



Meeting Minutes

Emergency Preparedness Working Group

Attendance Record	DATE	December 6, 2021	
	TIME	2:00 p.m.	
	LOCATION	Clark County Fire Administration Building 2 nd Floor Conference Room / MACC 575 E. Flamingo Road Las Vegas, NV 89119	
	METHOD	Zoom Teleconference Conference line #: (669) 219-2599 Meeting ID# 405 396 0059	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Committee Members	Present	Staff and Others	Present
David Fogerson – Chair	X	Karen Hall – Support Staff	X
Ken Elgan (Esmeralda)	Abs	Sherrean Whipple – Support Staff	X
Lee Cabaniss (Elko)	X		
Billy Samuels (Clark)	X		
Scott Lewis (Nye)	Abs		
Eric Holt (Lincoln)	X		
Brett North (White Pine)	Abs		
Yuri Graves (NNSA)	X		
Tamera Gamero (DOE)	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, David Fogerson, Nevada Division of Emergency management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS) called the meeting to order. Karen Hall, DEM/HS performed roll call, and quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Fogerson opened the first period of public comment. No public comment was provided during this period.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Fogerson opened discussion on the approval of the minutes from the September 16, 2021, Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) meeting. Deputy Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Lee Cabaniss, Elko County, seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP (EPWG) CHARTER

Chair Dave Fogerson explained that the group will review the existing EPWG charter. Chair Fogerson explained that NRS dictates which groups are established by law, what they do, and how often they meet, and that the EPWG group is established on the power of the Chief of the Division under NRS 414, which allows the group the legislative ability to provide advice, thus establishing it as a charter rather than a bylaw. Chair Fogerson asked the group for comments and any requested changes to the charter.

Chief Billy Samuels indicated that Item 6, Officers and Duties, calls for a Vice Chair and asked if the group has a Vice Chair.

Chair Dave Fogerson explained that the Chair is appointed by the Chief and then the Vice Chair is elected by the workgroup and as such, can be appointed. Chair Fogerson indicated that Vice Chair election would be added to the next agenda. Chair Fogerson further clarified that the Chair position is appointed administratively.

Yuri Graves indicated that in the non-voting member section under Number 2, there is verbiage regarding the National Nuclear Security Administration for which he can send an update to include DOE as well as the Nevada National Security site.

Chair Dave Fogerson indicated that he would update that in the charter.

5. BRIEFING ON CHANGES WITHIN THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chair Dave Fogerson informed the group that Kelly Anderson has received a promotion and moved on to the Governor's Finance Office. Chair Fogerson also informed the group that Justin Luna has received a promotion and moved over to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB). As such, Chair Fogerson explained, neither is with the Division any longer. Chair Fogerson informed the group that a deputy's position was closed on Friday and interviews the list of finalists will begin shortly. Chair Fogerson further indicated that Justin Luna's position has been flown internally to the state but may be external as well. Chair Fogerson informed the group that the Emergency Manager Program Manager position will also be flown shortly. Chair Fogerson explained that some reorganization has taken place as a result of Kelly and Justin's leaving and the bringing on of a new deputy chief. Chair Fogerson informed the group that two sections will be created within the Division: Operations, which will be composed of the Preparedness Division currently led by Jon Bakkedahl; and the Interoperable Section currently led by Melissa Friend, which will be renamed Mission Support. Chair Fogerson explained that the name was chosen to align with FEMA's naming of that section, as well. Chair Fogerson further explained that Mitigation has been moved over into Preparedness in order to provide a higher view to bi-level the organization. Chair Fogerson indicated that Janell Woodward will be moving over to the Preparedness section. Chair Fogerson further indicated that Grant

and Fiscal will be led by the ASO 3 position, and the Fiscal Division that formerly was run by the ASO 3 will now be run by the ASO. Chair Fogerson further indicated that the Emergency Management Program Manager will be over the Grants Department, which will consist of two sections: Recurring Grants, which includes EPWG, EMPG, HSTP, and other grants, led by Samantha Hill-Cruz; and the Recovery Section that handles all public assistance and COVID grants led by Suz (phonetic) Coyote. Mitigation will be moved out from under Ms. Coyote in order to allow her more time and ability to supervise. Chair Fogerson explained that DEM will hopefully be interviewing for the Deputy Chief position within a week or so and that by that time, an ASO should already be in place and the hiring of the grant manager will be taking place, as well. Chair Fogerson explained that points of contact for the time being are those that were directly below Justin or Kelly, who can then direct folks to the right person/department. Chair Fogerson explained that the reorganization of the Department will help with emergency management at the state level where everything is locally executed, state-guided, and federally supported.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE UTILIZATION OF EPWG FUNDING ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY EPWG MEMBERSHIP

Chair Dave Fogerson indicated his desire to check in with the group regarding whether or not they are receiving monies and if it is in use for the purposes intended. Chair Fogerson opened discussion for the group provide ideas to look at collectively for a system that may work better than the current one in place.

Karen Hall explained that there has not been any difficulty in spending funds, that the last QFR for '19 has been put in and the award for '20, which was discussed in September, is being awaited.

Eric Holt indicated that Lincoln County also has closed out 2019 and is awaiting the 2020 award. Mr. Holt explained that this funds a good portion of the emergency manager position and program in the county and as such, is critical funding. Mr. Holt explained that the other portion funds the hazmat program.

Chair Dave Fogerson explained that this grant process still runs a bit under the radar and it is his intent to ensure that everyone realizes the importance of this funding to the counties and the maintaining of the Emergency Management Homeland Security enterprise.

Karen Taylor explained that Clark County funds a part-time position with this funding and due to the delay in expediting the 2020 funds, the part-time position needed to be eliminated.

Tiffany Gamero asked if the 2020 funds were coming from DEM to the counties or from DOE to DEM.

Karen Taylor indicated that Clark County has not received an award letter from NDEM.

Chair Dave Fogerson explained his intention to follow up on whether or not DEM has received the funds to hand down to the counties, indicating that if they have received them, it is possible that the distribution is delayed due to the current personnel changes.

7. DISCUSSION ON PLANNING, ORGANIZATION, EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, AND EXERCISE (POETE) NEEDS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE EPWG

Chair Dave Fogerson informed the group of his desire to check in with the members regarding how the things covered under this agenda item are working for them and to obtain input on how to potentially improve collaboration with and among the counties. Chair Fogerson also asked for suggestions on how help can be provided either jointly or individually regarding the planning, organizing, training, equipping and exercise. Chair Fogerson did inform the group that state exercise officers and contractors can be brought in.

Eric Holt explained the importance of funding a hazmat response and having monitors and detection equipment in place and indicated that without this funding, there would be much less available, particularly in the rural counties. Mr. Holt further indicated that Lincoln County has met with NNS fire to do some training with them.

Chair Dave Fogerson thanked Mr. Holt for his feedback and asked if anything else had come up through the fire process that could be worked on collectively to help fix. Upon hearing no further feedback, Chair Fogerson encouraged the group to reach out to him directly with other thoughts, ideas, or suggestions that may arise in the future. Chair Fogerson further indicated that DEM will look into where the award letters are so the money can be distributed in order for the counties to begin their projects.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Yuri Graves informed the group that the Nevada National Security site will have a full-scale exercise in May of 2022, and some members of the group may be receiving invitations to participate or observe or evaluate.

Lee Cabaniss informed the group that all Elko's internet and servers were currently down and as such, he did not have the information available to respond to the Chair's previous questions and indicated that he will follow up and respond on the behalf of Elko County once he could once again access the information.

Chair Dave Fogerson explained that he will look at the charter and will likely have this workgroup meet twice yearly rather than quarterly. In addition, Chair Fogerson explained that DEM will work on an agenda-setting process in order to fine tune some of the meeting subjects so as to better be able to seek feedback from the committee members on desired topics of discussion.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fogerson asked for a motion to adjourn. Deputy Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, motioned to adjourn. Lee Cabaniss, Elko County, seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.