



# Meeting Minutes Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Tuesday, March 16, 2021
	<b>TIME</b>	1:00 p.m.
	<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom/Teleconference
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Sherrean Whipple
<b>Voting Membership</b>		
Name	Designated/Appointed Representative:	Attendance Status
Harriett Parker – Co-Chair	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	X
Marla Stanton	Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Abs
Justin Bloom	Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe	Abs
Marian Perez	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Abs
Alfreida Jake	Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	X
Ross Rivera	Ely Shoshone Tribe	X
Jackie Conway	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	X
Duane Masters Sr.	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe	X
Don Pelt	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	X
David Hunkup	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	X
Tanya Reynolds	South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	X
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	Abs
Tashina Jim	Walker River Paiute Tribe	Abs
Lisa Christensen	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	Abs
<b>Non-Member Representatives/Support</b>		
Name	Entity Represented:	Attendance Status
David Fogerson, Co-Chair	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X
Samantha Ladich	Nevada Office of the Attorney General	X
Sherrean Whipple	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

## 2. Public Comment

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

Robert Laurie, a volunteer with Red Cross Government Operations, introduced himself and thanked the Council for allowing him to participate.

Ross Rivera, with the Ely Shoshone Tribe, introduced himself as a voting member.

Hearing no additional public comment, Co-Chair Fogerson closed public comment.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the December 4, 2020 NTECC meeting.

Duane Masters made a motion to approve the draft minutes as proposed, and David Hunkup seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Discussion of the Current Legislative Efforts Impacting Emergency Management**

Co-Chair Fogerson led a discussion on legislative efforts impacting emergency management in the State of Nevada, including, an overview of the current status of Bill Draft Requests (BDR) submitted by the Division of Emergency Management.

Regarding Senate Bill 14, Co-Chair Fogerson said that it has been passed out of the Committee to the Senate for review, after cleaning up the language required to fix the response plans. The changes in the bill allow emergency response plan guides to be sent via the Emergency Management website. Plans may now be submitted to Emergency Management digitally and stored securely, then released to local governments in the event of a disaster.

Regarding Assembly Bill 14, the bill cleans up the language used for some meetings and their required meeting times. It also addresses the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee, whose requirements have been changed from meeting quarterly to meeting annually, or at the call of the Chair. The bill also standardizes language for NTECC, establishing that it meet quarterly instead of once every three months.

Regarding the Unassigned BDR, the bill moves the Division of Emergency Management to the office of the military. The chief provision would report to the Adjutant General rather than the Director of Public Safety.

Co-Chair Fogerson called for questions or concerns regarding the three bills discussed. There were none.

### **5. NTECC Logo Review**

Co-Chair Harriett Parker provided background on Item 5. The creation of a logo was discussed in February of 2019, and at that time, there was discussion of opening the work for submissions, with flyers being left at local schools. By March of 2019, there had been only two submissions. The matter was then removed from the agenda. COVID-19 delayed further progress on the creation of a logo.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that having a logo for NTECC would be beneficial and asked whether anyone on the Council knew of an artist who could be commissioned to produce a logo.

Co-Chair Parker stated that she does know some artists that may help but hoped that there would be participation in the creation of the logo. She suggested creating a group that would decide which logo to choose. Co-Chair Parker also suggested returning to schools as a source for artist submissions. Alternately, some find it preferable to find a Native artist. Co-Chair Parker asked the Council for input.

Co-Chair Fogerson said he would prefer the entire Council provide feedback on the logo decision, as creating a sub-committee would become awkward. He called for suggestions from the Council.

David Hunkup agreed that a logo should be made, and suggested they find the two submissions already provided, to see what was currently available.

An unidentified Council member asked what criteria the Council is looking for with regard to the logo design.

Co-Chair Parker stated that, as the logo should represent the Council, all of the Council members should provide input on inclusions.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that Ryan Gerchman and Crystal Harjo would put the matter of the logo on their weekly update report, and that those with ideas should submit those ideas to them, which could then be collected and reviewed at the next meeting. Co-Chair Parker concurred.

An unidentified Council member asked whether the Council has a mission statement.

Co-Chair Fogerson stated that he was not sure that it did, and that the Council may not have made a mission, vision values, and standards.

Co-Chair Parker noted that in the Council's bylaws, Section II, there is a purpose and mission, though she does not know whether there is a specific mission statement within.

Crystal Harjo commented that if anyone wanted information regarding NTECC or the tribal affairs for NDEM, that information is available on the website. It is located under NTECC/Travel Affairs, where viewers can find the Council's mission statement, purposes, bylaws, and any information regarding contracting.

David Hunkup suggested that the Council refresh themselves on the information available on the NTECC website.

Crystal Harjo suggested that she and Ryan Gerchman send an attachment with their weekly report including the old logo, so the Council can review it, as well as the two previous submissions if they can be located.

Co-Chair Fogerson set a goal to approve a logo by the end of the year. Co-Chair

Parker concurred.

## **6. Update from Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)**

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) was to provide an update on activities to include the support of the COVID-19 response and other matters related to the support of tribal emergency management and health clinics.

This item was tabled as Shelby O'Daye, COVID Coordinator, ITCN, was not present at the meeting.

## **7. Update from Nevada Indian Commission (NIC)**

Executive Director Stacey Montooth, NIC, provided an update of NIC activities to include support of the COVID-19 response and leadership of the COVID-10 Tribal Taskforce.

Regarding background, Executive Director Montooth stated that the NIC has been responding to the pandemic along with NDEM in providing food, food distributions, and food needs evaluations. The NIC is working with a vendor from Clark County called Get Fresh, who are the recipients of the USDA grant that provides food boxes to underserved areas. They work hand-in-hand with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Eight hundred (800) food boxes will be available to be distributed to tribal nations to counterbalance previous food distributions. Most of the food distribution has been centered in the Reno Sparks area thus far. Still in need of aid are ten Shoshone nations in Northern and Eastern Nevada, which will receive it via the NIC work with Get Fresh and Nevada Gold Mines.

Executive Director Montooth then brought new information about NIC activities. The Lovelock Paiute Tribe, as well as Native Americans from the Winnemucca area, will be joining in on the food distribution, increasing the available food to one thousand (1000) boxes. The distribution will extend through April with the help of Nevada Gold Mines, who have been a beneficial partner by providing not only staff, but the services of repackaging, truck guiding, and loading.

Co-Chair Fogerson then asked the Council if they had any questions to ask of Executive Director Montooth. Hearing none, Co-Chair Fogerson thanked Executive Director Montooth for the nice partnership between ITCM, NIC, and NDEM. Executive Director Montooth echoed his sentiments.

## **8. Update on Tribal Health Preparedness Efforts**

Dr. Malinda Southard, Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Program Manager. The NTECC was provided an update on the Division of Public and Behavioral Health's Tribal Health Preparedness efforts to include updates on COVID-19 response support.

Dr. Southard stated that the PHP have been involved with the BinaxNow testing collaboration and distribution throughout the state and asked that if there are any tribes that need BinaxNow, to please get in contact with Crystal Harjo to be connected with PHP for the distribution of those tests. A drawback to BinaxNow is that they require

CLIA waiver certifications, which involve a somewhat lengthy process, but the BinaxNow tests are readily available.

PHP has completed their application to the CDC for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant and expects that federal funding will be received sometime after July 1, 2021.

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM, stated that they put in a resource order request with FEMA for two mobile vaccination units (MVU). They were notified that only two were coming to the region of California, Arizona, and Nevada. Nevada will likely receive one MVU. The plan is to start its use in southern rural Nevada, then move to northern Nevada. Mr. Bakkedahl also stated that Ms. Harjo was coordinating with IHS to make this a collaborative effort to get as many tribal nations vaccinated as possible.

Mr. Bakkedahl also said that DEM has received a questionnaire from FEMA, due on the date of this meeting, and he hopes to have an answer from FEMA within a few days. Unfortunately, the MVU does not come with vaccines or vaccinators, and so DEM is partnering to make the people available to distribute the available vaccine.

Regarding the MVUs themselves, Mr. Bakkedahl said that one piece comes with backup generators and batteries to ensure functionality with or without external available power. It is a very large truck. The second piece is the unit itself, which appears like a camper with pop-outs and tents. Mr. Bakkedahl hopes that within two weeks, the MVU will be functional and serving vaccinations in Nevada.

The vehicles come with four people called the Logistics Support Team, who set up, break down, and travel the unit from community to community.

Co-Chair Fogerson called for any additional information on the COVID-19 response. He reminded the Council that they have two warehouses full of PPE available, and those who need them should contact the Council coordinators for access.

## **9. Nevada Public Bodies Updates**

Co-Chair Fogerson opened the discussion on the Nevada Public Bodies updates. The following are the highlights from each update provided:

- a. Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee – Dave Hunkup, Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC). Mr. Hunkup stated the NRAC had a discussion of current legislative efforts impacting Emergency Management, which was effectively the same information already provided by Co-Chair Fogerson, the Senate bills and BDR.

There was some discussion on the proposed realignment of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Collaborative Group (COG), and a presentation on the IPAWS. The NRAC conducted an annual review of their bylaws, to which some changes were made.

NRAC discussed flood plain management and had a drought resiliency program update and presentation. Also discussed were the Homeland Security Grant Program, a financial update, and a presentation on a preliminary disaster assessment (PDA) tool.

A company called Blue Raster is developing a PDA tool for DEM that allows jurisdictions who are affected by disaster to assess their needs. The information about their disaster goes back to DEM, describes the disaster and the severity, as well as the preliminary cost estimates.

The NRAC also discussed EMPG grants and a review on the EMPG.

- b. Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS) – Lisa Christensen, Washoe Tribe of Nevada, and California, was not available for comment. Co-Chair Fogerson updated the Council regarding the activities of the NCHS. The NCHS reviewed strategic capabilities and looked at grant performances.
- c. NCHS Finance Committee – Co-Chair David Fogerson, DEM/HS.

The Finance Committee reviewed the Homeland Security Grant Timeline, which were pushed out the day before this meeting.

- d. Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) – Lance Chantler, RSIC and Jon Bakkedahl, DEM.

Mr. Bakkedahl indicated there have been several turnover positions with SERC, and so the Chair and Co-Chair are attempting to swiftly fill the vacancies on the committees. Three meetings have been scheduled the week of this meeting to ensure those committees are meeting in a timely fashion.

SERC is discussing increasing funding for their grant applications. Grants are currently limited to \$25,000 per grant for the United We Stand and OPTI grants. SERC is considering making those \$35,000 or more per grant. This would allow each jurisdiction to be able to have additional funds in a single grant.

Mr. Bakkedahl also indicated that the federal partners were much more engaged in the last meeting. Homeland Security, DOT, and other partners provided their normal updates. NDOT with USDOT support gave a brief on the new I-11 and other projects in Nevada. They are working with local communities to see what will work best for those communities.

Several of the rule jurisdictions have expressed concern regarding the overpasses that pass over a community to the point where individuals no longer want to go through that community. DOT is working with small businesses in those communities on how to best make the overpasses and entrances into those communities while still maintaining traffic integrity. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated he did have a presentation available for this subject, and that the Council should inquire should they wish to view it.

- e. Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee (IMAC) – Co-Chair David Fogerson, DEM/HS.

Co-Chair Fogerson indicated that the IMAC agenda would be released shortly. The new goal for the Committee is to meet four times a year. He noted that Mutual Aid made all the local governments part of the Mutual Aid Plan, and the tribes can opt in. He encouraged that the tribes do so to show solidarity.

- f. Nevada Legislative Commission on Wildfire Mitigation – Clifford Banuelos, ITCN, was not available for this update.

## **10. Update from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX**

Chris Poehlmann, FEMA Region IX Tribal Liaison, provided the NTECC with an update of FEMA Region IX activities at a regional and Nevada-specific level to include updates on the FEMA Region IX COVID-19 support.

Mr. Poehlmann indicated that FEMA has been working with state and federal partners to provide services to Nevada. They've been working closely in particular with HHS, IHS, and the CDC.

Mr. Poehlmann updated the Council on two calls from federal partners. One was regarding funeral support to those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. FEMA is coordinating with tribal leadership to make sure that their response is as culturally sensitive and correct as possible. They have set up a call center with 2,500 workers and will have an 800 number available.

The White House calls have been changed to bi-weekly. Mr. Poehlmann met with the White House liaison, Mr. PaaWee Rivera who is interested in working with the tribal liaisons for FEMA across the country.

Mr. Poehlman indicated that leadership in region nine is at the border, meeting with tribal nations, as well as state and federal agencies. One team is in California, another in Arizona.

FEMA has a vaccine task force set up in Washington, D.C., who will be providing the MVU to Nevada.

Homeland Security has a major meeting planned for late August.

Regarding local efforts, Mr. Poehlmann has been talking to hotels to host the tribal partners meeting that was scheduled the previous year in Reno. He hopes that the meeting will take place in January of 2022.

Co-Chair Fogerson asked that Mr. Poehlmann inform the acting Regional Administrator that rural Nevada could use the MVU more than many centers in California.

Ryan Gerchman asked, regarding funeral support, whether there were any plans for FEMA to work with local and state agencies on the requirements of death certificates. One tribe asked the question after suffering multiple suicides, and suicide is not necessarily something that's listed on a death certificate.

Mr. Poehlmann said he would take those concerns back to the people who are working on funeral support, but at this point he has not heard that they intend to do that type of work.

## **11. Interoperability Update**

Melissa Friend, DEM. Ms. Friend updated the NTECC on current interoperability efforts in Nevada to include the status of the Nevada Shared Radio System, First Responder

Network Authority (FirstNet) build out in the state, and an outline of the current status regarding the tribal communications equipment.

Ms. Friend is currently speaking with the communications staff, as southern Nevada is in the process of being built and tested. She anticipates they will be completely rolled out in 2022. The western part of the state she anticipates completed in 2023, and the northeastern part in 2024. Everything with the radio system is currently on schedule.

Regarding FirstNet, two new sites are being built in Lyon County, two in Churchill, one in Elko, and one in Humboldt. They are planning a client and FirstNet mega range, which is designed to improve connectivity through product data services on cell towers. It is designed for the edge of typical signal coverages, and should vastly improve coverage in remote areas, specifically tribal nations.

## **12. Project, Grant, and Financial Report Updates from DEM**

DEM representative's, Ryan Gerchman and Crystal Harjo, will be providing NTECC with updates on the following:

Ryan Gerchman urged the Council to provide him updates and stressed the way in which to report those updates. This is the CAN, or condition, action, need. The method is detailed in his released update.

They are also working on a PPE push. NTECC was able to purchase PPE through the health grants. Mr. Gerchman asked that the Council submit those RFFS to him for organization. He and Ron Hood, the tribal liaison in Nevada, will be reaching out to coordinate meet and greets in the near future in conjunction with PPE delivery. NTECC is working with ITCN to host a point of distribution for individuals in the Reno Sparks Urban Indian population.

As Nevada progressively opens up, Mr. Gerchman would invite the Council to take advantage of the training opportunities occurring and to request training and exercises that were outlined in the exercise planning workshop. Any exercise required can be arranged. As Nevada is following COVID-19 protocols well, we are able to have in-person training, and the Council should take advantage of that.

Regarding grants, Mr. Gerchman indicated that the Homeland Security Grant Program for tribal in 2018 expires in August of 2021. The award was \$85,632. The remaining balance is \$75,901.71.

The 2019 grant expires August 31, 2021. The total for that award was \$92,700, and the remaining balance is \$90,682.75.

The Emergency Management Preparedness Grant from 2018 expired on December 31st, 2020, and NTECC was able to use all of the funds, for a total of \$22,657.87.

The 2019 EMPG tribal award expires August 31, 2021. That total award is \$67,027, and the remaining balance is \$58,560.10.



The 2020 grant was awarded on March 9, 2021. Mr. Gerchman did not provide award amount information.

Mr. Gerchman ended with encouraging the Council to take part in training exercises, and assured the Council that he was at their disposal.

Co-Chair Fogerson reminded the Council to have PPE. He then noted that, in all of the in-person trainings, they have not had a single case of COVID-19.

Rodney Wright introduced himself as once working with the Division of Public Health, and indicated he looked forward to working with the Council. He encouraged the Council to reach out to him for any requests or needs.

Crystal Harjo updated that if anyone is interested in the BinaxNow for April, the resource requests must be in by noon 3/17. Ms. Harjo also emphasized the availability and necessity of PPE to the tribes. She asked that the resource requests be submitted to Mr. Gerchman by Friday.

Ms. Harjo is working in coordination with IHS, DEM, and FEMA on the MVU. IHS had indicated that more vaccines could be made available to the tribal nations.

Ms. Harjo emphasized the importance of training exercises and that, should any wish to take advantage of them, they can reach out to staff.

### **13. Tribal Updates**

Tribal representatives will be given the opportunity to provide an update on any initiatives, projects, current events, or upcoming training opportunities related to emergency management within their tribal jurisdiction. Tribal updates discussed have been provided to DEM/HS prior to this meeting for transparency, and any update provided that was not submitted in advance of this meeting may not be heard by the NTECC under this agenda item. Tribal updates will be heard from the following tribes:

- Las Vegas Paiute Tribe: Harriett Parker. Co-Chair Parker indicated that the current COVID-19 numbers for the first half of March included 10 tests, four positives, with three being previous positives. Of staff, four were tested, and one was positive. This is a significant reduction in testing. Co-Chair Parker speculated that it may be due to vaccination, or that people are receiving tests elsewhere.

Co-Chair Parker also noted that the available nurse is working part-time for the next few weeks, so information exchange would be difficult. Regarding vaccines since February, they have given approximately 400 Moderna vaccines, and approximately 250 of those were the first vaccine with 150 being the second. These vaccines were distributed to elders, interested tribal members, first responders, and frontline workers. They are now working on distributing the vaccine to any remaining employees. They do not have a set vaccination day, but it will be created and people will be notified two weeks in advance.

In an update about the clinic, all of the medical staff continues to work on a rotation basis, however the administrative staff that was working from home is now moving back to working in the clinic itself. They are working three days a week in the office, two from home, on a rotational basis. Those are administrative employees who do not see any patients or clients.

The clinic hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

They are in the process of switching to the Greenway electronic health record system. The switch has affected the patient appointments and the vaccinations. This switch should be finished in about a week.

The clinic is also in the process of switching all of its faucets to no-touch faucets. They are also looking into making a zero pressure exam and treatment room for COVID-19 patients with a separate entrance and separate air filtration system. The Director is working with the tribal chairman to find the best way to put this into effect. The clinic continues to do telehealth appointments where appropriate.

Regarding food distribution, Co-Chair Parker said that the Las Vegas Paiute tribe is working in coordination with the Las Vegas Indian Center and the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas, who received a grant and reached out to the tribe to use it for the community. That food distribution is scheduled for April 23, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. They are scheduled for between 170 and 200 food boxes.

Dan Thayer asked whether the clinic was looking at a negative flow for their dental area.

Co-Chair Parker answered that it has not been brought up, but that she will ask.

#### **14. Public Assistance Grants**

Kelli Anderson, DEM provided an overview of the status of the recovery efforts under the COVID-19 disaster recovery (DR) 4523, which includes a summary of recovery projects, total amount of disaster funding approved, and pending, for the State of Nevada.

Ms. Anderson indicated they currently have approximately \$140 million in recovery grants in the system and the federal portal, and they are working to get those into the state portal. They do not have many tribal project worksheets in the system at present.

Ms. Anderson noted that their staff are able to assist the Council if they have any non-reimbursable expenses over \$3,000, and to contact them through their office so they can assign staff to assist in writing project worksheets.

#### **15. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Fogerson opened up the discussion to public comment. There was none.

#### **16. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a motion for adjournment.

Don Pelt, Pyramid Lake, made a motion to adjourn. David Hunkup seconded. The motion passed unanimously.