



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

Attendance	DATE		Tuesday, October 24, 2023		
	TIME		1:00 p.m.		
	METHOD		Zoom		
	RECORDER		Sherrean K. Whipple		
Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
David Fogerson – Chair	X	Bob Dehnhardt	ABS	Matthew Petersen	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Kelly Echeverria	ABS	Ken Quiner	X
Andy Ancho	X	Andrea Esp	X	Misty Robinson	X
Jayson Andrus	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Bill Savran	X
Roy Anderson	ABS	Eric Holt	X	Cary Underwood	X
Travis Anderson	X	Timothy Hill	X		
Noah Boyer	X	Chris Lake	X		
James Chrisley	ABS	Carolyn Levering	ABS		
Diana Clarkson	ABS	Rachel Marchetti	X		
COL. Brett D. Compston	X	Ryan Miller	ABS		
Joe Colacurcio	X	Aakin Patel	X		
Cassandra Darrough	X	Tennille Pereira	X		
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
Bunny Bishop	X	Melissa Friend	ABS	Catherine Nielsen	X
Heather Lafferty	X	Selby Marks	X		
Legal/Administrative Support Attendance					
Representative		Entity			Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General		Office of the Nevada Attorney General			X
Sherrean K. Whipple – Administrative Assistant		Nevada Division of Emergency Management			X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair, David Fogerson, State Administrative Agent (SAA) 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. 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 July 25, 2023 Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health & Human Services, motioned to approve the minutes.

Aakin Patel, Nevada Office of Cyber Defense and Coordination, seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

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

4. Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Process for 2024

Chair David Fogerson reminded the Committee of the discussion at the previous meeting regarding starting with a clean slate and making all projects competitive and limiting the types of applications in the future years to two: new or maintain.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels informed the Committee that this discussion took place again at the previous week's UAWG meeting, and all continue to be in agreement that all projects will be new starting next year. Vice Chair Samuels indicated that moving forward, he would like some bylaws or Committee notes defining maintain, new, and enhanced, and including timeframes. Vice Chair Samuels explained that the other thing the UAWG determined was the desire to remove all cents and round up to the nearest dollar for purposes of clarity.

Chair David Fogerson questioned if there were any problems with rounding and using the bigger dollar figures rather than the cents.

Zach Elder, DEM/HS Grants, indicated that this would not be a problem and would, in fact, simplify things.

Chair David Fogerson questioned if Committee members were comfortable with the idea of all 2024 grants being competitive, working on the definitions for maintain and new within the bylaws in the coming year, and rounding up to the nearest dollar amounts.

Jeanne Freeman noted her support of these suggestions but conceded that her department does not have any skin in the game regarding these changes. Ms. Freeman further questioned if Vice Chair Billy Samuels had received any pushback or concern from UAWG members regarding these changes.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels explained that all members of UAWG appreciated moving forward with these changes, particularly from the group in the south.

Chair David Fogerson clarified that the UAWG is a recommendation back to NRAC, which is then a recommendation back to himself and Vice Chair Billy Samuels as urban area administrator and state administrator.

Noah Boyer also expressed support for the changes, noting that he, because the grant supports the bomb squads, does have skin in the game. Mr. Boyer indicated that the biggest thing in terms of maintain projects is identifying whether it involves maintaining specific equipment or capabilities, and as such, noted the importance of defining this.

Cary Underwood expressed his support as well, indicating that in the last few cycles, he has had opportunity to look at his jurisdiction's grants and ask if these are still the best investments for the current situation, and are the investments still accomplishing the justification of those types of grants. Mr. Underwood indicated that this level of review resulted in eliminating items off the grant cycle list and expressed his support for allowing the approach to take a fresh look at the use of those grants so as to ensure that the Committee remains the most responsible stewards of the grant money.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels questioned whether Chair David Fogerson had received any feedback regarding this issue following the last NRAC meeting.

Chair David Fogerson confirmed that he did not.

Matthew Petersen expressed concern of an unintended consequence unless including the words waivers may be granted at the exception of the Chair.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that because NRAC is advisory to the state administrative agent, Chair Fogerson has the ability to make one-off decisions if necessary.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health & Human Services, motioned that all HSGP grants starting in the 2024 year be new and competitive projects, and that the NRAC look at making a definition list related to maintain, new, and sustain at a future NRAC meeting.

Andrea Esp, Washoe County Public Health Preparedness, seconded the motion.

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

5. Homeland Security Threat Assessment Discussion

Chair David Fogerson indicated that the Homeland Security Threat Assessment report was sent out to county emergency managers approximately a month prior to this meeting and is available online to anyone who would like to access it. Chair Fogerson explained that the Homeland Threat Assessment goes along with the ones done by SNCTC and NTAC, both of which are for official use only and thus not shareable, unlike the Homeland Security one. Chair Fogerson indicated that Homeland Security is an enterprise that is a shared space among law enforcement, intelligence, fire, EMS, emergency management, and public health, all of whom have to work together on their respective pieces of the prevent, protect, respond, recover, and mitigate mission. Chair Fogerson discussed crisis management, and all of the different entities involved in it, including law enforcement, the intelligence community, and public health, and noted that consequence

management realm involves everyone else. Chair Fogerson explained that without the relationships on the crisis-management side, the consequence management side could not work effectively. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that DHS has asked all county emergency managers to submit paperwork in order to obtain secret level clearance in order to open discussion on future threats and prevention at the county emergency management level. Chair Fogerson explained that DHS does a very good job at strategic analysis, with two intel officers in the state, one in the north and one in the south, and reiterated the importance of bringing in local level emergency management, fire, and EMS. Chair Fogerson indicated that documents like the Homeland Security Threat Assessment are critical to review for the strategic knowledge regarding possible threats and in starting to think in a way to prepare for potential future events. Chair Fogerson next indicated that the report discussed homeland not in a sanctuary, noting that with cyber and other types of threats, the homeland needs to be prepared for a defense mission as much as security mission. Chair Fogerson discussed cybersecurity and the importance of ensuring that all are engaged in those conversations, indicating that no one owns a cybersecurity landscape and as such, all entities need to work together within the cybersecurity landscape. Chair Fogerson encouraged all Committee members to read through the report in preparation of potential future events.

6. Report on the Nevada Operations Center (NVOC) Activations

Chair David Fogerson indicated that the state has been hit hard this year, with nine activations, an important thing to highlight because all emergency management is funded predominantly through grant funding that remains stagnant and in order to ask for more assistance, discussion needs to take place in a way that elected officials listen when asked for resources. Chair Fogerson explained that the DEM/HS staff has been working hard with everyone on these incidents and commended the work they've done while understaffed. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that each time he does a policy group, he shares the majority of that information with the congressional delegation for transparency in where the federal dollars are being invested in the state and to remind them of the fact that the county emergency managers handling the incidents are predominantly funded by federal grant funds.

Jeanne Freeman discussed the benefit of the shared information, even when incidents are not directly impacting a particular jurisdiction, and thanked DEM/HS for sharing this information.

Cary Underwood discussed the taxing nature on state and local resources should natural hazards and resource depletion occur at the same time as something of the nature of the Israeli-Gaza conflict and mass gatherings and indicated the need to be having discussions about the possibilities of multiple issues like this happening at the same time.

Chair David Fogerson reiterated Mr. Underwood's point by discussing California, which experienced a hurricane, earthquake, and attempted power grid attack all at the same time and indicated that those kinds of issues could happen in Nevada and that emergency management needed to be prepared for all contingencies.

7. Clark County Response to Hurricane Hilary

Vice Chair Billy Samuels provided the Commission with an overview of the Hurricane Hillary incident, beginning with the four components of emergency management required in the response: mitigate, repair, respond, and recover. Vice Chair Samuels explained that with Hurricane Hillary, Clark County prepared, set a timeframe, and

ultimately ended up with a declaration made on August 20 by all policy stakeholders that then went to the governor's office. Vice Chair Samuels expressed his appreciation for the collaboration among Clark County, DEM/HS, and the Governor's office regarding the incident response for Hurricane Hillary. Vice Chair Samuels ran through the steps that take place in such an incident, beginning with first responders, followed by unified command, then DOCs or EOCs, and then once across the jurisdictional lines, the MAC gets involved. Vice Chair Samuels explained that the MAC works simultaneously with policy, which can be any of the stakeholders that are in play. Vice Chair Samuels described his policies: regional, which incorporates all the partners; and county, which incorporates all of county leadership. Vice Chair Samuels explained that once the incident reaches the point where it is above the abilities of county and region, the request goes from DEM/HS to the state, with the next stop being the feds. Vice Chair Samuels thanked all of the agencies that helped Clark County in the Hurricane Hillary response, including: public works; communications; the DA's office; LVMPD; RTC; the incorporated cities of Las Vegas, Northtown, Henderson, Mesquite, Boulder City, and the Moapa District; the rural counties; Nevada Energy; Southwest Gas; Water Rec; the Water Authority; Nevada DEM/HS; the Nevada National Guard; FEMA PDA; the Survey 123 side; and Nevada Task Force One. Vice Chair Samuels next shared slides of the damage incurred by Mount Charleston, beginning on Monday, August 21 at approximately 3:30 a.m. Vice Chair Samuels explained that most of the roads on Mount Charleston are NDOT roads, which means that Clark County is not able to do any of the work, assessment, or protection of those roads, and indicated that a lot of the affected property was actually on United States Forest Service land, which therefore prohibits county's ability to assist. Vice Chair Samuels indicated that there are a lot of different configurations from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, which are called special permit use rather than easements for things like Nevada Energy and the Southern Nevada Water Authority and explained that places like Lee Canyon are on county land under county jurisdiction but owned by the Forest Service. Vice Chair Samuels discussed collaborating with Nevada Task Force One for the Survey 123 assessments, who at the time of the storm was deployed to Maui, and with Mount Charleston Fire Protection district for high-water vehicles. Vice Chair Samuels next discussed the topography on the mountain, which is different than in other locations, and commended Las Vegas Metro for their drone and security system platform, which helped navigate the topography. Vice Chair Samuels explained that Clark County next sent a request to the US Army Corps of Engineers to assist with data and survey collections, and indicated that thanks to Clark County's partnership with LVMPD, was able to submit video and still shots to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Vice Chair Samuels commended Cary Underwood and his team for the work done during this storm. Vice Chair Samuels next discussed the significant flooding that took place as a result of Hurricane Hillary, indicating that anytime the Tropicana Detention Basin hits 38 feet, it begins to overflow, and at a height of 32 feet, evacuations need to begin. Because of the potential flooding at Allegiant Stadium, and public works was on the mountain, Vice Chair Samuels explained that he called in District 1 NDOT for help with equipment to secure the area when the basins did start to overflow. Vice Chair Samuels discussed the inflatable boats (IRBs) positioned by Tropicana Basin, then noted that some of the worst flooding took place on the east side of town, with the boats being moved to that area approximately 12 hours in, at which time the flooding had receded. Vice Chair Samuel next discussed the regional recovery plan, which is still in process, and the policy meetings that take place each Monday to work on that plan, along with the many partners involved in those meetings. Vice Chair Samuels explained that in conjunction with county policy, there are steering committees, and discussed the different recovery support functions with 1 being business, 2 being finance, and 3 being cross-sector. Vice Chair Samuels then discussed the model he used, slightly different from the aforementioned RSFs, so as to simplify as much as possible for the myriad partners involved in this effort and indicated that this process worked very well and made it very clear for all involved on how things progressed. Vice Chair Samuels indicated that the recovery is a two-day process in conjunction with multiple partners and provided a video for the Commission on part of the recovery effort involving the high-water vehicles in Prim. Vice Chair Samuels concluded his presentation by again stressing the importance of the partnerships and collaborations in addressing this incident, one for which recovery is still ongoing.

Chair David Fogerson thanked Vice Chair Billy Samuels, Clark, and Nye Counties for the work they did in the Hurricane Hillary incident.

8. Damage Assessment Versus Preliminary Damage Assessment

Chair David Fogerson indicated that a damage assessment is an important step in response and provides a common operating picture, whereas a preliminary damage assessment provides data during the recovery phase to estimate financial costs of the incident. Chair Fogerson explained that this discussion will include the Survey 123 tool and that the Commission may vote to make a recommendation to the state to utilize it for both applications. Chair Fogerson indicated that the USAR team's usage of the term damage assessment is significantly different than DEM/HS's usage of the term and as such. Chair Fogerson explained that the state has purchased an instance of Survey 123 with Homeland Security dollars, and that instance has always been used on the preliminary damage assessment side, but with use of the tool, GIS Specialist Corin Roth can make the same damage assessment as used by USAR teams. Chair Fogerson further indicated that Ms. Roth has the ability to make this work anywhere at anytime through the use of a QR code that can be provided to emergency managers, which will then feed the data up into the system for the state and the county to see for a common operating picture. Chair Fogerson explained that the next step would be for those with a different skillset to do that damage assessment, and then for the state and county to come back at a later time to do the preliminary damage assessment to get the dollar amounts. Chair Fogerson questioned if the Commission had any objections to making the process a little more formal in the following way: damage assessment tool for common operating picture; preliminary damage assessment tool for a financial picture; pushing this out through Survey 123 to provide county EMS and the state with the dashboard of the damage.

Travis Anderson asked if the individual jurisdictions doing the assessment have access to the platform.

Chair David Fogerson confirmed that they would, and indicated the importance of keeping control over this data so that it would not leak to the media.

Aakin Patel indicated his support of distinguishing between the two and questioned if it's better to use different tools such as damage assessment versus financial impact.

Chair David Fogerson explained that due to FEMA's usage of the terms, for consistency, the state would be using them, as well.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels expressed his hesitation on taking action on something that would remain as a topic of discussion for some period of time and suggested the possibility of workshops throughout the state for concurrence prior to bringing it to a vote.

Chair David Fogerson explained that the goal of the state's purchase of the Survey 123 tool was to eliminate all the disparate systems and get everyone on the same page with the same tool that could be used on the fly.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels raised the issue of the ESRI program and its hinderance in terms of assessments.

Chair David Fogerson explained that this is the purpose of the QR codes so as to begin collecting the data right on the spot but noted that this is exclusively for data collection rather than data processing.

Jeanne Freeman concurred with Vice Chair Samuels' suggestion of workshopping and indicated the importance of making sure that all are trained in the usage of the tool for the fiscal component as well as the EM component so as to make the right choice when submitting data, thus minimizing frustration.

Chair David Fogerson explained that the QR code would not actually include the fiscal piece but would be just the true damage of the incident with the preliminary damage assessment, which is the fiscal piece, coming later.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated his concern about adding yet another tool, with each different tool being used requiring different information for different reasons and giving different outputs. Mr. Bakkedahl suggested the importance of coming up with one unified tool that could be used start to finish.

Chair David Fogerson concurred with Mr. Bakkedahl but explained that unfortunately there is no one tool on the market that factors in all the different components.

Vice Chair Samuels discussed the QR code that works in Juvare in WebEOC and explained that this is what Clark is using anytime it reports to the MAC or any of the other jurisdictional EOCs. Chief Samuels indicated that most EMs do use WebEOC, and perhaps that would be something that could be looked at as a state.

Chair David Fogerson concurred but noted that the WebEOC does not have the ability to do the damage assessment and preliminary damage assessment that Survey 123 has.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels indicated his belief that it does with the upgraded version.

Chair David Fogerson further noted that most counties don't use WebEOC because they don't have a big enough system to do so. Chair Fogerson conceded, however, that it is worth looking into to see if there is a way WebEOC and Survey 123 can be tied in together to be more user friendly to everyone.

Jeanne Freeman indicated to the Committee that the different entities do not always have the ability to accept a new system as the IT department for each jurisdiction is who ultimately makes the decision as to what platform can be used.

Chair David Fogerson concurred and indicated that this is the reason why the Committee pushed Survey 123 as it is the one upon which all IT departments agreed.

Jeanne Freeman reminded the group that at least in her jurisdiction, IT has a high turnaround and as such, it is important to keep in mind that what was accepted five years ago may be different than what will be accepted today.

Noah Boyer discussed the overload of data in the Argenta Hall incident, noting that 500 student rooms and damaged property within those rooms needed to be accounted for. Mr. Boyer explained that all 244 bomb squads in the USA enter their data into one system, all web-based, and that the bomb squads have determined that this is truly the best and easiest way to share information.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that Survey 123 was designed for the same purpose and indicated support of Vice Chair Billy Samuels' suggestion of workshops so as to determine how this platform would work with the people that would be using it every day.

Matt Petersen noted for the Committee that he does not need another mapping system to tell him that fires are bad. Rather, Mr. Petersen explained, he needs the funding to prevent the incident and make it run smoothly, noting that more systems does not make things run more smoothly.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that because Survey 123 has already been purchased and as such is not taking money away from anybody, and noted the importance of getting the message out to the feds regarding how much emergency management is working in hopes of receiving more federal funding.

No action was taken on this item.

9. Regional Preparedness Workshops

Rodney Wright, DEM/HS, explained that the regional preparedness workshops have ended and expressed DEM/HS staff's enjoyment in going out to the regions and meeting with people in person. Mr. Wright indicated that DEM/HS has received good feedback for improvement the following year and noted that the planning cycle for next year will begin the following month. Mr. Wright then opened up the floor for feedback from the Committee for next year.

10. Grant Status Report

Chair David Fogerson informed the Committee that in their packets is the report on all the grants and that this is a good chance for all Committee members to review what is currently on the market that people have money for, see what they're spending, see how much they've spent, and how well things are being done. Chair Fogerson next indicated that DEM/HS is included in the 30-day late quarterly reporting synopsis at the end, the result of which is that Chief Fogerson has set a new leader's intent for the new deputy administrator and the new CFO so as to ensure that DEM/HS is meeting its responsibilities.

11. The Risk and Benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Aakin Patel, Administrator of Nevada Office of Cyber Defense Coordination, explained that the definition of AI as it's used currently is that artificial intelligence is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. Mr. Patel indicated that AI is the latest in the effort of making computers easier and more functional to use with the way that human minds think. Mr. Patel explained that this works by taking a judge amount of very well-labeled data, analyzing that data for correlations and patterns, and using recognitions of these patterns and new questions to make predictions based on what other data that has those patterns do. Mr. Patel indicated that there are four main types of AI in use today, all of which are iterations of each other: machine learning, which involves mathematical models and algorithms being fed specific sets of data and trained to identify patterns within each set; Large Language Models (LLMs), a newer type of machine learning model trained with unsupervised learning; generative AI, a large language model that's capable of taking the connections that are made and using them to generate content, text, video, or audio; GPTs, (Generative Pretrained Transformers), with Chat GPT being the most famous version, which use a combination of all the technology before and creates prebuilt rules on how to generate content, which allows for very directed, very intelligent content creation. Mr. Patel discussed the benefits of AI, such as the ability to diagnose medical issues that doctors may miss because of the sheer amount of data fed to AI from which they can draw correlations, and warehouse automation, which is making use of AI and delivering consistent results with consistent input. Mr. Patel also discussed the downsides, noting that a good AI model is very expensive in terms of resource and hardware, takes a tremendous amount of expensive-to-collect data to train, a tremendous amount of very expensive hardware, and significant expertise to train the models effectively. Mr. Patel noted

that there are not a lot of workers currently with the ability to build these tools, which limits usability. Mr. Patel further noted that there is a lot of bias in the training data because the people using the training because they bring their own biases into the training and tagging of that data, thus requiring a lot of time and effort spent accounting for those biases and training the AIs out of those biases. Mr. Patel explained that when an AI is trained for one specific thing, that is all that it can do and cannot be used to do a different task, and further indicated that an LLM will give an answer no matter what, which is problematic in that if it does not know the answer, it is trained to make up an answer, which is not useful for what people want. Mr. Patel discussed the worry of AI replacing humans as jobs and explained that the impact is not going to be the loss of jobs, but will be the transformation of jobs to use those new tools effectively. Mr. Patel explained that one of the security concerns is integrated information leaks as data is uploaded into the central system hosting the AI models. Mr. Patel further indicated the ethical implications, particularly with content scraping and the content creators not being paid for this data or giving license to utilize the data, which is also causing legal issues. Mr. Patel explained that the content creation is unvalidated there is no way to validate the information that's created through using these tools as they are designed to generate content and not validate content. Mr. Patel indicated that these tools are often created with the intention of creating misuse and misinformation. Mr. Patel next highlighted some of the uses of these tools, including: IBM Watson across the healthcare industry; AI chatbots for healthcare organizations; home-built AI tools being used by the CDC to predict disease progression at scale; credit card fraud prevention in banks; automation of legal research for legal firms; and entertainment in the recreation of images and representations which, Mr. Patel explained, is the core reason behind the writers and screen actors' strikes in Hollywood. Mr. Patel discussed the importance of keeping in mind what data is fed into the AI, particularly if it's a non-local tool, and how that data could be impactful if leaked or compromised or released to non-authorized entities. Mr. Patel informed the Committee that several legal cases have been lost recently because the legal arguments were created by an AI tool and the case was dismissed because an AI generated argument was not a valid argument in a particular jurisdiction. Mr. Patel directed the Committee to ai.gov/aiusecases for further research, as well as the National AI Advisory Committee reports that discuss the industry studies on AI, two of which Mr. Patel recommended to the Commission.

Jeanne Freeman indicated the importance of getting ahead of the potential problems with AI from an emergency management perspective and noted that she is not quite sure how to do so.

Aakin Patel explained that he is in the process of putting together technical guidelines documentation that he would be happy to share with Ms. Freeman's IT team.

Jeanne Freeman indicated that she would reach out to other public health partners across the state so that Mr. Patel could provide the information once to a group rather than multiple times.

12. Public Comment

Chair David Fogerson opened the second period of public comment.

Noah Boyer informed the Committee that Counter Terrorism Operation Support (CTOS) would be in Reno on November 6, 7, 8, and 9 for some training, with November 6 being the primary screener training for the preventative Nuc/Rad detection program, followed by the secondary screener on the 7, 8, and 9th. Mr. Boyer asked any Committee members with workspaces involving the Preventative Nuke Rad Detection (PRD) mission or those wanting more information to please contact him.

Aakin Patel indicated his willingness to provide briefings on any aspect of technology or cyber security to the Committee that the Committee felt would impact them.

There was no additional public comment.

13. Adjournment

Chair David Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, motioned to adjourn.

Cary Underwood, Director of Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center, seconded the motion.

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