

**Minutes of the
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at 12:30 pm**

**Tonopah Convention Center, 301 W. Brougner St. Tonopah, Nevada 89049, county
seat of Nye County**

Before the meeting began, Elizabeth Ashby introduced Mark Blankensop with the Nevada Division of Forestry, who will be taking Mike Dondero's place on the Committee, and then turned the meeting over to Chair Craig dePolo.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Chair Craig dePolo called the meeting to order and thanked all for coming to Tonopah and thanked Tonopah emergency managers for hosting the meeting. He noted that Gary Johnson had not yet arrived but would be coming, but we would still proceed with introductions - all attendees were requested to introduce themselves. Attendees included the following persons:

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

Ken Aldrich, Esmeralda County

Elizabeth Ashby, liaison with Nevada Division of Emergency Management

Cheryl Beeman, Nye County

*Mark Blankensop, Nevada Division of Forestry

*Joe Curtis, Storey County Emergency Manager

*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

Gary Johnson Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Karen Johnson, Nevada Division of Emergency Management

Daphne D. LaPointe, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Darrell Lacey, Nye County

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

Missy Molt, Nye County

Vance Payne, Nye County

*Jim Reagan, NV Energy 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.

b. Craig opened the floor for public comment; there was none.

c. Craig called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting of the NHMPC in Winnemucca, which had already been distributed to the committee and with the minor corrections which were discussed during the meeting. Jim Reagan so moved, Rob Fellows 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 asked to delay the MyPlan presentation** listed here on the agenda until Gary Johnson arrives.

E. 1. **Nye County Emergency Manager Vance Payne began a presentation on Nye County** and its particular situation and problems encountered. At over 18,000 sq. miles, it is the second largest county in the country, but has only 822,711 acres of private land. The federal government owns or manages much of it as the nuclear Test Site/Area 51/Nellis Air Force Base & Bombing Range which cover the heart of the county. The county has a population of about 46,000 with Pahrump at the far SW corner as the most populous town with a population of 38,000. Tonopah has about 3000, and the remaining 5,000 inhabitants are spread out across the many small towns, including Railroad Valley, Round Mountain, and the Duckwater/ Shoshone and Yomba Indian reservations. He said there was only one area prone to riverine flooding – the Pahrump Valley where half the valley is in the 100-year floodplain. Highway 160 has washed out twice just since Vance has been there. NDF has kept historical fire data for the area. Vance says Nye County is the safest place on earth to live as there are no tornadoes, no faults (?) no wildfire danger. However there are some dangers; the government has become comfortable with some of them such as drought, which is bad recently ; springs are drying up; fuels-reduction programs are helping reduce fire risk; Gabbs is said to be in the 80th %ile for a devastating earthquake within the next 100 years and SW of Hawthorne there has been a swarm of small quakes recently. But generally EQ and flood hazard in Nye County is low. Biggest problem is transportation-related incidents/ingress & egress along highways. He asked for questions. There was minor anecdotal commentary.

2. Craig thanked Vance for his presentation and called on **Ken Aldrich to give an update on Esmeralda County**. Ken said the County was about 80% public land and 20% mining claims has only about 970 people all involved in farming/ranching and mining and that fluctuates with the price of gold. There are only really 3 communities with population centers: Goldfield (pop.=~300), Silver Peak (a company town currently owned by Rockwood Lithium), and Dyer, (40-mile long farming community in Fish Lake Valley area west of Silver Peak). Belmont was the original County seat but Goldfield is now. Since 1973, there have been over 740 earthquakes all between 2 and 5 magnitude along hundreds of faults in the county, most not in populated areas. There have been about 20 wildfires since 1980, mainly in the Lida area. The biggest concern is HAZMAT incidents along the transportation corridors, main ones being US 95 and US 6, where there have been 17 HAZMAT incidents since 1990. Most of the population is in the younger population demographic, probably due to lower land and housing prices and greater distance to hospitals and medical facilities. There is one housing development – Chiatovich Creek, but folks deserted it once they realized what it was like there, and also it is in the 100-year floodplain, although this is largely not relevant.

Rick questioned: What building code do you use? Vance answered for Nye

County: a pot-pourri – pieces and parts – just 2010 adopted Int. building Code. It's easier in Pahrump Valley, but there's an ongoing battle between North and South. Esmeralda has even less building code adherence, and Goldfield has none, no fire code, no animal control. There was a general discussion of lax codes and lack of resources and personnel for enforcement of codes especially in the rural areas. Mark Blankensop suggested that some smaller communities pool resources and share emergency managers together to solve funding problems. We want to begin revising Community Wildfire Protection Plans; he has them here for review. Craig asked if there were any more questions?

Craig called for a 10-minute break.

- F. When we reconvened, **Craig began a PowerPoint presentation on Earthquakes in Nevada** with particular reference to earthquakes along the Walker Lane which runs through Nye and Esmeralda counties. He focused on 2 M7+ EQs that affected this area: the 1872 Owens Valley earthquake and the 1932 Cedar Mountain EQ, which are earlier than anyone's current historical reference but still within the realm of possible recurrence. The closest active fault zone to Tonopah is at Lone Mountain and the closest to Goldfield is the Stonewall fault. For planning purposes, potential losses have been calculated using HAZUS for a scenario earthquake are \$18 million for Tonopah and \$13 million for Goldfield.

Craig offered 3 possible methods of mitigation activity to earthquake hazard:

1. Respond
2. Mitigate through use of building code adoption and avoiding faults
3. Taking action on Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URMs). He discussed at length the recent NBMG URM study and resulting data and current status of field-verification of that data.

He also encouraged non-structural measures that can be taken to avoid injury and damage due to EQs, and public education and outreach activities such as the "Great Nevada Shake-out" where all school students should learn and practice the "Drop, Cover, and Hold on" earthquake drill.

There was some discussion of URM data sources and sharing of anecdotal information mainly on URMS.

Craig called for a 10-minute break

D. Elizabeth introduced **Gary Johnson from NBMG to report on the MyPlan website**, which originated in California, and is now being developed in Arizona and in Nevada as a resource to planners with its capabilities for wildfire, flood, and earthquake hazards. Gary introduced the MyPlan site and what info he had added for planning and demographics such as census data and some new things he will share. It is a protected site for which county planners will need a password from

Elizabeth to use. He said it is never done being updated; it is an ongoing task and showed us some of the common functionality such as zooming and panning map tools, creating bookmarks, using icons, and the major layers for Earthquake, Wildfire, and Flood hazards. He showed the USGS feeds such as SHAKEMAP, NV base map data such as Township Range and Section, and dynamic legend info, Draw and Measure tool and Identify feature. With the Hazard data layers you can change the transparency and add live weather data from the USGS or bring in an aerial view or topo view. For an example, on earthquakes you can show Quaternary faults with buffer zones. With fire info, you can get a live feed from NDF and historical data. There is a new tool to calculate acreage within a perimeter. Under Flood data, there is a historic flood along the main street of Tonopah, sourced from FEMA data, also NDOT data. There was a question on how locals can update MyPlan data; - answer – send updates to Elizabeth and she will get it to Gary to add to the MyPlan databases.

You can compare pre-fire and post-fire images. There was a question about application to Apple devices. Gary answered that it is not easily transferable to Apple devices; Gary would have to reprogram it all to Javascript and it would be a big deal.

Cheryl asked if multiple people in a county would be able to get log-in permission and the answer was yes.

- G. Flood Hazard in Nye County (Nye County Interim Flood Plain Manager could not make it to give a presentation).** There was some discussion of Nye County's current floodplain map modernization especially in Pahrump area. Craig offered info on some current NBMG geologic mapping that might help them. Gary mentioned Pahrump FIRM maps on MyPlan.
- H.** Craig asked if there were any other hazards in Nye or Esmeralda counties that needed to be discussed. Elizabeth mentioned that Esmeralda is the only Nevada county not yet mapped by FEMA. Vance mentioned that there are miles of old mine tunnels under our feet in Tonopah, any of which could cave in during an earthquake. There was some discussion of the possibility of mapping all the old shafts, stopes and adits, but that one difficulty in doing this is the lack of good starting reference points. Joe Curtis asked about the possibility of closing old shafts and Vance replied that there was a possibility of dropping a section of Highway 95 into an old mine working if there were a sizeable earthquake. Craig asked for other comments; being none, the meeting progressed to committee reports, not necessarily in the order on the agenda.

Craig thanked Bobby for his presentation and Ken Aldrich of Esmeralda County.

- 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 HazMat and Terrorism/WMD revised risk hazard profile Subsections of the 2013 Nevada Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Jim Walker made the motion to approve these Subsections; Terri Garside seconded it. In discussion, Jim Reagan noted that the ranking of terrorism was missing from the title (this will be corrected). 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 May 22 so they can be voted on. Terri asked if the Boston bombing has changed anything; Jim said no it had not as our plan already has a high-level plan in place. Jim also mentioned that FEMA may be changing from a three-year plan update cycle to a five-year update cycle. Gary mentioned that California has not been updating their plan in a timely manner and is crunching to get it done.

Q: What good is the Enhanced status? A: Helps NV get a higher % grant funding. Terri

Q: How many states have enhanced plans? A: 8

- J. Craig called on Ron Lynn, Chair of the **Nevada Earthquake Safety Council**, for a brief report of their activities. Elizabeth reported on a meeting of Program Managers – a lot of good came out of the meeting- much discussion of dwindling funds and what will happen if Congress does not fund earthquake programs. There were 3 days of talks about Damage Assessment Teams and how they will be credentialed. The USGS will create a methodology to create a matrix for Emergency Managers to take action on emergencies. NESC Seattle meeting wrap-up: two hour training for people on FEMA damage Assessment; flyers on public awareness on earthquakes and how to prepare for them; and developing a fact sheet for congressional Representative. Willingness for more cooperative partnerships with other states on earthquake hazards. NESC will meeting on May 30.
- K. Craig called for an update on the **State Silver Jackets** team activity. Elizabeth reported in Kim Davis' absence. She described the team as a US ACE-led joint Federal/State initiative for flood mitigation. The State Floodplain Manager has done a great job on a project on a Chronology of Walker River flooding – need to do more rivers – but no more money – need more grant funding to expand the project to more rivers in Nevada.
- 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. Some grant

money was unfortunately going back to FEMA because it could not be used within the scope of the work; need more applications. Elizabeth and Karen said there would be grant application workshops May 29 in Las Vegas and June 6 in Reno. Karen had a question on obtaining a 12-month extension on paying back grant funds; Elizabeth said some (\$36 million) had been spent nationwide, and to submit applications and we will rank them and fund whatever we get. Craig said that NBMG has a list of projects ready to go if we have a disaster. Jim Walker added that they could add to the spreadsheet the year of the disaster, and Jim Reagan said NV has been very successful in getting grant-supported projects funded.

- M. Craig announced the **dates and venues of the next meetings** of the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee as follows:

August 13, 2013 in Reno, NV: Goal – to approve the State Hazard Plan

November 12, 2013 in Mesquite, NV

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

Cheryl mentioned Low Impact development – needs information on it. Rob replied that Washoe County and Reno have info on Low Impact development that he can help her get. Rick also said he knows someone in Clark County has it too (possibly Peter Jackson?) and he will find out more and get back to her on that. Cheryl asked if it were a feasible thing for a community and Rob answered yes; Eliz. replied that Elko has done it.

Craig called for a moved to adjourn and Rob Fellows moved to adjourn; Jim Walker seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Daphne LaPointe, NBMG, Aug 12, 2013