



**STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MEETING MINUTES  
NEVADA RESILIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>		May 27, 2021		
	<b>TIME</b>		1:30 p.m.		
	<b>METHOD</b>		Zoom and Teleconference		
	<b>RECORDER</b>		Sherrean Whipple		
<b>Appointed Voting Member Attendance</b>					
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
David Fogerson – Chair	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Tennille Periera	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Andrea Esp	ABS	Matthew Petersen	X
Andy Ancho	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	ABS
Roy Anderson	X	Mike Heidemann	X	Misty Robinson	X
Travis Anderson	X	Eric Holt	X	Rachel Skidmore	X
Noah Boyer	X	David Hunkup	X	Corey Solferino	X
Elizabeth Breeden	ABS	Jeremy Hynds	ABS	Malinda Southard	X
James Chrisley	X	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	X		
<b>Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance</b>					
Bunny Bishop	X	Melissa Friend	X	Kasey KC	X
Rebecca Bodnar	X	Sheryl Gonzales	ABS	Selby Marks	X
Kate Callaghan	ABS	Mojra Hauenstein	ABS	Catherine Neilson	ABS
Felix Castagnola	X	Jill Hemenway	ABS		
Mike Dyzak	ABS	Patricia Herzog	ABS		
<b>Legal/Administrative Support Attendance</b>					
<b>Representative</b>			<b>Entity</b>		<b>Present</b>
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General			Office of the Nevada Attorney General		X
Sherrean Whipple – Emergency Management			Nevada Division of Emergency Management		X

**1. 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, DEM/HS. Quorum was established for the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

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

Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that legislative bills AB14 and SB14 have both been passed and signed by the Governor and affects the Committee as it moves them from monthly meetings to quarterly meetings. As such, Chair Fogerson indicated that beginning July 1, the Committee will move to quarterly meetings. Chair Fogerson further informed the Committee that AB45, the move from the DEM/HS to the Office of the military has been unanimously passed in assembly and will go to the Senate. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that in the case that he needs to leave today's meeting to attend legislative hearing, Vice Chair Billy Samuels will take over the meeting.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the April 8, 2021, Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting. Jeanne Freeman, Quad-County Public Health Preparedness Manager, moved to approve the minutes as written. Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Manager, seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. State of Nevada's 911 System**

Chair David Fogerson explained that this agenda item will include a discussion on the status of Nevada's 911 systems. Chair Fogerson reminded the Committee that NRAC was formed because DEM/HS once had approximately 20-something public bodies, including the Public Safety Communications Committee, who handled oversight for some radio systems and for the 911 system. Chair Fogerson further explained that Nevada is one of the few states that does not have a 911 coordinator, and DEM/HS still retains the responsibility of overseeing the system. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that this discussion is the result of not only the current data calls for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requests, but also national bombings and some of the vulnerabilities in the system.

Melissa Friend, DEM/HS, informed the Committee that through the process of moving forward, it's important to ensure that everybody has the resiliency to move from dispatch center to dispatch center, which is not currently an option in Nevada, and as such, there is discussion of potentially instating a 911 coordinator that will look at all the different systems. Ms. Friend indicated that one of the lessons learned as a result of the Nashville bombing was that Nashville's 911 coordinator was not state-sponsored. Ms. Friend explained that Nevada wants to ensure resiliency and requested the input of the Committee on moving forward.

Chair Fogerson indicated that Nevada did have two bills in legislative session this year, one specifically about the 911 system that was sponsored by the city of Elko and Senator Goicoechea, but it did not pass one of the initial deadlines. The second bill is related to the behavioral health 911 system. Chair Fogerson reiterated Melissa Friend's point that the Nashville bombing brought to light some of the vulnerabilities in Nevada's system and echoed her request of the Committee to discuss actions that could be taken at the state and local levels to fix the potential problems.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels cited concerns with things like Clark County being able to dispatch Washoe County units and vice versa and questioned if there is a template in place and/or if this has worked in other places.

Melissa Friend indicated that this has worked in other places and that she will try and get the Committee some bullet points from other states in which this is working. Ms. Friend further acknowledged that this will be a challenge in Nevada given the distance between counties in the state.

Vice Chair Samuels asked if the position would be an FCC coordinator for the state, if that would be a state resource, and if the idea was for this person to fluctuate back and forth between the north and the south.

Melissa Friend indicated she believes that this is something the state can do as the SWIC (Statewide Interoperability Coordinator) and that the gap between the two could be bridged.

Chair Fogerson explained that Nevada is already meeting all of the requirements but not receiving credit for it, which then disallows the ability for FCC grant money. Chair Fogerson also explained that with the approval of the Committee, he would like to speak with the adjunct general and the governor regarding obtaining an executive order stating that DEM/HS is the statewide 911 coordinator. Chair Fogerson indicated his belief that in the future this would need to be a standalone position, but currently thinks that it can be started with the staff on hand in order to improve the system. Chair Fogerson indicated that it is important to piece together all the peace apps in Nevada and having good, solid contact points with them. As of right now, information is still lacking and Chair Fogerson indicated his hope that by having a coordinator, some of the gaps can begin to be filled and resilience can be rebuilt.

Jeanne Freeman asked how this ties into relationships with cross-border communities and dispatching.

Melissa Friend explained that Nevada is working well with California and Arizona for the cross-boundary communications. Ms. Friend also indicated that there is a bi-state communications project in place with the Lake Tahoe Basin sponsored by DHS as well as a conversation taking place regarding a warning for the lower Tahoe River Basin alerts.

Chair Fogerson indicated that he would like to begin discussions with the TAG (phonetic) about an executive order to make DEM the 911 coordinator. Chair Fogerson used the wide variety of 911 systems in place in the state as an item that needs to be cleaned up and fixed in order for the 911 system to work seamlessly throughout the state. Chair Fogerson further indicated that he intends

to look at the membership of the Committee with the intention of potentially removing members who have not been to meetings for a while and adding 911-system people in order to have representation and be inclusive of them in NRAC.

Vice Chair Samuels suggested moving the inactive members to the non-voting members group in the interim.

Chair Fogerson indicated his agreement that this too would work and informed Vice Chair Samuels that he would share the documents with him for collaboration. Chair Fogerson further indicated his hopes of including representatives of 911 systems in NRAC so as not to have create another committee.

## **5. Wildland Fire Potential in Nevada**

Kacey KC, State Forester Fire Warden for the Division of Forestry, explained to the Committee that last year there was an increase in fire starts around the state. Ms. KC indicated that the increase in human cause starts last year was the concerning piece of this data. Ms. KC discussed the concern of lack of ground crews both within the Division of Forestry and from out-of-state last fire season due to the COVID pandemic. Ms. KC discussed that mitigation strategies were made early to minimize COVID impact, including a first-time state contract for two scoopers. Ms. KC further indicated that the BLM and the forest service brought in additional air assets and as such, the initial attack success rate increased to 97 percent of the fires last year, up from the usual average of 95 percent. Ms. KC indicated that likely the same COVID precautions will be in place for this year.

Kacey KC next explained that the trend regarding Nevada's fire history is that the years following the highest water years tend to be the biggest fire years. Ms. KC informed the Committee that there is more fire in Nevada's landscape now than when it was first recorded in the 1980s, and indicated that from 1980 to 1999, just over four million acres burned, which averages out to approximately 200,000 acres a year. From 2000 to 2020, just under 10 million acres in the state burned, an average of approximately 500,000 acres per year.

Kacey KC informed the Committee that Nevada's precipitation was down across most of the state this year, with the exception of some portions of the north, which saw average precipitation. Ms. KC explained that even though the norther part of the state did see a bit more snow than usual, the state as a whole is still significantly below usual for this time of year. Ms. KC next discussed the long-term impact of drought, explaining that much of the state is currently in severe or extreme drought conditions and is predicted to remain that way throughout the summer. Ms. KC indicated that this is worrisome as drought years typically bring about large timber fires in the upper elevations and in the low ends.

Kacey KC discussed significant fire activity in the southern part of the state, many red flag warnings, and the need to carry staff well into the evening and keeping staff on standby. Ms. KC further informed the Committee that there are currently two fires burning in the southern part of the state and will likely continue until monsoon season if monsoons bring rain. Ms. KC indicated

that the south is the highest concern through May, the concern spreading to the east in June and July, and then to the higher elevations in August.

Kacey KC discussed the focus of the Division of Forestry as a three-legged approach: creating and sustaining resilient landscapes; creating and sustaining fire-adapted communities; ensuring safe and effective fire-suppression response. Ms. KC informed the Committee that the numbers span across all agencies: local government, federal government, and NDF. Ms. KC further informed the Committee that the Division is shy hand crews this year but hopes to have positions up and ready and trained within the next few weeks to have some effect over the fire season. In addition, NDF is still working on a contract like last year's for super scoopers, but that is not yet in place.

Kacey KC informed the Committee that there is much planning taking place ahead of this year's fire season, part of which includes existing COVID precautions and protocols that will be kept in place. Ms. KC further indicated the collaboration among state, federal, and local government ensuring that staff are trained and that all agreements are in place to utilize staff across those agencies. Ms. KC reminded the Committee that the mutual aid local government off-district response has moved back to the Division of Forestry and as such, the Division has been working with local government and DEM/HS to ensure a smooth transition.

Kacey KC informed the Committee that despite COVID restrictions and illnesses the previous year, the Division of Forestry treated more acres the previous year than had been treated historically, with a 48-percent increase over previous years, with Ms. KC giving much of the credit to Bureau of Land Management (BLM), who treated 159,000 of the acres themselves. Ms. KC informed the Committee that it is the Division's goal to continue that increase by studying the high-priority areas and attacking those first in order to slow fire as it's moving into or out of communities and to try and reduce loss from the severity of the fires in the ecosystems.

Kacey KC explained the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement, one of 47 shared Stewardship Agreements between the State Division of Forestry and the US Forest Service across the United States, to the Committee, indicating that it had been signed by the governor in 2019. Ms. KC explained that the intent of the Agreement is to help employees coordinate better on all things, including wildland fire, resilient landscapes, and fire-adapted communities. Ms. KC explained that Nevada was the first state to sign a full agreement at the governor's level and listed the agencies included in the agreement that fall under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as well as the State Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Wildlife, and the Nevada Indian Commission. Ms. KC further explained that on the federal sign, the agreement includes the forest services, Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, and BLM. Ms. KC explained that the purpose of the agreement was to focus on all the things on which the Division already focuses with the addition of attacking the highest-priority areas from a restoration, rehabilitation, or fuel-reduction standpoint first. Ms. KC next discussed the 13 priority landscapes defined, including picking and implementing two projects by the end of the year, one in Elko, Spring Creek, Lamoille and a second one in the southern region in Spring Mountain and Pahrump. Ms. KC indicated that the Division is currently working on the local working groups that will come together to implement

those projects with an overall goal of increasing the acres treated across the state by 50 percent over the next four years.

Kasey KC discussed SB508 that passed last session, which gave the Division of Forestry \$5 million as a match to any money to come in to reduce fuel and fire risk across the state. Ms. KC indicated that the Division was able to match with a forest service grant for the Ruby Lake Estates and then with the bulk of an NV Energy Agreement, the rest of which is coming from the state. Ms. KC explained the big push for this funding came from utilities being required to create plans for risk mitigation across the state, thus giving them a vested interest in reducing under their power poles and around their facilities. The Division, Ms. KC explained, has a vested interest in expanding those treatments out onto the private or public lands around it to make them wide enough to slow a fire coming through, which is the origination of the match portion of the state dollars. Ms. KC explained that there are 52 projects currently implemented or in progress and 10,000 acres have been treated thus far. Ms. KC explained that it took the Division a long time to get all of the agreements in place with local government entities and federal partners, but as a result, the Division has increased the initial attack and prevention staffing at the local government level by approximately 130 firefighters, as well as increased to 19 type five-six engines along with approximately 25 other necessary assets such as chippers, masticators, mowers, and herbicides. Ms. KC explained that the assets are being moved across the state to attack the highest priority areas first as well as to have them in place where needed for initial attack with NV Energy and the Division's dispatch centers to ensure readiness should fires occur in those areas.

Kacey KC explained to the Committee that another focus on the prevention and mitigation side is to update all community wildfire protection plans, which date from approximately 2005. Ms. KC explained that there is an interagency prevention team currently touring the state to look at causes of fires from last year. Ms. KC explained that for the last two years or so, the Division has coordinated fire restrictions with local and federal partners to minimize public confusion regarding fire restrictions and explained that currently full fire restrictions are in effect for the southern region due to the concern of upper-elevation timber fires.

Noah Boyer, Deputy Director of Nevada Federal Task Force, asked if fires by shooters were tracked by exploding targets.

Kacey KC responded that all fires are being tracked between the Division and the Fire Marshal's Office and as such, all fire starts are being studied. Ms. KC indicated that in the case of exploding targets, prevention campaigns were launched and further indicated that most exploding target fires were caused by target shooting outside of designated ranges. Ms. KC explained that the Division has looked at restricting use and access into those areas and responded to Mr. Boyer's question that the fires are being tracked and, in the case, when there is enough information available, mitigated.

David Hunkup, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, commended Ms. KC for her presentation but pointed out that no Tribes were included in it and asked if any of the fire-prevention projects and resources mentioned are available to Tribes.

Kacey KC responded that they are available to tribes and that the Division has been working with the Nevada Indian Commission in getting the word out. Ms. KC indicated that the fire-suppression side falls under BLM for Tribes, but the Division is interested in working with the tribes on mitigation.

David Hunkup suggested working with Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council (NTECC) to get the word out to tribes through their advisory committee. Mr. Hunkup also requested a copy of Ms. KC's presentation.

Kacey KC indicated that she would send the presentation to Chair Fogerson for distribution.

Chair Fogerson asked Ms. Whipple to make a note regarding NTECC in order to put the same presentation on that meeting.

Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that NRAC has been working with Mark Ghilarducci in California regarding an evacuation plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin, but indicated that this is only related to the wildland fire component and not the sheltering component. Chair Fogerson explained that there have been discussions with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and beginning in the fall, there will be discussions about an evacuation sheltering plan for the bi-state, seven-county part of Lake Tahoe, which also ties into the communication plan Melissa Friend, DEM/HS, discussed earlier. Chair Fogerson pointed out that this evacuation/shelter plan would not only be used for wildland fires, but also for any type of event requiring evacuation and/or shelter such as terrorist incidents or avalanches. Chair Fogerson further discussed the FMAG (Fire Management Assistance Grants) run by NDF and indicated that once FMAG pays for the fires, there are also mitigation funds, for which a new mitigation workgroup was formed with the goal of spreading the word about the mitigation funds in hopes of immediately reducing risk of flooding in communities from a wildland fire and offering help with the receding effort.

#### **6. Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) Meeting Review**

Vice Chair Billy Samuels gave an overview of projects selected for funding by the UAWG that were recommended to Nevada Homeland Security Committee on Finance, the Nevada Homeland Security Commission, and a state administrative agent. Vice Chair Samuels indicated that the funding right now is 4,987,500, which is the allocated 5.2 million minus the \$262,500 that goes to MNA for the state. Vice Chair Samuels explained that there were 28 applications for the UASI, 27 of which were funded. Vice Chair Samuels informed the Committee that there was \$326,774 in de-obligated funds which helped to fund the projects. In addition, eight projects were funded at a total of 1.7-plus million as well as 10 competitive/enhanced projects totaling 3.2-plus million. Vice Chair Samuels informed the Committee that the law enforcement terrorist prevention activities requirements were met at 25 percent, equaling a total of 1.3-plus million and funded at 4.6. Vice

Chair Samuels explained that all funding requirements met the five priority area requirements: enhancing cybersecurity at 7.5 percent; enhancing protection of soft targets, crowded places at 5 percent; enhanced information sharing and Intel sharing at 5 percent; combatting domestic violent terrorism at 7.5 percent; and addressing emerging threats at 5 percent.

**7. Homeland Security Grant Program Investment Submitted Justifications**

Chair Fogerson explained that Nevada's investment justifications in the State and Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program were submitted to FEMA and to the Department of Homeland Security on May 13, 2021. Chair Fogerson explained that this daylights all the statewide projects and urban area projects for which NRAC submitted. Chair Fogerson encouraged the members of the Committee to take a look at the various projects at their leisure. Chair Fogerson further encouraged any Committee members considering future projects to study the existing projects to try and garner information on how to better collaboration efforts on future projects. Chair Fogerson indicated that NRAC is looking at some communication system collaborations for the purpose of turning down some money and opening up money in other areas and items on which the group can move together.

**8. Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) FFY 2021 Work Plan**

Chair David Fogerson informed the Committee that the federal fiscal year 2021 work plan was submitted to FEMA on May 13, 2021. Chair Fogerson further explained that with EMPG, half of the funding goes to the state, and half of the funding goes to each local government that has an emergency management program and has asked for funding through it. Chair Fogerson indicated that this work plan was written collaboratively between the grants and DEM/HS's planner, Bill Elliott. Chair Fogerson indicated that all of DEM/HS was included along with the intended goals and the plan to reach those goals. Chair Fogerson further explained that this was likely the most collaborative effort that's taken place to involve all local and state jurisdiction in spending this money appropriately. FEMA has not yet approved the work plan, but Chair Fogerson indicated that FEMA is happy with it. Chair Fogerson indicated that FEMA initially did not believe it necessary for money to be spent on resilience communications as it was not a priority of FEMA, and NRAC did push back on that, citing the fact the communications is an issue following action reports and incidents. As such, communications with FEMA regarding this subject are still in place, but Chair Fogerson indicated that it is likely that the plan will be approved.

**9. Nevada's Energy-Related Issues**

Chair Fogerson explained that this item is not related to Nevada Energy but to Nevada's energy-related issues. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that there would be discussion of the impact of the east coast fuel transmission pipeline issues in Nevada as well as collaboration on ways to improve Nevada's resilience. Chair Fogerson informed the Committee that this item was added to the agenda at the request of a Committee member who suggested discussing what would happen in Nevada if the state lost its gas pipeline as had happened on the east coast. Chair Fogerson indicated that there are a couple of pipelines in the state, some with natural gas, some with fuel oil products. Chair Fogerson further informed the Committee that some communities have a plan, and some do not. Chair Fogerson indicated that there were representatives on the call from the Governor's Office of Energy as well as the Department of Agriculture.

Vice Chair Samuels stated that he did not know if there was anything that could be done regarding getting more supply and suggested putting triggers in place should decisions need to be made regarding what jurisdictions or area needing to shut down or begin conserving.

Chair Fogerson concurred with Vice Chair Samuels' suggestion.

Dave Hunkup, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, questioned what the state would do should something happen to the one field-transmission line for the Reno area. Mr. Hunkup further explained that Kinder Morgan is responsible for that transmission line and questioned what type of plan Kinder Morgan has in place should something happen. Mr. Hunkup further indicated that there are no storage requirements other than what is in the existing fuel tanks and indicated that in order to put something like that in place, installation of underground storage tanks per Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements would be needed.

Chair Fogerson explained that as a private company, Kinder Morgan is required to have a plan and to file it with NRAC and further indicated that NRAC does not look at that plan unless an incident occurs. Chair Fogerson further opined that NRAC should focus on options to ensure that there is a fuel-consumption plan in the counties, Tribes, and jurisdictions that will keep the fuel tank and public works at the Reno Corporate Yard always full for all fire engines in Washoe County and all law-enforcement vehicles in Sparks. Chair Fogerson indicated the importance of looking at this not from the public side but from the public-safety side when building a plan to ensure that the energy pieces are there for emergency vehicles and essential workers.

Dave Hunkup explained his belief that most local jurisdictions have moved to above-ground storage tanks as they are easier to do and have secondary containment similar to a filling station with different types of varying volume capacities. Mr. Hunkup explained that Reno-Sparks does not have such a facility but would certainly consider one.

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, explained that DEM/HS is working on statewide preparedness and mitigation efforts for all the fuel pipelines in coordination with Ag and with the energy department. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that Energy helps regulate some of the processes after the fuel is out there and Ag regulates the fuel in the line and at the pumps. Mr. Bakkedahl further explained that the mitigation side of DEM/HS is working with Ag and Energy, the state of California, and the private sector to put solar panel pumps on the lines. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that this is a bit of a complicated effort not only because it is bi-state, but because three different parties involved: one who owns the fuel; one who owns the product when it's sold to them at the actual tanks; and the pipeline. As such, multiple partners need to be engaged and involved to help in this planning effort. Mr. Bakkedahl further indicated that there are other issues that need addressing, such as storing the supply and pumping it to the necessary locations if the pumps are not gravity controlled. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that the national working group addressing these issues would like input and information from the Committee. Mr. Bakkedahl asked the Committee to take the numerous concerns he'd listed and help to brainstorm toward a better preparedness plan.

Mike Matthews, Homeland Security, commended Jon Bakkedahl for an accurate assessment of the situation and opined that one of the first steps needing to be taken is measurement of the actual need. As such, Mr. Matthews indicated that it is imperative for each jurisdiction to look at how much gas they consume each day, both for first-response organizations as well as at the pumps, and how much the communities consume every day, indicating that this gives an idea of what throughput needs to be met in order to start planning. Mr. Matthews next explained that once there is an idea of the necessary throughput, then determinations can be made on what the best way of achieving that throughput is, whether by rail, by trucks, et cetera. Mr. Matthews explained that solar pumps are extremely important, but in the case of a cyber issue, solar pumps may not be the solution.

Jeanne Freeman, Quad-County Public Health Preparedness Manager, reminded the Committee that these types of models have been with some other areas in the state such as critical standards of care in the past year, and indicated the difficulty of making those decisions. As such, Ms. Freeman reiterated Vice Chair Samuels' suggestion of figuring out the priorities and how the different counties' and different services different needs will get woven into a plan that takes into account continuity of operations as a state. Ms. Freeman further indicated the importance of having more than a single entity making the decisions and suggested a diverse committee.

Chair Fogerson indicated the need for the Committee to continue working on the plan and asked everyone with ideas and suggestions to reach out to NRAC.

Jeanne Freeman suggested bringing this issue to the once-a-month Emergency Manager call, indicating that the EM's have a good handle on the types of things happening in their communities.

Chair Fogerson concurred with Ms. Freeman's suggestion of including the EMs in the discussion.

#### **10. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Chair Fogerson congratulated the Advanced Academy graduates currently in Las Vegas, whom he called the future emergency-management leaders, on their upcoming graduation the following day.

#### **11. Adjourn**

Chair Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was presented by Jeanne Freeman, Quad-County Public Health Preparedness Manager, and a second was provided by Mike Wilson, Clark County School District. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.