



Washoe County

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

General Membership Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes

April 16, 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 10:01 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Noah Boyer – WCSO; John Galicia – UNRPD; Andy Ancho – RFD; Nick Klaich – TRIAD; Zeb Nomura – TMFPD; Francisco Vega – HD Air; Kelly Echeverria – WCEM; Paulo Vandenberg - WCTS; Leslie Alfree - IHCC; Jamie Borino - RTC; Robert Wooster – WC Animal Services; Don Pelt – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Joe Olaciregui – CERT; Scott Means – SFD; Matt Williams – UNR; Michael Peck – NLTFPD; Ben Carpenter – RTAA; Elizabeth Kunz – RPD; Cameron Kramer – VA; Roy Anderson – WCSD; Eric Smith - Renown; Aaron Reyes – TMWA; Drew Olivero - WCSD; Tanner Dye - RTAA; Ricardo Duarte – RTAA; Becky Brown – SPD; Nathan Goins - RFD; Lance Chantler - RS Indian Colony; Eric Millette - NVPSN; and Tim Hill - NV Energy;

ABSENT: Rand Hutson – RPD; Jace Thelin - SPD; Ryan Sommers – NLTFPD; James Schmidt - TRIAD; Shyanne Schull – WC Animal Services; Sabrina Brassuel - WCEM; Clinte Bellamy - SPD; Ben Russell - SPD; Garrett Bird - WCSO; Josh Reynolds – UNRPD; Chris Nero – UNRPD; Michael Perry – WCSD; Aaron Wike – RFD; Kevin Jakubos – SFD; Russell Barnum - NLTFPD; Jim Nelligan – NLTFPD; Thomas Roes – NLTFPD; Joe Kammann – TMFPD; 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; Darren

Wagner - RS Indian Colony; Jarrod Nunes - RS Indian Colony; Jerry Brown - 152d ANG; Quinn Lundbom - 152d ANG; Sean Slamon - REMSA; Paul Burton – REMSA; Todd Kerfoot – REMSA; Andrea Esp – NNPH; Raquel DuPuy Grafton – NNPH; Stephen Shipman – NNPH; Jordyn Marchi – IHCC; Julie Fry - IHCC; Brittany Nevin – VA; Wade Barnett – KOLO-TV; Yvonne Feldhaus - Renown; James Gee – RTC; Oren Fallon - RTAA; Jennifer Delaney - UNR; Charlie Tabano - NVPSN; Scott Baker - NVPSN; Sara Colacurcio - RPSD; Erin Yeung - RPSD; Joe Olaciregui - CERT; Terry Donshick – CERT; Ian Dasmann – TMWA; Macy Campbell - NV Energy; Quinn Korbolic - WCTS; 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.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES (For Possible Action) - Noah Boyer, Chair

Attachments: 2.19.26 LEPC GM Meeting Minutes DRAFT

It was moved by Eric Millette, seconded by Nathan Goins to approve the minutes as presented.

There was no public comment.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. 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 by providing an update on Fiscal Year 2026 grant funding. He reported that for OPTI, there is a little under \$700 remaining for operational costs, which the group expects to fully expend. For United We Stand, he noted that the

remaining funds are tied to the Avon earpieces for the Reno Police Department, and those are also expected to be spent by the end of the grant period.

Francisco Ceballos then provided updates on Homeland Security grant funding, stating that Fiscal Year 2023 has \$1,937.88 remaining and Fiscal Year 2024 has \$5,583.16 remaining, both of which are designated for travel and are expected to be utilized within the appropriate timelines.

He continued with an update on the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant, explaining that the program remains with the State and that recent trainings, including rail car and battery trainings, were supported through HMEP funds. He noted that the State is still working through the process and additional information is expected, and he will share updates with the group once the funding becomes more widely available to the LEPC. Francisco also added that additional trainings will be offered again in May, and that he will distribute flyers to encourage increased attendance, noting that participation in the previous session was low despite the trainings being requested.

Francisco Ceballos then addressed Fiscal Year 2027 grants, stating that they are currently in process. He explained that the State is conducting certification of all LEPCs, reviewing submitted materials including plans and required documentation. Once certification is complete, the State will move forward with notifying recipients regarding grant awards.

Francisco Ceballos concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Noah Boyer provided a follow-up comment referencing the February 19 meeting, noting that in discussions with the Nevada Department of Emergency Management, it was confirmed that many Program Change Requests (PCRs) and grant-related actions are currently in a holding pattern pending approval of the Department of Homeland Security budget. The speaker explained that this delay is occurring nationwide, not just in Nevada, and that many projects and positions remain in limbo until federal funding decisions are finalized.

5. **LEPC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING STRUCTURE** - Discussion on a proposal of the LEPC Executive Committee to revise LEPC General Membership meeting structure to clarify membership participation expectations and include regular Community Lifeline sector status reports to inform and prioritize LEPC grant and purchasing decisions based on identified regional response capability gaps. – LEPC Executive Committee

Noah Boyer explained that the discussion stemmed from prior executive meetings where the group evaluated the overall structure of LEPC, including how grants are used and how they align with exercises and regional needs. He stated that historically, exercises identify weaknesses, but those findings are not consistently carried forward into funding decisions. He emphasized the goal of creating a more structured process where identified gaps from exercises are directly tied to grant funding, ensuring that purchases address real deficiencies rather than being disconnected or opportunistic.

Noah Boyer continued by noting that this shift would require greater participation from all member organizations, including those not typically involved in exercises, such as media, utilities, and technical services. He stated that bringing these groups into exercises and discussions would allow for more comprehensive identification of regional needs and ensure that decisions reflect the full scope of response capabilities.

Kelly Echeverria added that many trainings and exercises are conducted by partner agencies, but the results and identified gaps are not always reported back to the group or to Emergency Management. She reiterated that the purpose of the Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) is to capture those gaps and align them with capabilities, allowing the group to justify grant requests based on documented needs. She emphasized that without this process, funding risks being used for uncoordinated purchases rather than addressing true capability gaps.

Zebulon Nomura agreed with the direction of tying funding to identified gaps and suggested that the group consider developing a rating or prioritization system for grant applications. He noted that such a system could help the group allocate larger portions of funding to high-priority needs rather than distributing smaller amounts across multiple projects.

Noah Boyer expanded on this idea, referencing recent grant discussions where funding was divided among multiple projects, including ballistic shields, ballistic helmets, and cyanokits. He suggested that a more strategic approach could involve fully funding a single high-priority need in one cycle, then addressing other needs in subsequent cycles. He emphasized the importance of using evidence-based decision-making and focusing on broader regional impact rather than spreading funds thinly across many smaller requests.

Kelly Echeverria provided additional context by outlining the top priorities identified during the previous IPPW, including operational coordination, operational communication, community resilience, planning, and infrastructure systems. She noted that within each of these priorities, the group has identified needs across planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises, and encouraged members to reference the integrated preparedness plan when submitting grant requests.

Nick Klaich expressed support for the direction being discussed and noted that similar efforts had been initiated in prior years. He raised concern about recurring requests for expiring or routine equipment, stating that those items should typically be funded by individual agencies rather than through LEPC grants. He emphasized that priority should be given to regional assets or capabilities that benefit multiple agencies, rather than agency-specific needs.

Noah Boyer acknowledged this concern and noted that the grant process has revealed instances where multiple agencies request the same type of equipment. He suggested that a coordinated regional purchase could be more efficient and beneficial, particularly for smaller agencies that may otherwise lack access to such resources. He also agreed that recurring or standard operational equipment should generally be the responsibility of individual agencies.

Elizabeth Kunz added that centralized purchasing and lending of equipment could improve efficiency by reducing administrative burdens on agencies. She noted that past efforts to procure and distribute equipment regionally helped streamline timelines and avoid delays associated with local approval processes and procurement requirements.

Noah Boyer concluded by emphasizing that the success of this approach depends on participation and transparency. He encouraged all members to actively engage in exercises, honestly identify capability gaps, and contribute to discussions so that the group can develop informed, coordinated solutions that strengthen regional response capabilities.

6. UPDATE ON REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EVENTS - A briefing of regional meetings, events, trainings, and exercises. – Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Manager

Kelly Echeverria provided updates related to planning efforts, stating that work is ongoing on the Flood Response Action Plan, noting that a productive meeting had taken place the previous day. She added that development of the Alerts and Warnings Plan will begin later in the month, led by Jessica, and that the evacuation study is currently underway. She explained that public comment on the study has closed and that fire scenarios are being developed to overlay with evacuation zones, which will inform modeling efforts and help identify areas of concern and mitigation strategies.

Kelly Echeverria continued with training updates, noting that a recent lithium-ion battery and hazardous materials training had been held but was poorly attended. She emphasized that when trainings are requested by the group, it is important for members to attend, as low participation may impact the ability to host similar trainings

in the future. She added that one outcome from the training was a request to review communication flow during lithium battery incidents, particularly regarding notification pathways between state, environmental, and emergency management entities, suggesting this could become a future project.

Kelly Echeverria then provided exercise updates, stating that the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority will conduct a full-scale exercise on May 13, and that Northern Nevada Public Health will facilitate the “Bitter Almond” exercise on May 27. She added that a workshop similar to the previous earthquake workshop will precede that exercise, featuring a panel discussion on how agencies support such incidents. She also noted that Emergency Management is developing a continuity of operations tabletop exercise for the Registrar of Voters following the election, with a target timeline in the winter, though planning is already underway.

Kelly Echeverria shared a recent real-world incident involving a train derailment, explaining that the primary materials involved were wine, tomato paste, and lumber, with no major hazardous releases. She highlighted that Union Pacific restored the tracks in under two days, Amtrak implemented a bus bridge for passengers, and service resumed quickly. She noted that there was significant focus on protecting the Truckee River from contamination and that the incident demonstrated strong coordination among regional partners.

Kelly Echeverria concluded by announcing that Emergency Management has officially received its third consecutive Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) accreditation, noting that this places the organization among a very small number of jurisdictions globally to achieve this distinction. She expressed appreciation for all partners involved in the effort and described the accreditation as a significant accomplishment.

7. UPDATE ON THE RADIOLOGICAL TASK FORCE - Updates on current radiological issues within the region – General Membership

Nick Klaich stated that, on behalf of Triad, the group is currently in the process of conducting regional calibration of all radiation monitors. He explained that this effort is coordinated through the State, with local sites established across the region, and that all agencies complete calibration at the same time using the same instruments. He expressed appreciation for the State’s involvement and noted that Jason Danen is organizing the effort this year. He added that all relevant participants should already be on the notification list and prepared, as the calibration is scheduled to occur within the

next two days. He advised that anyone hearing about the process for the first time who has State-owned equipment should contact him offline to be included.

Noah Boyer reported that Nevada's Level 3 stabilization team recently completed its required semiannual continuing education training in Huntsville and passed with strong results.

- 8. 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

Noah Boyer provided an update regarding CERT, stating that a recent joint training had been conducted involving CERT and law enforcement personnel. The purpose of the training was to provide CERT volunteers with additional perspective on law enforcement operations and expectations during special events.

Boyer explained that CERT volunteers frequently support a wide range of special events across the region and are well-prepared to assist. He advised that any agencies in need of CERT volunteers for upcoming events should reach out to Joe Olaciregui for coordination.

- 9. UPDATE ON STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION** - A briefing on State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) happenings – SERC Designee

Francisco Ceballos stated, for the record, that as a follow-up to earlier discussion, the State is currently reviewing all submitted plans to ensure they are up to date. He explained that once this review process is complete, they will be able to move forward with operating and distributing grant funding.

- 10. 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 noted that there has been a significant amount of training occurring regionally, particularly during this time of year when many agencies are building up their programs. He encouraged members to take advantage of available training opportunities and emphasized the importance of participation, adding that strong attendance supports the ability to continue bringing valuable trainings to the region.

Francisco Ceballos provided information on upcoming trainings, stating that on May 12 there will be a First Responder Offensive Detection and Monitoring class, followed by a Battery IQ class on May 14, and a Rail Operations class on May 15. He noted that all trainings will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will be hosted locally, and that he will send out links for registration.

Kelly Echeverria added that ICS 300 and ICS 400 courses are scheduled for April 20 and will also be hosted locally.

Nick Klaich shared a follow-up on a recent lithium-ion battery training facilitated by the EPA, noting that approximately 74 students attended. He highlighted strong participation, including six EPA On-Scene Coordinators and representatives from State Emergency Management. He explained that the training prompted important discussions regarding resource coordination and activation processes, and that there may be a follow-up training in the future. He added that the overall goal is to create consistency in regional response, and that any future meetings or opportunities will be shared with the group.

Eric Smith announced that Renown Health will be hosting a Hospital Emergency Department Management of Radiation Accidents training on April 29. He noted that the training was coordinated through IHCC and that a limited number of spots remain available for those interested.

Ben Carpenter, representing the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, stated that their triennial FAA exercise will take place on May 13. He noted that many agencies are already involved but extended an invitation for others to participate as observers or volunteers by reaching out to airport staff for coordination.

- 11. 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 [ENTER DATE] at [ENTER TIME].

There was no comment.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Eric Millette, representing Peer Support, reported that a Peer Support System training was conducted on March 23 and 24, with 39 participants from across Northern Nevada and Northern California. He noted that attendees included fire agencies, hospital staff, and law enforcement personnel, and that the training aimed to support agencies in

developing their own internal peer support programs while also preparing individuals for participation in the regional response system.

Eric Millette further stated that, following up on the previous meeting, Peer Support responded to the avalanche incident involving the Nordic Search and Rescue teams. He explained that three Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) debriefings were conducted in Truckee, reaching nearly 70 individuals. He emphasized that many of those involved were volunteers who may not have the same exposure or support systems as traditional first responders, highlighting the importance of providing these services.

Eric Millette concluded by offering Peer Support services to all agencies, encouraging members to reach out if their organizations have any needs.

13. Noah Boyer adjourned meeting at 10:41.am.