

**Minutes of the
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
12 February 2013
Winnemucca, NV**

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (NHMPC) meeting met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at the Winnemucca Convention Center, 900 West Winnemucca Blvd in Winnemucca, Nevada.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Chair Craig dePolo called the meeting to order and thanked all for coming to Winnemucca and stated that we would be following the Open Meeting Law. He welcomed all attendees and requested that they introduce themselves. Attendees included the following persons:

** indicates a member of the Board of Directors.*

Elizabeth Ashby, liaison with Nevada Division of Emergency Management

*Ed Atwell, University of Nevada Emergency Management

Bill Dalley, Winnemucca Police

*Kim Davis, Nevada Division of Water Resources

*Craig dePolo, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

*Rick Diebold, City of Las Vegas, Office of Emergency Management

*Rob Fellows, Carson City Public Works

Terri Garside, Member of the Public

Juliette Hayes, FEMA, San Francisco

Stephanie Hicks, R.O. Anderson

Gary Johnson Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Karen Johnson, Nevada Division of Emergency Management

Ed Kilgore, Humboldt County Sherriff's Office

Daphne D. LaPointe, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

*Ron Lynn, Department of Development Services, Clark County Building Department

Richard Machado, Pershing County Sherriff's Office

Andy Murdock, Winnemucca Police

P. Luke Opperman, Nevada Division of Water Resources

*Jim Reagan, NV Energy Emergency Management

C.J. Safford, Pershing County planning & Public Works

Eric Silva, Winnemucca Police

Dan Sommers, Far West Engineering

Bobby Thomas, Humboldt County Building Official

*Andrew Trelease, Clark County Regional Flood Control District

*Ryan Turner, Henderson Emergency Management

*Jim Walker, Nevada Department of Transportation

Henna Rasul, Attorney General's Office, *via teleconference*

A quorum of the members of the Board of Directors was ascertained to be in

attendance.

NHMPC Members unable to attend:

Joe Curtis Emergency Manager, Storey County

- B.** Craig opened the floor for public comment. Juliette commented at this time that there are mitigation ideas and activities as resources for updating local mitigation plans available from FEMA for Local Emergency Planning Committees.
- c. Craig called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2012 meeting of the NHMPC, which had already been distributed to the committee. Ron Lynn so moved, Ryan Turner seconded the motion; Craig called for discussion, there was none; he called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.
- d. Craig called on Gary Johnson from NBMG to report on the MyPlan website as a resource to planners and its capabilities for wildfire, flood, and earthquake hazards. Once Internet access was established, Gary demonstrated several of the MyPlan uses including USGS hazard feeds, ShakeMap info, weather hazards and described some of its uses as a tool in compiling repetitive loss and damage information. It should be a useful and effective tool for local emergency managers to use for hazard mitigation, risk assessment and calculating potential losses, especially in communities that lack GIS capabilities. But Gary needs more data to feed into the MyPlan databases first including HAZMAT data. It is not open to the public because of sensitive data; it has to be limited for official use only.

Elizabeth called on Danny Sommers with FarWest Engineering for an update on the status of the Lander-Humboldt-Pershing Tri-County Mitigation Plan. He reported that they are gathering estimates on damages. C.J. discussed the profiling of the hazards in the plan. Floods have already been addressed, but they are working on the others, some of which are difficult to address, such as drought. Juliette offered FEMA resources that may be of help in the profiling.

- e. Ed Kilgore gave a report on demographics of the area;

Winnemucca has a population of about 9,000-9500; Humboldt County has a population of 17,000-18,000.

Mining: Humboldt County is unique in having 27 operating gold mines; Hycroft – 55 miles away is doubling in size soon and expected to be biggest gold mine in world. Also Kings River lithium mine is coming online soon and Malheur Uranium mine just over state line to north in Oregon will open soon.

Thriving industrial manufacturing growth

Strong agricultural base-mainly in potatoes

Hazmat potential – Cyanco manufacturing of cyanide just outside town; 18-wheelers traveling through urban area - many carrying cyanide loads

Transportation: major route intersection in town & rail routes

Resultant vibrant economy and job outlook are causing major growth spurt and need for increased residential housing – we need to look at updating codes:

2012 building codes

2009 Energy & conservation codes

Firemarshal's codes

Make sure they meet all safety requirements

Craig thanked to Ed and C.J. for their update – then back to Gary Johnson's presentation once logged in to online MyPlan website. He demonstrated the transparency factor of being able to layer data on top on each other such as URM, floodplain, earthquake, wildfire from different data files that Gary gets from agencies such as NDF, and BLM. The USGS web service provides an RSS feed for fire and earthquake data. He stressed that the URM data file is only potentially unreinforced masonry buildings that need to be verified by on-the-ground on-site visual inspections.

Elizabeth asked if wildfire data on community ratings could be uploaded to MyPlan; Gary answered yes, it could, as well as the mitigation work completed in those areas. Craig thanked Gary for his presentation.

- F. Craig gave a PowerPoint presentation on earthquake hazards in northern Nevada with particular reference to the Winnemucca area and the Pleasant Valley Fault, which ruptured in 1915 in the biggest historical earthquake known in the state (M7.1). He stressed that a similar magnitude quake could occur at any time, that there are usually precursor "foreshocks" as there were prior to the Pleasant Valley earthquake, and that "predicting" such a quake would be much easier with additional seismometers located in Humboldt County, allowing better preparation for earthquakes. Installment of such a seismometer would cost only about \$15,000 and require a private landowner willing to have it installed on his or her property.

Craig discussed the damage done in the Winnemucca area and on surrounding ranches by the Pleasant Valley earthquake. He also discussed nonstructural hazards and what can be done to mitigate against nonstructural earthquake damage. He said that FEMA's HAZUS tool estimates a magnitude 6 earthquake would result in \$46 million damage in Winnemucca, and there is a 15-20% chance of a magnitude 6 occurring in any given year.

Ed Atwell mentioned announced that next March (2013) 3 EOCs would hold a 12-hour functional exercise demonstrating recovery after start of an earthquake.

- G. Craig called on Bobby Thomas, Flood Plain Manager of Humboldt County to give a brief presentation on the potential for flooding along the Humboldt River. He showed a map of the Humboldt River floodplain from 12 miles north of Winnemucca to about the mouth of Little Humboldt Creek. Map was developed from Flood Insurance Rate Maps from NDWR with Kim Davis. Air photo overlay resources make the work much simpler in convincing people of the reality of food hazards. Nobody believes in floods until they happen. There are currently no flood control projects in the area. They have lots of unpopulated flat-lying areas in flood plain for detention ponds if necessary. They have a lot of vegetation on flats which makes for good absorption – but the fires this past year have burned off some of it. There are no densely populated areas in the floodplain – seem to be OK as long as they keep people aware of it.

Question from Juliette: Where are all the influx of new people moving to and building?

Answer: Mostly south of town near the base of the Sonoma Range in the foothills, on higher ground, up in elevation, not on the Humboldt River floodplain. (There was some sidebar discussion that these new construction homes might still be subject to possible flash-flooding due to severe thunderstorms, even though they are not subject to riverine flooding).

There was a question of how water depth is measured in the Humboldt River and the answer was by river gages which are basically fixed vertical measuring sticks along the banks as at some underpasses – installed and maintained by the Humboldt River Water Conservation District.

Luke mentioned that the river has gotten shallower over time from sedimentation. C.J. mentioned that the lower part of the river has changed and as the river nears its terminus at Humboldt Sink near Pershing County, some dredging was done to improve farmland. In the vicinity of Winnemucca however, most sedimentation occurs before the river reaches town. There are anecdotal historical stories about how the Melarkey Street Bridge was washed out and damaged by flooding and a mobile bridge had to be brought in to replace it. The west part of town was regularly flooded in the early days – purposefully for agriculture.

Craig thanked Bobby for his presentation.

- H. Craig called on Ed Kilgore, Emergency Manager, Humboldt County, to speak about other hazards in Humboldt County. He mentioned the many HAZMAT shipments passing through by rail and highway; thousands of acres burned annually in wildfires, especially in the past year; the chemical industry – with Cyanco's cyanide manufacturing plant (although it has its own HAZMAT response team) the many mines and their huge equipment and both open pit and underground workings (but also with their own on-site emergency response teams).

He said there are 7 fire districts total – city & rural – all volunteer, and they do have an evacuation plan.

Gary asked if they have a GIS dept., and they do, soon to be upgraded. Juliette asked about the demographics of the new population influx – which will be mostly

mining and construction workers and their families. Question: what are big local community gatherings? – Ans: High school sporting events and the rodeo.

There was a working lunch for committee members while reports continued.

- I. Jim Walker, Chair of the NHM Planning Subcommittee gave an update on the Status of the state hazard mitigation plan update. He reported that edits to the plan will be due soon and most of the High and Medium/Significant risk hazard profiles have been updated (except HazMat and Terrorism/WMD) and we need a motion to approve them as presented earlier to the Committee.

Craig called for a motion to approve the following revised portions of the 2013 Nevada Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Section Zero

Section One

and the following risk hazard profiles from Section 3:

Wildfire

Drought

Winter Storm

Flood

Jim Walker made the motion; Jim Reagan seconded it. In discussion, Jim Reagan inserted the word “Enhanced” before “Plan” and asked that the footer on all sections reflect the change. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth asked all Committee members to please review the 2010 state hazard mitigation plan’s goals and action items for any changes that need to be made for inclusion in the 2013 Plan. Please do this before the next Subcommittee meeting so they can be voted on. She briefly explained again the risk assessment and vulnerability analysis had been split away from the hazard profile sections for wildfire, flood and earthquake in order to shorten and simplify these sections. NDF will be giving us new vulnerability analysis. We have lots of new members and new input. Juliette briefly explained the meaning and significance of an “Enhanced Mitigation Plan” and how it helps the state secure additional funding from FEMA that passes through to the locals in the event of a disaster.

- J. Craig called on Ron Lynn, Chair of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, for a brief report of their activities. He reported that they had a quorum at their last meeting and developed a strategic plan for where they are going in the future. He talked to the DEM chief about a possible legislative presentation demonstrating to them the potential losses to the state due to earthquakes. **At the next meeting Ron will report back on his coverage of the National meeting where he will recommend restoration of funding to historic levels. Four programs: biggest item will be implementation of a building rating system by FEMA.**
- K. Craig called on Kim Davis for an update on the State Silver Jackets team activity. She described the team as a US ACE-initiative involving members of 7 agencies

to coordinate and address flood issues in Nevada. They were selected for a pilot program funded by a \$100,000 grant to update an existing website on USGS historical flood data. It already has some chronological Carson River flood data and Silver Jackets team is arranging to update the website with damage data for the Carson flooding and both flood history and damage data for the Walker River. The Project began with a meeting and field trip for members of ACE agencies and watershed-interested-entities to sites of flood interest.

Kim said there is to be a reauthorization of the flood insurance program by FEMA's "Bigger Waters" program – All rates will go up to be actuarially related (in floodplains). So we should steer development away from floodplain building. Kim explained the details of the "Bigger Waters" program and new flood insurance rates to local managers.

Luke mentioned that he has a presentation with specific flood data for Humboldt County if they would like it.

- L. Craig called for a report on the status of open pre-disaster mitigation and hazard mitigation grants from Karen Johnson. Karen had already prepared and distributed a spreadsheet with all the details of these grants to the committee and led them through the pertinent details of the status of each one (see attached report).

- M. Craig announced the dates and venues of the next three meetings of the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee as follows:
 - May 7, 2013 in Tonopah, NV

 - August 13, 2013 in Reno, NV
 - November 12, 2013 in Mesquite, NV

- N. PUBLIC COMMENT. Craig opened the floor for public comment

Luke Opperman gave a short GIS presentation on possible flood hazards due to new building in the canyons in the SSW portion of Winnemucca. Luke will make this data available to floodplain managers and city building officials in the Winnemucca area for planning use. He is available for future presentations and discussions.

Craig called for comments on the accomplishments of the committee.

Ron Lynn commented on the successful submission of an approved enhanced State Hazard Mitigation plan by the Committee and its Subcommittee.

Juliette expanded on this accomplishment by saying we are not only implementing the enhanced Plan but we are standing as a model for other states to emulate such as Hawaii which is modeling its enhanced plan after ours. Part of our outreach model is for other states to emulate us across the country despite our small size and population.

Ryan mentioned that he uses the hazard mitigation plan as a standard for other planning efforts.

Ron mentioned the aggressive outreach to rural communities and cooperation with the NESC.

The large number of mitigation grants and projects that have been funded by FEMA

Terri recognized the level of dedication of time and effort by individual members of the to committee work.

Winnemucca Police Chief commented that he was glad the committee had met in Winnemucca and wished that we would return.

Juliette mentioned additional resources available: My Plan and annual maintenance Tabletop exercise for local hazard mitigation plans.

Jim Walker mentioned that in October Congress passed a bill (changes to Map 21) moving emergency response funds for highways to FEMA which could significantly increase disaster funding for mitigation.

Ryan Turner commented that the Nevada Homeland Security meeting on Friday will discuss terrorism preparedness making earthquake the number one hazard in the state.

Ron Lynn moved to adjourn and Ryan Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne LaPointe

February 26, 2013