

Summary Minutes
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
5 August 2004

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (NHMPC) met from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, August 5, 2004 at the Clark County Department of Development Services, Las Vegas, Nevada. These minutes and related documents, including a list of members of the Board of Directors, charges and membership of subcommittees, and the Bylaws are posted on the Web site for the Committee (<http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/nhmpc/nhmpc.htm>).

Attendees included:

Bob Ashworth*, Nevada Division of Forestry
Press Clewe* Washoe County Resident
Rick Diebold*, Las Vegas Fire Department
Gale Fraser*, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Betty Hollister, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Ben Hutchins*, City of Sparks
Patricia Loft, City of Las Vegas Fire Department
Ron Lynn*, Department of Development Services, Building Division
Glade Myler, Office of the Attorney General, representing the Nevada Division of Emergency Management
Jim O'Brien*, Clark County Office of Emergency Management, who also held the proxy for Marge Gunn*, Lincoln County Emergency Management
Jon Price*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Jeanne Ruefer*, Washoe County Department of Water Resources, who also held the proxy for Kim Groenewold*, Division of Water Resources
Candice Seeley, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Frank Taylor*, Nevada Department of Transportation

*indicates member of the Board of Directors

A quorum of directors (the necessary 7) was present.

Board members unable to attend or send a proxy included:

Jim Reagan*, Sierra Pacific Power Company

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 6, 2004 meeting were approved with the corrections discussed. The corrected minutes are posted on the Web.

Division of Emergency Management Update

Glade Myler reported that the Ad Hoc Planning Subcommittee is working with DEM staff to meet the Federal requirements for the plan. Several requirements were not included in the first draft of the plan. FEMA Region 9 reviewed the plan and returned it with comments on what requirements were missing. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10. Ron Hess of UNR is providing the loss estimation information for earthquakes. The loss estimation for flooding will be calculated at 30% of exposed property value for a 100-yr flood and at 10% for a 500-yr flood. DEM is working with the

Nevada Division of Forestry to provide a possible estimation of loss for fire. The Subcommittee is optimistic the final draft of the plan will be ready for resubmission to FEMA by the end of September. Unfortunately, due to the deadline of November 1, it will not be possible to wait for this Committee's meeting in November to approve the plan.

Committee Reports

Project Subcommittee (Kim Groenewald, Chair)

No Report

Proposal Review Subcommittee (Ron Lynn, Chair)

Ron Lynn reported that he feels it is highly unlikely that counties outside Washoe or Clark County will be able to complete the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDMG) application process, because it is very difficult. The Subcommittee will be meeting before the November 17th meeting to complete the checklist distributed at the May meeting.

Ron Lynn suggested we invite a FEMA representative to address the Committee to see if there is a way to streamline the application process.

The Subcommittee feels that some of the questions on the application are so vague that they are almost impossible for applicants to answer.

ACTION ITEM

Terri Garside will invite Robert McCord with FEMA Region IX to Reno the afternoon of November 17th (immediately following the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting) and to the November 18th NHMPC meeting so he can meet with the Subcommittee on the 17th and again with the entire NHMPC Committee on the 18th regarding the application process.

It was noted that a large portion of those who applied for the PDMG grants had their grants denied because their Benefit Cost-Analysis (BCA) runs reported a low benefit or other errors on their applications. It was recommended that communities might like to run BCAs before they submit their grant applications to see if their projects meet the minimum requirements of the BCA.

Outreach Subcommittee (Rick Diebold, Chair)

Rick Diebold reported that he prepared a list of all the hazards in Clark County. He recommends that each county prepare a similar list of county-specific hazards to assist them in preparing their Hazard Plan.

Bob Ashworth reported that the Division of Forestry is working with the counties to help them identify fire hazards. The hope is that this will assist Nevada in becoming more competitive with Federal dollars. The report should be completed in December. Bob will bring provide the Committee with copies of the report when completed.

Glade Myler reported that if the counties do not prepare their Hazard Mitigation Plans and they have a disaster, they will not receive Mitigation funds from FEMA.

Rick Diebold is concerned that if a community has not had a disaster in a very long time, they may not feel preparing their Hazard Plan is a priority. This emphasizes the need for each county to prepare a list of their hazards, like the example prepared by Rick.

Jeanne Ruefer stated that flood information is available for all the counties. For example, the town of Ely is well prepared for the frequent wintertime floods.

Risk Assessment Subcommittee, Ron Hess, Chair

Jon Price reported for Ron Hess and the Risk Assessment Subcommittee, which is moving forward with HAZUS training and calculations. HAZUS now has modules for earthquakes, floods, and wind damage. A statewide HAZUS users group has been formed.

Gale Fraser reported that HAZUS appears to have shortcomings with the flood module from runs they have made, particularly on alluvial fans.

Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, Ron Lynn, Chair

Ron Lynn reported that Werner Hellmer gave a presentation on the safety of rockery walls. The Council will look into preparing a policy on rockery walls.

Wanda Taylor gave a presentation on *Spatial Relations Among Young Faults, Basin Fill and Shear-Wave Velocity, in Las Vegas: Implications for Ground Shaking in the Las Vegas Area*.

Ron Alsop, Emergency Manager from San Luis Obispo County, gave a presentation on the San Simeon earthquake and the emergency response efforts.

A Policy Statement is in the works on inventorying the unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings in Nevada. It is estimated that Nevada has about 200 URMs.

Jon Price reported that there will be an article published today on a swarm of very deep (20 miles) earthquakes from August 2003 through February 2004 that were at the north end of Lake Tahoe. It is believed that there is a volcanic dike injecting magma into the area, which has caused Slide Mountain to move to the northeast approximately 10 mm over a period of 7 months. There is no cause for alarm, because the volcanic hazard is practically zero.

Presentation on Clark County's 2004 Flood Safety Awareness Campaign

Betty Hollister, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, gave a presentation on the Clark County Regional Flood Control District's 2004 Flood Safety Awareness Campaign.

A curriculum on Flash Flood Safety was distributed to the schools to educate children on the dangers of flash floods. The information has been distributed to approximately 16,000 students.

The Flood Safety Outreach Campaign was distributed via TV, print, radio, public appearances, and the Flood Safety News Conference.

Information on flood insurance was mailed to new residents that had purchased homes in the previous nine months. In May, information was mailed to approximately 40,000 new residents and in August to approximately 20,000.

Flood insurance rates in the Clark County area have been reduced because the Regional Flood Control District has been successful with their Flood Safety Awareness Campaign in encouraging the purchase of flood insurance by the public.

One part of the campaign was for submission of license plate ideas. This turned out to be highly successful in engaging the public. There were over 250 contest entries, and the top one was featured on one of the District's 22 billboards. The winning license plate was W8ITOUT. The campaign received unprecedented media coverage in June/July, including 150 Minutes of TV news coverage, valued at over \$130,000 and resulting in millions of impressions.

ACTION ITEM

Jeanne Ruefer will check with the FEMA Flood Insurance Program, and report back to the Committee, to see if there has been an upsurge of new flood insurance policies since the Clark County campaign began.

Jeannie Ruefer reported that the National Flood Insurance Program will be starting a national ad campaign on flood insurance.

Jon Price read Elizabeth Ashby's report on the costs of producing Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for the Pre Disaster Mitigation Grants. The estimate from a marketing agency is approximately \$140,000, for an outcome of 6.6 audience impressions. The Committee felt that this cost was too expensive. The Clark County PSAs cost only about \$800 each.

It was discussed that the committee should use the information that the Clark County Regional Flood Control District produced and come up with a similar campaign in northern Nevada.

ACTION ITEM

Jeanne Ruefer was asked to chair an ad hoc Subcommittee on Flood Awareness in Northern Nevada, with Betty Hollister and Ben Hutchins, to look into developing a flood awareness campaign in northern Nevada, similar to the one developed in Clark County.

Jeanne Ruefer said that the Early Flood Warning System's program may be able to assist with some of the costs of the preparation of the campaign.

Mitigation Needs, Jonathan Price

Jon Price reported that, at times, there are FEMA funds available from the Emergency Management Planning Grants through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management to cover special projects. Funds received from the Emergency Management Program Grant must be matched 50:50 (Federal to non-Federal funds).

Items discussed that would be good for applying for possible funding include:

- Public Service Announcements on Hazards in Nevada (buy commercial time, promote insurance opportunities for earthquakes, floods, etc., including insurance);
- Develop a flood education program in northern Nevada – taking education materials into the schools;
- Subsidence and expansive soils issues in the Las Vegas area (estimated to cost \$30 million per year);
- All-Hazards Calendar (putting anniversary dates of hazards on the calendar (Gale offered his staff to assist with the flash flood and storm warning sections));
- Defensible space issues for fire safety.

ACTION ITEM

Terri Garside will put the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council's Prioritized Form for Proposals on the Web (modified as appropriate to become a form for the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee).

ACTION ITEM

Jon Price will contact Diane dePolo, with the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, and request that she prepare a budget that includes an all-hazards calendar versus an entire calendar on earthquakes.

ACTION ITEM

Terri Garside will place the mitigation needs on the next agenda for possible voting on a prioritized list to be presented to DEM for possible future funding. Committee members are encouraged to solicit and submit proposals for consideration.

Old Business

Action items from the May 6, 2004 meeting were reviewed.

Jon Price reported that we have not heard when FEMA will release the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Grant announcement.

ACTION ITEM

Terri Garside and Jon Price will contact NACO and the Nevada League of Cities to see if we can get the NHMPC on their agendas. Gale Fraser has offered to give the Clark County Flood Campaign presentation at those meetings.

New Business

A discussion ensued regarding possible bill drafts for consideration at the next Legislative session.

Announcements of Future Meetings

Wednesday, 17 November 2004, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Proposal Subcommittee to meet with FEMA Representative
Thursday, 18 November 2004, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Reno, the day after the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting)
Thursday, 17 February 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Las Vegas, the day after the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting)
Thursday, May 5, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Reno, the day after the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting)
Thursday, August 4, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Las Vegas, the day after the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting)
Thursday, November 10, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Reno, the day after the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting)

Public Comment Period

No comments from the public were made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Review of action items:

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Respectfully submitted by Terri Garside, 9 August 2004
c/o Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, UNR/MS 178, Reno, Nevada 89557-0088
tgarside@unr.edu, 775-784-6691 extension 126