

Minutes of the
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and
Proposal Review Subcommittee
29 January 2008

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (NHMPC) and its Proposal Review Subcommittee met from 9:34 a.m. until 12:40 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 in Reno, Nevada. These minutes and related documents are posted on the Web site for the committee (<http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/nhmipc/nhmipc.htm>).

Attendees included:

Elizabeth Ashby, Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM), who also held the proxy for Gary Dunn*, City of Sparks
Paula East-Janicki, Douglas County Sewer District (via telephone)
Christopher Erb, City of Henderson
Gale Fraser*, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, who also held the proxy for Mike Cyphers*, Henderson Emergency Management
Glen Daily, City of Reno
Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Kelvin Hickenbottom , *Nevada Division of Water Resources
Kelvin Ikehara, Douglas County Sewer District (via telephone)
Jonathan Price*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Jim Reagan*, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power
Jeanne Ruefer*, Washoe County Department of Water Resources
Jim Walker*, Nevada Department of Transportation
Polly Walker, City of Henderson
Matt Wilkinson, PBS&J

* indicates a member of the Board of Directors.

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

Bob Ashworth*, Nevada Division of Forestry
Press Clewe*, Washoe County resident
Rick Diebold*, Las Vegas Fire Department
Marge Gunn Nutman*, Nevada Association of Counties & Lincoln County Office of Emergency Management
Ron Lynn*, Department of Development Services, Clark County Building Department

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jon Price chaired the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves. A quorum (a majority of the 13 members of the Board of Directors) was present.

Jon Price added two items to the agenda; activating the Committee following a disaster and canceling the February 6th NHMPC meeting. The Proposal Review Subcommittee met first, followed by the full Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Proposal Review Subcommittee

Jon Price discussed the role of the Proposal Review Subcommittee and the major activities of the NHMPC. Jon explained that the Committee identifies and prioritizes proposals for mitigation projects.

Funding for the projects comes from either FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program or its post-disaster grant program, working through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM). The recent Presidential declaration for the Fernley floods should allow for new mitigation funds. In addition to the total dollars received by the state and local government for assistance for a disaster, an additional 15% is made available for mitigation activities. The NHMPC reviews proposals submitted for mitigation and planning projects then sends a prioritized list to DEM for consideration and submission to FEMA.

Jon Price reported that five proposals were received for submission to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program. The proposals received are:

Planning

Douglas County, Lake Tahoe Sewer District 1, Mitigation Plan development – Serving Lake Tahoe, Zephyr Cove, Round Hill, and Stateline. They are requesting \$36,000 in federal funding.

Clark County Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan, Update. They are requesting \$56,098.64 in federal funding. This is an update to their existing plan, which was approved in 2007.

Projects

City of Reno – Sky Tavern Ski Resort requests an additional water tank for wildfire suppression. They are requesting \$464,081.50 in federal funding.

City of Henderson – Sewer line protection at Wigwam and Pittman Pecos. They are requesting \$420,146.84 in federal funding.

City of Henderson – Reclaimed water line protection west of Pabco Road. They are requesting \$765,214.57 in federal funding.

Glen Daily gave an overview of the City of Reno's proposal, which requests funding for an additional water tank at the Sky Tavern Ski Resort for wildfire suppression. Glen reported that their Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) is 1.4.

Matt Wilkinson, Chris Erb, and Polly Walker gave presentations on the City of Henderson's Wigwam Pittman Pecos (with a BCA of 1.65) and Pabco Road (with a BCA of 2.26) proposals.

Paula East-Janicki and Kelvin Ikehara gave an overview by telephone of Douglas County's proposal for hiring a consultant to prepare their Mitigation Plan.

Although Douglas County has an approved Mitigation Plan, the Sewer District was not consulted in the preparation of the plan; so their needs were not included in the Douglas County plan. This plan will be a standalone plan and will not be appended to Douglas County's plan; however they will consult with Douglas County in the development of the Sewer District's plan.

Elizabeth Ashby clarified that the special districts (for example sewer districts) within a county need to have their own plan if they are not included in their county's plan. The other option is for the counties to update their plans to include the special districts.

Elizabeth Ashby reported that the five proposals received are due to be submitted to FEMA by 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31st.

The Subcommittee requested that during the review process next year, they be provided with only the scope of work, budget, and BCA, rather than the entire application package. Receiving just the scope of work, budget, and BCA will save a lot of paper and time reviewing extraneous data.

After a discussion, the Subcommittee recommended the following priorities for the proposed projects:

- First priority to Douglas County Plan
- Second priority to Reno-Sky Tavern
- Third priority to Henderson – Wigwam-Pecos
- Fourth priority to Clark County Plan
- Fifth priority to Henderson – Water Reclamation Facility

The total federal dollars requested are \$1,741,541. FEMA requires a federal:state 75:25 match. Each state is guaranteed to receive \$500,000 for approved mitigation projects. Any funds approved by FEMA above the \$500,000 will come from a pool of funds for competitive proposals or from unallocated funds from other states.

NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee reviewed the Subcommittee's recommendations.

A Motion was made and seconded to submit the proposals, as prioritized, to DEM.

Jon Price led a discussion on DEM's request to activate the NHMPC when a disaster is declared. Elizabeth Ashby stated that she would like to be able to activate the Committee so it can participate in the mitigation strategy during a disaster.

Jon Price reported that at the NHMPC Planning Subcommittee meeting on January 28, 2008, it was discussed that FEMA recommended that the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Plan identify opportunities to promote "smart growth policies" despite the lack of state-level policy-development/implementation capacity. This would give the NHMPC the opportunity to be a bit more proactive and to identify risk-mitigation actions that other states take, or that makes sense for Nevada to take, that we don't have in place right now. The Committee could then recommend state or local jurisdiction policies that would improve mitigation. An example would be irrigation ditches or levee breaks. Is there something we should do in the state to address those hazards and what direction should we go? The discussions could then lead to recommendations that would be forwarded onto DEM, recommended for possible state legislation, or passed onto the counties for policy development.

ACTION ITEM: Elizabeth Ashby will put an item on the May agenda to introduce possible NHMPC policy recommendations regarding hazards from irrigation ditches and levees. Elizabeth will put an item on the August agenda to discuss these recommendations with affected parties (operators, county officials, local officials, etc.).

ACTION ITEMS: Elizabeth Ashby will put on the November Agenda the possible adoption of the policy recommendations identified at the May meeting.

Elizabeth Ashby explained the process that takes place when FEMA is brought in during a Presidential Declaration. Currently, FEMA and the state emergency managers together formulate a strategy plan for each program area FEMA funds for the disaster. Because DEM doesn't have the expertise in all the areas related to the strategy plan, Elizabeth would like the NHMPC to participate in the mitigation strategy sessions for future disasters.

Jon Price led a discussion on potential policy recommendations. Using the Fernley flood as an example, one suggested potential policy recommendation would be that man-made hazard zones, such as levees or irrigation ditches, be identified such that homeowners who live near those hazard zones would be encouraged (but not required) to purchase flood insurance.

It was recommended that officials from Fernley and Lyon County (and possibly the State Engineer), and other interested parties, be invited to discuss the irrigation ditch problem and then NHMPC could make policy recommendations based on those discussions. However, because the cause of the ditch failure may be litigious, the Committee felt it would be best to limit the discussion to the disaster-response and recovery efforts.

ACTION ITEM: Elizabeth Ashby will give an overview on the Fernley flood resulting from the irrigation ditch failure at the May meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Kelvin Hickenbottom will give a report at the May meeting on current statutes governing canals, ditches, and flumes.

ACTION ITEM: Jeanne Ruefer will give a presentation at the May meeting on Washoe County's damage cluster report on the January 2005 floods.

Elizabeth Ashby led a discussion on FEMA's policy for distributing 4.89% of total funds received from a disaster to be used as administrative and management costs. The State Hazard Mitigation Plan was updated recently to state that DEM and the sub grantees share the 4.89%. However, DEM would like the NHMPC to discuss how those funds would best serve Nevada.

ACTION ITEM: Elizabeth Ashby will put on a future meeting agenda a discussion of the distribution of the 4.89% of administrative and management received from FEMA, and how best they can be used to serve Nevada.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future meetings will be:

~~Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at the Washoe County EOC in Reno - CANCELLED~~
 Wednesday, May 7, 2008 in Las Vegas
 Wednesday, August 6, 2008 in Reno
 Wednesday, November 12, 2008 in Las Vegas

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m..

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Elizabeth Ashby will put an item on the May agenda to introduce possible NHMPC policy recommendations regarding hazards from irrigation ditches and levees. Elizabeth will put an item on the August agenda to discuss these recommendations with affected parties (operators, county officials, local officials, etc.).

Elizabeth Ashby will put on the November Agenda the possible adoption of the policy recommendations identified at the May meeting.

Elizabeth Ashby will give an overview on the Fernley flood resulting from the irrigation ditch failure at the May meeting.

Kelvin Hickenbottom will give a report at the May meeting on current statutes governing canals, ditches, and flumes.

Jeanne Ruefer will give a presentation at the May meeting on Washoe County's damage cluster report on the January 2005 floods.

Elizabeth Ashby will put on a future meeting agenda a discussion of the distribution of the 4.89% of administrative and management received from FEMA, and how best they can be used to serve Nevada.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Garside, 7 February 2008

Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
c/o Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
University of Nevada, Reno/MS 178
Reno, NV 89557-0178

775-784-4415