 17 counties, including all tribal lands in the state of Nevada. Mr. Lopey reiterated that the Fusion Center brokers relevant information and intelligence and provides that to local consumers with overwatch by Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) investigations; harnesses information from state and local partners, including the tribes, to provide strategic, operational, and tactical intelligence; provides quality and professional analytical service; provides a robust and effective FLOTLO outreach program and critical infrastructure assessment tool component for customers; and provides high-quality and cost effective training. Mr. Lopey next described NTAC's tribal outreach, noting that reservations have unique and varying crime-related issues, and outreach is important and begins at statewide inter-tribal council meetings and by inviting tribal employees to all trainings. Mr. Lopey explained that he, as the NTAC FLO coordinator, uses the Nevada Division of Emergency Management Tribal Coordinator for specific training and outreach requests. Mr. Lopey discussed the benefits of NTAC's program to the tribes, including: eight different active-shooter and FLO training classes; the sharing of information to and from NTAC Center to Tribal BIA law enforcement; physical plant threat assessments for tribal infrastructure, which is offered free; the safe voice early

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warning system focused on the schools. Mr. Lopey indicated that NTAC is attempting to get the tribes a little bit more involved in its threat liaison officer classes and noted that the active-shooter class has been very popular in the tribal areas. Mr. Lopey described the FLOTL class, a four-hour POST certified class that gets tribal employees and/or law enforcement connected to its center and then provides products and open lines of communication following that connection. Mr. Lopey indicated that NTAC also offers a Behavioral Threat Assessment Management course, and further noted that some of the staff are train the trainers through DHS, and as such, talk with communities about how behavioral threat assessment threats are managed by NTAC. Mr. Lopey discussed other classes offered, including: transnational terrorism; domestic terrorism; Islamic State; Law Enforcement Killed in Action (LEOKA); rad eye detector classes; gangs; outlaw motorcycle gang training; weapons of mass destruction related training usually provided by the FBI; and Red Flag Law in Nevada. Mr. Lopey next discussed NTAC's core class, a four-hour course that touches upon: services offered through the Fusion Center, including crime analytics and flow charts; domestic and international terrorism; the role of the US attorney; the duties and roles of a threat liaison officer; and pre-incident indicators and warnings. Mr. Lopey next discussed the critical infrastructure key resource threat assessments and the questions NTAC normally asks its threat liaison officers, noting that the goal is to communicate particularly in multi-jurisdictional crime and/or other threats. Mr. Lopey concluded by providing the Council with contact information of some of the NTAC staff and indicated that anyone wanting more information or involvement with any of the programs should feel free to contact him.

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

Emily Gould, Public Health Preparedness Program, indicated that PHP is planning a site visit out to Burning Man this year, noting her belief that the official start date is August 27 and running through September 4. Ms. Gould explained that this trip is planned to survey the medical setup and assess needs. Ms. Gould next indicated that in September, PHP intends to attend the Eastern Nevada Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Workshop held by DEM/HS in Elko. Ms. Gould announced that in collaboration with all PHP partners, PHP will be increasing funding to NTECC to support more preparedness activities, trainings, supplies, and events, and that this increase will take effect beginning in FFY '25. Ms. Gould concluded her presentation by noting that an annular solar eclipse will be occurring mid-October and is expected to bring in a large amount of tourism, which could result in public-health concerns.

Ken Quiner commented that a solar eclipse such as this one can explode the population and cause emergency responder shutdowns.

Bill Elliott indicated that a large swath of Eastern Nevada will be prime viewing for this eclipse, which will be the last annular eclipse in Nevada for 40 more years. As such, Mr. Elliott indicated that meetings are taking place with emergency managers, and discussions are taking place at regional meetings, and some trips to Eastern Nevada are planned in preparation for this annular eclipse. Mr. Elliott confirmed that the eclipse will occur on October 14.

**7. Update from the US Forest Service**

Melyssa Navis, Tribal Relations Specialist, US Forest Service, informed the Council that the fire update is that the nation is at a Preparedness Level 3, as is the Great Basin Geographic area. Ms. Navis explained that the forest has had light initial attach this summer, with most fires remaining less than 10 acres with just a few exceptions. Ms. Navis further indicated that all forest fires are currently either controlled or extinguished. Ms. Navis explained that ongoing threat for large fire across the forest remains in the Sierra Front for the next couple of months, with other areas of the state experiencing monsoonal flow and decreased fire threat. Ms. Navis next discussed the wildfire crisis strategy, indicating that two parts of the forest are looking at a number of treatment methods for the landscape: The Sierra Front, and the Elko Front, both of which have been designated on the national landscape priority list. Ms. Navis encouraged that questions be emailed to her at [melyssa.navis.usda.gov](mailto:melyssa.navis.usda.gov).

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

Josie Burnett, DEM/HS, read the report provided by Clifford Banuelos, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Burnett informed the Council of the discussion between ITCN and DEM/HS regarding offering an ICS NIMS class for tribal leadership at the annual ITCN Convention scheduled for spring of 2024 in Reno. Ms. Burnett reported that ITCS is also coordinating a two-to-three-day Esri ArcGIS Pro certified training to occur at the conference. Ms. Burnett indicated that ITCN, FEMA, NDEP, and DEM/HS are discussing the importance of tribes accurately documenting their lands and resources in order to accurately assess damages from disasters. Ms. Burnett next indicated that ITCN and USDA Forest Service had a wildfire crisis strategy workshop in Elko on August 2 and 3, a planning meeting to identify areas for fire fuel treatment and to find agreement of treatment methods with a focus on the Ruby Mountains area from north by Secret Pass to south by Overland Pass. Ms. Burnett explained that similar meetings at other area offices are planned for the future with tribes and Forest Service.

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

Stacey Montooth was not available for this meeting and this item was tabled and moved to a future agenda.

**10. 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 – Jared Franco, Chief Financial Officer, DEM/HS

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Jared Franco, DEM/HS, discussed the NRAC meeting held on July 25, noting that it began with discussion regarding the HSGP grant, and the differences between maintain, enhanced, and new projects, as well as how to keep the maintain projects in the loop before starting over and doing a reset to make all projects new projects. Mr. Franco clarified that this was a discussion-only agenda and although nothing was decided, the consensus was that the three-year mark should trigger the reset. Mr. Franco further noted that discussion also included how to track and log the historical knowledge of all projects to ensure remembrance of things that might have been lost with retirements and turnover of staff. As such, Mr. Franco indicated that there might be a bit of a change to the application process itself, as well as when coming to testify to get the project approved. Mr. Franco next discussed updates from DEM's former planner about the submitted school reports of Nevada and some of the deficiencies found in those school reports.

b. Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS) – Co-Chair Harriet Parker

Co-Chair Harriet Parker indicated that the meeting began with Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, discussing the flooding events resulting from the Nevada Atmospheric Rivers and noting that there are 14 FEMA staff members at DEM/HS to help with recovery efforts as DEM/HS has 14 projects in review for recovery at a 75-percent reimbursement for the expenditures during the Atmospheric Rivers in March. Ms. Parker explained that the recovery operation will be a multi-year process. Ms. Parker next informed the Council of Mr. Bakkedahl's discussion of the spring thaw, indicating that Lyon County and State Land in Lyon County have felt the biggest impact due to the severe rapid snow melt coming mostly off of the Sierra Mountains. Mr. Bakkedahl had also indicated that the Governor has signed a state declaration, and members of DEM/HS are activated with support from FEMA partners, with no planned end date at this time. Ms. Parker indicated that Mr. Bakkedahl noted that although it has not been assessed, the estimate is approximately \$3 million for the spring thaw, primarily due to lack of access to several areas, resulting from road washout. Mr. Bakkedahl had explained that Lyon County has already incurred several million dollars in their efforts to prevent additional flooding by building up the base of their river shores and that based on these costs alone, this is fast approaching federal declaration. Mr. Bakkedahl had further noted that FEMA estimates \$10.5 million from the Atmospheric Rivers in March, twice the required state limit to meet federally required limit for a federal declaration, and that this is just for public infrastructure and did not include the residential side, which consists of five severely damaged and underwater homes and washed-out private roads in Lyon County. Mr. Bakkedahl had informed the members of NCHS that DEM/HS is working with FEMA on available resources to assist those private parties. Ms. Parker explained that Mr. Bakkedahl next provided a report on the statewide adoption of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and indicated that training for NIMS, ICS (Incident Command System), and all-hazard training has been taking place statewide, including in the rural areas. Mr. Bakkedahl had further indicated that incident management teams were recently deployed to Eureka and Lyon Counties to address the Atmospheric River incidents. Ms. Parker explained that the meeting rounded out with the report on the DEM/HS and FEMA audit results for FFY '22 and FFY'23, with Jared Franco noting that there were three audits still in progress, but that the executive audit branch was placed on hold until June 2024. In terms of grants, Mr. Franco had explained that DEM/HS is still working on de-obligations, that extensions

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have been granted on the 2020 and 2021 grants, that the only grant closing out this year is 2019, and that DEM/HS is in the process of re-obligating the rest of the de-obligations for that grant.

- c. Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) – Lance Chantler, RSIC

Lance Chantler informed the Council that all grants were approved June 20th at SERC's funding committee meeting and approved by the full SERC on July 20. Mr. Chantler indicated that the administrator position for SERC is still vacant, and that the fire marshal is currently providing staff to fulfill SERC duties until the two vacant positions are filled.

Co-Chair Harriet Parker asked where to find the information regarding the vacant positions.

Lance Chantler indicated that they are advertised through the State of Nevada website.

- d. Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee (IMAC) – Eric Wilson, DEM/HS.

Eric Wilson informed the Council that info related to declared emergencies and disasters throughout the state for the past fiscal year were discussed at the last IMAC meeting in June. Mr. Wilson further indicated that discussion revolved around resources requested through the system and the cost of those resources. Mr. Wilson concluded by explaining that Melissa Friend, mission support manager, discussed the development of IMAT and IMT teams.

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

Crystal Harjo, FEMA Region IX Tribal Liaison, reported that she has been mainly attending conferences, including the tribal partnership workshop in Arizona and the tribal historical cultural monitor training hosted by the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe. Ms. Harjo next indicated that she conducted a 583 course with the Pit River Tribe up in Burney, California. Ms. Harjo explained that this is the first course she has ever instructed, and that it was well-received. Ms. Harjo next indicated that she will be instructing the 583 down at the National Native American Law Enforcement Conference in Las Vegas at the end of the month. Ms. Harjo discussed assisting with the Spring Thaw event. Ms. Harjo next discussed giving several cultural sensitivity and awareness presentations to FEMA staff, as requested, as well as ongoing travel consultations, noting that some are for mitigation, the main one being the Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance, which is being presented around the nation both in-person and virtually. Ms. Harjo indicated that anyone wanting more information should contact her. Ms. Harjo explained that FEMA Region IX will be holding a climate adaptation seminar on September 26 and 27 in Oakland, California, also a hybrid event. Ms. Harjo next indicated that the Washoe Tribe has been asked to sit on a panel for Nevada, and FEMA Region IX is awaiting their response. Ms. Harjo indicated that any tribes interested in assisting on the panel can do so virtually or in-person, but that FEMA Region IX cannot support invitational travel. Ms. Harjo explained that once information is received regarding Tribal Training Week for 2024, set for March 9 to 16 in Anniston, Alabama, that information will be disseminated so that participants can begin

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registering and planning for travel. Ms. Harjo concluded her presentation by noting that she will not be able to attend multiple different workshops and events around the state this fall due to several conflicting schedules. Ms. Harjo encouraged Council members to reach out to her with any needs, questions, or concerns, as well as for any information regarding the L-583 course for their tribes.

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

- a. Introduction of DEM/HS new Tribal Emergency Manager Coordinator, Mason Parizo

Josie Burnett introduced new Tribal Emergency Management Preparedness Coordinator, Mason Parizo.

Daniel Thayer asked Mr. Parizo to introduce himself and discuss his background.

Mason Parizo introduced himself and informed the Council that he has worked in fire and emergency management for many years, following a career in law enforcement. Mr. Parizo explained that he worked with Washoe County Emergency Management during the 2017 flooding and noted that the spring thaw was a bit of a flashback to that. Mr. Parizo indicated his excitement at working with all the tribes and regional partners.

- b. Brief on the FEMA Tribal Workshops Held in Chandler, AZ and the Rural Preparedness Summit held in Fallon, NV

Josie Burnett discussed how DEM/HS assisted in coordinating a few workshop sessions held at the Rural Preparedness Summit in Fallon on June 14 and 15. Ms. Burnett noted that DEM/HS did coordinate sessions that included: access and functional needs, a tribal-specific workshop training facilitated by Heather Lafferty; a safe-talk training specific to the tribal communities in conjunction with the Office of Suicide Prevention; and a tribal consultation session held by Cliff Banuelos, that looked at tribal nation governments, communities, and policies. Ms. Burnett indicated that overall, all sessions were successful and very interactive and included about six tribes and other tribal partnering agencies.

Josie Burnett discussed the Region IX Tribal workshop, noting that this was an excellent workshop that fostered many great conversations among Nevada, California, and Arizona Partners and included tribal breakout discussions and strategies specific to the state discussed.

- c. Upcoming Regional Workshops

Josie Burnett explained that the 2023 DEM/HS regional workshops are upcoming, and all tribal partners are encouraged to attend the one specific to their region. Ms. Burnett explained that the workshops will go through THIRA and SPR, and specific days will be set aside for tribal breakout discussions.

- d. Satellite Phone SIM Cards

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Josie Burnett explained that all BGAN SIM cards for the satellite phones have been recharged and are in each of the tribes' communication boxes. Ms. Burnett noted that once the funding is signed and released, she will also be purchasing the Iridium cards.

### **e. Upcoming Training and Exercises**

Josie Burnett indicated that DEM/HS wishes to offer support to the tribes in any opportunities for training and exercises specific to each tribal community and its needs. Ms. Burnett explained that interest has been expressed in ICS 100 to 400, the G-402, the L-580, Stop the Bleed, and CERT training, and encouraged members to reach out to either herself or Mason to coordinate any exercises or trainings. Ms. Burnett explained that DEM/HS does have a trailer purchased by its tribal program and is looking to use some funding to make the trailer a sort of a deployable comms unit and CERT trailer.

### **f. Brief of the Tribal Coordination Efforts during the Spring Thaw Incident**

Josie Burnett noted that DEM/HS continues to move through Spring Thaw into recovery, and that this includes supporting tribal partners that were specifically impacted. Ms. Burnett further indicated that there were several tribes who submitted emergency declarations either for direct impact or for precautionary measure, and that the Walker River Paiute Tribe and Yerington Paiute Tribe were within those impacted regions. Ms. Burnett explained that throughout the duration of the incident, DEM/HS did stay in constant and open communications with the tribes, went out weekly in person, attended emergency management meetings, coordinated phone calls and emails, that included the tribes, FEMA, and other partners where updates were communicated, and resources provided. Ms. Burnett concluded her presentation by informing the Council that DEM/HS assisted in facilitating tabletop exercises with the Walker River Paiute Tribe, as well as recently going out there to tour the impacted areas, and that DEM/HS will continue to offer support and assistance throughout the recovery process.

## **13. DEM/HS Audit Results for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2022 and 2023**

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, explained that there is not any new information beyond that which Co-Chair Parker shared in Agenda Item 10b, and that there have been no new audits that have opened up.

## **14. Grant Status Reports**

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS, informed the Council that their packets include the grant status report, which contains: all sub-awards for open grant programs; the period of performance for each grant year; the sub-recipient agency, project, original award amount, re-obligated funds if received, the amount spent as of the last report, the funding stream or grant, any de-obligated amount, and the percentage of award spent as of the last report received. Ms. Coyote noted that the federal reporting narratives for Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) are also attached, and that these provide the programmatic updates for those



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grant programs as of March 30, 2023. Ms. Coyote further indicated that the late reporting report for the quarter ending March 31, 2023 is included with this agenda as well. Ms. Coyote reminded the Council that Mr. Robb provided the updates for the Cyber Security Grant, the FFY '22 submission of the Cyber Security Plan, and the FFY '23 NOFO grant, which just dropped. Ms. Coyote explained that both applications are open in Zoom grants.

**15. After Action Reports (AAR)**

William Elliott, DEM/HS, provided the AAR update for Rodney Wright, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Elliott explained that the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program consists of three parts: planning for exercises; execution of exercises; and the AAR improvement planning. Mr. Elliott informed the Council that the agenda documents include the Real-World Event AAR, which represents some of the different disasters and events from the past year. Mr. Elliott explained that the AAR shows how well DEM/HS did in the exercises, and what needs improvement. Mr. Elliott went discussed the improvement plan, which shows the different corrective actions based on activation, noting that the Council has in front of them the Atmospheric River Incident for New Year's Eve, the regional THIRA workshop, the Silver State blackout, and the DEM/HS Continuity of Operations Tabletop. Mr. Elliott explained that these were exercises and real-world events from the past year and directed the Council to the list of areas where DEM/HS needs to improve. Mr. Elliott informed the Council that there is a timeframe put in place for improvement, as well as a point person, and that improvement can consist of some of the following items: more planning; additional organization; more training; additional equipment; or additional exercise. Mr. Elliott explained that this stands for POETE, and it shows strengths and weaknesses and provides a roadmap to improvement.

**16. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Parker opened up the second public comment. There was none.

**17. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Parker called for a motion for adjournment.

Daniel Thayer, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, made a motion to adjourn. Ken Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.