



Washoe County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Draft

October 20, 2022 10:00 A.M.
Regional Emergency Operations Center
5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada

1. CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM [Non-action item]

Chair Brian Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Shawn Congdon – SPD; Andy Ancho - RFD; Shawn McEvers – SFD; Jim Nelligan – NLTFPD; Tracy Moore – RTAA; Michelle Bays – DA; Kelly Echeverria – WCEM; Gary Zaepfel – WC Tech Services; Brian Taylor – REMSA; Andrea Esp - WCDH; Zeb Nomura – IHCC; Jessie Latchaw – IHCC; Brittany Nevin – VA; Rob Reeder – RTC; Wade Barnett – KOLO-TV; Ed Pearce - KOLO-TV; Matt Williams – UNR; Sara Skroch - RPSD; Rebecca Knapp – RPSD; Ciera Sampson – RS Indian Colony; and Elizabeth Breeden – NV Energy.

ABSENT: Daniel Bond - RPD; Elizabeth Kunz – RPD; Jason Woodard - SPD; Clinte Bellamy - SPD; Marc Bello – WCSD; Bill Harvey - WCSD; Sierra Hooft - UNRPD; John Galicia – UNRPD; Seana Baker – WCSD; Roy Anderson – WCSD; Michael Perry – WCSD; Chris Jones - SFD; Jim Kindness - SFD; Ryan Sommers – NLTFPD; Russell Barnum - NLTFPD; Joe Kammann – TMFPD; Ryan Rizzuto – TMFPD; Chris Ketring – TMFPD; Francisco Vega - HD; Nick Klaich – TRIAD; Chris Hicks – DA; John Gurriere – DA; Shyanne Schull – WC Animal Services; Tammy Wines-Jennings – WC Animal Services; Jessica Adams – WCEM; Chris Long – WC Tech Services; Paul Burton – REMSA; Todd Kerfoot – REMSA; Scott Alquist – TMCC; Ben Davis – TMCC; Kent Choma - IHCC; Angela Reich – RTC; Cody Shadle - RPSD; Daniel Thayer – RS Indian Colony; Lance Chantler – RS Indian Colony; Don Pelt – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Jonathan Prichard - Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; David Paulon – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Ian Dasmann – TMWA; Tim Hill - NV Energy; and Stephanie Daus - NV Energy.

Also present: Wade Carner – Legal; Francisco Ceballos - Secretary/Treasurer and Joe Oleciregui - WCSO

2. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Brian Taylor clarified that at 10:20am during this meeting he will be participating the Great Nevada Shake Out and the meeting will have a small break at that time to practice preparation for an

earthquake. Kelly Echeverria added that during that time, members should look around them for something that could be dangerous in the case of an actual earthquake and consider changing that to make them safer in the future.

3. Approval of August 18, 2022, General Membership Minutes – FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Brian Taylor, LEPC Chair

It was moved by Sara Skroch, seconded by Elizabeth Breeden to approve the minutes as written.

There was no public comment.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Secretary/Treasurers Report – Information on existing FY 22 Operations, Planning, Training, and Equipment (OPTE), FY 23 Operations, Planning, Training, and Equipment (OPTE), FY 23 United We Stand (UWS), and FY 22 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Mid-Cycle Grants. Information and upcoming grants, member information, and trainings. – Francisco Ceballos, LEPC Secretary/Treasurer

Francisco Ceballos began by presenting on the State Emergency Response Commission grants. For the FY 22 OPTE grant, he said that Washoe County LEPC put in an extension to the end of the month. The Toxic Vapor Analyzers are in and the request for reimbursement will be in by the end of the month. For FY 23 OPTE, operations costs so far have only been \$375. For equipment, RFD is preparing the purchase order for the USAR Task Force Kit. For FY 23 UWS, REMSA got their sub-agreements signed and TMFPD is waiting for the Fire Board which was also approved. REMSA has ordered their ballistic vests and TMFPD will be ordering soon as well. Brian Taylor added that the ballistic vests will take three to four months to be sent because they have to be manufactured.

Francisco continued to speak about the FY 22 HMEP grant which ended at the end of September. This was for the Fire Shows West Conference. He is waiting for reimbursement currently for 31 participants with the deadline being the end of the week so that he can make the state deadline for reimbursement.

He said the FY 20 COOP grant has been spent down and allowed the committee to move on to the FY 21 COOP. There is \$89,997 remaining. For the FY 20 Program Assistant grant, there is about \$15,000 left. The committee is putting in a PCR to get some hand radios. For the FY 21 Program Assistant grant, the position is being taken over by the county so a PCR has been put in for that grant award as well to go toward a pilot project to use software with Code Red for evacuations.

Kelly Echeverria added that the radios will be replacing some of the existing radios in use. Those radios were originally bought with a Homeland Security grant so replacements need to be as well. For the FY 22 Program Assistant PCR, they are looking to get evacuation communication software which will allow

for instantaneous situational awareness that can be communicated with the community for Carson, Douglas, and Washoe counties.

5. Presentation on Winter Weather – Chris Smallcomb, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Chris Smallcomb began by acknowledging he will be the one to pause during the Great Nevada Shake Out. He said that he is from Southern California where he learned to sleep with a pair of running shoes next to the bed in case of emergencies.

He explained that the drought continues for the region even with monsoon this past summer. He said there is a third La Nina in a row on the way this winter.

August showed well above normal precipitation with Reno getting more rain than it has received in August since 1893. August showed more precipitation than the entire 7 months prior. There was also a heat wave in the following weeks which was unlike what is expected. The first two weeks of September were the warmest on record for several cities across the U.S.

The presentation paused while the committee members enacted an earthquake drill in their offices.

Chris continued his presentation. He explained that we will see the rapid end of warm weather this weekend with a cold front moving in. The storm door is open for the next few weeks and precipitation is likely. There is also a possibility for snow on Mount Rose.

He explained that the expectation among meteorologists is that this winter will be warmer than usual. We are going into the third La Nina in a row this winter which tends to move storms farther north and create fewer southern storms. He said Reno is somewhere in the middle. The majority of our high-water years in the Truckee River were during La Nina winters. The last time the region experienced three La Ninas in a row in 1975-76 and 2000-01, we saw dry outcomes. This doesn't necessarily mean that will occur this time.

The precipitation outlook is up in the air so far. For the core of the winter months the modeling shows a slightly more likely chance of precipitation. The drought is so entrenched that it would take a seriously wet winter to reverse it which is unlikely. Flooding is still possible because of our dry ground and possible La Nina precipitation.

He explained that NWS does special event briefings as well as search and rescue forecast briefings.

Brian Taylor thanked Chris for his presentation.

6. Update on LEPC of SERC letter for clarification – Brian Taylor, LEPC Chair

Brian Taylor explained that the committee sent a letter to SERC asking for clarification of parameters in advance to keep from future denials of grants. Brian said he attended the last SERC meeting where

they acknowledged receipt of the letter and said it had been discussed in their Grant Funding group. SERC said they would try to do better in the future.

Kelly Echeverria added that SERC said in the meeting that they had not released a notice of funding opportunity for the grant in question. Kelly said she clarified that despite that, parameters still needed to be given. SERC did agree to do better in the future. Brian added that Washoe County LEPC does everything they can to get grants for the community and SERC is in line with what we are requesting and want to assist the committee in getting grants as well.

7. Update on Regional Emergency Management Events – A briefing of regional meetings, events, trainings, and exercises. – Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Manager

Kelly Echeverria explained that Emergency Management is working on a number of plan updates including the Damage Assessment Plan, Family Assistance Center Plan, and they are entering phase two of the Mass Care Evacuation Plan Update. Phase one was looking at non-congregate sheltering and phase two will be a more in-depth look at that plan. There is a spring Incline Village evacuation exercise in planning with North Lake Tahoe and California. She explained that a vendor will be hired for that drill as it is a large-scale evacuation drill.

The department is updating the Regional Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Management Duty Officer Standard Operating Procedure. Any changes made will be presented at a future LEPC meeting.

She said they renewed their Storm-Ready Designation with Chris and NWS.

She explained that LEPC will also be conducting annual plan updates. There have been changes made to the SERC requirements so staff will be incorporating those into the update before presenting to the General Membership meeting in December.

The Emergency Managers' breakfast is always the first Friday of the month. Next month will be the 4th at Denny's in Sparks at 8am. All are welcome.

She added that the IPPW will be after the December meeting. The December LEPC meeting is in person and directly after that meeting will be the planning workshop to discuss trainings.

8. Update on the Radiological Task Force – A briefing on current radiological issues within the region – Scott Alquist, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC)

Francisco Ceballos said Scott Alquist emailed him that he will not be at the meeting and there are no updates at this time.

9. Update of Washoe County Citizen Corps – A briefing on events and activities supported by the Washoe County Citizen Corps including, but not limited to, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) – Joe Oleciregui, Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) or Designee

Joe Oleciregui said year to date they have 280 volunteers and each one has done something in the last two years. There are 192 active volunteers with 10,203 hours put back into the community. There have been 56 community events, 75 trainings, and four academies with 59 new community members being trained. Total hours given to the academy by volunteers is 1,416.

CERT has responded to four emergency activations. They have had eight community outreach events which included Child I.D. Presently they have 300 I.D.s. CERT has conducted four trainings for the private sector for fire extinguisher use. 60 volunteers have attended Intact training as well as ICS training. They have supported WCHD, RPD, TMFPD, and the WC Sherriff's Office. In September, there were 77 volunteers for 1,610 hours. There is a training on October 26th at the Training Center with 30 participants signed up so far.

CERT will be assisting with the Incline Village Trunk or Treat on October 27th as well as Halloween night on Marsh Street with RPD to conduct traffic. They are starting the Citizens Homeland Security Council Team again on November 10th and there are currently 50 people signed up. This trains to identify suspicious activity at events. There is a fire extinguisher training event coming up for the Health Department on December 6th. Also, they are looking for support from local agencies to teach topics related to emergency response. He asked members to please contact him if they are interested in teaching.

10. Update on State Emergency Response Commission – A briefing on grants status and State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) happenings – Tami Beauregard or designee

Francisco explained that Tami was not able to attend the meeting but passed on some information to be shared. Tami said that she attended the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant Conference. Francisco said he would forward the email she shared with him that has training brochures she brought back from the conference. Some of the trainings may not be covered by HMEP so Francisco asked members to email him if they are interested in a training and they can determine if it would be covered. Tami reminded the committee that HMEP funds are for planning and training to mitigate hazardous incidents.

11. Training Review – Briefing on trainings that have occurred in the past 2 months and requests for future trainings. Upcoming Trainings. – Brian Taylor, LEPC Chair

Brian said he was not aware of any trainings during this period.

12. Election of Vice Chair and At-Large Positions – FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – The membership will take nominations and vote on the 2023 Vice Chair and At-Large positions – Francisco Ceballos

Francisco explained that according to Washoe County LEPC bylaws, the vice-chair becomes the next chair of the committee. Therefore, he said, Andy Ancho will be the next chair of LEPC.

He explained that the vice-chair position however, must be elected. The only nomination presented for the position was of Brian Taylor. Francisco asked if Brian Taylor accepts the nomination and Brian accepted.

There was no public comment.

Francisco Ceballos moved for a verbal vote to elect Brian Taylor as the next vice-chair of Washoe County LEPC.

The vote passed unanimously.

Francisco said that for the at-large position, there was also only one name given for the position: Tracy Moore. Francisco asked if Tracy Moore accepts the nomination and he accepted.

There was no public comment.

Francisco Ceballos moved for a verbal vote to elect Tracy Moore as the next at-large of Washoe County LEPC.

The vote passed unanimously.

13. LEPC chairman/board member announcements/items and selection of topics for future meetings

– No discussion among committee members will take place on this item. The next regular meeting is scheduled on December 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Kelly Echeverria said Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northern Nevada reached to ask if they could present their program as they are looking for volunteers. There are 150 kids on the waiting list. They also have a program called Bigs with Badges. Andy Ancho said he attended a Bigs with Badges presentation recently and it was a great presentation and program. Andrea Esp added that she used to be part of the program and she is a big advocate of the work they do.

14. Public Comment –

There was no public comment.

15. Brian Taylor adjourned meeting at 10:53am.