

DRAFT Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee Minutes

Meeting Location: The Nature Conservancy, 381 Genoa Lane, Minden, NV

Thursday, February 13, 2014, 9:00 AM

Members Present

Andrew Trelease
Craig dePolo
Vance Payne
Rick Diebold
Rob Palmer
Rob Fellows
Jim Walker
Ron Lynn
Jim Reagan
Terri Garside

Members Absent

Ryan Turner
Ed Atwell

Staff and Others

Rick Martin, NDEM
Janell Woodward, NDEM
Henna Rasul, DAG
Matt Richardson, NBMG
Gary Johnson, NBMG
Tod Carlini, Fire Chief – East Fork Fire
Erin Surane, East Fork Fire
Stephanie Hicks, RO Anderson Engineering
Robert McCord, FEMA
Katie Gasty, FEMA
Jeff Lusk, FEMA
Ed James, CWSD
Mimi Moss, Douglas County
Duane Petite, Nature Conservancy
Mikaela Griffin, Death Valley Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

Craig dePolo, chair, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was established. Introductions were made for everyone in attendance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig dePolo opened the meeting for public comment. Gary Johnson, NBMG, took this opportunity to tell everyone that he is retiring soon. He introduced Matt Richardson from NBMG as taking over the MyPlan/MyHazards program. Irene Seelye is the key contact person at NBMG for HAZUS runs with regard to flood and earthquake. There were no other comments.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM November 12, 2013

Craig dePolo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 12, 2013. Ron Lynn moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Rick Diebold seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. EARTHQUAKE HAZARD IN DOUGLAS COUNTY PRESENTATION

Craig dePolo gave a presentation on earthquake hazards in Douglas County. Craig gave an outline of the Douglas County and showed a seismicity map for the area. Douglas County is a very active area. Craig's report began with a historical look backward.

The last Douglas County earthquake was 1994 Double Spring Flat. This earthquake happened in a snowstorm. The July 3, 1887 earthquake shook Douglas County the most and is the only earthquake without a foreshock. There was a lot of damage to Carson City and Genoa. Liquefaction is a major problem in the Douglas County area. Magnitude 7 earthquakes would significantly challenge Nevada's ability to respond to earthquakes. The presentation also showed the faults through Douglas County. Craig gave an overview of the historical earthquakes for the Douglas County area. Also included were the unreinforced masonry building (URM) information and the potential results in a strong earthquake. Craig discussed the importance of developing a plan to deal with the URMs. He also spoke about social cuing and how people tend to do what they see other people do. This can promote preparing for emergencies. Douglas County has done a good job of preparing for earthquake hazards.

5. DOUGLAS COUNTY PRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE DEMOGRAPHICS, GOVERNMENT, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL PROFILE, FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN STATUS

Tod Carlini, Chief and Emergency Manager, East Fork Fire District, gave a presentation on the demographics, government, economic, social profile, future development, and their hazard mitigation plan status. Chief Carlini gave an overview of the history of Douglas County. Interestingly, Douglas County was named after Steven Douglas who was a democrat but historically Douglas County is a very republican county. Douglas County covers over 700 square miles. Douglas is the third smallest county geographically in Nevada. Growth did slow down with the economic downturn. Douglas has a population of 46,997 as of the 2010 census. With 27 individual jurisdictions, it is a challenge for emergency response and they are working to create one emergency plan that would take care of the entire county population. One of their biggest challenges includes the large elderly retiree population within the County. Chief Carlini talked about the more recent wildfires in Douglas County. The most significant fire of 2012 was the TRE fire. This was a human-caused fire. They also have to mitigate and plan for flooding. Prior to the recent 8 fires, Douglas County was known as the asbestos county because they never burned. Chief Carlini gave an overview of the updated Douglas County Hazard Mitigation Plan that was recently completed. Flood and fire were nearly equal with earthquake moving up as well as severe weather hazards.

Mimi Moss gave additional information. She highlighted some of the projects that Douglas County is undertaking for floodplain management including the Highway 395 project. They are also working on a re-mapping of some of the washes that were done back in 2010.

6. CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT (CWSD) CONSERVATION PRESENTATION

Ed James, Carson Water Subconservancy District, gave a presentation discussing the remapping of the Carson River Floodplain. Ed gave an overview of who the Carson Water Subconservancy is. They are a bi-state, multicounty organization dealing with watershed issues and this makes them a unique organization in the United States. They cover Alpine County to Churchill County with anything that deals with the Carson watershed. They deal with flood issues, water supply and habitat. Their board is made up of officials from the various counties. A lot of the funding for their projects is from FEMA. They work from a local level up. Most of their funding comes from taxes.

A drought usually ends due to a flooding issue. Flooding is not new to this area. It dates back to 1852 but also happened before there were people here to see them. This area has alluvial fan area flooding. The Carson River Coalition was developed after the 1997 flood to bring communities together. The question was how to keep a living river approach dealing with flooding. A regional floodplain plan was developed and adopted by every county in the Carson River floodplain. Asking the question, how many bricks can you put in a bathtub before it overflows? This is the concept they are trying to get across to the community.

7. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION

Duane Petite gave an educational overview of the Nature Conservancy, what they do, who runs them, what services they provide to the community. The Nature Conservancy is open to the public from dawn to dusk every day and is for passive recreation. The three rivers they work with include the Carson River, the Truckee and the Walker River. The nature preserve we were at is 805 acres. The Conservancy works to preserve the floodplain. He gave an overview about they work that they do. The facility is a community facility and is considered community resources. Karen Johnson asked Duane to take those interested on the hike around the facility over lunch.

8. FEMA DISCUSSION OF 404 AND 406 CHANGES

Robert McCord, FEMA Region IX, gave a talk regarding 404 and 406 changes. Robert began by congratulating Douglas County on their hard work in completing their Mitigation Plan. The three main programs in the hazard mitigation program include the hazard mitigation grant program (HMGP) which only is available after a disaster. The 2006 Fernley flood was the last HMGP disaster in Nevada. The other two include the pre-disaster mitigation program (PDM) and flood mitigation assistance program (FMA). These are appropriated funds which Congress has to vote on to fund each year. The PDM program has been more competitive in the past and it has been difficult to get applications through this program. There have been limits on funding for each state. The application period will open sometime this spring with an April timeframe. This will be small projects with a federal share of 75% (75/25). They are considering a 90-day application period and hope to make the selections of applications by the end of the fiscal year in September. There was also discussion of the FMA program. As the application period is likely to be much earlier this year, Robert encouraged everyone to be ready for the upcoming application period.

In the past, the HMGP was based on a percentage of the total cost for that disaster. In the past, at six months they would get an estimate of cost and that would be the floor of the award. A year from the disaster, another estimate of cost would be done by FEMA and if the numbers went up, the state would get the increase, but if it went down, it would hold to the six month estimate. Now, the floor has been removed. This is a big change and could affect how the hazard mitigation planning committee prioritizes projects. Also, you can now use some of the HMGP funds to go out and help communities affected by a disaster with their benefit/cost analysis.

Of note, the Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistant Program (HMTAP) is a program that opens up after a disaster. Many options are available in the early phases after a disaster that are not available later on. There are many programs that can be turned on during the “how can we help” phase that

will not likely be available when FEMA has moved to the “how can we contain costs” phase. Therefore, it takes some knowledgeable people to take charge in the early period just after a disaster to ensure these extra programs become available. This has to go through the state to ask FEMA to activate these programs. The visibility is not widely known and if the state does not ask, then it will be missed. The NHMPC needs to put together a plan for the state so that they are ready to go to FEMA with their list of HMTAP projects in asking for technical assistance. This is 100% coverage by FEMA. No money changes hands as FEMA provides private contractor help to communities that ask for help through the state after a disaster.

9. UPDATE OF HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2013/2014

Karen Johnson gave an update to the committee regarding the HMA grants for 2013 and 2014.

10. NEVADA EARTHQUAKE SAFETY COUNCIL REPORT

Ron Lynn, chair of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council (NESC), gave an update from NESC. NESC held its quarterly meeting yesterday, February 12 in Reno. Ron touched on the November multistate joint meeting held November 2013. NESC would also like to have a joint meeting, possibly in August, with the California Seismic Safety Council, their counterpart. If this actually happens, it would be held at Lake Tahoe.

11. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF OPEN PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION AND HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM ALLOCATED NEVADA GRANTS

Karen Johnson gave a report on the status of the PDM grants and went over the spreadsheet that was handed out.

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following are the tentative dates for the remaining NHMPC meetings for the rest of 2014.

May 15, 2014	August 14, 2014	November 13, 2014
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13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig dePolo, chair, opened the meeting for public comment. Rick thanked everyone on the committee and Elizabeth Ashby for all the hard work of the committee on behalf of Nevada.

14. ADJOURN

Craig dePolo, chair, asked for a motion to adjourn. Ron Lynn moved and Andrew Trelease seconded. The meeting was adjourned.