

Minutes of the
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
1 August 2007

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee met from 3:18 p.m. until 4:22 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 in the Emergency Operations Center, Division of Emergency Management, Carson City, Nevada. These minutes and related documents are posted on the Web site (<http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/nhmmpc/nhmmpc.htm>).

Attendees included:

Elizabeth Ashby, Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM)
Bob Ashworth*, Nevada Division of Forestry
Press Clewe*, Washoe County resident
Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Ron Lynn* Department of Development Services, Clark County Building Department
Glade Myler, Office of the Attorney General
Jonathan Price*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Jim Reagan*, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power
Jeanne Ruefer*, Washoe County Department of Water Resources
Jeff Underwood, State Climatologist
Jim Walker*, Nevada Department of Transportation

* indicates a member of the Board of Directors.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Committee who were unable to attend include:

Mike Cyphers*, Henderson Emergency Management
Rick Diebold*, Las Vegas Fire Department
Gary Dunn*, City of Sparks
Gale Fraser*, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Margie Gunn Nutman*, Lincoln County Emergency Management
Christine James*, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources

A quorum of directors (seven) was present.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jon Price chaired the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Proposal Review Subcommittee

Ron Lynn reported that the Subcommittee didn't have any proposals to review during the last quarter and therefore did not meet.

Elizabeth Ashby reported that FEMA is funding two two-day Benefit-Cost Analysis courses. They need a minimum of 20 attendees in order to have a workshop. The workshops will be held in both southern and northern Nevada. The dates of the workshops will be announced as soon as Elizabeth can find locations in northern and southern Nevada, preferably dates that are back-to-back in the same week.

Jon Price recommended that Elizabeth write to all the jurisdictions inviting them to participate in the workshop,

emphasizing that the workshop will assist them in preparing proposals for disaster mitigation funding.

Elizabeth Ashby distributed to the Committee pre-award packages to assist local jurisdictions and agencies in their planning in applying for Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants. Elizabeth will send it out to the jurisdictions and agencies soon.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant proposals are due to DEM (through the NHMPC Proposal Review Subcommittee process) approximately one month before they are due at FEMA/DHS. Elizabeth Ashby will send out an announcement with the details as soon as FEMA/DHS selects their deadline.

Planning Subcommittee

Jim Walker reported that they are about half finished with the update to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. They have three sections completed and two partially completed. They are just waiting on some goals and objectives and a risk assessment analysis from the University of Nevada, Reno. They have the goal of completing it by the end of September.

Jon Price reported that Christine Arritt with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology will be attending a FEMA course on the HAZUS flood modules the week of August 13th. When she returns, she will be updating the HAZUS loss-estimation tables for earthquakes and floods for inclusion in the updated State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Jeff Underwood will give Christine flood scenario data for inclusion in the updated tables.

Elizabeth Ashby will get wildfire loss-estimation and dam failure information from the Division of Water Resources and the Nevada Division of Forestry for in those areas.

When all the loss-estimation information is received, the Planning Subcommittee will meet and prioritize the goals and action items.

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Elizabeth Ashby reported that FEMA has approved two planning applications; Washoe and Esmeralda Counties. Those awards will be distributed next week. The jurisdictions with FEMA approved plans are:

- a. Carson City
- b. Clark County
- c. City of Reno
- d. City of Sparks
- e. Truckee Meadows Water Authority
- f. Nye County
- g. Lincoln County
- h. Washoe County
- i. Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

Douglas County's plan is pending adoption by the local jurisdiction.

Elko County and Elko Band Council plans are in development.

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan update is due October 2007. DEM has set a goal of having it completed and ready for NHMPC review by the end of September. It is available in its under-revision state at www.dem.state.nv.us.

The National Emergency Management Association meets September 28-October 5th in Oklahoma.

The Association of Flood Plain Managers will be meeting in Reno in 2008.

FEMA's Mitigation Bureau currently manages five programs and plans to unify the programs using one Web-based basic application. They plan to accomplish this in five to six years.

Elizabeth distributed a report (see attached) on the following programs:

HMGP 1540 – Waterfall fire funding

HMGP 1583 – Southern Nevada floods

HMGP 1629 – State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

PDM 04/05 – HAZUS Database Update

PDM 06 – Elko Band Council Plan

PDM 07 – Award Status

Glade Myler reported that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Nevada and California was signed in July by Governors Gibbons and Schwarzenegger. The MOU will allow a state to be reimbursed for expenditures incurred assisting the other during small cross-border incidents. Without the MOU, an emergency declaration has to be in effect in order for a state to be reimbursed for expenditures, for such incidents.

PRESENTATIONS

Severe Weather in Nevada

Jeff Underwood gave a presentation the hazardous weather assessment for Nevada that is being conducted by the Office of the State Climatologist. They were tasked with assessing wind, snow, heat, drought, precipitation, flood, thunderstorm, and historical storm damage. They created a database of all storm damage that was part of the NCDC storm data database. They also have data showing situations where the nighttime low temperatures aren't getting as low, which leads to heat-related illnesses. The nighttime low temperature data are a better measure of heat stress on organisms than are daytime high temperatures.

The raw weather data are available, by county, on the Website. Rural communities can use the data in preparing their Pre-Disaster Mitigation proposals. The draft ARC/IMS GIS data sets can be found at gary13.nbmg.unr.edu/website/Weather/viewer.htm.

Flooding in Northern Nevada

Jeanne Ruefer gave a report on flooding in northern Nevada. Jeanne reported that they anticipate that flooding due to the recent wildfires will be more damaging than usual, because of increased silt and other sediment. They are concerned about high-intensity runoff from erosion in areas that have not been revegetated.

They have also seen that, because we've been having warmer winters, rather than having rain on snow, we have rain on rain. When the runoff hits the urban interface on publicly-owned lands, and mitigation hasn't been done on the areas due to lack of funding, the debris flows can impact privately-owned property. Heavily silt-laden streams can dump debris and sediments on property, blocking driveways and filling culverts. Because buildings often aren't involved in the damage, seeking funding from FEMA through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation funds isn't possible; the projects typically don't meet the benefit-cost analysis requirement to qualify for federal funding.

Elizabeth Ashby said that she thought that if they submitted a proposal showing that the County would provide more than the 3:1 required cost-sharing, they may qualify for funding.

The presentation on flooding in southern Nevada has been deferred to the November meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will meet immediately following the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meetings on the following dates, with starting times generally at or later than 3:00 p.m.:

Wednesday, November 14, 2007 – after NESC (Las Vegas)

February 6, 2007 – after NESC (Reno)

May 7, 2007 – after NESC (Las Vegas)

August 6, 2007 – after NESC (Reno)

Nov 12, 2007 – after NESC (Las Vegas)

There may be a meeting in October to approve the revised State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 23, 2007

The minutes of the 23 May 2007 meeting of the committee were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Garside, 15 Aug 2007

Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
c/o Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
University of Nevada, Reno/MS 0178
Reno, NV 89557-0178

775-784-4415