

Summary Minutes
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
9 November 2005

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (NHMPC) met from 3:45 to 4:20 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 November 2005, at the Sierra Pacific Power Company offices in Reno. 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/nhmmpc/nhmmpc.htm>).

Attendees included:

Elizabeth Ashby, Nevada Division of Emergency Management
Press Clewe*, Washoe County Resident
Kim Groenewold*, Division of Water Resources
Juliette Hayes, FEMA Region IX, representing Jeff Lusk
Ben Hutchins*, City of Sparks
Catherine Leon, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Ron Lynn*, Building Official, Department of Development Services, Building Division, who also held the proxy for Gale Fraser*, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Russ Pedersen, Washoe County Sheriff's Office
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
Barry Smith, Nevada State Vulnerability Assessment Team
James Sudderth, Nevada State Vulnerability Assessment Team

*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 (who is now retired)
Rick Diebold*, Las Vegas Fire Department
Marge Gunn Nutman*, Lincoln County Office of Emergency Management
Jim O'Brien*, Clark County Office of Emergency Management

Jon Price chaired the meeting. He thanked and welcomed attendees, who introduced themselves.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the February 12, 2005 meeting were approved.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Overview of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Elizabeth Ashby provided an overview of the program. Funds are available for mitigation grants related to the Waterfall Fire near Carson City (Disaster 1450) and the floods in southern Nevada (Disaster 2583, for which approximately \$300,000 will be available). In addition, FEMA is likely to have \$50 million available in federal fiscal year 2006 (down from \$150 million in previous years) for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program nationwide.

Elizabeth noted that the following agencies now have hazard mitigation plans that have been formally approved by FEMA:

State of Nevada

City of Reno

Washoe County

California-Nevada Washoe Tribe

Carson City's plan will be approved shortly; it lacks only one document for final approval. The plans for Clark, Nye, and Lincoln Counties are being reviewed and should be ready to send to FEMA for their review in about one month. The plan for Douglas County is a bit further behind. Among the other counties, only Elko County expects to work on a plan soon.

2. Review of Proposals for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Disaster 1450 (Waterfall Fire)

Ron Lynn, Chair of the Proposal Review Subcommittee, reported on the subcommittee's meeting on November 2, 2005, and its recommendations of priorities for three proposals for mitigation funds that are available as a result of the Waterfall fire near Carson City. The subcommittee felt that all three proposals are worthy of funding and should move forward to FEMA for final approval. As far as priorities, the Subcommittee listed them as 1 (highest) through 3 as follows:

1. Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park Mapping – completion of a vegetation map that will aid planning and mitigation to reduce risks from fires;
2. Elko County Mitigation Plan Development – completion of a disaster mitigation plan, so that the county will be eligible for federal mitigation funds;
3. State Public Works, Caliente Youth Center – installation of sprinklers.

The full committee discussed the proposals then unanimously passed a motion to accept and endorse these recommendations of the subcommittee.

The committee then discussed additional concerns about the Caliente Youth Center.

ACTION ITEM: Elizabeth Ashby will communicate with Dan O'Brien of the State Public Works Board about concerns regarding the Caliente Youth Center's being in a flood plain. Elizabeth will communicate with Amir Soltani in the Nevada Department of Transportation about the need to harden or replace the only vehicle access to the facility – a bridge across Meadow Valley Wash. Elizabeth will also talk to Bert Prescott about whether certain aspects of flood mitigation, including berms and dikes around the buildings and hardening of the bridge across Meadow Valley Wash, may be eligible for direct public assistance, rather than through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

3. Discussion of the State Vulnerability Assessment

ACTION ITEM: James Sudderth, Nevada State Vulnerability Assessment Team Leader, will brief the Committee at the February 8, 2006 meeting in Las Vegas. (NOTE ADDED AFTER THE MEETING: The Committee will not meet that day, because of a change in FEMA's deadline for proposals. James Sudderth will be asked to make his presentation to the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council on February 8.)

4. Discussion of Wording of State Declarations

Juliette Hayes suggested that the State may want to word its disaster declarations to provide more flexibility in what is eligible for disaster mitigation funding. Recent declarations have been worded such that only agencies inside the area affected by the disaster or State agencies are eligible; that is local and regional governmental organizations outside the disaster area are not eligible. Juliette suggested that more flexibility could be gained if the State worded the declaration such that priority would be given to

projects within the area affected by the disaster but that other projects, outside that area, would also be eligible.

ACTION ITEM: Jon Price will discuss wording of State disaster declarations with Frank Siracusa.

5. Discussion of Updating the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and Other New Business

ACTION ITEM: Terri Garside will put discussions of the following items on the agenda for the next meeting of the committee

- (1) forming a new subcommittee to review the State Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- (2) setting priorities for encouraging counties to prepare hazard mitigation plans, so that they are eligible for FEMA assistance (using HAZUS to the extent possible);
- (3) progress on previously approved projects; Among these are the Disaster Resistant University project at UNR (John Anderson) and the HAZUS work of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (Gary Johnson, Christine Arritt, and Ron Hess).

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made from the public.

D. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING

In an e-mail after the meeting, Elizabeth Ashby, responding to a delay in the date that proposals for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program are due to FEMA, scheduled the meetings to review and prioritize proposals for both the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program 2006 and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Southern Nevada Floods (HMGP 1583) for **Thursday, February 23, 2006**. The meeting for the **Proposal Review Subcommittee will begin at 9:30 a.m.** The beginning of the meeting for the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will be determined by the number of total proposals received for both programs and will follow the meeting of the Proposal Review Subcommittee on the same day after a short break. Elizabeth will announce the location of the meeting and the number of proposals.

Therefore, meetings that were tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 6, and Wednesday, February 8, 2006 have been cancelled. to discuss proposals and recommend priorities. Proposal applications for Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants are due to the Division of Emergency Management by February 3, 2006, one month before they are due to FEMA.

Although not formalized, future meetings may be arranged to follow other scheduled meetings of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council:

Wednesday, May 10, 2006 (Reno)

Wednesday, August 2, 2006 (Las Vegas)

Wednesday, November 8, 2006 (Reno).

A date for review of proposals related to Disaster 1583 (southern Nevada floods) has not been set.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:20 p.m..

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Elizabeth Ashby will communicate with Dan O'Brien of the State Public Works Board about concerns regarding the Caliente Youth Center's being in a flood plain. Elizabeth will communicate with Amir Soltani in the Nevada Department of Transportation about the need to harden or replace the only vehicle access to the facility – a bridge across Meadow Valley Wash. Elizabeth will also talk to Bert Prescott about whether certain aspects of flood mitigation, including berms and dikes around the buildings and

hardening of the bridge across Meadow Valley Wash, may be eligible for direct public assistance, rather than through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

James Sudderth, Nevada State Vulnerability Assessment Team Leader, will brief the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council at its February 8, 2006 meeting in Las Vegas.

Jon Price will discuss wording of State disaster declarations with Frank Siracusa.

Terri Garside will put discussions of the following items on the agenda for the next meeting of the committee

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- (2) setting priorities for encouraging counties to prepare hazard mitigation plans, so that they are eligible for FEMA assistance (using HAZUS to the extent possible);
- (3) progress on previously approved project; Among these are the Disaster Resistant University project at UNR (John Anderson) and the HAZUS work of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (Gary Johnson, Christine Arritt, and Ron Hess).

Respectfully submitted by Jonathan Price, 23 November 2005
c/o Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, UNR/MS 178, Reno, Nevada 89557-0088
tgarside@unr.edu, 775-784-6691 extension 126