



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

Attendance	DATE		August 22, 2022		
	TIME		10:00 a.m.		
	METHOD		Zoom		
	RECORDER		Sherrean K. Whipple		
Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
David Fogerson – Chair	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Tennille Pereira	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Andrea Esp	X	Matthew Petersen	X
Andy Ancho	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Misty Robinson	ABS
Roy Anderson	X	Mike Heidemann	X	Rachel Skidmore	X
Travis Anderson	X	Eric Holt	X	Corey Solferino	X
Noah Boyer	X	Graham Kent	ABS	Cary Underwood	X
Elizabeth Breeden	X	Mary Ann Laffoon	X	Mike Wilson	X
James Chrisley	X	Chris Lake	X	Stephanie Woodard	ABS
COL. Brett D. Compston	X	Carolyn Levering	X		
Jason Danen	ABS	Rachel Marchetti	X		
Bob Dehnhardt	X	Ryan Miller	X		
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
Bunny Bishop	X	Melissa Friend	ABS	Selby Marks	X
Rebecca Bodnar	X	Kasey KC	ABS	Catherine Neilson	ABS
Legal/Administrative Support Attendance					
Representative		Entity			Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General		Office of the Nevada Attorney General			ABS
Sherrean K. Whipple – Administrative Assistant		Nevada Division of Emergency Management			X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair David Fogerson, State Administrative Agency (SAA), Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS) called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean K. Whipple. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair David Fogerson opened the first period of public comment for discussion.

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair David Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the May 31, 2022, Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting.

Dr. Chris Lake, Executive Director for Community Resilience, Nevada Hospital Association, motioned to approve the minutes.

Eric Holt, Lincoln County Emergency Manager, seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, abstained from the vote as she was absent at the last meeting.

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

4. Update on the State of Nevada Bomb Squads and Washoe County Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team

Noah Boyer, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Consolidated Bomb Squad, explained that Nevada has four bomb squads: Consolidated Bomb Squad based out of Reno; Tahoe Douglas based out of Douglas County; Elko out of Elko; and Las Vegas in the south with Las Vegas Fire and Rescue. Mr. Boyer explained that the four bomb squads cover 11 different agencies with different levels of participation. Mr. Boyer further indicated that FBI and ATF are also involved with FBI bomb techs located in Las Vegas, Reno, and Elko, and an ATF bomb tech located in Las Vegas for a total of 41 public safety bomb technicians located statewide. Mr. Boyer informed the Committee that the bomb squads and bomb techs are responding to approximately 60 calls per year. Mr. Boyer explained that during the pandemic, there was a massive decrease in callouts, but now there is a large increase.

Noah Boyer next discussed training, explaining that just under 13,500 are required in order to meet minimum number of training hours set forth by the national guidelines. As such, Mr. Boyer indicated the existence of a robust training program.

Noah Boyer indicated that bomb squads are held to NRS 476, which lists out the duties of not only the bomb squads, but also the bomb techs, and the bomb squad commanders. Mr. Boyer reviewed the different sections of NRS 476.180 with the Committee, with a focus on Number 10, which discusses outreach training. Mr. Boyer informed the Committee that outreach training consists of various training programs, including CISA training programs in the southern part of the state, and partnerships with other agencies such as Washoe County Emergency Management and Child Protective Services, in the north. Mr. Boyer described the inclusion of an educational class on homemade explosives takes place, as well as on precursors and safety measures in order to meet the requirements with the different programs.

Noah Boyer next discussed the large amount of support bomb squads received post 9-11, indicating that bomb squads were a part of the big CBRNE push, and as such, they received significant funding support from HSGP

and UASI. Mr. Boyer explained that this funding was used for purchases such as the large response vehicle and the total containment vessel. In addition, Mr. Boyer indicated the requirements have changed, explaining that in order to now be a bomb tech, one has to be a hazmat tech first. In addition, in the 21 years since September 11th, there have been significant advances in training and in equipment, but the state is now at the point where a lot of the equipment is approaching its 20-year mark. Mr. Boyer further explained that although the budget post 9-11 was approximately \$20 million, the budget now is approximately \$3 million. As such, Mr. Boyer indicated that the bomb squads needed to get together and determine how to maintain the same level of equipment and proficiency based on this smaller budget. Mr. Boyer indicated that discussions began in 2019 and started to come to fruition in 2019 with the help of Todd Moss, who brought everyone together into a unified front. Mr. Boyer discussed how the Nevada Bomb Squad Association was dissolved and the Nevada Bomb Squad Task Force was created, and how this made administrative tasks easier as well as unified trainings and equipment and created a better steward for HSGP and UASI funding. Mr. Boyer indicated that this has enabled the different bomb squads to stagger their asks among squads from year to year in order to stay within funding rather than all come to the table with requests for the same equipment at the same time. Mr. Boyer explained that one week of training costs approximately \$25 to \$35,000 and as such, the ability to diversify and have bomb techs from multiple locations attend at the same time provides the ability to incorporate more people in the training so as to mitigate the monies spent.

Noah Boyer next discussed the NCCAD database in which all bomb squads participate, indicating that it identifies areas of weakness pertaining to training and equipment. As such, Mr. Boyer indicated that this is being used as a barometer to identify areas of focus. Mr. Boyer next discussed the importance of diversifying capabilities and ensuring the development of good partnerships with other entities in order to promote safety and to provide help to the best level possible. Mr. Boyer discussed the Resilience Committee and the support from that in terms of HSGP and UASI funding as well as the support from DEM/HS in helping the rural partners. Mr. Boyer indicated that when assistance is needed from a bomb squad, no matter how the contact is initiated, whether through DEM/HS or directly, the bomb squad has a duty to respond. Mr. Boyer reiterated the importance of fulfilling obligatory bomb squad training, and appropriate spending, as well as outreach and attention to any gaps.

5. Discussion on the Status of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security's (DEM/HS) Efforts to Assist Our Partners

Chair David Fogerson indicated DEM/HS's interest in hearing feedback on the status of DEM/HS programs as they relate to protection, preparedness, response, mitigation, recovery efforts, emergency management, and homeland security. Chair Fogerson encouraged committee members to discuss ways that efforts can be improved to better support needs. Chair Fogerson indicated DEM/HS's desire to ensure that they are headed in a direction that helps to support local tribal partners and that everyone's needs are being met.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, requested that DEM/HS update the Committee on the status of the improvement plans created as a result of after-action reports.

Chair Fogerson concurred and indicated that he would request that this be added as an item on the next agenda.

Noah Boyer commended the grant staff for their tremendous help and support.

Jeanne Freeman discussed the importance of transparency and for all agencies to be genuine in their response, particularly in terms of areas where the agency may be struggling.

Chair David Fogerson acknowledged Ms. Freeman's concern and informed the Committee that his door is always open, as is Jon Bakkedahl's, for any concerns that need addressing.

6. California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and DEM/HS Information Exchange Session

Chair David Fogerson read Jon Bakkedahl's written report that discussed current and future collaboration efforts between California and Nevada. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that he, Jared Franco, and Jon Bakkedahl visited with CalOES in April in order to introduce and discuss the leadership between the two organizations as well as current historical and future interactions. Chair Fogerson indicated that this became a significantly greater focus following the Caldor and Tamarack fires and the record-breaking snowstorm that closed down I-80, US-50, and US-88 in December of 2021, trapping motorists at South Lake Tahoe. Chair Fogerson indicated that both staffs agreed to meet to discuss the after-action report from the Caldor fire and the bi-state ESF relationships. Chair Fogerson further indicated that the two states established an annual executive staff meeting, rotating to each state's operations center. In addition, Chair Fogerson noted that a sheltering agreement between California and Nevada is currently in development with the intent to outlay who is responsible for what should ever these types of situations occur again.

Chair David Fogerson further noted that both states are also working with federal delegations to treat wildland fire more like a hurricane in order to receive funding to move resources. Chair Fogerson next indicated that in June, DEM/HS met with CalOES and TESH partners along with Washoe County Emergency Management and the American Red Cross to discuss the Caldor Fire, The Tamarack incident, and the snow emergency in Tahoe. Chair Fogerson explained that the findings indicated five things that each had in common from an operations standpoint. Chair Fogerson further explained that DEM/HS will continue to practice assigning a liaison officer from one state to another anytime the potential of bi-state impact arises and in the case of activations, both states agreed that staff would be sent to the other state in order to shadow in hopes of learning operations.

Chair David Fogerson next discussed that DEM/HS has decided to some additional EMAC training, exercise, and coordination, including work on a sheltering plan and state support to locals. Chair Fogerson indicated that although sheltering operations are a local government responsibility, it is important for the state to be there to offer support, particularly in cases where multiple states and/or counties are engaged. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that the next meeting will likely be down in Southern Nevada and include Arizona, California and Nevada and will likely include discussion on the I-15 corridor and the issues that exist along those three borders. Chair Fogerson explained that DEM/HS is sharing its emergency managers list and ESF list from one state to the other and assigned its ESF partners last month to reach out and call their ESF equal in California in order to introduce themselves. Chair Fogerson further indicated that ESF training would be taking place the following morning with a report back on whether or not they were able to accomplish the assigned outreach.

Chair David Fogerson next discussed the Region IX Tribal Conference, at which California, Nevada, and Arizona were all present and conversation revolved around tribal assistance. Chair Fogerson explained that California is currently working through some struggles with their tribal relationships, similar to those that Nevada had in the past and worked through with the help of ITCN, ITCR, and state and FEMA tribal liaisons. As such, Nevada is sharing best practices with California as well as strategies that worked and did not work. Chair Fogerson reminded the Committee that tribes are sovereign nations, but they might go across multiple states and as such, DEM/HS needs to figure out how best to work with those partners to ensure that tribal needs are met.

Chair David Fogerson further indicated that DEM/HS is engaging FEMA as well as neighboring states to share successes and pitfalls from the preparedness workshops that will take place in the fall. Chair Fogerson concluded his presentation by commending these relationships that DEM/HS has formed with other entities.

Jeanne Freeman indicated that highways cross from California into Nevada into Douglas as well as Carson City and asked if those emergency managers were also invited to these meetings.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that California is not yet ready to engage counties in the discussions and for the moment is opting to keep discussions at the state level. Chair Fogerson explained that he snuck in Washoe County in order to have another voice at the table and indicated his hope that these discussions will progress to the county level as the original intent was to get all border counties together of the two states.

Jeanne Freeman indicated that there is another group in which border counties are getting together and having these conversations.

Chair David Fogerson asked Jeanne Freeman to send him the invite for this group.

Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Manager, asked if the next meeting could include an opportunity for the Quad county representation.

Chair David Fogerson agreed that this was dependent upon whether or not California would agree.

Co-Chair Billy Samuels indicated the importance of including Clark County in these discussions as Clark goes 50 miles into California daily for mutual aid and responds to California multiple times a day.

Chair David Fogerson concurred that Clark County too should be included in these efforts, and explained that this first set of discussions revolved around incidents in the northern part of the state but the intent is to expand this into the south to include Clark County, Arizona, Mojave County, and San Bernardino County.

Co-Chair Billy Samuels also suggested including Utah given Mesquite's usage of St. George Medical Center.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that all Nevada's bordering states will be included, including Utah, Idaho, and Oregon, but the initial endeavor was to work with California as it is the biggest place in and out of which people are moved.

7. Impacts of Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) on Post Incident Reunification

Chair David Fogerson indicated that routine discussions have been taking place regarding how to address this better next year than it has been in the past. Chair Fogerson discussed the existence of the NRS that directs the State Disaster Identification Coordinating Committee the responsibility of obtaining that data, and as such, Chair Fogerson indicated the desire of DEM/HS to try and find a way in the NRS where this responsibility is shifted to local government rather than the state to remove the state's engagement in what should be a local issue for the victim reunification process. Chair Fogerson further indicated that Samantha Ladich has done some legal research into this issue and has determined that other states are also looking for the best ways to address this issue.

Jeanne Freeman commended DEM/HS for looking further into this issue, noting that this has been a challenge for a number of years. Ms. Freeman further indicated that when this comes to fruition, the education piece will be a huge element, and not just with partners, and offered her support in working on this issue.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that a piece of this issue involves management of expectations.

8. School Safety Plans

Megan Hall, DEM/HS, indicated that the report is combined from two different reports that were sent to the superintendent of public instruction, at which time there was one outstanding plan that had been received. As a result, Ms. Hall explained that the original report was updated. Ms. Hall reported that 100 percent of Nevada schools did turn in their plans as expected, for a total 234 plans. Ms. Hall further indicated that DEM/HS does have a detailed list outlining what schools did not meet the deadline and indicated the hope that by starting the process of bringing this to the attention of Department of Education (DOE), the processes and procedures used to collect and analyze these plans can be improved. Ms. Hall informed the Committee that she has worked many hours with DOE in ensuring that the process is well executed and bolstered as part of this program, part of which is the implementation of an interdisciplinary review committee comprised of DEM/HS, DOE and DHHS. As such, Ms. Hall indicated that these entities are currently going through NRS 414.040(5) and all of school requirements in terms of emergency operations plans as well as standardizing a review in order for each school to receive the same review of their materials based on those requirements for that year. Ms. Hall explained that because creating and reviewing 234 plans each year would be an extreme burden, even with an interdisciplinary committee, it has been determined that the best path forward is to target 20 percent of submissions each year and ensure that each school receives a review at least once over a period of five years. Ms. Hall further explained that these will be random reviews done by the committee in which different schools or districts will be randomly selected each year. Ms. Hall next informed the Committee that each year, professionals that mirror what is required in school committees and emergency operation plan development committees by NRS will be invited to the interdisciplinary review committee.

Andrea Esp, Washoe County Public Health Preparedness, explained that because the requirements for different types of schools (public, private, charter) differ from one another and with the updates to the requirements in NRS, Washoe County struggled with getting people to respond in any capacity and as such, Ms. Esp asked for information on how Washoe could better assist its schools to ensure that when providing guidance, all requirements are being met as well as getting the schools better engaged with local emergency management and behavioral health.

Megan Hall explained that one of the goals created to address this issue is better planning as well as more effectively shedding light from the review committee side of things in order to help close gaps and build the pre-disaster networking to where it should be. Ms. Hall further indicated that the differing requirements among different types of schools is also an issue that the committee is hoping to address in the future.

Chair David Fogerson reiterated that NRS does require schools to work with the fire department, emergency manager, and law enforcement and then puts the onus on DEM/HS and NDE to review those plans at the state level but in actuality, because most of the requirements are behavioral-health related, schools should be working with their local health authorities as well.

Andrea Esp indicated that with the enactment of SB26, this changed the NRS to require the District Board of Health be included as part of the review committee.

Megan Hall indicated that she and Laura Hutchinson at DO want a form that will be a catalyst for pre-disaster networking and open communication between not just schools and districts, but among all the aforementioned professionals.

Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, indicated that since he has been attending the White Pine County School Safety Committee meetings, he has noticed that it would help emergency services tremendously if teachers, especially new ones and substitutes, understand the plan.

9. Discussion of Potential Legislative Requests for the 2023 Session

Chair David Fogerson opened the floor to Committee members to provide any items that need to be addressed under this agenda item. There were no comments from Committee members.

10. Grant Status Reports

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS, indicated that the grant packet given to each member includes a narrative report and fiscal report for grant years 2018, 2019, 202, and 2021 for the HSGP (Homeland Security Grant Program) and encouraged members to reach out to her directly via email with any questions.

11. Nevada Public Health Preparedness Program

Emily Gould, Public Health Preparedness Program, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, informed the Committee that Donielle Allen has replaced Melinda Southard as the Public Health Apprentice Program Manager. Ms. Gould next indicated that PHP is currently working on drought planning with a workshop and exercise dates to come, a pod resupply for the upcoming flu season, an ICS structure for monkeypox response, as well as continuing to ensure that RFs are being processed, people are receiving the supplies that they need, and still getting COVID tests.

12. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access, and Functional Needs Integration

Heather Lafferty, CDC Disability Preparedness Specialist.
This item was tabled due to Ms. Lafferty attending training.

13. Updates from the DEM/HS Tribal Liaisons

Josie Burnett, DEM/HS Tribal Liaison, informed the Committee that the Nevada Tribal Community Resilience Development Workshop was held in Fallon back in June and covered grant fundamentals, disaster planning, and first-aid training. Ms. Burnett indicated that the turnout included approximately 30 participants who provided good feedback, including the fact that most tribes would like to go more in-depth in additional workshops on each of the covered topics. Ms. Burnett explained that this particular workshop was held primarily for the purpose of determining the interests of each tribe in order for DEM/HS to better meet wants and needs in future workshops. Ms. Burnett next discussed the FEMA Region IX Tribal Workshop held in Reno the week prior, which included tribes and partners from Arizona, California, and Nevada. Ms. Burnett explained that a handful of Nevada tribes attended and that a tribal working lunch was held specific to Nevada in which upcoming DEM/HS workshops were discussed. Ms. Burnett further indicated that there was significant discussion around developing TERC teams and feedback from tribes included concerns regarding lack of staff, training, and emergency management positions. Ms. Burnett explained that each tribe had interest in

developing various emergency management plans as well as different grant applications and learning opportunities. Ms. Burnett concluded by informing the Committee that she and Jay Martin are looking forward to touring the tribal communities from now into the fall to assess needs in the hopes of providing better support and assistance.

14. DEM/HS Audit Results for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, explained that DEM undergoes yearly federal monitoring and state auditing due to the visibility, sensitive material, and duties it is tasked with accomplishing. Mr. Franco explained that DEM/HS is currently undergoing a state audit by Nevada's contracted CPA firm for the warehouses that were run and controlled during the pandemic and that this audit that has been going on since FY '21 should be wrapping up following the next site visit at the Las Vegas warehouse the following month. Mr. Franco explained that DEM/HS does not anticipate any issues arising as a result of the audit and informed the Committee that DEM hopes to be officially out of the warehouse business by October 1. Mr. Franco next indicated that Nevada's contracted CPA firm conducted an audit on DEM/HS's disaster grants, an audit that began in 2021 and wrapped up in July of 2022, that concluded with the only finding needing corrective action was the reporting of the grant dollar amount received to the Federal Sub-award Reporting System (FSRS) in a timely manner to ensure compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act. Mr. Franco commended the disaster recovery team for their work on the numerous grants. Mr. Franco next explained that in April of 2022, four personnel from the FEMA Region IX staff were in the DEM office for a period of five days conducting an onsite financial monitoring review of numerous different grants. Mr. Franco indicated that DEM/HS anticipates having the findings from that monitoring visit later in the week. Mr. Franco informed the Committee that Dale Finney, FEMA, who oversees Nevada's HSGP Suite will be monitoring DEM/HS's program and auditing HSGP years FY'17 through FY'20 to ensure compliance with the code of federal regulations and program guidance. Mr. Franco explained that due to the growth and visibility of DEM/HS, the expectation is that monitorings and audits will continue and as such, Mr. Franco foresees this agenda item being a standing one, likely once per quarter, for each fiscal year moving forward.

15. Public Comment

Chair David Fogerson opened the first period of public comment for discussion.

There was no additional public comment.

16. Adjournment

Chair David Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was presented by Bob Dehnhardt, Chief Information Security Officer, Nevada Department of Administration, and second was provided by Jeanne Freeman, Public Health Preparedness Manager, Carson City Health and Human Services. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.