



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

Attendance	DATE		Tuesday, January 21, 2025		
	TIME		10:00 AM		
	METHOD		Zoom		
	RECORDER		Loren Borst		
Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Brett Compston –Chair	X	Joe Colacurcio	X	Matthew Petersen	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	COL. Kyle Cerfoglio	X	Ken Quiner	
Andy Ancho	X	Bob Dehnhardt	X	Misty Robinson	X
Jayson Andrus		Kelly Echeverria	X	Bill Savran	X
Roy Anderson		Andrea Esp	X	Cary Underwood	X
Solome Barton	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Donielle (DT) Allen	
Taylor Allison		Timothy Hill	X	Adam Miller	
Jon Bakkedahl	X	Eric Holt	X	Ryan Turner	X
Noah Boyer	X	Chris Lake		Corey Ross	X
Lee Cabaniss	X	Carolyn Levering	X	Scott Means	
James Chrisley		Desiree Mattice	X		
Diana Clarkson		Tennille Pereira	X		
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
VACANT		Melissa Friend	X	Kimberly Palma-Ortega	X
Heather Lafferty	X	Selby Marks			
Legal/Administrative Support Attendance					
Representative			Entity		Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General			Office of the Nevada Attorney General		X
Loren Borst – Administrative Assistant			Nevada Division of Emergency Management		X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Brett Compston, State Administrative Agent (SAA) Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS), called the meeting to order. Loren Borst, DEM/HS performed the roll call. A quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Compston opened the first period of public comment.

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chief Compston asked for a motion to adopt the May 23, 2024 meeting minutes. Solome Barton, Emergency Manager and Deputy Fire Chief of the City of North Las Vegas, moved to adopt the May 23, 2024 meeting minutes. Jeanne Freeman, Public Health Preparedness Manager of Carson City Health and Human Services, seconded.

Chief Compston asked for a motion to adopt the October 22, 2024 meeting minutes. Corey Ross, Emergency Management Officer of Las Vegas Valley Water District, moved to adopt the October 22, 2024 meeting minutes. Cary Underwood, Director of Public and Behavioral Health, seconded.

Both motions passed unanimously.

4. Homeland Security Grants Program (HSGP) Grants Process for 2025

Chair Compston, DEM/HS presented guidance on the HSGP grant application verbiage using maintain, enhance, and new. The Chair indicated that the new ranking terminology originated at an Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) meeting earlier in the year, with the three terms adopted being: maintain, defined as the support of or maintenance of something; enhance, which is to intensify, increase or further improve the quality, value, or extent; and new, any new project. The Chair indicated that NRAC would also use the same terminology while going through the HSGP process in the spring. The Chair clarified that the fourth term that existed in the past, sustained, was eliminated. Chair Compston described the ranking process that the NRAC will use.

5. Grant Status Report

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS presented the quarterly grant reports, noting that in an effort to provide a more timely and accurate grant status report, the report in the meeting attachments has been developed. Ms. Coyote indicated that this new version ensures transparency while generating efficiencies to support increasing our customer service. Ms. Coyote noted that the report is based on completed transactions from the state accounting system, that the information is readily available from the fiscal section with near real-time data, and that it takes minimal time to produce. Ms. Coyote indicated that data was pulled from multiple sources: the grants management system; hard copy files for re-obligation; Excel trackers, and other Word documents. Ms. Coyote concluded her report by informing members that the intent with the new report is to provide more effective and efficient processes to allow staff time to provide the best customer service possible.

Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Manager, asked if the balance remaining was obligated or a combination.

Ms. Coyote noted that these are obligated funds that have yet to be dispersed.

Ms. Echeverria questioned if there is an opportunity to add a line item for available funds.

Ms. Coyote said that this is something that can likely be done.

Chair Compston added that the intent is to establish a deobligation / reobligations process on a predictable schedule.

Ms. Coyote indicated that DEM has a draft procedure written for de-obligations and re-obligations and will be doing them three quarters of the year, and at the end of each quarter will assess what has been de-obligated and what is available for re-obligation.

Jeanne Freeman, Public Health Preparedness Manager of Carson City Health and Human Services, asked if they were able to track unused funds.

Chair Compston explained the intent to have some data available to the NRAC, but added that not all data may be available quarterly in the detail of the previous historical report.

Jon Bakkedahl, Carson City Emergency Manager, asked for a report including unused funds prior to ranking, noting that it will help members make a determination on how they truly want to rank projects if funds are consistently not being used by a particular entity. Mr. Bakkedahl added that there is nothing noted on what date this report ends and requested that this information be available.

Ms. Coyote pointed Mr. Bakkedahl to the line in the heading showing the preparation date of the report.

Mr. Bakkedahl asked if the date run is the true dollar value for that date.

Ms. Coyote clarified that the report is based on fiscal data that has actually been dispersed rather than on quarterly reporting, and that this report now shows accurately what has been dispersed on each grant program as of the date in the top line for each one of the programs.

Chair Compston indicated that one of the intents of this report was to get more timely and accurate snapshot photos rather than reporting months in arrears.

Matt Peterson, Elko County Emergency Manager, noted that he and Lee Cabaniss, Elko County Emergency Manager, had joined the meeting.

6. Division of Emergency Management Boards, Commissions, Committees Operating Rhythm

Chair Compston presented the quarterly repeatable and predictable model implemented for all Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Working Groups managed by DEM. The Chair explained that the Division wants to provide scheduled events to allow members and DEM staff time to plan and prepare for these meetings. The Chair added the second quarter caveat is that meetings will be scheduled for different times based on the Governor's schedule as well as the release of

the Homeland Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

7. Report on Formula One

Vice-Chair Billy Samuels, Clark County Emergency Manager, indicated that the planning for Formula 1 Grand Prix began immediately following the 2023 race. Vice-Chair Samuels indicated that the Las Vegas Grand Prix team made considerable staffing changes, which improved the preparedness efforts. Vice Chair Samuels discussed the recommendations to begin the start times for practices 1 and 3 earlier. The Vice-Chair explained that most of the physical footprints and rules remained the same with the only exception being decreasing the size of the bridge that travels east-west on Flamingo over Koval. Vice-Chair Samuels noted that fire, police, ambulances, and utility companies were the main companies allowed to stage inside the track. The Vice-Chair further noted that because this race was a Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) 3 event, federal coordination was less than for a SEAR 1 or 2 event but noted that the federal partners were amazing and participated with the locals anyway. The Vice-Chair next discussed the multiple conversations prior to the race with Union Pacific Railroad for two requests: to limit the time rail cars will be traveling through the valley and to have no rail cars holding or staged close to the venue. The Vice-Chair explained that on Friday, November 22, a rail car did catch fire, that the MACC had a special agent from Union Pacific Railroad who was able to identify what was burning, and that the National Weather Service was able to build a plume model based upon current conditions and future weather patterns, information that was shared with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Operations Center. . Vice-Chair Samuels concluded by informing the Commission that the event went well, and thanked NRAC and DEM/HS for their support of Clark County.

Deputy Chief Reggie Radar, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), Homeland Security Division, concurred that the event went very well, with no glaring issues for police, fire, or EMS.

Deputy Chief Radar indicated that a lot was learned from '23 to '24, particularly the understanding of what traffic would look like as a result of this event. Deputy Chief Radar indicated that the bridge did cause some congestion, but this was combatted by additional traffic officers controlling the flow of traffic on the end points of the bridge. The Deputy Chief added that the first day of track testing also caused some congestion as there was some overlap with roads closing and casino workers concluding their shifts. The Deputy Chief explained that through an emergency meeting with the F1 coordinators and planners, the roads were able to stay open longer, and casino partners were able to meter the numbers exiting the parking garage at one particular time, which made the traffic flow much better for the remainder of the event. Deputy Chief Rader next discussed the organized theft rings that arrive with the event and noted that LVMPD was able to combat this by partnering with some federal agencies and using plain-clothed detectives. The Deputy Chief concluded by commending the partnership with the National Guard, which allowed LVMPD to enhance its Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) response, which helped ensure a safe and enjoyable event for the public.

Cary Underwood, Southern Nevada County Terrorism Center, suggested the need for discussion regarding the Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) program at a future meeting, noting that many of the events the state is hosting are not getting the SEAR rating that the infrastructure, sponsors, or public safety organizations feel are merited. Mr. Underwood discussed the need in the past to do re-adjudication requests to try to get the SEAR rating changed, and noted the

challenges that come with that, noting that by the time the rating changes, the resources are often not available or already committed given the federal government's limited resources. As such, Mr. Underwood reiterated the need to begin conversations about obtaining those resources given that the SEAR ratings will likely not be ones that will come with resources for many events.

Noah Boyer, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, indicated that this becomes even more apparent now that DJI has dropped the geofencing, which in the past has been used to enforce the Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR).

Mr. Underwood added that it is incumbent upon everyone to ensure that elected officials are aware of the bills in Congress in the last session to actually legislatively authorize state and locals the ability to start employing counter UAS. Mr. Underwood noted that both those bills were both paused or stopped until the start of the new administration. Mr. Underwood explained that the federal government will never have the resources to actually effectively implement counter UAS capability across the country, and so the biggest issue is not funds, but rather is being allowed to pursue county UAS capability at the state and local level.

8. Report on Election

Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections, provided an executive overview of the initial stages of the post-election cycle review. Mr. Wlaschin indicated that the assessment will continue for some time, but that some trends have already emerged. Mr. Wlaschin informed the Commission that the 2024 election cycle was a success in part because of the close partnerships and increased communications over the last 16-plus months. Mr. Wlaschin noted that there were no major incidents, and overall planning and preparations greatly exceeded what's been seen and done in previous election cycles. Mr. Wlaschin added that the artifacts created during this election cycle will also be very useful and help looking to future election cycles to ensure a high level of readiness for the '26 and '28 election cycles. Mr. Wlaschin discussed the collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies, with the primary vehicle for that collaboration being the Elections Integrity Task Force. Mr. Wlaschin reported more participation in this election cycle than in previous years, as well as excellent involvement by leadership at all levels. Mr. Wlaschin informed the Commission that this election focused on more than just November 5 given that the military and overseas deadline for ballots was September 20. Mr. Wlaschin next discussed cybersecurity, noting the close collaboration with Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and federal partners, who supported the implementation of the new statewide system and helped address security threats that emerged during the election cycle. Mr. Wlaschin recognized the fact that the cyber threat is persistent and developing, and will continue between election cycles and get more complicated and require more resources to address to ensure the integrity of the process. Mr. Wlaschin noted that from a physical security standpoint, there was some merit and utility in the conduct of physical security assessments at the county and state levels. Mr. Wlaschin discussed that due to timing, in many cases during the '24 calendar year, it was not always possible to get those assessments or act on them, so this is something that needs improvement, and the intent is to increase the number of physical security assessments during the off cycle throughout calendar year '25. Mr. Wlaschin indicated that the contingency planning standpoint was satisfactory, but the goal is to improve. Mr. Wlaschin explained that there is more support available to the counties now as well as more interest and time to act on those support opportunities. Mr. Wlaschin noted that the clerks are much more open to exploring opportunities ranging from tabletop exercises to physical and cybersecurity

assessments with the goal being to align those events with the county budget timelines in order to assure appropriate remediation of any identified issues well in advance of the 2026 election cycle.

Jon Bakkedahl, Deputy Emergency Manager of Carson City, asked about removing the presidential preference primary.

Mr. Wlaschin replied that this is a topic that is currently under discussion and promised to include Mr. Bakkedahl and Clerk Scott Hoen in those conversations.

Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that if any bills arise, he would like to testify to help do away with that effort.

Mr. Underwood thanked Mr. Wlaschin for leading the coordination efforts and getting people involved in making sure communication takes place in advance of the actual cycle. Mr. Underwood requested a discussion further in advance of the next election regarding things that worked well and areas that had gaps so as to begin building toward these things early in the process.

Mr. Wlaschin concurred, noting that talks have already begun regarding this very subject, particularly the timing so as to solidify staff positions prior to the holidays in hopes of receiving updates and begin conversations from a big-picture standpoint well in advance.

9. Emergency Plans: Important Dates, Progress, & Status

Shari Grennan, DEM/HS, presented an update on the important dates and the completion levels for counties plans being submitted. Ms. Grennan noted that the jurisdictions have all submitted their emergency operation plans, with 18 cities and 17 counties submitting. Ms. Grennan added that utilities were at 65 percent of plans received, which is along the lines with utilities. Ms. Grennan next noted the following: drinking water, 13 not submitted; electric, 8 not submitted; all-natural gas received; wastewater or water pollution control, 27 not submitted. Ms. Grennan explained that the water systems means it's a combined emergency operation plan for both drinking water and water pollution control. Ms. Grennan moved on to the school plans review, noting that this is a legislative report, and that DEM/HS is currently in the middle of a five-year cycle, auditing about 20 percent of plans randomly, and explained that this is year three of five. Ms. Grennan indicated that 50 plans out of 284 were selected: 4 district plans, 21 public/charter schools, and 22 private schools. Ms. Grennan indicated that the 11 reviewers were comprised of DEM/HS, Nevada Department of Education (NDE), and the State Public Charter School Authority. Ms. Grennan explained that this consisted of a 51-question survey based off of NRS concerning plans, and is yes/no questions to eliminate as much bias as possible. Ms. Grennan indicated that there has been improvement in private schools but no new tools provided to the schools at this point. Ms. Grennan discussed the model plan worked up between DEM/HS, NDE, Public Health, and Department of Public Safety Working Group. Ms. Grennan indicated that it has not yet been officially release with NDE, but will include an NRS checklist of requirements for plan submission. Ms. Grennan reported that NDE has had some staffing turnover and as such, are waiting for all staff to be on board prior to providing those tools. Ms. Grennan suggested that this may bring numbers up, as well. Ms. Grennan indicated that NDE and DEM/HS have also provided technical assistance to several schools, particularly in the private school and public/charter area to ensure

that plans are up to date and follow NRS. Ms. Grennan discussed the top and bottom concurrence areas, noting that the top includes focus areas, ensuring responses are in plans, securing schools, plans for evacuation and lockdowns, whereas the three lowest areas of concurrence tend to involve dealing with populations at risk such as the LGBTQ community, foster care, and/or unhoused or homeless being included and considered in recovery plans and efforts. Ms. Grennan noted that the School Plans Review Working Group completed all the reviews within a timeline reduction of 50 percent compared to last year, and consistent findings prioritize the improvement projects to enhance technical assistance calls. Ms. Grennan added that school audit plans begin to identify strengths and response actions in areas of improvement and recovery actions concerning peoples with access and functional needs, behavioral health concerns, and LGBTQ and homeless communities. Ms. Grennan thanked interns Reno Graves and Brian Summer, who prepared the legislative report, and Ryan Davidson, who has taken over the statutory plan program.

Vice-Chair Samuels indicated that it would be helpful if utilities in the report could be identified by county.

Ms. Grennan noted that this could be done, noting that there is a focus on streamlining those efforts.

Solome Barton asked if the reminders could be sent to the Emergency Managers Distribution List.

Ms. Grennan indicated that emergency managers will be cc'd when annual notifications go out.

10. Report on Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Support to Hurricane Helene

Heather Lafferty, Chief Resilience Officer DEM/HS, reported on her experience while on deployment to assist North Carolina with Access and Functional Needs during Hurricane Helene. Ms. Lafferty informed the Commission that she was deployed on October 11 directly to the North Carolina State Emergency Operations Center for 16 days. Ms. Lafferty then discussed roles and responsibilities, outlining for the Commission what an access and functional needs coordinator role entails in a large-scale disaster. Ms. Lafferty informed the Commission that in a deployment like this, there are multiple levels where coordination and support may be needed. Ms. Lafferty discussed using the mutual aid state to state to get an access and functional needs coordinator from Virginia directly to a shelter. Ms. Lafferty indicated that she was specifically requested into the Emergency Center at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), specifically within the Human Services Branch, to help shore up some of the gaps seen during Hurricane Helene. Ms. Lafferty provided the Commission of the facts on the ground when she arrived on October 11, noting that 16 shelters were open with a total of 622 occupants and 86 pets. Ms. Lafferty indicated that there was a total of about 74 shelters opened overall, but only 16 by the time that she arrived. Ms. Lafferty noted that the lifeline is still red for the state with power outages and still red for transportation with 645 roads closed, three interstates, and a lot of roads not just closed but gone. Ms. Lafferty indicated that water systems were red and completely inoperable across multiple jurisdictions. Ms. Lafferty noted that even though the lifelines may be yellow for the state overall, in several of the local jurisdictions, lifelines may be red specifically. Ms. Lafferty indicated that in some of these jurisdictions, fiber lines are gone, as well as radio towers, cell towers, power, and water. Ms. Lafferty explained that one of the challenges in this particular situation was that the Health and Human Services did not have the history like Nevada does, and

therefore they were missing policies, procedures, and key stakeholders in North Carolina disability. Ms. Lafferty noted that one of the cascading impacts is the misinformation and disinformation being spread among the North Carolina disability community in particular, and as such, people are bypassing emergency operations and their local emergency managers and they're going directly to their contacts at the White House at the federal level when a lot of the resources that they needed were available but not being included in that coordination. Ms. Lafferty noted that helping target that and get it up and functional to support North Carolina operations was the first big task. Ms. Lafferty discussed how the impacts continued through the weeks, noting that those who initially were not part of the initial evacuation now were continuing to live without power and water, and noted the importance of standing up a task force for where to focus attention and helping local emergency managers get the task force deployed. Ms. Lafferty indicated that a lot of these disaster recovery centers, evacuation centers, community care centers, and shelters are points of distributions that were set up in North Carolina are feeding stations. Ms. Lafferty discussed how they were initially accessible, but as time went on and they continued to be used, the accessibility became lower. Ms. Lafferty indicated that some of the other high-level coordination activities of the Access and Functional Needs Officer were really future operations planning. Ms. Lafferty informed the Commission that North Carolina had just started their long-term feeding plan, particularly for their access and functional needs and disability community. Ms. Lafferty added that there were still ongoing and intense sheltering operations, but planning for transition was beginning, and indicated that specific support was very much needed at the state level for programs like DSNAP (Disaster Supplemental Nutritional Assistance) that are heavily regulated and must be registered for within seven days. As such, Ms. Lafferty reported that registering a million people for food assistance within seven days was an all-of-government coordination effort, and an area in which Ms. Lafferty's efforts were specifically targeted for the rural and frontier communities, areas that did not, and in many cases still do not, have internet. Ms. Lafferty discussed the key takeaways, noting that one of the priorities at DEM is going to be mass care, which includes having some of the necessary, intangible pieces developed and ready to support the entire MAS (multi-agency shelter) care capability, as well as the MAS transition teams. Ms. Lafferty informed the Commission that this is not something that has traditionally been needed in Nevada. Ms. Lafferty discussed the importance of getting everybody on the same page and getting all the resources together and the need to help transition people out of sheltering and supporting the local jurisdictions. Ms. Lafferty indicated that she remains on the North Carolina MAS teams and as such, she continues to meet with them every morning at 4 a.m. to get a better understanding of what is and is not working in a large-scale disaster so as to be prepared for how to support this capability more internally. Ms. Lafferty next addressed the Colorado Access and Functional Needs Conference, which will take place in April, informing the Commission that Nevada has been invited to discuss this deployment with a key focus on evacuation and transportation. Ms. Lafferty invited interested Committee members to contact her for information and resources.

11. Report on 2024 Nevada Task Force 1 (NV-TF1) Deployments

Kenyon Leavitt, NV-TF1 Program Manager, discussed the deployments. Mr. Leavitt indicated that the TF1 team activated four times in 2024. Mr. Leavitt first discussed the avalanche at Lee's Canyon in Mount Charleston beginning on February 5, noting because of conditions at nightfall, the team was not able assist in any searches. Mr. Leavitt indicated that this was nonetheless a fantastic opportunity for training for future calls of this type. Mr. Leavitt explained that the next deployment was on September 27 to North Carolina as a Type 3 Team to assist in search and

rescue operations following Hurricane Helene. Mr. Leavitt discussed the diversions due to multiple road closures, but noted that the team was able to arrive to their assigned area ahead of schedule. Mr. Leavitt indicated that the team was initially stationed in Knoxville, Tennessee but then moved to Jonesboro, Tennessee to assist in search and rescue activities, predominately searching the debris piles along the river banks using two boat teams and multiple teams on foot for shoreline searching. Mr. Leavitt explained that deployments are generally 14 days, but FEMA asked that the team extend its time and expand the team from a Type 3 to a Type 1, which brought the team up from 35 to 70 personnel, and transfer from Tennessee to Florida for help with Hurricane Milton. Mr. Leavitt indicated that on October 2, a single resource Human Remains Detection (HRD) team was sent to Asheville, North Carolina, and that this team was able to locate a number of victims for the 16 days prior to their being demobilized and returned home. Mr. Leavitt indicated that Hurricane Milton made landfall on October 9 as a Category 3 hurricane, and NTF-1 was assigned to complete welfare checks and building assessments. Mr. Leavitt explained that in the days waiting for next assignments, the time was spent attending refresher training, rehabbing the equipment cache, and deconning the used equipment. Mr. Leavitt indicated that on October 16, NTF-1 was transferred back to Hurricane Helene, but ultimately were demobilized on October 18 when it was determined that they were not needed. Mr. Leavitt informed the Commission that the next deployment was on October 24 to Clark County for a structure fire in a three-story single family residence, noting that the fire caused a complete collapse of the roof and third story into the second story, which extended to the ground floor. Mr. Leavitt indicated that the request was then made for NTF-1 to respond to structural specialists to the scene to evaluate the safety of the building and determine any shoring that might be needed in order to search and recover the victims, and noted that NTF-1 was able to send out one structural specialist directly to the scene. Mr. Leavitt noted that the request was then made for rescue specialists to assist in shoring up the building, and that it was suggested that the Incident Command (IC) request all the Tactical Response Teams (TRT) in the Valley to assist with the body recovery effort as the way the building collapsed made it unfeasible to shore up the walls. Mr. Leavitt indicated that it was determined that the best and safest way to make entry was to build a box that could be pushed forward as the debris was removed, which would protect those inside. Mr. Leavitt noted that NTF-1 continued to provide building evaluation and recommendations on the size and makeup of the box to be constructed. Mr. Leavitt concluded by noting that this activation was beneficial to all the departments in the Valley and provided the ability to see what resources NTF-1 can provide if requested.

12. Public Comment

Heather Lafferty, DEM/HS thanked the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, who were contacted by the State Centers for Independent Living in California due to the need to support some of the disabilities partners impacted by the LA wildfires. Ms. Lafferty indicated that they were able to connect them with St. Jude's Ranch, who got 600 hygiene kits to the executive director, Catherine Nelson, who drove them herself to the Center for Independent Living. Ms. Lafferty thanked Director Nelson for her continued support of not only NRAC, but also of NDEM.

Bob Denhardt, State Chief Information Security Officer of the Nevada Department of Administration noted he was in the meeting and joined at 10:25 am.

Chair Compston, DEM/HS reiterated the changes to quarter two for NRAC and NCHS due to the release of the Homeland Security NOFO.

Heather Baldwin, Department of Energy, noted she was in the meeting.

13. Adjournment

Chair Compston, DEM/HS called for a motion to adjourn.

Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Management, motioned to adjourn. Lee Cabaniss, Elko County Emergency Manager, seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.