

**Meeting Minutes**

**Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee**

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| **Attendance** | | **DATE** | October 26, 2021 | | |  |
| **TIME** | 1:00 p.m. | | |  |
| **METHOD** | WNC/Zoom Teleconference | | |  |
| **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 | X | Mike Heidemann | | X | Misty Robinson | X |
| Travis Anderson | X | Eric Holt | | X | Rachel Skidmore | X |
| Noah Boyer | X | David Hunkup | | ABS | Corey Solferino | X |
| Elizabeth Breeden | ABS | Jeremy Hynds | | X | Malinda Southard | X |
| James Chrisley | ABS | Graham Kent | | ABS | Cary Underwood | X |
| Jason Danen | X | Mary Ann Laffoon | | X | Mike Wilson | X |
| Cassandra Darrough | ABS | Chris Lake | | X | Stephanie Woodard | ABS |
| Bob Dehnhardt | X | Carolyn Levering | | X |  |  |
| Craig dePolo | X | Ryan Miller | | ABS |  |  |
| **Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance** | | | | | |  |
| Bunny Bishop | X | Melissa Friend | | X | Kasey KC | ABS |
| Rebecca Bodnar | X | Sheryl Gonzales | | ABS | Selby Marks | X |
| Kate Callaghan | ABS | Mojra Hauenstein | | ABS | Catherine Nielsen | X |
| Felix Castagnola | ABS | Jill Hemenway | | ABS |  |  |
| Mike Dyzak | ABS | Patricia Herzog | | ABS |  |  |
| **Legal/Administrative Support Attendance** | | | | | |  |
| **Representative** | | | **Entity** | | | **Present** |
| Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General | | | Office of the Nevada Attorney General | | | X |
| Sherrean Whipple - Admin | | | Nevada Division of Emergency Management | | | X |

# Call to Order and Roll Call

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

# Public Comment

Chair Fogerson opened the first period of public comment for discussion. There was no public comment.

Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that Interim Finance Committee passed funding for the Nevada National Guard to support Clark County for New Year's Eve 2021. Chair Fogerson thanked Chief Samuels for assisting with the effort and Colonel Compston of the National Guard for his presentation.

# Approval of Minutes

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the July 27, 2021 Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting. Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, motioned to approve with no changes. Roy Anderson, Washoe County School District Emergency Manager, seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

# Discussion on the Integration of Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Within Emergency Management

Jeanne Freeman indicated that when talking about access and functional needs, during disasters, there are a large number of people in the state who fall into the category of having a disability. Ms. Freeman further explained that during an emergency, people run experiencing stress and shock may be encountering more challenges regarding access and functional needs. Ms. Freeman explained that this population includes not only those with physical disabilities, but also homeless community members as well as those whose first language is not English.

Andrea Esp indicated that individuals with temporary disabilities, such as those who may have recently had surgery and expectant mothers, also fall into this group.

Jeanne Freeman indicated that Andrea Esp and Taylor Alison (formerly Radke) began this effort some years ago by asking the state of California to come in and to do some train-the-trainer courses with people in the northern Nevada area. The training was followed by the development of northern Nevada's own access and functional needs support team, which was quickly asked to expand into southern Nevada. As such, Ms. Freeman explained that trainings then began throughout the state, ultimately culminating in seven trainings and more than 90 people trained. Ms. Freeman described the success of the instituting of the access and functional needs support team and its collaboration with the American Red Cross. However, Ms. Freeman explained, all of these efforts were halted with the onset of the pandemic.

Andrea Esp added that organizations that already serve these populations, such as home health and hospice, were added to the training and although the staff did not necessarily join the team, but the relationships were initially built and these organizations were incorporated to help grow the pool of resources throughout the state.

Jeanne Freeman indicated that the last 18+ months with the pandemic and the wildfires, among other things, has shown that this is something that really needs to be addressed on a statewide level in a much more robust manner than what has been done thus far in order to meet the needs of these populations, particularly in the areas of communication and information sharing, especially across state lines. Ms. Freeman next recommended a G197 course offered by FEMA about integrating AFN into emergency planning, response and recovery. Ms. Freeman further encouraged the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association to invite in experts from other states with robust access and functional needs support teams that travel and assist emergency managers with that integration. Ms. Freeman further suggested creating a position in DEM or having a liaison from another state agency to integrate into DEM. Ms. Freeman reiterated the idea that this is a topic that is too big for health authorities or PHP (Public Health Preparedness) to be addressing, and as such requires a more statewide approach.

Chair Fogerson indicated that with bigger issues requiring more resources than a single community can handle, it makes sense for DEM to step in and help guide the locals. As such, Chair Fogerson indicated his belief that this should prompt discussion to ensure that if DEM does start doing some of these AFN things, people do not believe that DEM is trying to find a niche to be relevant, when in actuality what is happening is that DEM is stepping in to provide support that may go beyond the capabilities of local government.

Jeanne Freeman concurred and further indicated that this provides an opportunity for different jurisdictions to have some cohesiveness and support for the gaps which have been magnified among different jurisdictions through the events of the past 18 months.

Misty Robinson concurred that this is a statewide issue as well as a local issue.

Malinda Southard indicated that any additional support that PHP can get in this arena would be most welcomed and appreciated.

Chair Fogerson indicated his belief that there are times when the state has to step in to assist but not take over, such as with AFN. As such, Chair Fogerson indicated the importance of the state needing to guide but to be cautious in order to ensure that it is not stepping on the toes of the locals.

Malinda Southard indicated that prior to COVID, ESFA and PHP at the state level had been working with the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services and DEM on a disaster recovery work group. Ms. Southard suggested that this could be another opportunity to revitalize that work group and enhance it to include AFN considerations.

Catherine Nielsen indicated her support for the discussion regarding the access and functional needs population, agreeing that this is something that really needs discussion and planning.

Jeanne Freeman congratulated Catherine Nielsen on her promotion to Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

# Caldor Fire and Using the Inter-State Mutual Aid System (IMAS)

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM, explained that for the Caldor fire, DEM's operations team coordinated directly with Clark, Nye, and Elko Counties to help support the Lake Tahoe Basin. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that multiple engines and staffing were received from Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Pahrump. In addition, Mr. Bakkedahl explained that from the Elko Region Division of Forestry, NDF was able to relocate their last few resources from that county and then to go to the Tahoe basin to help facilitate the needs to backfill those fire stations. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that this is the first time in the state's history that those types of resources were able to be moved in that type of fashion. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that this is the Interstate Mutual Aid System, part of the Interstate Mutual Aid Committee oversight, and DEM is looking for the reimbursement processes now that the mission is complete. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that DEM is working Cal OES in the Emergency Management Compact (EMC) process, which the entire nation has for state-to-state resource movement. As such, Mr. Bakkedahl explained that Nevada will be looking to submit a request to California to help reimburse some of the agencies that responded to the Caldor fire. Mr. Bakkedahl further explained that the fire agencies were running through the Wildland Fire Protection Program (WFPP) that NDF oversees, so this encompasses an agreement between most of the counties in the state and NDF to help facilitate federal deployments, federal reimbursement, and other types of reimbursement processes. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that all of the fire teams were putting together packets for reimbursement through NDF and the WFPP program, and the other agencies that supported the evacuees and the sheltering process will be what is submitted back to Cal OES through the EMAC process.

Chief Billy Samuels indicated the importance of having a streamlined process for all to follow as currently the processes for billing and reimbursements differ among jurisdictions.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated that DEM can facilitate between its finance team and NDF's finance team to coordinate this effort. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the next IMAS meeting is supposed to cover the policies and procedures as well as paperwork that was developed for proper deployment. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that the paperwork has not yet been released to everyone because there has not yet been an IMAS meeting to approve the documents for use.

Billy Samuels suggested doing an exercise prior to this to see how the process works to ensure that everyone is coordinating so as to have no delay of any resources.

Chair Fogerson clarified that there is a meeting scheduled with NDF on the 3rd as this was not only the first time IMAS was used, but also a 4303 budget account was used over which NDF has budgetary authority to pay for the non-wildland resources.

Chief Travis Anderson asked for the opportunity to set up a meeting with DEM in order to figure out this process.

Chair Fogerson indicated that DEM employee Lanita Magee is the person who came up with the idea to move the non-wildland fire resources up for this process, and as such, DEM will connect Chief Anderson with her and then with the finance chiefs in order to start the process moving forward.

Matt Petersen indicated his concern with WFPP resources pricing out fire departments with fewer resources, explaining that if he has to pay more into WFPP, he won't have many firefighters.

Chair Fogerson indicated that part of the problem is that NRS does not allow DEM To access the disaster relief account easily, and so because the state forester, Kasey KC, has an easy budget account not tied to WFPP but tied to wildland fire response, she can then fund that and then bill back. Chair Fogerson further explained that WFPP will not be affected do to the billing back with the EMAC requests from California, thus making everyone whole.

Matt Petersen indicated that there may be some benefits and AAR pieces coming out across the state regarding communications, housing crews, and other small logistic details that may have been initially overlooked.

Chair Fogerson concurred and indicated that DEM would bring this all back for a more detailed discussion on how to fix some of these issues.

# Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Project Update

Kelli Anderson informed the Committee that their packet included the report for the existing Homeland Security grants for federal fiscal years '17, '18, '19, and '20. Ms. Anderson indicated that included is the financial piece as well as the line item listing of all grants managed under Homeland Security. Ms. Anderson informed the Committee that some of the grants are extended due to COVID and that DEM will continue to manage those and keep spending funds until the balances have gone down.

Chair Fogerson explained that this ties back to agenda items 10 and 11 as DEM is currently moving a lot of grant money in and out of the Division. As such, Chair Fogerson indicated the importance of highlighting these agenda items for the purposes of transparency.

Kelli Anderson indicated that the EMPG grants have not been issued yet but are very close to issuance. Ms. Anderson further indicated that the 2021 non-profit grants under Homeland Security and the regular Homeland Security Grants for SHSP have been issued. Ms. Anderson explained that all of the EMPG applications that are in the office are ready to be issued and signed.

# Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-1010 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Project and Financial Update

Kelli Anderson explained that the document included for the Committee under this agenda item helps in decision making on 2022 federal grants.

Chair Fogerson explained that he used this documentation as a local government emergency manager to keep up with projects from other jurisdictions that perhaps his jurisdiction could be doing as well, thus providing ideas for future projects.

Kelli Anderson added that this is a great document for local jurisdictions and stakeholders not only in preparation for 2022, but also to see what equipment has been or is being procured. As such, this is a good document to share with partners so that if equipment were needed, it could be resourced out to the jurisdiction needing it.

# Disaster 4523 COVID Recovery Projects

Kelli Anderson explained that the spreadsheet for this agenda item focuses on the 4523 COVID-19 disaster, which is ongoing. Ms. Anderson explained that the project worksheet number in column 1 signifies how DEM tracks each project through its systems, in its grant management zoom grants, and in the grants portal for FEMA. Ms. Anderson indicated that the spreadsheet includes data such as: the sub-recipient's name; the provided federal share amount; the grant award amount; the balance of the project worksheet; checkmarks to indicate completion.

Chair Fogerson explained that because NRAC meetings are now quarterly rather than monthly, grant updates will be provided every quarter. Although there will not be presentations, Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that in the interest of keeping meetings short and providing information, the Committee will continue to be apprised of where grant money is going and why for transparency processes without the need to listen to the grant process that has already been approved.

# Nevada's Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Janell Woodard informed the Committee that the 2018 Enhanced Hazard Mitigation

Plan will expire on October 20, 2023 and that the updating process has begun. Ms. Woodard indicated that as an enhanced state, Nevada receives an additional 5 percent of the federal portion of the disaster in HMGP funds in the event of a disaster declaration, which provides post-disaster, post-fire mitigation funding. Ms. Woodard explained that the enhanced status refers to the overall mitigation program, and not just the plan itself. Ms. Woodard further indicated that FEMA reviews the mitigation program every year, and noted that in the year previous, Nevada's program met all the requirements. Ms. Woodard informed the Committee that the current plan is 1200 pages long, half of which is the plan itself, and the other half of which are the additions to the plan. Ms. Woodard indicated that the hazard section, Section 3, has been distributed to all subject-matter experts who are currently working on updates that are due back in January 2022. Ms. Woodard explained that the hazard mitigation working group meets quarterly and that the December meeting will most likely focus on reviewing BRIC grant applications and ranking those projects for a January submission to FEMA. Ms. Woodard further explained that moving forward, the working group will help to update the overall state plan.

Chair Fogerson informed the Committee of the intent to increase the number of mitigation staff and indicated that contracting processes are currently underway to find this staff. Chair Fogerson asked Ms. Woodard if she could provide the Committee with any information regarding this subject.

Janell Woodard informed the Committee that DEM is currently interviewing for an administrative assistant who will help with keeping DEM on track as well as with mitigation grants and Level I reviews. In addition, Ms. Woodard indicated a second planner position that DEM is looking to fill for help with the state plan as well as many of the county and regional plans. Ms. Woodard further indicated her desire to see some of the very small counties, such as Esmerelda County, join with another county to put together future regional plans that encompass multiple counties working together. Ms. Woodard explained that the other open position is for half-recovery, half-mitigation in southern Nevada, with the hope of hiring in someone who can help with planning, with grants, and with compiling applications for the south in order to cut down on the amount of travel the person in the north is currently doing to meet these needs. In addition, Ms. Woodard explained that it will be helpful to have somebody able to attend county meetings on DEM's behalf and offer help to the counties as they are updating their plans. Ms. Woodard next informed the Committee that there is a lot of mitigation funding this year, which is rare for Nevada, and informed Committee members that projects and project planning related to hazard mitigation planning would be covered under these monies.

Kelli Anderson added that the southern Nevada position will be 50-50 mitigation and recovery and will act as a liaison to local government to assist with mitigation applications, recovery issues, recovery planning, and project worksheet management.

Chair Fogerson reiterated the fact that DEM has a large amount of hazard mitigation funds this year available to the state and that FEMA is specifically looking for how the state buys down some of its risks related to climate change, as well as looking at wildland, fire, and drought among other things.

Jeremy Hynds indicated that his hazard mitigation plan is three to four years old and does not include action items regarding climate change. As such, Mr. Hynds asked if these funds could used for things not currently in the hazard mitigation plan as action items.

Janell Woodard explained that the application can be for anything currently in the plan, but that anything not in the plan cannot be applied for unless the plan goes through the amendment process. Ms. Woodard did note that the exact action or project does not need to be included in the plan.

Chair Fogerson discussed building codes and explained FEMA's desire for the state to have a statewide adopted building code. As such, Chair Fogerson advocated for a statewide building code, indicating that if building code has not been updated, emergency managers should add it to their list of something needing updating in the future.

Janell Woodard explained that Nevada is one of 19 states that does not adopt at the statewide level, and as such, expressed her belief that it is important to try and do so, particularly from a safety standpoint.

Kelli Anderson requested agendizing the risks of not having a statewide building code as a future item.

Janell Woodard informed the Committee that DEM has a $1 million set aside for projects year, project planning, advance assistance, and project scoping for BRIC. Ms. Woodard indicated that this doesn't apply to the state set aside, it applies to the competitive grants, but it does affect the state in that FEMA has indicated only a slight chance of receiving a competitive grant, which means that although there is a good amount of money this year, that may not be the case the following year.

# Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) Update

Jon Bakkedahl explained that DEM completed the three THIRA SPR workshops in Elko County, Carson City, and Clark County, all of which got good regional assessments by multiple attendees. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that THIRA Development is a three-year process and each year, the preparedness level for each scenario is studied, which creates a good map to help DEM identify what each jurisdiction could eventually exposed to and whether or not they have the resources they need. Mr. Bakkedahl further explained that for the last two years, DEM has had to use the emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) process to develop the process leading up to the integrated preparedness plan. As such, the IPPW (Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop) will be coming up, through which everyone will develop a plan out of the existing gaps in their THIRAs. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that everyone should determine what single priority is the biggest one on which they'd like to close the gap and use the EMPG funding toward this. Mr. Bakkedahl next explained that in 2020, the three largest gaps identified were energy, logistics chain supply, and housing; in 2021, the grant priorities were housing, resilient communications, and logistics chain supply. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that the AARs are being used, as well, to help identify the gaps to close at the state level and to help support local jurisdictions support their gaps at the local level. Using Elko as an example, Mr. Bakkedahl explained that communications was identified as a gap and as such, the focus will be on that; the next step will be to workshop a plan, and then to determine how to train and exercise that plan. Mr. Bakkedahl further explained that EMPG funds do not have to be 100 percent allocated. Mr. Bakkedahl further indicated that later in the year, DEM's training and exercise staff will be working with the individual jurisdictions to identify the priorities and then to provide documentation in the form of a template as well as an example for next steps in the process. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that this gives information to fall back on not only for grant justification, but for political justification as well as position justification.

Chief Billy Samuels asked if the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) was moved over to SWIC.

Melissa Friend responded that this is still at a state level and in the process of going though DHS to get funding and update the plans.

# Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Priorities

Chair Dave Fogerson indicated that a local government provider had to pick one of the state's three priorities in order to apply: housing; logistics; resilient communication. Chair Fogerson explained that those priorities could change for the following year, and as such, DEM will look at the THIRA process and will rely on IPPW to determine the three risks. Chair Fogerson further indicated that Region IX appears to be prepared to provide lists that can be chosen from. Chair Fogerson explained that once the THIRA priorities, expected soon, are out, the Committee will then discuss the three biggest risks and start buying those down. Chair Fogerson indicated that the regional administrator is interested in what's being done to improve disaster housing, logistics chain supply, and resilient communication. Chair Fogerson further indicated that last year's THIRA participation was low due to the pandemic and if better attended in the future, the current three priorities might change.

Jeanne Freeman asked for a quantifier as to the timeframe of this year.

Chair Fogerson explained that this year is measured by federal fiscal year, which runs October 1 through September 30. The next THIRA discussions and next steps will be for next fiscal year of October 1, 2022 through September 20, 2023.

# Public Comment

Chair Fogerson opened discussion on the second period of public comment. There was no public comment.

# Adjourn

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was presented by Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, and a second was provided by Roy Anderson, Washoe County School District Emergency Manager. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.