

LAS VEGAS URBAN AREA WORKING GROUP

UAWG

Clark County Fire Administration
575 E. Flamingo Rd., 2nd Floor, MACC
Las Vegas, NV 89119

MEETING MINUTES **DRAFT**

Wednesday, September 8th, 2026

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Brian O'Neal, Carlito Rayos, Carolyn Levering, Ben Erickson, Ana Chavez, Diana Clarkson, Greg Chesser, Toni Barnes, Misty Robinson, Harry Dubray.

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Steven DePue, Michelle Thackston, Jeremy Hynds, Jeff Quinn, Harriett Vegas, Diane Orgill.

MEMBERS' ABSENT:

Kenny Holding, Bryan Ostaszewski.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions and Determination of Quorum.

The Chairman Brian O'Neal called the meeting to order on Wednesday, September 8th, 2026, at 11:02 AM at the Clark County Fire Department, MACC, 575 E Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119.
Quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

No comments.

3. Review and approve the meeting minutes from the July 14th, 2026, meeting.

Ben Erickson **motion to approve the meeting minutes.** Diana Clarkson **seconded.**
No further discussion. **Motion carried.**

4. Strategic Plan Working Group Update.

The Chair provided an update on the Strategic Plan Working Group regarding the alignment of projects and priorities. The Chair noted that the Committee is working to develop metrics for evaluating spending and identified the need to better align certain projects with their funding sources and strategic priorities.

The UAS/Counter-UAS subcommittee is being considered for transition to the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) to better align the capability with the funding source and priorities across jurisdictions.

Jeremy Hynds provided an overview of the UAS/Counter-UAS Subcommittee and its transition from LEPC to the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG). He explained that the subcommittee was created in January to bring regional drone programs together, improve coordination, and prevent individual agencies from operating in separate or disconnected programs. The goal is to establish a common operating picture, standardized terminology, and coordinated practices for the safe use of drones throughout the community. Mr. Hynds reported that the subcommittee currently has approximately 80 members representing federal, state, local, and tribal agencies, with approximately 30-40 members typically attending meetings. He also provided an overview of four internal workgroups focusing on policy and legal framework, funding and staffing, training, and information sharing and data management. Mr. Hynds noted that the subcommittee's mission and priorities may be reassessed as it transitions to the UAWG and emphasized the need to develop a sustainable structure for the group and its workload.

The Chair identified the need to expand the subcommittee's focus from identifying existing drone capabilities to addressing regional coordination, funding, airspace management, and policy-level issues. The Chair noted that these issues will require coordination beyond the subcommittee and a broader regional discussion. The group also discussed potential funding restrictions and the anticipated 20% reduction in awards. The Chair explained that the restriction is expected to apply at the state level to awards and subawards, including drone projects, while related legal proceedings remain ongoing. The group discussed procurement options for drone equipment, including state and federal contracts, and the possibility of using existing contracts to avoid a separate RFP process.

Jeremy Hynds also raised a concern regarding whether Boulder City and Mesquite are considered part of the UASI urban area and requested clarification from the State Administrative Agency (SAA) regarding their eligibility to participate in UASI and apply for future grant funding. The group discussed the need for clear guidance to prevent jurisdictions from being directed between UASI and SHSP funding programs.

- 5. Southern Nevada Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT): Overview of the regional IMT and its role in providing coordinated, scalable incident management support for complex incidents and planned events throughout Southern Nevada.**

Hayley McInnes, Incident Management Team Assistant for the Southern Nevada Type 3 Incident Management Team, provided an update on the team's current status and activities. The team currently has 41 members, including prospective members completing required training and task books. Required training includes ICS 300/400, 305 All-Hazards Incident Management Team training, and position-specific training. Ms. McInnes reviewed recent accomplishments in planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises. The team has conducted training on establishing an Individual and Family Assistance Center (IFAC) and using the Impacted Persons Database. The interlocal agreement was recently amended to expand interagency participation. The team also holds bimonthly meetings that include tabletop activities and has implemented an acknowledgement of expectations for member participation. The team has acquired equipment, including a mini-CRED, computers, iPads, radios, and an Incident Management Team trailer, which has been used during exercises and deployments throughout Nevada. The team continues to identify additional equipment and supply needs. Upcoming training includes the 305 All-Hazards Incident Management Team course, and the team continues to track FEMA courses and certifications. Additional position-specific training remains a priority. The team is also incorporating tabletop exercises into regular meetings and working toward a larger exercise involving mobilization and establishment of the Incident Management Team. Ms. McInnes concluded by noting that the team is focused on increasing participation, training, and overall operational readiness.

6. Public Comment.

No public comments.

7. Adjournment.

Ben Erickson **motion to adjourn the meeting.** No further discussion. **Motion carried.**