



Washoe County

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

General Membership Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes

February 19, 2026, 10:00 A.M.

Regional Emergency Operations Center

5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

PRESENT: Noah Boyer – WCSO; John Galicia – UNRPD; Andy Ancho – RFD; Kevin Jakubos – SFD; Zeb Nomura – TMFPD; Francisco Vega – HD Air; Gary Muro – DA; Kelly Echeverria – WCEM; Paulo Vandenberg - WCTS; Sean Slamon - REMSA; Andrea Esp – NNPH; Leslie Alfree - IHCC; Brittany Nevin; Cameron Kramer – VA; Jamie Borino - RTC; Wade Barnett – KOLO-TV; Sara Colacurcio - RPSD; Joe Kammann – TMFPD; Robert Wooster – WC Animal Services; Don Pelt – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Ben Russell - SPD; Jennifer Delaney - UNR; Scott Means – SFD; Michael Peck – NLTFPD; Stephen Shipman – NNPH; Jordyn Marchi – IHCC; Jim Nelligan – NLTFPD; Elizabeth Kunz – RPD; Roy Anderson – WCSD; Drew Olivero - WCSD; Nathan Goins - RFD; Charlie Tabano - NVPSN; Brett Zolkos - SPD; and Tim Hill - NV Energy;

ABSENT: Rand Hutson – RPD; Jace Thelin - SPD; Ryan Sommers – NLTFPD; Nick Klaich – TRIAD; James Schmidt - TRIAD; Shyanne Schull – WC Animal Services; Sabrina Brassuel - WCEM; Eric Smith - Renown; Clinte Bellamy - SPD; Matt Williams – UNR; Becky Brown – SPD; Garrett Bird - WCSO; Josh Reynolds – UNRPD; Chris Nero – UNRPD; Michael Perry – WCSD; Aaron Wike – RFD; Russell Barnum - NLTFPD; Thomas Roes – NLTFPD; Ryan Rizzuto – TMFPD; Chris Ketring – TMFPD; Jonathan Prichard - Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; David Paulon – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Craig Petersen - HD Air; Brendan Schneider - HD Air; Stephanie Shuman - DA;

Joel Reynolds - DA; Tammy Wines-Jennings – WC Animal Services; Jarrod Nunes - RS Indian Colony; Paul Burton – REMSA; Todd Kerfoot – REMSA; Raquel DuPuy Grafton –NNPH; Julie Fry - IHCC; James Riley – VA; Yvonne Feldhaus - Renown; James Gee – RTC; Oren Fallon - RTAA; Ben Carpenter – RTAA; Ricardo Duarte – RTC; Erin Yeung - RPSD; Terry Donshick – CERT; Ian Dasmann – TMWA; Macy Campbell - NV Energy; Elaina Hooper - RPSD; Joe Olaciregui – CERT; Aaron Reyes – TMWA; and Yuri Graves - NV Energy;

Also Present: Katherine Hoffman - Legal; Kelsey Zaski - LEPC Secretary; and Francisco Ceballos - LEPC Treasurer.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Noah Boyer explained that public comment can be called in using the TEAMS number, 775-325-0620. The phone conference ID is 706 051 842#.

There was no public comment.

Kelsey Zaski was unsure if legal was present.

Katherine Hoffman confirmed her presence.

3. Approval of December 18, 2025, General Membership Minutes (for Possible Action) – Noah Boyer, Chair

It was moved by Leslie Allfree, seconded by Nathan Goins to approve the minutes as presented.

There was no public comment.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of HazMat Needs and Response Capacity Across Washoe County – Discussion on possible impacts cuts to federal, state, and local funding have had on regional HazMat response. – General Membership

Noah Boyer explained that over the past 18 to 24 months there had been noticeable shifts in the structure and timing of response-related funding. He stated that the purpose of placing the item on the agenda was to begin a broader regional conversation

about whether any significant gaps were emerging in the county's ability to respond to hazardous materials or CBRNE-related incidents. He noted that the meeting included a large number of participants and expressed hope that potential solutions could emerge collaboratively among member agencies. Boyer encouraged participants to raise any operational concerns they had observed and suggested that even small issues identified through day-to-day work could be valuable for regional planning.

Elizabeth Kunz asked whether the primary issue being observed was simply delays in the release of standard grant funding or whether there were more intentional shifts in funding priorities that were redirecting resources.

Boyer responded that several federal funding streams had been delayed, including the Justice Assistance Grant. He explained that funding from sources such as the State Homeland Security Program and the Division of Emergency Management had also been delayed. He stated that the delays were largely related to federal government shutdowns that had affected FEMA operations, which in turn impacted the timeline for distributing grant funds. Boyer added that the delays also complicated agencies' ability to complete projects on schedule and anticipated that similar timeline disruptions could affect both the 2025 and 2026 funding cycles depending on federal budget developments.

Kunz then asked whether program officers were becoming less willing to informally approve minor grant adjustments, noting that in her experience requests that previously could be approved by email were now requiring formal grant amendment processes.

Boyer stated that his experience had varied depending on the specific grant program. He explained that some project change requests were still processed quickly, while others were now taking several months to receive approval. He described the situation as inconsistent and dependent on the specific grant and reviewing office.

Stephen Shipman then provided additional comments regarding regional hazmat preparedness efforts. He stated that plans were underway to host a hazardous materials workshop in April, tentatively scheduled for April 28. He explained that the workshop would provide an opportunity to evaluate the impacts of funding reductions and staffing limitations on regional hazardous materials response capabilities. Shipman added that several agencies, including CLEAR, TRIAD, and Emergency Management, had been reviewing regional CBRNE resource needs following a recent clandestine laboratory incident.

Shipman noted that one issue identified during that review was the lack of a secure location for storing hazardous materials collected as evidence during investigations. He explained that agencies currently lack a dedicated facility or funding mechanism for

safely storing, sampling, and eventually disposing of hazardous substances that must be retained for evidentiary purposes. Shipman stated that these situations can result in unexpected costs for jurisdictions, sometimes reaching tens of thousands of dollars, which can significantly impact agency budgets. He emphasized that while response operations may be manageable, the recovery and evidence-handling phases often present substantial logistical and financial challenges.

Boyer responded that this type of issue was exactly the reason the discussion item had been placed on the agenda. He reiterated that the intention was to begin gathering input from across the region and revisit the topic in future meetings after members had time to evaluate operational gaps within their own agencies. Boyer noted that the Local Emergency Planning Committee provides one of the few regional forums where all components of emergency response—from dispatch through field response, investigation, recovery, and evidence management—are represented in one place. He encouraged members to document any concerns or operational gaps they identified and bring them forward during future discussions so the committee could begin developing regional solutions.

5. Treasurers Report – Information on existing FY 26 Operations, Planning, Training, and Equipment (OPTE) and FY 26 United We Stand (UWS). Information and upcoming grants, member information, and trainings. – Francisco Ceballos, LEPC Treasurer

Francisco Ceballos began with the Fiscal Year 2026 OPTE grant, stating that most of the funds had been successfully expended and that approximately \$940.22 remained in the operations category. He explained that the remaining funds would be spent prior to the grant deadline of May 30. Ceballos noted that both REMSA-TEMS and TRIAD-RFD had already completed their purchases under this grant.

He then provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2026 United We Stand grant. Ceballos reported that REMSA and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office had completed their purchases, while Reno Police and Sparks Police were still in the process of completing theirs. He stated that, including a small remaining balance from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office allocation, approximately \$19,398.59 remained available.

Ceballos next reported on the Homeland Security Grant Program balances. He stated that the Fiscal Year 2023 grant had a remaining balance of \$1,937.88 and the Fiscal Year 2024 grant had a remaining balance of \$5,583.60. He explained that these remaining funds were primarily allocated for travel and would likely be spent within the next several months.

Finally, Ceballos provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2026 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant. He explained that the program had returned to state administration and that the state was currently determining how the funding would be distributed moving forward. Ceballos stated that once the state provided additional guidance, he would share that information with the committee.

- 6. Approval of FY 2027 LEPC Grant Applications (for Possible Action) – Review and consider possible approval of the Grants and Finance Subcommittee’s recommendations on FY 2027 LEPC grant applications submitted under the United We Stand (UWS) and Operations, Planning, Training, and Equipment (OPTE) programs. The Membership may also consider re-categorizing applications between the two programs. Applications submitted:**

UWS:

- Reno Fire Department – \$27,939
- Sparks Police Department – \$12,900.91
- Reno Police Department, Patrol Division – \$14,046
- Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, SWAT – \$9,996
- Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District – \$28,680

The total recommended funding shall not exceed \$32,000.

OPTE:

- Reno Police Department, CLEAR Team – \$17,360

The total recommended funding shall not exceed \$36,000 (including \$4,000 for Operations).

Upon approval, applications will be authorized for submission to the Nevada State Emergency Response Commission.– Francisco Ceballos, LEPC Treasurer

Noah Boyer introduced the agenda item regarding the Fiscal Year 2027 grant applications and the proposed funding allocations between the two programs. He explained that the projects had previously been reviewed during the Grants and Finance Committee meeting, where each applicant provided a presentation on their request. Boyer noted that during that meeting several adjustments had been made, including reductions to some project requests and the movement of one project between funding programs in order to better align with grant eligibility requirements.

Boyer stated that the proposed allocations displayed by Francisco Ceballos reflected the final distribution of funds between the two programs based on those discussions.

2027 OPTE and UWS grants by Washoe LEPC Grants and Finance Subcommittee				
Operations, Planning, Training & Equipment (OPTE) \$32K				
Amount	Applicant		Amount	Item
32,000.00	1	Reno PD- Clear	\$ 17,360.00	Tactical SCBA - 2 / Cylinder with Valve-2
	5	TMFPD	\$ 14,640.00	Cyano
	3			
		Total	\$ 32,000.00	
			\$ -	
United We Stand (UWS) 32 K				
Amount	Applicant		Amount	Item
32,000.00	1	Reno Fire	\$ 9,943.54	- Non-Technical Ballistic Helmet/
	2	Sparks PD	\$ 6,408.46	Blueridge armor shield
	3	Reno-PD-Patrol	\$ 5,900.00	-NIJ ballistic shields
	4	WCSSO - Swat	\$ 9,748.00	Harness System
		Total	\$ 32,000.00	
			\$ -	

Boyer then asked whether any members had questions or comments regarding the projects that had been submitted or the funding allocations as presented.

It was moved by Kelly Echeverria, seconded by Tim Hill to approve the grant allocations as presented.

There was no public comment.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Kelly Echeverria provided an update on activities within Washoe County Emergency Management. She announced that the department had successfully completed the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) review process. Echeverria noted that the accreditation effort required extensive preparation over several weeks and thanked the many partners who contributed to achieving the milestone. She explained that while the accreditation has been completed, the official confirmation is expected later in the year following final review and approval by the EMAP commission.

Echeverria then provided an update on the ongoing SWIFT evacuation study. She explained that the project team is currently completing the mapping phase, which involves defining evacuation zones across Washoe County as well as within the Cities of Reno and Sparks. She stated that the zone mapping was expected to be completed by the end of February, after which modeling work would begin in March. The modeling phase will examine evacuation scenarios involving wildfire, flooding, and other hazards to evaluate traffic movement and evacuation effectiveness.

She also discussed upcoming training efforts related to the Incident Support Model and Emergency Operations Center staffing. Echeverria noted that the department is working to better identify specific training needs for each section of the EOC structure. She stated that the G-191 course is scheduled to be offered in June and that the department has requested an additional earlier offering from the state. She also mentioned that the Earth Day 300/400 level ICS training will be hosted at the Emergency Operations Center and would be applicable to personnel who may fill operational roles during incidents. She recommended that participants complete the Basic EOC Functions (IS-2200) and Intermediate EOC Functions (IS-2300), though she noted that the government's online training system was temporarily unavailable due to the federal shutdown.

Echeverria next reviewed several regional planning efforts currently underway. She stated that the Flood Response Action Plan is being updated, as well as the regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). She noted that the City of Reno has already completed its CWPP update and commended the city for completing that work.

She also highlighted upcoming exercise activities in the region. Echeverria noted that a hazardous materials workshop is being planned, potentially followed by a tabletop exercise. She added that the Reno-Tahoe International Airport will also be conducting a tabletop exercise followed by a full-scale exercise.

Finally, Echeverria discussed the region's focus on identifying capability gaps. She noted that although the Grants and Finance Committee had recently reviewed and approved several funding requests, none of those projects had been identified as capability gaps during the Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop. She explained that this disconnect indicates that agencies may not be fully communicating their operational needs during the planning process. Echeverria emphasized the importance of improving that coordination so that regional planning efforts more accurately identify gaps and ensure that grant funding is directed toward projects that strengthen overall emergency response capabilities. She stated that improving this process would be a key focus for Emergency Management moving forward.

8. Update on the Radiological Task Force – Updates on current radiological issues within the region – General Membership

Noah Boyer provided an update regarding upcoming training opportunities connected to the Securing the Cities program. He explained that the program, which has previously funded training and equipment in the Reno area, is administered through the Securing the Cities initiative based in San Francisco.

Boyer stated that representatives from the program are planning to visit the region to conduct an equipment inventory and provide a short training block. The training is expected to focus on radiological detection and response and would serve as a refresher for personnel who have previously participated in the program.

He noted that the training is tentatively being planned for April or May and stated that once specific dates and details are confirmed, the information will be distributed to the group.

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 Olaciregui, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) or designee

A representative from Washoe County Citizen Corps was not present to give comment.

10. **Update on State Emergency Response Commission** – A briefing on State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) happenings – Designee

Francisco Ceballos stated that the grant application period had officially opened, allowing the recently approved grant applications to be submitted. Ceballos explained that following the committee’s earlier actions, he would proceed with submitting the Fiscal Year 2027 grant applications.

He also reported that the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant program is expected to reopen. Ceballos stated that once additional information becomes available regarding application timelines and program details, he would share the information with the group. He noted that the grant typically provides a substantial amount of funding that could benefit the committee and its member agencies.

Noah Boyer asked about the allowable uses of the grant.

Ceballos confirmed that the funding is generally used for training and equipment related to hazardous materials preparedness and response.

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

Noah Boyer announced an upcoming training opportunity scheduled for March 4 at the Regional Public Safety Training Center. The course, titled Drone Assessment and Response Tactics, will be hosted locally and funded through Emertec, an organization affiliated with New Mexico Tech. Boyer explained that the eight-hour course is designed for emergency responders and other personnel who may encounter unmanned aircraft systems in the course of their duties. The training will focus on detecting, assessing, and responding to drone-related threats. He noted that approximately thirty individuals were already registered but that additional participants could still be accommodated, and he encouraged interested attendees to contact him directly to be added to the list.

Charlie Tabano from the Nevada Peer Support Network, announced an upcoming Basic Peer Support and Critical Incident Stress Management training. The course will be held March 23 and 24 at the Truckee Meadows Community College Redfield Campus. He explained that the two-day training is open for registration through the Nevada Peer Support Network website and that the cost is \$55 per person, which includes lunch. Tabano noted that the training provides foundational peer support and stress management techniques for individuals working in emergency response environments.

- 12. LEPC Chairperson/ 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 for April 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

There was no comment on this item.

- 13. Public Comment –**

Charlie Tabano informed the committee that, at the request of the Placer County Sheriff's Office and the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, the Nevada Peer Support Network would be conducting a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) session later that day at 5pm. The session was being organized to support responders involved in the recent avalanche incident in the Tahoe region.

- 14.** Noah Boyer adjourned meeting at 10:35am.