



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

Attendance	DATE	July 27, 2021			
	TIME	10:00 a.m.			
	METHOD	Zoom/Clark County Fire Department			
	RECORDER	Sherrean Whipple			
Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
David Fogerson – Chair	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Tennille Periera	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Andrea Esp	X	Matthew Petersen	X
Andy Ancho	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X
Roy Anderson	ABS	Mike Heidemann	X	Misty Robinson	ABS
Travis Anderson	X	Eric Holt	X	Rachel Skidmore	X
Noah Boyer	X	David Hunkup	X	Corey Solferino	X
Elizabeth Breeden	X	Jeremy Hynds	X	Malinda Southard	ABS
James Chrisley	X	Graham Kent	ABS	Cary Underwood	ABS
Jason Danen	ABS	Mary Ann Laffoon	X	Mike Wilson	ABS
Cassandra Darrough	ABS	Chris Lake	X	Stephanie Woodard	ABS
Bob Dehnhardt	X	Carolyn Levering	X		
Craig dePolo	ABS	Ryan Miller	ABS		
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
Bunny Bishop	X	Melissa Friend	ABS	Kasey KC	ABS
Rebecca Bodnar	ABS	Sheryl Gonzales	ABS	Selby Marks	ABS
Kate Callaghan	ABS	Mojra Hauenstein	ABS	Catherine Neilson	ABS
Felix Castagnola	ABS	Jill Hemenway	ABS		
Mike Dyzak	ABS	Patricia Herzog	X		
Legal/Administrative Support Attendance					
Representative		Entity			Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General		Office of the Nevada Attorney General			X
Sherrean Whipple – Administrative Assistant		Nevada Division of Emergency Management			X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Public Comment

Chair Fogerson opened the first period of public comment for discussion. Chair Fogerson discussed the Tamarack fire, which is still burning in Douglas County, Nevada and Alpine County, California. Chair Fogerson explained that through the collective efforts of the Washoe Tribe, Douglas County residents, and Alpine County residents, 600 people have been sheltered among three different shelters. Chair Fogerson explained that there was some confusion regarding evacuation notices given that California has mandatory evacuations and Nevada does not unless by order of the governor. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that Douglas County declared a disaster and the state of Nevada will also be declared a disaster on the behalf of Douglas County, who lost approximately 12 homes in the process. Chair Fogerson thanked Lyon County for opening a shelter in their community in support of Douglas County. Chair Fogerson further indicated that there will be an after-action review of the Emergency Management actions, public learning notification, functional access needs, and the sheltering/evacuation piece of all involved to see how things went and how they will continue to go in the future.

Chair Fogerson next discussed the flooding experienced by Nye County as the result of a rain event, which had been preceded by a wind event the day before. Chair Fogerson explained that Nye County is discussing whether or not to issue a county disaster declaration. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that there is DEM/HS staff in southern Nevada who will be visiting Nye County to see how they can be of service. Chair Fogerson further indicated that the events resulted in damage to some county roads and buildings.

Chair Dave Fogerson next introduced Mark Shugart, a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Integration Team (FEMA Fit) and explained that he is NRAC's liaison with FEMA but is actually a member of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Chair Fogerson explained that many met Mr. Shugart during his help with the COVID response, but that he has actually been employed with EOC pre-COVID and is now transitioning out of the COVID activities into the role of senior advisor from FEMA to help manage the relationship between FEMA and the state. Chair Fogerson further explained that the FEMA Fit program has been fantastic for Nevada and for him personally as the new Chief for the state, and praised Mr. Shugart as a valuable resource.

There was no other public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the June 23, 2020, Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting. Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health & Human Services, motioned to approve as written. Bob Dehnhardt, Nevada Department of Administration, seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. NV Energy Mitigation for the State of Nevada

Elizabeth Breeden, Senior Emergency Management Administrator with NV Energy, discussed NV Energy's current mitigation efforts as outlined in the Natural Disaster Protection Plan (NDPP) as well as recent customer communications, public preparedness, public outreach, and changes to the Public Safety Outage Management Program (PSOM) Tiers in Nevada. Ms. Breeden explained that PSOM arose from SB329, which was put out to legislature in 2019. Once approved, the plan was renamed the Natural Disaster Protection Plan, and PSOM

exists as a part of the NDPP and is essentially a hazard mitigation plan for NV Energy to use for any and all hazards that may arise. Ms. Breeden explained that when the plan was first rolled out, it concentrated on Tier 3 zones, which were determined by working with local agencies and fire maps from the past 100 years or so. The maps were overlaid on one another and used to identify the most at-risk areas, also called the Tier 3 zones, consisting of Mount Charleston in southern Nevada, and the Lake Tahoe Basin in Northern Nevada. Ms. Breeden further explained that the plans is now being expanded to include Tier 2 zones and Tier 1 elevated zones.

Elizabeth Breeden explained that PSOM involves temporarily shutting off power for the safety of the community, in order to prevent anything from blowing into the lines and causing a disaster or hazard, which is most commonly a wildland fire. Ms. Breeden explained that multiple things are studied for PSOM events, including weather conditions, vegetation levels, fire observations, field observations, and guidance from local fire departments and first responders. Ms. Breeden informed the Committee that NV Energy has worked with San Diego Gas and Electric when building the plan to present to the Senate Bill.

Elizabeth Breeden next discussed mitigation efforts and progress. Ms. Breeden informed the Committee that approximately 170 poles in Tier 3 and elevated risk areas have been wrapped with fire mesh, which Ms. Breeden explained is essentially chicken wire with foam embedded into it that will expand to protect the pole should it catch on fire. Ms. Breeden explained that although the pole will get charred, it remains standing, which is good, because as long as the pole is up and above ground, the line can remain energized unless it impacts the safety risk for fire crews or the public. Ms. Breeden informed the Committee that NV Energy has requested approval from the Public Utility Commission to wrap more poles in high-risk areas, primarily along the urban interface where wood poles are most at risk. Ms. Breeden discussed fuels mitigation treatment, which involves a right-of-way clearing of up to 1,000 feet on either side of infrastructure to prevent trees, dead, dying, or weakened in a wind event, from falling on lines and starting a fire that would then transfer to ground vegetation when the trees fall. Ms. Breeden explained that clearing the right-of-way on either side of poles creates a large enough area for a tree to fall and hopefully miss the lines; Ms. Breeden further indicated that in addition, vegetation is being cleared from under the lines so that if something were to fall on the lines, catch fire, and drop, the drop would be strictly into dirt and nothing flammable. Ms. Breeden explained that these efforts are being undertaken with the help of local fire agencies as well as 300 Spanish goats, whom Ms. Breeden called the hardest-working NV Energy employees as they are out and clearing the vegetation under the lines each day. Ms. Breeden explained that thus far, approximately 1,800 acres have been cleared.

Elizabeth Breeden next discussed the importance and benefits of undergrounding and explained that NV Energy has partnered with local HOAs and fire agencies to select prioritized lines in high-risk areas that can be moved underground. Ms. Breeden informed the Committee that undergrounding is very expensive and requires many permits as well as many steps prior to beginning work. Ms. Breeden further indicated that because NV Energy is partnering with other agencies and other construction projects already underway, this lowers the risk and accomplishes the task more quickly.

Elizabeth Breeden next discussed Cell on Wheels, acknowledging that communications can go down easily during de-energization or when cell towers lose power. As a result, Ms. Breeden explained that NV Energy has contracted with both FirstNet and Verizon Wireless to provide a cell on wheels to such areas and further indicated that NV Energy will be purchasing 10 to 12 of their own cells on wheels to provide as a resource during either a PSOM event or other emergency. Ms. Breeden informed the Committee that two such cells on wheels were deployed to the Tamarack fire and were successful in providing cell service into the area.

Elizabeth Breeden next discussed the PSOM criteria, thresholds, and plan updates. Ms. Breeden explained that in 2020, NV Energy used three different parts for Tier 3 areas: energy release components, which indicates how

likely the fire is to burn if there is a fire; wind gusts; and the Fosberg Fire Weather Index, which includes measures of humidity, temperature, and wind speed. Ms. Breeden further explained that NV Energy did not feel that this was an adequate representation of what was actually occurring out in the field and as such, moved to a new criteria for the Tier 3 area, which includes a burning index in order to incorporate some of the ERC values as well as an idea of the size of flame length. Ms. Breeden informed the Committee that in working with first responder agencies, it has been determined that a 7-foot flame and wind speed of approximately 40 mph is the point at which a fire can easily become out of control and difficult to fight. As such, this is the criteria NV Energy has included into its burning index, criteria that was approved by the PUCN at the end of June, and will now be included in the Tier 3 areas of the Lake Tahoe Basin and Mount Charleston.

Elizabeth Breeden reiterated that PSOM will now be used in Tier 1 Elevated and Tier 2 areas and explained that although there are not hard analytics such as in Tier 3 locations, there is qualitative data that will be studied, including conditions reported from weather stations, information from the National Weather Service, field observations, and vegetation management conditions. Ms. Breeden further explained that there are different mitigation efforts that are used prior to an actual PSOM event, including staging additional fire and energy resources in the area. This provides NV Energy with the ability to put lines into what is called One Shot, meaning if something were to fall into the lines, the line automatically will open and de-energize until NV Energy can patrol the area and re-energize the line. Ms. Breeden informed the Committee that in northern Nevada, areas have expanded to include the urban interface where city limits meet the wildland area. Ms. Breeden further explained NV Energy's understanding that not everyone on the circuit is necessarily at risk, and provided the Committee with maps of the new de-energization zones, which involves inserting circuit cut-offs to isolate the most at-risk part of the circuit and only de-energize that section while leaving the rest of the circuit intact.

Elizabeth Breeden next discussed the importance of customer communications and notifications, indicating that NV Energy's goal is a three-pronged approach intended to create awareness of the PSOM event as well as to encourage outage and emergency preparedness overall. In addition, Ms. Breeden informed the Committee of NV Energy's goal to drive awareness regarding personal fire safety and the importance of clearing vegetation that is potentially hazardous. Ms. Breeden discussed NV Energy's partnership with Living with Fire as instrumental in conveying that message. Ms. Breeden next informed the Committee that letters will be sent out via mail and email to impacted customers in zones that could potentially become de-energized. In addition, NV Energy will be holding public open houses as well as ongoing stakeholder and large customer communications. Ms. Breeden discussed the outreach to Green Cross customers, the telecommunication infrastructure, and critical facilities, indicating that customer service is reaching out to and working directly with these customers to assess needs and discuss options. Ms. Breeden also indicated that NV Energy is encouraging customers to sign up for MyNVEnergy, which provides these customers with the opportunity to be notified by phone, text or email. In addition, NV Energy is reaching customers via news media, social media, paid media, and all outlets available to get the message out.

Elizabeth Breeden next discussed the timeline for PSOM implementation, explaining that NV Energy receives a rolling, seven-day weather outlook from a weather analytic company. At approximately the four-to-five day mark first responders are notified and telecommunication companies receive a pre-notification in order to prepare for the upcoming event. At the 72-hour mark, Green Cross customers receive a phone call from the Customer Care Group to discuss about their different, available options and to prepare for the outage. At the 48-hour mark, mass notifications begin, including posts to social media indicating the potential of a PSOM event. These notifications continue at the 24, 23, 2, and 1-hour marks, again at the time of de-energization, and then again at the time of re-energization.

Elizabeth Breeden next discussed the customer resource centers and indicated that although being without power does not qualify as an emergency for most, it is certainly an inconvenience and can become an emergency for some. As such, NV Energy has set up Customer Resource Centers for customers to obtain additional information as well as things like ice, water, and charging banks for mobile devices. Ms. Breeden explained that Tier 3 areas will likely be in a geographically stationed place inside a structure because the outages in those areas tend to be longer and as such, customers may need a place to charge devices or work indoors for longer periods of time. Tier 1 elevated and Tier 2 CRCs will likely employ a drive-through option as outages tend to be shorter and more easily patrolled due to less treacherous terrain.

Elizabeth Breeden next discussed lessons NV Energy has learned through past PSOM events, including the need for: a defined staging area for crews; additional radios for external entities working in the area; an effective check-in/check-out process. Ms. Breeden indicated that these were put in place for the following PSOM event and as a result, provided NV Energy great success.

Vice-Chair, Chief Billy Samuels asked if data exists suggesting that PSOM are saving homes or money to justify the outages.

Elizabeth Breeden explained that although NV Energy does not actively look at cost-benefit analysis, historically a benefit does exist and reiterated the idea that the mitigation efforts were put in place with the hope of less de-energization in the future, thus decreasing the need for as much PSOM mitigation.

Vice-Chair Billy Samuels explained that steel poles would elongate if wildfires reached a certain temperature and asked if NV Energy has research on the benefits of transitioning from wooden poles to steel ones.

Elizabeth Breeden explained that the poles are ductile iron and explained that this would eliminate the need to continuously replace wooden poles each time a fire even occurs. Ms. Breeden did indicate that she was unsure of other possible impacts.

Dave Hunkup, Reno/Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) asked about the Green Cross Program and how an individual could become part of it.

Elizabeth Breeden explained that the customer needs to enroll in the Green Cross Program and can do so by speaking with an NV Energy contact center in the north and then providing a form signed by their medical provider justifying the need to be a Green Cross customer. Ms. Breeden further clarified for Mr. Hunkup that MyNVEnergy is an app for customers to use on their smart devices.

5. Bylaws of the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC)

Chair Dave Fogerson reminded the Committee of the change in NRS that now allows the Committee to meet quarterly rather than monthly at the discretion of the Chair, wording he would like to leave given that during grant season, it is foreseeable that the Chair may need to call additional meetings beyond the required quarterly one. Chair Fogerson explained to the Committee the proposed change regarding attendance, indicating that because attendance is critical to achieving quorum, having balanced input, and conducting business of the Committee, any member who misses more than 25 percent of the meetings may be removed from the Committee at the discretion of the Chair.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health & Human Services, asked if the 25 percent was for a one-year period, or for the two-year period during which one is a member of the Committee. Ms. Freeman further added her belief that there should be some justification provided for missing an NRAC meeting. Ms. Freeman also indicated that

it would be easier for NRAC members to attend meetings more regularly if a standing meeting schedule was in place in order to plan accordingly in advance.

Chair Dave Fogerson concurred with Ms. Freeman's suggestion of a standing meeting schedule.

Matthew Petersen, Elko County Emergency Manger, indicated his support of quarterly meetings, opining that quarterly meetings rather than monthly are much more attainable for the group as a whole. Mr. Petersen further indicated his desire to hold two of the meetings in-person rather than over Zoom.

Chair Dave Fogerson concurred, but indicated his belief that there should still be a Zoom option for people who cannot attend the in-person meetings.

Tennille Pereira, Southern Nevada/Vegas Strong Resiliency Center, indicated her belief that having a percentage when there are only four meetings a year in a two-year term does not make a lot of sense and requested that the language be changed to something along the lines of two consecutive meetings or two meetings within a one-year time period.

Jeanne Freeman concurred but indicated her belief that the special meetings that are called in addition to the quarterly meetings should not count as part of the attendance policy.

Chair Dave Fogerson respectfully disagreed with Ms. Freeman's suggestion, stating his belief that the special meetings should be counted as the special meetings would in all likelihood be grant meetings and explained his and Co-Chair Samuels' desire to engage members of the Committee more fully.

James Chrisley, Deputy Director of Aviation, agreed that having in-person meetings twice a year would be helpful in engagement. Mr. Chrisley further indicated his belief that breaking up grant meetings over a few meetings would be beneficial rather than holding one marathon meeting.

Andy Ancho, City of Reno Emergency Manager, indicated his belief that there has been a decline in engagement in all meetings, not just NRAC, but also at the local and division levels and as such, is in favor of some in-person meetings to reengage members.

Chair Fogerson supported the language indicating that more than two consecutive meetings missed may result in removal by the Chair as well as picking a date that is the same of on a recurring basis with meetings to be at the in-person location with Zoom as an option.

Andrea Esp, Washoe County Public Health Preparedness, concurred and reiterated the idea that if the dates and location were decided in advance, this would help for planning purposes, especially for those who, like her, were unable to add travel funds into the budget once it had been approved by the County.

Jeremy Hynds, City of Henderson Emergency Manager, asked for clarification as to whether or not the state would continue to pay for plane tickets for the Committee to travel as they had in the past.

Chair Fogerson indicated that this piece would be worked out for in-person meetings in the future and that he needed to ensure that the state would commit to that prior to discussing the option with fiscal folks. Chair Fogerson further indicated that this would be his preference, as well, but could not commit on the record until having the necessary discussions.

Jeanne Freeman suggested coordinating the quarterly NRAC meetings around the NEPA conference since that also toggles back and forth between the north and south and encourages interaction and engagement.

Chair Fogerson indicated his support of this suggestion.

Jeanne Freeman, motioned to accept the amendment to the bylaws as stated by Chief Fogerson. Eric Holt, Lincoln County Office of Emergency Management, seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

6. State Warehouse Transition Status

Jon Bakkedahl, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS) updated the Committee regarding the estimated timeline and implementation to transition to a more permanent warehousing solution for state emergency preparedness supplies, in coordination with the State Purchasing Division. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that multiple steps have been taken towards transitioning COVID response and primary focus warehouse operations over to Department of Public Behavioral Health (DPBH), specifically Public Health Preparedness (PHP). As of July 1, PHP has begun taking over the additional assessment of resource requests that come to DEM/HS and assessing them for appropriateness as well as the capability of the jurisdiction to be able to purchase the necessary PPE. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that PHP has received access to the email accounts in the logistics system and are now coordinating with the logistics staff daily on resource orders with a planned date of September 30 to have the transition complete.

Jon Bakkedahl explained the two different phases of purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), legacy and DOMP (phonetic). Legacy PPE was purchased under public assistance reimbursement grant funding, originally at 74-25, but then transitioned to 100 percent FEMA reimbursement. Mr. Bakkedahl next explained that the legacy PPE cannot just be given away to any jurisdiction to be managed, so DEM/HS is working to reduce that stockpile in hopes of maintaining the DOMP (Disease Outbreak Management Plan), which was purchased with CARES Act funding and received via group donations and would not require working with FEMA to transition out of PPE operations. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that over the next six to 12 months, DEM would be transitioning completely out of warehouse operations and allowing state purchasing to coordinate the efforts of managing the warehouse and PHP to manage the PPE stockpile.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that DEM/HS is working to reduce the large PPE stockpile of 3,500 pallets down to one warehouse worth and explained that Southern Nevada actually uses more than 75 percent of the stockpiled PPE and appears to be the best option for a warehouse location. DEM/HS has presented different warehouse options to the governor's finance office: continuing to lease under current operations at \$2.7 million every six months for both warehouses; 3PL (third-party logistics), which includes hiring the current national strategic national stockpile office to manage the PPE at a cost of upwards of \$60 million for a 10-year contract at the end of which, Nevada would be in exactly the same position it is currently in; building its own warehouse on an undeveloped, 10-acre lot in North Las Vegas at a cost of over \$30 million; buying an existing warehouse at approximately \$24 million, not including the racking system, which would cost an additional \$500,000. Mr. Bakkedahl next discussed monies, including the CARES Act, in which most funds have already been appropriated, and ARPA funds, which were recovery funds presented to the state; both of these funds provided several billion dollars to the state. Mr. Bakkedahl next discussed DEM/HS's need to present their case to the state for funding, expressing his hopes that NRAC could be a political and jurisdictional ally in referencing its needs as well as those of the state as a whole for PPE, specifically for current COVID operations, and to be a guiding agency to DEM/HS to help define what the state is looking for in terms of managing warehouse operations for any emergency as well as specifically for current COVID operations.

Jeanne Freeman discussed the hesitation from partners regarding state purchasing of supplies because of preferences of certain products, indicated her support of an in-state warehouse for emergency support, and asked how the state is getting the buy-in to ensure that there will be rotation of materials prior to their expiration.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that DEM/HS has approached FEMA a number of times in hopes of trying to coordinate the national, state, and local level in regards to PPE rotation and stock policy and indicated that FEMA has given some guidance similar to the concerns expressed by Ms. Freeman. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that this will be a problem in that the locals and private sector have been potentially flooded with PPE and as such, could be put out of business due to the government influence over PPE purchase and sales. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the federal government is looking at this and that DEM/HS hopes to receive more guidance moving forward but do not yet have well-documented policy.

Jeanne Freeman questioned whether the warehouse and state purchasing would be strictly for government entities and state agencies or if the private sector too would be included.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated that he has heard third-hand that any company could buy the products, including those from whom the products were purchased to begin with, but that the state needs to ensure that it is following the guidance under which they can sell it. The PPE cannot be given away, particularly FEMA-funded PPE, because it cannot be offered free unless there is a direct, emergent need. As such, those that need PPE currently need to certify that they are unable to locate it due to either their funding mechanism or their purchasing power. Nonetheless, Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the PPE could be sold to anyone who needs it but the money would then need to go back into the stream for purchasing from the federal government and not to any other fund or program for the state.

Vice-Chair Billy Samuels asked about involving the private sector, indicating that sourcing to the state through his office, for example, is a big burden. In addition, Vice-Chair Samuels pointed out the differences between medical-grade gloves and the type used for fire fighting, indicating the importance of the product meeting the requirements of the individual unions.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated that this will always be pushed back to the local entities first and that the only things that have been filled directly are the state facilities.

Chair Dave Fogerson explained that as long as the state is not a declared emergency, the point of removing DEM as a middleman will be to take emergency operations out of the picture and limit these operations to the people that have the responsibility to do it rather than use the emergency channels that have been used throughout the pandemic.

7. COVID-10 Pandemic Response Status

Chair Dave Fogerson discussed the crisis standards of care in the state, explaining that an EPON (Emergency Providers of Nevada) meeting had taken place and that in that meeting, continuation of crisis standards of care was decided. Chair Fogerson discussed the need to look at what was done under crisis standards of care that are good practices that could be continued in normal times as well as what needs to change in future disasters.

Chair Dave Fogerson indicated that current COVID cases are affecting the non-vaccinated with some breakthrough cases in the vaccinated. The test positivity rate in the state was over 13 percent in the recent days, which is a dramatic increase from the 3 percent positivity rate six weeks earlier. Chair Fogerson explained

that Clark County has enacted a mask mandate for all indoor employees and the state is continuing to follow the CDC guidelines and allowing local control. Chair Fogerson further indicated that the rise in hospitalizations is predominately among the unvaccinated population, citing a statistic of over 99 percent of COVID hospitalizations are not vaccinated. ICUs are 74 percent full, but only 20 to 30 percent full with COVID patients. Chair Fogerson discussed the importance of nipping the problem in the bud prior to October 1, the beginning of flu season and indicated that the healthcare system impact is being monitored substantially. Chair Fogerson next discussed the Get Out the Vax and the Got Vax campaigns and indicated that FEMA and local volunteers are working to get the word out about these campaigns. Southern Nevada Health District will be opening seven additional vaccination sites at DMVs, DPWs, and sports services and the state is working to identify gaps in vaccination areas in order to try and close those gaps in addition to other efforts to get the unvaccinated population vaccinated.

Dr. Chris Lake informed the Committee that the population in the hospital now is younger than the initial population and consists of primarily 30 to 59 year olds.

Jeanne Freeman stressed the importance of clear messaging, indicating that messaging has been muddled regarding intent of vaccines, the need for testing, and masking. Ms. Freeman further indicated that people, at least in rural Nevada, are afraid to be tested because they are afraid of another shutdown. As such, Ms. Freeman indicated the need regarding clear messaging of the goal of the state regarding COVID and the idea that the public no longer understands the risk because they have been talked at and instead of talked with.

Chair Dave Fogerson concurred with Ms. Freeman's comments, indicating that the state now is dealing with people who are afraid of vaccines rather than of the disease itself, and part of that can be attributed to poor messaging on all levels, including the national one.

Jeanne Freeman further indicated her belief that people need to be appealed to based on knowledge rather than on fear given that fear appeals have been shown in social science research for decades not to work.

Chair Fogerson concurred with Ms. Freeman's comments.

Sean Rahmeyer also concurred with Ms. Freeman's and offered that the community be included in discussions regarding vaccines rather than pushed into what could be perceived as aggressive moves to force vaccination.

8. Building Resilient Communities (BRIC) Program and Mitigation Work Group

Chair Dave Fogerson introduced Janelle Woodward, DEM. Ms. Woodward discussed the BRIC 2020 grant cycle, indicating that there were five total applications funded under the \$600,000 state set aside and state management cost application. Ms. Woodward explained that Nevada submitted two competitive projects and neither was chosen to move forward; meanwhile 22 competitive projects were selected over 10 states with only one internal state, Kentucky, chosen while the rest were chosen from costal states.

Chair Dave Fogerson informed the Committee of a conference with all the state emergency management directors and the disappointment felt because only those 10 states had received competitive awards whereas some FEMA regions didn't receive any award for any state within the region. Chair Fogerson indicated that there will likely be things changing with the next round of BRIC competitive grants, including the writing of the NOFO (phonetic) and also indicated that politics are at play here given that this is a competitive grant. Chair Fogerson indicated that he will be writing a letter from the state because Nevada loses points right off the bat

due to the lack of a state-adopted building code. In addition, Chair Fogerson explained that it appears that the next grant cycle will have more money to fund grants.

Janelle Woodward updated the Committee on the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Working Group, indicating that the first meeting took place in June and discussed what's involved in the mitigation program, what's involved with technical assistance, what's involved with planning for the state hazard mitigation plan, and how the group would be instrumental in working with the Bureau of Mines and Geology to update the plan. Ms. Woodward indicated that the plan expires in October of 2023 and the intent is to submit the plan to FEMA by July of 2023 with the help of experts both within and outside of the working group in order update each hazard section. Ms. Woodward explained that grants were also discussed as well as the location for the next quarterly meeting in September in Carson City. Ms. Woodward explained that Carson City is a good starting location given their significant seismic risk and in that meeting, the different portions of the hazard mitigation plan updates will begin to be introduced. Ms. Woodward also explained the messaging that everyone should be working on putting together projects for the next round of BRIC awards given that the HMGP post-fire funding is an allocation and is not competitive.

Chief Billy Samuels asked for a list of the members of the working group.

Chair Dave Fogerson indicated that the list would be sent out to all the members following the meeting.

9. Energy Sector Update

Jennifer Taylor, Deputy Director of Governor's Office of Energy (GOE), discussed the role of the GOE, its emergency operations, and its coordination with the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Ms. Taylor informed the Committee that the GOE is an ESF-12 designee and prepares that role's energy assurance and emergency operations plan in coordination with the Nevada Department of Agriculture regarding the petroleum-issues part of the plan. Ms. Taylor explained that for GOE to get DOE financial assistance, the CFRs require the submission of an energy emergency plan for an energy supply disruption as designated by the state and consistent with applicable federal and state laws, including implementation strategies such as regional coordination for dealing with emergencies in the energy sector, the authority of which is under Chapters 701 and 416 of NRS.

Jennifer Taylor explained that GEO serves as the primary agency role for responding to energy emergencies as well as serves as the central clearing house for energy information and the responsibility of assessing energy impacts in Nevada during any events that impact energy price and supply. As such, GOE develops recommendations to address these situations. Ms. Taylor explained that GOE coordinates with NDEM in reporting these situations to US DOE offices as well as delivering status messages and direction to the public and performing resource supply responsibilities such as energy-related aid.

Jennifer Taylor explained that the energy assurance and emergency operations plan was most recently updated and signed by the governor in October of 2020. In its ESF-12 role, GOE monitors electricity, natural gas, petroleum, and critical energy infrastructure. Ms. Taylor informed the Committee that the energy assurance plan recognizes the need for multi-agency coordination because effective communication is essential to a coordinated state response to an energy event. In addition, coordination and cooperation with other states, particularly California from whom the majority of petroleum fuels are imported into Nevada, also falls under GOE's role as an ESF-12. Ms. Taylor explained that because Nevada is so dependent upon petroleum from California, events or market decisions in California can impact supplies in Nevada, deeming that coordination essential.

Jennifer Taylor discussed Nevada's Pad 5 seat, which includes other states like Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. Ms. Taylor explained that Pad 5 is essentially a self-contained oil supply system and because of that isolation, cooperation and coordination is critical. Ms. Taylor further indicated that the energy plan also relies upon a mixed-strategy response to an energy shortage using free market approach with government intervention only when necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and that activation of the management and information system and implementation of specific programs in the plan occur only when an energy shortage substantially disrupts Nevada's economy in normal operation. GOE therefore serves as a central source of credible and timely information on how a shortage affects the state.

Jennifer Taylor discussed GOE's activities upon recognition of an impending energy emergency, beginning with the receipt of information from any of a multitude of sources. At that point, GOE then needs to evaluate the need to activate the continuity of operations plan, which includes a preliminary assessment regarding notification by staff of actions needed to make determinations of next steps. Ms. Taylor indicated that responses vary in elevation based on type and severity of the emergency, and includes different phases, including: a readiness phase; verification phase; pre-emergency phase; and emergency phase, which would involve all activities initiated during the pre-emergency phase in addition to voluntary and/or mandatory programs required to respond to a worsening energy shortage. Ms. Taylor indicated that mandatory programs require an energy emergency or pending energy emergency and require a declaration and EO signed by the governor. At that point, NDEM would take over the lead under the NIMS program. Ms. Taylor explained that within the emergency response actions, there are four broad categories: coordination; planning and analysis; public communications; migration and conservation, which consists of voluntary energy conservation and mandatory mitigation measures intended to create strategies for reduction of energy demand; and situation report and procedures checklists.

Jennifer Taylor discussed economic assistance programs, citing the impact of energy on the economy and the disproportionate economic impacts that may occur on low-income households during energy events. As a result there are programs such as the community services block grant and LIHEAP, the low income home energy assistance program, as well as the US DOE weatherization assistance program (WAP). Moreover, Ms. Taylor explained that utilities maintain programs to assist with or defer payment of utility bills for eligible parties, such as what was seen during the early phases of COVID. In addition, Ms. Taylor explained that DWSS works with a network of community-based organizations to provide resources needed to break the poverty cycle around energy costs and energy burden, which include local governments and other community-based organizations servicing low income residents. Due to this existing network, Ms. Taylor informed the Committee of the flexibility in place to implement energy emergency assistance.

Jennifer Taylor discussed Appendix B, the guidance for petroleum shortage response, as the foundation for which GOE works in coordination and cooperation with the Department of Agriculture around petroleum shortages. Ms. Taylor explained that the key piece is obtaining and distributing information from the petroleum industry and as the entity that regulates and works with those petroleum providers, Department of Agriculture has the lead role in obtaining those communications and indicators that there might be an issue. Ms. Taylor informed the Committee that Department of Ag and GOE will then collaborate on preparing press releases and/or other public communications concerning the disruptions or shortages in the supply of fuel. Ms. Taylor further discussed the tools that were developed at a national level but are opportunities across states for dealing with petroleum shortages, which include things like waivers for driver hours of service; waivers for environmental fuel specifications; waivers for tanker truck weight limits; retail gas station priorities for essential services; use of alternative fuel programs; petroleum priorities for central services; and emergency generators and transfer switches for retail gas stations. Ms. Taylor indicated that this is part of the reason that GOE was interested in submitting applications for some critical infrastructure in order to start looking at onsite

generation to obviate the need for emergency generators in the case of a fuel shortage or disruption. Ms. Taylor further explained that Appendix B includes a fuel allocations plan and petroleum set-aside function. In addition, Appendix B provides for the option to work with the Department of Transportation to develop and implement conservation measures as described in the relative mitigation and conservation sections of the plan. Ms. Taylor gave a brief overview of Appendix C, which includes GOE's work with federal partners, including DOE, EIA (Energy Information Agency), and FEMA.

Jennifer Taylor provided detailed discussion of GOE's collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Division of Emergency Management. Ms. Taylor explained that Ag is currently finalizing a communications and coordination plan for petroleum shortages that includes the passing of necessary information to GOE as ESF-12 to potentially move through and up the emergency response phases. Ms. Taylor explained that GOE and AG issued guidance to fuel providers at the start of the pandemic that identified the fuel supply chain as essential services and recommended that those entities remain open for business. Ms. Taylor further informed the Committee that GOE and the Department of Ag regularly participate in calls with the Western Petroleum Shortage Response Collaborative in order to provide updates, learn from peers, and obtain necessary information to respond to petroleum shortages. Ms. Taylor indicated that this group was created to facilitate the coordination and the development of a regional catastrophic fuel response framework and is a state-drive initiative acknowledging the need to share resources and information to best address shortages, preparedness, and response needs. Ms. Taylor further explained that the primary purpose is to codify guidance for coordinated response, prioritize response actions and measurements, and standardize information flows and pre-identified tools and templates that may be necessary to respond to a petroleum shortage. Ms. Taylor next informed the Committee of the opportunity Department of Agriculture, Emergency Management, and GOE had to test some of the planning due to fuel shortages at the Reno airport, and indicated that they were able to go through Appendix B, figure out options, and essentially exercise the plan for future events. Ms. Taylor thanked the Committee and indicating her appreciation at their allowing her the opportunity to share the critical importance of energy and energy infrastructure to NRAC and the work that it does.

Jennifer Taylor concluded her report with a discussion of the BRIC grants and indicated that there was a lot of disappointment that there were not more innovative sets of projects chosen. Ms. Taylor indicated that she had participated in a call with an administrator of the BRIC program, who informed Ms. Taylor that climate and equity would be components of the upcoming NOFO. Ms. Taylor further discussed the HMGP and the set aside mentioned earlier by Janelle Woodward and informed the Committee that she had been able to connect Ms. Woodward with the City of Las Vegas to put in a project for scoping around microgrids at community centers that could then be used as resiliency centers in the event of an emergency. Ms. Taylor indicated her interest in seeing how FEMA adapts the BCA (benefit cost analysis) that needs to be done in order to submit a project and have it be eligible and how that will evolve regarding things like onsite generation and batteries to create microgrids to provide backup generation, even in the event of a petroleum disruption from traditional generators. Ms. Taylor concluded by informing the Committee of her desire to remain part of discussions regarding NRAC's state plan.

10. Public Comment

Chair Fogerson opened discussion on the second period of public comment.

There was no public comment.

11. Adjourn

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was presented by Bob Dehnhardt, Nevada Department of Administration, and a second was provided by Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Management and Homeland Security. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.