

Summary Minutes  
**Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee**  
12 February 2004

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (NHMPC) met from 9:00 a.m. to 12:23 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2004 at the Clark County Department of Development Services in Las Vegas. 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:

Press Clewe\*, Washoe County, Division of Emergency Management  
Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Kim Groenewold\*, Division of Water Resources  
Gale Fraser\*, Clark County Regional Flood Control District  
Marge Gunn Nutman\*, Lincoln County Office of Emergency Management, who also held the proxy for Rick Diebold\*, Las Vegas Fire Department and Jim O'Brien\*, Clark County, Office of Emergency Management  
Elton Nutman, Lincoln County Concerned Citizen  
Jeffrey Lusk, FEMA Region IX  
Ron Lynn\*, Building Official, Department of Development Services, Building Division  
Rick Martin, Nevada Division of Emergency Management  
Bert Prescott, Nevada Division of Emergency Management  
Jon Price\*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, who also held the proxy for Frank Taylor\*, Nevada Department of Transportation  
Jim Reagan\*, Sierra Pacific Power Company  
Jeanne Ruefer\*, Washoe County Department of Water Resources  
Sally Ziolkowski, FEMA Region IX

\*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:

Bob Ashworth\*, Nevada Division of Forestry  
Ben Hutchins\*, City of Sparks

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the November 20th meeting were approved.

**DEM Update**

Bert reported that the deadline for local Mitigation Plans has been extended to Nov. 1, 2004. Jon reported that his understanding, after talking with Robert McCord with FEMA, is that the local plans must be approved by the time project monies are made available. Communities may put in applications for project monies in anticipation of their plans being approved. DEM reviews the local plan and, when approved, submits it to the FEMA Region IX office, which will then approve it and send it on to National Headquarters.

Elizabeth Ashby with DEM will be assisting Bert with mitigation plans and activities.

Bert reported that plans for Washoe County, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Douglas County have been approved by DEM and submitted to Robert McCord. Lincoln County has received a 6-month extension until October 2004. The City of Las Vegas's plan is fifty-percent complete and has received a 6-month extension. Carson City and Nye County are writing plans using FY'03 funds. Clark County has not submitted their plans, although they have received FY'02 monies for purchasing software for planning.

Marge expressed concern that the rural communities might miss out on monies because they do not have a large population and their projects might be low-cost so their need may not appear to be that great. Sally sympathized with Marge's concerns and reminded us of the need for Benefit Cost Analysis runs in order for projects to be considered. Communities need to keep that in mind when preparing their proposals.

Bert gave Jon Price a CD of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, which has been submitted to FEMA. Terri Garside will make copies of the Plan for all of the NHMPC Board Members. The Plan will not be posted on the Web. The CDs will be labeled "Not for Distribution Beyond NHMPC Board Members."

## **Committee Reports**

### **Project Subcommittee (Kim Groenewald, Chair)**

Kim contacted Robert McCord at FEMA Region IX regarding meeting with the Project Subcommittee. Bert Prescott discussed training for the e-grant program for the Subcommittee with Robert McCord. Robert may be able to arrange training either locally or at Region IX headquarters.

Jeanne discussed her experiences with using e-grant submission. Jeanne is planning on attending the Benefit Cost Analysis Workshop in July 2004 in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Sally Ziolkowski offered to see that an e-grant training class is arranged in either Reno/Carson City or at FEMA Region IX Headquarters.

Jon Price reported that he had a conference call with DEM and Region IX staff. Requests for Proposals for the Pre-disaster Mitigation Grants are expected to be issued in June with a four-month deadline.

Sally reported that FY'04 monies will not be approved without a State approved Mitigation Plan in place. Planning projects will be accepted. Sally said that although the process is time-consuming, the Mitigation Plan process helps communities prioritize their mitigation needs.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Jeanne Ruefer will give Jon Price a copy the Flood Plain letter that discusses the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDMG) proposal process and deadlines.

Jon Price will write a letter to local governments and others advising them about the PDMG monies and the deadlines for proposal submission. The letter will be distributed to as many as possible via hard copy and electronically.

Kim will send Terri the flood plain managers contact information so they may be included in Jon's letter.

Terri will send a copy of the NHMPC distribution list to the NHMPC Board members so others that should receive the letter are added.

### **Proposal Review Subcommittee (Ron Lynn, Chair)**

Ron distributed two worksheets to help in the proposal submission process. Suggestions included following the priorities in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ron suggested that workshops be made available so those submitting proposals receive proper training on the process.

The deadlines for proposal submission and the review process were discussed. As soon as Bert receives the Request for Proposals, he will notify Jon Price. Jon will arrange an emergency meeting of the Proposal Review Subcommittee. An emergency meeting of the entire NHMPC will immediately follow the Subcommittee meeting.

#### **ACTION ITEM**

Ron will send Terri the proposal process worksheets, Terri will distribute them to the NHMPC for suggestions. Ron requests that comments be received by April 15<sup>th</sup> so changes can be made for approval at the May meeting.

#### **PRESENTATION**

Marvin (Nick) Saines and Scott Ball with the Southern Nevada Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) gave a presentation on "Proposal for Funding to Establish the Las Vegas Earth Fissures Preserve." They are requesting funds for purchasing 4.5 acres in North Las Vegas, at a cost of \$200,000 per acre, in order to preserve the fissures on the acreage for future study.

NHMPC Committee members explained the proposal submission and review process for the PDMG grants. It was mentioned that North Las Vegas has not submitted a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Sally mentioned that because the property is vacant, people and property do not appear at risk, it may be difficult to show the benefits in the Benefit Cost Analysis. Committee members felt that the NHMPC was not the appropriate entity to assist Nick and Scott with their proposal.

Recommendations were made for other entities that AEG could contact to seek support of their project.

If requested, Jon offered to provide a letter in support for the effort from the NHMPC and the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council.

### **Outreach Subcommittee (Rick Diebold, Chair)**

Bert Prescott reported that he had asked Robert McCord if FEMA had any tapes or other information on the PDMG process. Bert would like to have information to take on the road to help communities in the proposal process. Jon asked if DEM would be able to put together a presentation. Sally mentioned that there may be information available through National Headquarters and that there may be a PowerPoint presentation already available on the PDM but it will need to be updated with the '04 guidance information.

Jon asked Bert to work with Elizabeth Ashby on preparation of a 10-15 minute presentation to take on the road. Jon offered to make presentations, when he is available, on the PDMG process. Sally will ask Robert McCord to get Bert any available information to go into the presentation.

Bert mentioned that twelve counties have not prepared their Hazard Mitigation Plans. He would like to make sure that they are contacted and encouraged to prepare their plans. He thinks having a prepared presentation to present to the counties might help them in the planning process.

Marge mentioned that consultants hired to prepare Mitigation Plans need to be familiar with the counties' issues in order to properly prepare the plans.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Bert will work with Elizabeth Ashby on preparation of a 10-15 minute presentation to take on the road.

Sally will ask Robert McCord to get Bert any available information on the PDMG process to go into the presentation.

The following is a report submitted in writing by Ron Hess.

Risk Assessment Subcommittee (Ron Hess, Chair)  
To: Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

From: Risk Assessment Subcommittee

Preliminary Report by Ron Hess  
Feb. 12, 2004

RE: Subcommittee membership and assignment to look into establishment of a HAZUS users group.

#### Subcommittee membership:

Joe Pellissier, Sierra Pacific Power Co., Tom Lo, Washoe County GIS, Ron Maxwell, City of Sparks, and Gail Prockish, Washoe County Dept of Water Resources, have all agreed to participate on the subcommittee.

#### HAZUS software:

FEMA has announced that the new version of HAZUS MH is expected to be available at the FEMA distribution center on or shortly after February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

#### HAZUS users group:

In initial telephone conversations with subcommittee members the following ideas about a HAZUS Multi Hazard software users group were suggested:

A HAZUS Multi Hazard user group should/could help educate upper management types to assist with implementation and continued use of this technology; assist in software training, public outreach and education; increase awareness about data availability, and look into a common data format.

One interesting comment in particular concerned whether the development of a generic hazards software users group would be more beneficial than a HAZUS Multi Hazards specific users group. Some agencies have developed customized hazard software applications which could benefit from a more inclusive hazards software users group.

The above topics will be discussed at the subcommittee's first meeting which will probably take place in March 2004.

Ron Hess, working with Jeff Lusk, is charged with putting together a proposal to DEM for holding a Nevada specific HAZUS workshop using a FEMA consultant. Jeff mentioned that they may be able to arrange the consultant, at FEMA expense, if there were at least twenty participants. The opportunity to form the HAZUS Users Group is a bonus to having the workshop.

FEMA Region IX and the Bay Area HAZUS User Group are sponsoring a HAZUS-MH training class for March 16-19, 2004 at the Ohlone College GIS lab in Fremont, CA.

Details can be found at [www.hazus.org/BAHUG](http://www.hazus.org/BAHUG).

#### **ACTION ITEM**

Ron Hess, working with Jeff Lusk, is charged with putting together a proposal to DEM for holding a Nevada specific HAZUS workshop using a FEMA consultant.

#### **Report from the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council**

Ron reported that Cathy Snelson gave a presentation on the SILVVER project, a seismic imaging project for Las Vegas Valley. Two new mitigation policies were presented by the Policy Recommendation Committee and adopted by the Council. For more information, please visit the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council's Web site at [www.nbmjg.unr.edu/nesc](http://www.nbmjg.unr.edu/nesc).

#### **Old Business**

Action items from the November 20, 2004 meeting were reviewed.

Press reported that the Washoe County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) does have teleconferencing capabilities, John Slaughter is the EOC contact. Press will see if we can arrange videoconferencing for the May meeting and see if we can connect with the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas.

#### **New Business**

Jon brought up the topic of supplying information for businesses and hotels on what to do during a hazard. Ron Lynn reported that he talked to Tim Crowley at the previous day's Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting and they are looking into the issue. Jon also mentioned that business interruption and recovery after a disaster is another issue we should be addressing. These two items will be addressed on the next agenda.

Sally reported that FEMA has prepared nine Mitigation Planning How-to Guides, which are available on the Web at [www.fema.gov/fima/planresource.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fima/planresource.shtm).

Jon asked Sally if it was possible for FEMA IX to arrange more training on the Seismic Module of the Benefit Cost Analysis software. Sally has asked Jeff to look into seeing if we can get more specialized training for the western states.

#### **Announcements of Future Meetings**

Thursday, 6 May 2004, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Reno, the day after the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting)  
Thursday, 5 August 2004, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Las Vegas, the day after the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting)  
Thursday, 18 November 2004, 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 12:23 p.m.

### **Review of action items:**

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Respectfully submitted by Terri Garside, 24 February 2004  
c/o Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, UNR/MS 178, Reno, Nevada 89557-0088  
tgarside@unr.edu, 775-784-6691 extension 126