



## **Meeting Minutes Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Monday, November 4, 2024
	<b>TIME</b>	9:00 a.m.
	<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom/Teleconference
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Loren Borst
<b>Voting Membership</b>		
Name	Designated/Appointed Representative:	Attendance Status
Harriett Vegas – Tribal Co-Chair	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	X
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	
Jackie Conway	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	X
Duane Masters Sr.	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe	X
Don Pelt	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	X
Marian Perez	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	X
Kenneth Quiner	Washoe Tribes of Nevada/California	X
Ross Rivera	Ely Shoshone Tribe	X
Daniel Thayer	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	X
Laurie Thom	Yerington Paiute Tribe	X
<b>Non Voting Membership</b>		
Name	Entity Represented:	Attendance Status
Brett Compston - Co-Chair	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X
Emily Gould-Monaghan	Nevada Department of Health and Human Resources	X
<b>Non Member Representatives/Support</b>		
Samantha Ladich	Nevada Office of the Attorney General	X
Loren Borst	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Loren Borst, Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS), and a quorum was established for the meeting.

### **2. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, opened the period of public comment for discussion.

There was no public comment.

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

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the November 4, 2024, NTECC meeting.

Ross Rivera, Ely Shoshone Tribe, motioned to approve the minutes of the November 4 2024 meeting.

Daniel Thayer, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously

### **4. Division of Emergency Management Updates**

Co-Chair Brett Compston, DEM/HS, began with personnel updates, noting that Mr. Howell O'Brien is now serving within the resilience branch, Aaron Thacker has joined DEM as the tribal liaison, and that Kimberly Palma-Ortega is joining as the tribal health L&O. Mr. Compston indicated that this is the first time in a year that there is a complete tribal liaison team. Chief Compston also welcomed Justin Harris as state training officer, indicated that a data analyst has been brought on board to assist the IT team, and four new grant specialist GPAs have come on board, as well.

Co-Chair Brett Compston next provided updates regarding FEMA, noting that FEMA is officially reviewing all grants manually and as such, DEM is expecting delays over the next 30 days on request for reimbursement. Chief Compston cautioned the council that all future grants will be reviewed for compliance with all recent executive orders, and indicated that FEMA has recalled the BRIC and the flood mitigation NOFOs to be rewritten in accordance with current presidential directives. Chief Compston indicated that DEM currently does not know when those will be rereleased, and added that it is likely the release of Homeland Security Grants will also be delayed.

Co-Chair Compston next discussed legislative actions, beginning with Senate Bill 38, which would allow the Division to share school plans with authorized users before the time of an emergency for preparedness planning and response coordination. Chief Compston next discussed Senate Bill 39, which would establish a revolving low fund, a low interest rate, and a revolving loan fund that would facilitate users or sub-jurisdictions or tribes to apply for and receive a low cost loan to provide the initial match that is required when doing a mitigation program. Chief Compston next discussed a bill draft request circulating at the Governor's direction, to transition DEM management within the office of the military to becoming a Office of Emergency Management within the Office of the Governor.

Chief Compston informed the Council that in federal news, the Continuing Resolution (CR) is scheduled to expire or go through the 14th of March, and indicated that he did not know if it would be extended or how it would play out at the national level. The Chief explained that if the country goes into a government shutdown, that will have effects on reimbursements through the Grants Program.

Chief Compston reminded the Council that there are now established calls for the tribal partners once a month, noting that these will be on the third Tuesday of every month at

10:00, and will be led by the tribal liaison team. The Chief discussed some large scale initiatives underway at the Division, such as working with Nevada Energy on helping other critical infrastructure partners map their critical dependencies related to power. The Chief noted that DEM is moving forward with establishing the requirements and supports for an expanded and synergized Tahoe Basin evacuation plan and added that whenever BRIC comes back out, DEM will be moving forward with a fuel disruption analysis in Southern Nevada so as to prepare for long-term critical infrastructure outages related to loss of fuel, whether from a fire, earthquake, or nation state actions.

Co-Chair Harriet Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, opened discussion for feedback on the status of the DEM/HS programs.

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

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, stated this agenda item was to update the NTECC on the Division of Public and Behavioral Health's Health Preparedness Efforts.

Emily Gould-Monaghan, Department of Public and Behavioral Health, began with health updates, noting that it is flu, respiratory and gastrointestinal disease season, and reminded all members to implement proper health measures to prevent the spread of illness. Ms. Gould-Monaghan indicated that if members are seeing impacts in their communities and need assistance, please let her department know as DPBH does have Tamiflu available for outbreaks.

Emily Gould-Monaghan next indicated that DPBH has been working with several partners on the H5N1 response to bird flu, most recently with Central Nevada Health District, which had the first positive human case in the state. Ms. Gould-Monaghan indicated that DPBH was able to support them through PPE dissemination and distributing Tamiflu antiviral in the communities. Ms. Gould-Monaghan informed the Council that Public Health did receive some crisis funding from federal partners as well, and requested that anyone with interest in any preparedness activities in need of additional support, please contact her.

Ms. Gould-Monaghan next discussed the 13th Annual Rural Preparedness Summit that will be held May 14 through 15 at the Elko Convention Center, with a pre-training on May 13. Ms. Gould-Monaghan explained that this is in partnership with the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, and will be an eight-hour comprehensive training on disaster recovery and rural community specifically. Ms. Gould-Monaghan informed the Council that both the course and the summit are free to attend, have no registration costs, offer meals and refreshments throughout the day, and at the end of the course, participants will receive a certification. Ms. Gould-Monaghan explained that the course is capped at 40 applicants and that the registration will open at the same time as the registration for the summit. Ms. Gould-Monaghan encouraged interested members to do a combination of registrations. Ms. Gould-Monaghan explained part of this year's summit is heavily focused on disaster recovery. Ms. Gould-Monaghan noted that several partners have been impacted by severe floods and wildfires over the years, and noted that DPBH has been talking with Josie Burnett to help arrange this, but suggested that anyone with ideas or interest in presenting or leading panels to let her know, and

she would be happy to set that up for the summit.

Ms. Gould-Monaghan next discussed the wrap up of the strategic planning efforts, noting that a new strategic plan has been created, moving into the next five years, and indicated that the plan should be close to finalized for at least the first year since it is due as a deliverable to federal partners. Ms. Gould-Monaghan indicated that anyone who would like a copy of the plan once it is finalized and shareable can receive one from her.

Ms. Gould-Monaghan further noted that there are still engagement opportunities to work on the plan together and added that there are several work groups that were created to uphold the goals and objectives that need to be completed for the next few budget period years, including a pediatric disaster readiness group and a health equity group. Ms. Gould-Monaghan indicated that anyone interested in joining or seeing the work coming out of the groups should let her know, and she would be happy to provide a presentation, share statewide objectives of what would like to be accomplished, or provide membership to the groups in general.

Ms. Gould-Monaghan informed the Council that DPBH is working to fill some vacant positions within its hospital preparedness program, which include a new rural preparedness coordinator and a health emergency preparedness evaluator, who will focus specifically on exercises and trainings within the healthcare preparedness system. Ms. Gould-Monaghan explained that the hope is to have those positions filled by the May/June timeline at the latest. Ms. Gould-Monaghan further noted that DPBH is looking for opportunities to introduce those new personnel to partners and have them assist in any projects, community or health, Council members may have in mind. Ms. Gould-Monaghan encouraged members to reach out for engagement opportunities with these new folks once the positions are filled.

Ken Quiner asked if a lodging block has been set up at any of the facilities out in Elko.

Ms. Gould-Monaghan indicated that the only lodging is for speakers or presenters for the summit as DPBH cannot accommodate a block for the majority of attendees. Ms. Gould-Monaghan did note that she could provide a list of good accommodations to interested members.

## **6. Update from Department of Native American Affairs (DNAA)**

Stacey Montooth, DNAA, introduced LaWanda Jones, new opioid prevention coordinator.

Lawanda Jones introduced herself and indicated her eagerness to learn and to work with members of the Council.

Stacey Montooth added that in addition to her longtime experience with the state, Ms. Jones is also a tribal citizen of the Washoe Nation and a community member in Woodford.

## **7. Updates from the DEM/HS Tribal Liaison Staff**

Heather Lafferty, DEM/HS, introduced new tribal emergency manager, Aaron Thacker.

Aaron Thacker, DEM/HS, informed the Council that prior to starting at NDEM, he was in tribal education for over 20 years. Mr. Thacker further noted that he is learning the process at NDEM and is excited to see where this experience takes him.

Heather Lafferty informed the Council that DEM has hired Kimberly Palma-Ortega for a new tribal health position, and that Ms. Palma-Ortega will begin on March 10.

Aaron Thacker discussed two upcoming trainings: the 2025 FEMA Basic Academy, which will have sessions 4/28 through 5/2, 6/2 to 6/4, 6/5 to 6/6, 6/23 to 6/24, and 6/25 to 6/27; and the RIPS (Reginal Integrative Preparedness Symposium) training that will be held in three different regions beginning with Region 1 in Las Vegas from 9/15 to 9/18, Region 2 in Carson from 9/23 to 9/25, and Region 3 in Elko from 10/21 to 10/23.

Heather Lafferty informed the Council that the Tribal Emergency Management program did successfully coordinate with tribal members to secure funding to get and extend support to tribal members for a NEPA, and noted that there was a very productive tribal panel with great feedback at the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association Summit. Ms. Lafferty reiterated that the tribal emergency management coordination call has been stood up and is on every third Tuesday of the month. Ms. Lafferty encouraged all members who did not receive an invitation to reach out to herself or Mr. Thacker to be included.

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, asked for comments.

There were no comments.

**8. Update on Tribal Nations Training Week in Anniston, Alabama through the Center Domestic Preparedness (CDP)**

RubyDawn Manning informed the Council that Tribal Nations training week is in April, and indicated that this year will be different than previous years, as there are some new team members, including: Caitlyn Dearman (phonetic), Ronnie Warren (phonetic), and Jennifer Romano (phonetic). Ms. Manning indicated that there are three CDP Divisions: law enforcement, hazmat, and healthcare, but there are also courses like the Instructor Training Certification. Ms. Manning discussed the importance of promoting national progression within tribal nations as well as partnerships, and noted that training partners like LSU and EMI, now known as NVEMU are utilized. Ms. Manning indicated that a resources section has been created for tribal nations this year, and a lot of grant personnel from different departments have been invited and will be available throughout the week. Ms. Manning noted that the second week would include a virtual training.

Ms. Manning informed the Council that the theme this year is protecting traditions by building capabilities through partnership. Ms. Manning indicated that there are ten training tracks, three of which are healthcare centric: healthcare leadership, healthcare emergency response team, and managing public information. Ms. Manning next indicated that a new preparedness training track has been created, which will include courses like developing and improving emergency management programs within tribal nations, emergency operations plans for rural jurisdictions, homemade explosives recognition, and site protection through observational techniques, and noted that there



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are seats available for the site protection through observational techniques training track. Ms. Manning next discussed the events throughout the week, noting that: Monday evening is a strategic national stockpile team updating tribal nations; Tuesday will be a no-host social; Thursday is TBD as the Freedom Riders Event has been cancelled following the death of Charles Person; and Friday will be the closing ceremony. Ms. Manning indicated that the virtual tribal week trainings will be as follows: Monday will be medical; Tuesday will be law enforcement; Wednesday will be emergency management; and Friday will be community centric courses. Ms. Manning further noted that the event is not limited to tribal personnel only. Ms. Manning informed the Council of the curriculum and space available, and discussed the resources that will be in attendance, including CHDS and CISA; Acting Superintendent Chris Chesney doing the keynote; the native American Women Warriors Honor Guard; as well as liaisons from other states and tribes. Ms. Manning explained that the resources will be located in Operations Alley, just down the hallway from the store. Ms. Manning indicated that MOAs and MOUs for external resources will be discussed, as well as a cultural considerations training, which is new this year, and discussion of the SAMHSA document that was approved for use internally at the CDP. Ms. Manning noted that the training week is predominately for understanding and communication for partnerships, and will provide basic information on tribal nations for preparedness planning. Ms. Manning explained that the guide will be available to other regions so that it can be updated and created like a living document to make it more specific to tribes in their regions. Ms. Manning informed the Council that relationships with tribal nations are difficult to build and the easiest to lose, and noted that the intent is to emphasize this to the partners and entities that want to work with the tribal nations. Ms. Manning that she would be happy to provide members with the instructor guide for review and commentary, and requested that members email her for a copy.

Harriet Vegas asked if there is a deadline for the application for the tribal training week.

Ms. Manning indicated that there is not a deadline, but noted that as the training tracks get full, they will close, at which time people can be placed on waiting lists.

Harriet Vegas asked for an explanation of transcare.

Ms. Manning explained that transcare is the transportation community awareness and emergency response, who provide a lot of free training resources.

Harriet Vegas indicated that they will be doing a tabletop exercise on March 24 and invited Ms. Manning to join.

Ms. Manning indicated that if there are any questions regarding tribal nations training week, members should feel free to reach out to her.

## **9. Request for Member Input on Quarter 2 (Q2) Meeting Topics**

Heather Lafferty, DEM/HS, indicated the interest in soliciting NTECC member input to discuss key topics and training needs, as well as emerging issues for the next Quarter 2 meeting agenda. Ms. Lafferty indicated that if members have ideas after the meeting, they should reach out to herself or Aaron Thacker.

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Harriet Vegas asked about the emergency manager training and the location, noting her belief that it alternates years between northern and southern Nevada and that this year was supposed to be a southern Nevada year.

Brett Compston indicated that this Basic Academy training would actually be rotated through three regions, beginning in Northwest Nevada this year, Southern Nevada next year, and Elko the year after that.

Ross Rivera requested that information regarding travel funding be provided along with training announcements, noting his belief that this would help get more tribal people at the trainings.

Heather Lafferty concurred.

Marian Perez added that she has a three-course training out of Alabama Workplace Training coming up in Duckwater from June 10 to 12, including hazmat and opioid information, and provided her cell phone number for members interested in signing up.

Aaron Thacker, DEM/HS, recommended that he and Ms. Perez exchange information following the meeting so he can get the training information out to all tribal EMs on one email.

Lori Thom suggested a place on the website to show the different trainings and groups and dates for those trainings.

Brett Compston indicated that this could certainly be done.

Stacey Montooth indicated the desire to include a link to all available training in Indian Country on her website.

Brett Compston concurred, and indicated that Mr. Thacker would be in touch to coordinate this effort.

## **10. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas called for any public comment.

Brett Compston walked the members through the model that DEM has applied to every Board, Commission, Committee and Council it supports, noting that the new process is that three weeks before the scheduled meeting, all members will receive a copy of the proposed agenda, on which members will then have two weeks to provide input regarding agenda items. Chief Compston added that meeting notes will also be sent out with the proposed agenda, and requested that members review the notes and provide input in advance so that meetings will run as efficiently as possible.

Laurie Thom indicated that the UNR Cooperative Extension will be holding a training for emergency preparedness that was originally scheduled in Fallon on May 25 to 27, but due to funding cuts, the training will now be virtual with a half day on 5/25 and a full day on 5/26. As such, Ms. Thom requested that any attendees cancel lodging and watch for the Zoom link.

Ken Quiner thanked Ms. Manning and the Center for Domestic Preparedness and commended tribal training week.

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Stacey Montooth described her positive experience with the federal training years ago, noting that she continues to use this training in her everyday professional life as a director. As such, Ms. Montooth encouraged members to take advantage of the training and offered to provide particulars to any interested members.

Harriet Vegas concurred, noting that she has learned a lot in these trainings, as well. Ms. Vegas indicated that she has also been to EMI and noted that both places offer great opportunities for tribal training. Ms. Vegas noted that like Ms. Montooth, she also continues to use the training in her day to day work. Ms. Vegas encouraged members to take advantage of the opportunity and to reach out to Ms. Manning for help with registration or information on the specific training tracks offered.

There was no additional public comment.

**11. Adjournment**

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas asked for a motion to adjourn the March 4, 2025, NTECC meeting.

Don Pelt, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe moved to adjourn the meeting.

Ken Quiner, Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California, seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Harriett Vegas adjourned the NTECC meeting at 11:17 a.m.