

Minutes of the
Combined Meetings of the
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and its
Proposal Review Subcommittee
28 June 2006

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and its Proposal Review Subcommittee met from 9:00 a.m. until 12:11 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at the offices of the Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Association, 1775 E Plumb Lane, Suite 130, Reno. These minutes and related documents are posted on the Web site for the committee (<http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/nhmpc/nhmpc.htm>).

Jonathan Price, Chair of the Committee, chaired the overall meeting. Ron Lynn, Chair of the Proposal Review Subcommittee, chaired the section of the meeting devoted to subcommittee activities.

Attendees included:

Elizabeth Ashby, Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM), who held the proxy for
Christine James*, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water
Resources
Chris Cobb, City of Sparks
Glen Daily, City of Reno
Rick Diebold*, Las Vegas Fire Department
Gale Fraser*, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Charles Hoppe, Washoe County School District
Ben Hutchins*, City of Sparks
Ron Lynn*, Clark County Department of Development Services, Building Division
Jonathan Price*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Jim Reagan*, Sierra Pacific Power Company, who also held the proxy for
Margie Gunn Nutman*, Lincoln County Emergency Management
Jeanne Ruefer*, Washoe County Department of Water Resources

* 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
Jim O'Brien, Clark County Office of Emergency Management

A quorum of directors (seven) was present.

A. Jon Price welcomed attendees, who introduced themselves. He announced that Jim O'Brien, Clark County Office of Emergency Management, has resigned from the board of directors of the committee. In addition, Frank Taylor, Nevada Department of Transportation, has retired.

ACTION ITEM: Elizabeth Ashby will discuss possible nominations of emergency management professionals from Clark County and a representative from the Department of Transportation with Frank Siracusa, Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, who makes the appointments.

B. The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee, held on 22 February 2006, were unanimously approved.

C. New Business

1. The Proposal Review Subcommittee conducted its review and prioritization of proposals submitted to DEM for consideration to submit to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Disaster 1629 (flooding along the Truckee River late in December 2005). Elizabeth Ashby reported that proposals that were provisionally expected from Douglas County and the Nevada Division of Risk Management were not submitted. The Subcommittee considered six proposals:

The City of Reno submitted two proposals, which Glen Daily presented to the Subcommittee:

Hilton Pathway Raising – to prevent flooding by the Truckee River of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport and businesses and homes in the area.

Lawton Sewer Interceptor at Oxbow Park – to prevent flooding by the Truckee River from undermining and rupturing the sewer interceptor and placing the river at significant risk of environmental damage.

The City of Sparks submitted a proposal, which Chris Cobb described, to purchase two reader boards for warning residents and officials of hazard events, including floods and earthquakes, as they unfold.

The Washoe County School District submitted two proposals, which Charles Hoppe explained:

Getto Transportation Center – construction of a flood barrier to prevent repeated flooding of the facility that houses the district's mechanic shop and approximately one third of its buses.

Spanish Springs High School – construction of sand traps to prevent sediment and debris from flash floods from overwhelming the existing water diversion system.

Washoe County submitted a proposal, which Jeanne Ruefer described, for an education program regarding Stormwater Drainage and Irrigation Ditches.

Elizabeth Ashby explained that it appears that approximately \$826,000 in federal funds will be available for hazard mitigation grants related to FEMA Disaster 1629.

The Subcommittee recommended the following priorities for the proposed projects:

For the two projects that fall under the category of 5% for initiatives,

First priority to the City of Sparks Mobile Reader Boards (\$26,250 in federal dollars)

Second priority to Washoe County Water Resources Stormwater Drainage and Irrigation Ditch Education Program (\$34,500, but with the possibility to move forward with a reduced budget or higher match from the county).

For the four projects that fall under regular mitigation:

First priority to City of Reno Hilton Pathway Raising Project (\$187,500 in federal dollars)

Second priority to Washoe County School District Getto Transportation Center Project (\$435,094)

Third priority to City of Reno Lawton Sewer Interceptor Project (\$150,000)

Fourth priority to Washoe County School District Spanish Springs High School Project (\$334,875).

2. Jon Price led a discussion of the current subcommittee structure. After reviewing the current charges and membership, the committee voted 7 to 1 to retain the Proposal Review Subcommittee and a Mitigation Plan Subcommittee and terminate the other subcommittees.

ACTION ITEM: Jon Price will update the charges to subcommittees and see that this information and membership are posted on the Web site for the committee.

C. Report of the Division of Emergency Management

Elizabeth Ashby reported on activities of the Mitigation Section of DEM.

A two-day benefit-cost analysis class was attended by 15 people in Reno (for those jurisdictions affected by the New Year's Eve floods) in April.

Workshops for hazard-mitigation planning were held at Elko County, which will begin to write a plan after signing a contract with URS; Elko Band and surrounding tribes; Storey County, and Lyon County.

Informational packets containing mitigation publications from FEMA were distributed to libraries within counties affected by the New Year's Eve floods.

A HAZUS advanced course and a HAZUS Users' Group meeting were held at UNR, thanks to Ron Hess with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, who chairs the Users' Group. The next meeting of the Users' Group is scheduled for 13 July 2006. Please contact Ron (rhess@unr.edu) for details.

Churchill and Lyon Counties have hired permanent GIS staff, and Elko County is considering hiring a permanent GIS expert.

Neither of the two proposals recommended by the committee at its meeting on 22 February 2006 (one to construct a new water tank at Sky Tavern, partially for fire protection, and one to update the Nevada Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan) were approved by FEMA for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds. In addition, the proposal to develop a mitigation plan for Lyon County has not been approved, because the funds are needed to support updating of the State plan. Both Lyon and Storey Counties will have to wait until funding is available for development of their hazard mitigation plan.

Two of the proposals recommended for funding at the 22 February 2006 meeting of the committee are progressing. Seismic repairs of the Stewart Building in Carson City are underway. Elizabeth Ashby will be working soon to fund the HAZUS Flood Scenario proposal, which will feed information into the update of the State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Elko Band Tribe's proposal for developing a mitigation plan was approved by FEMA on 2 June 2006.

Nye County's hazard mitigation plan was approved by FEMA on 29 April 2006. Entities with approved plans now include:

- State of Nevada
- California-Nevada Washoe Tribe
- City of Reno
- City of Sparks
- Carson City
- Lincoln County
- Nye County
- Washoe County

FEMA is reviewing plans from Clark County, Douglas County, and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

DEM and FEMA visited sites for proposed mitigation projects in an effort to help local jurisdictions, including the Cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, Douglas County, and the Washoe County School District. UNR was unable to come up with a benefit-to-cost ratio greater than or equal to one for an agriculture project, but they are considering applying for other projects, if they can make the benefit-to-cost ratios favorable.

Elizabeth explained that if the State upgrades its Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to an "enhanced plan," the State will be eligible for 20% additional funding (above and beyond federal funds for disaster recovery) for mitigation, instead of the current 7.5%. This may require legislative action to formalize mitigation processes. The updated State plan is due in October of 2007. Funding from Disasters 1583 and 1629 will be used to support this update.

ACTION ITEM: Elizabeth Ashby will investigate what is needed to upgrade the current State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to an enhanced plan.

Elizabeth discussed the dilemma of benefit-cost analyses – that they are so difficult for rural counties to complete that the counties tend to not apply. Ron Lynn suggested that one idea for helping in this regard is to raise this issue to the Nevada Association of Counties for them to bring forward to the National Association of Counties to lobby for federal help with this problem. Another idea is for DEM to hire a consultant to assist the local jurisdictions with the benefit-cost analyses.

Jon Price updated the committee on key activities of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council (see minutes of their 10 May 2006 meeting and Web site at <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/nesc>).

D. Public Comment Period

Jeanne Ruefer mentioned that proposals to pull FEMA out of the Department of Homeland Security and merge the directorates for preparedness and mitigation are being considered by Congress.

E. Announcements

The committee expects to meet immediately following the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meetings, beginning at approximately 2:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, 2 August 2006 in Las Vegas

(Agenda items include discussion of the process for revision of the state plan and requirements for producing an “enhanced plan.”)

Wednesday, 8 November 2006 in Reno.

F. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m..

G. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Elizabeth Ashby will discuss possible nominations of emergency management professionals from Clark County and a representative from the Department of Transportation with Frank Siracusa, Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, who makes the appointments.

Jon Price will update the charges to subcommittees and see that this information and membership are posted on the Web site for the committee.

Elizabeth Ashby will investigate what is needed to upgrade the current State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to an enhanced plan.

Respectfully submitted by Jon Price, 3 July 2006