

Minutes of the  
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee  
8 November 2006

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee met from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Harry Reid Engineering Laboratory on the University of Nevada, Reno campus in Reno. These and previous minutes are posted on the Web site for the committee (<http://www.nbmjg.unr.edu/nhmjg/nhmjg.htm>).

Attendees included:

Elizabeth Ashby, Nevada Division of Emergency Management, who held the proxy for Gale Fraser\*, Clark County Regional Flood Control District  
Press Clewe\*, Washoe County resident  
Michael Cyphers\*, City of Henderson  
Ben Hutchins\*, City of Sparks  
Christine James\*, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources  
Robert McCord, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Glade Myler, Office of the Attorney General  
Jon Price\*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Jim Reagan\*, Sierra Pacific Power Company, who also held the proxy for Marge Gunn Nutman\*, Nevada Association of Counties & Lincoln County Office of Emergency Management  
Jeanne Ruefer\*, Washoe County Department of Water Resources  
Monique Smith, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

\* 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  
Rick Diebold\*, Las Vegas Fire Department  
Ron Lynn\*, Clark County Department of Development Services, Building Division  
Frank Taylor\*, Nevada Department of Transportation

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, *Chair Jon Price*

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM August 2, 2006

The minutes of the 2 August 2006 meeting of the committee were unanimously approved.

C. NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduction of new members

Elisabeth Ashby introduced a new member of the board of directors of the committee, Michael Cyphers, who is representing emergency management officials from southern Nevada.

b. Nevada Earthquake Safety Council Report

Jim Reagan reviewed the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council (NESC) meeting, the minutes of which are posted on the Web at (<http://www.nbmjg.unr.edu/nhmjg/nesc.htm>).

c. Proposal Subcommittee Report

The subcommittee did not meet during the last quarter, because there were no new proposals needing review.

d. Planning Subcommittee Report

The planning subcommittee did not meet during the last quarter. The first formal meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for the morning of December 12 in Carson City to meet with local jurisdictions to discuss hazard assessments and approaches to revise the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mike Cyphers noted that there is a conflict with that date for emergency managers in southern Nevada. Robert McCord stated that the state plan needs to incorporate plans of local jurisdictions, be consistent with the local plans, and contain its own elements from a statewide perspective.

**ACTION ITEM:** Elizabeth Ashby will update the committee on the membership of the Planning Subcommittee.

e. FEMA Region IX Presentation of Mitigation Planning Requirements for Revision of Standard Plans, and Development of Enhanced Plans.

Robert McCord advised the Planning Subcommittee to follow the guidance that FEMA has written on what it expects for an updated standard plan. FEMA wants to see that the subcommittee documents that it has evaluated every element and section of the plan, describes what has been done and accomplished toward meeting the goals of the existing plan, and describes what needs to be done. An executive summary for each section will be needed. One example of what needs to be reevaluated in the Nevada plan is the list of critical facilities, which could be improved with priorities for mitigation. Also, local plans should be reviewed for consistency with the state plan.

**ACTION ITEM:** Robert McCord will provide Elizabeth Ashby with information on volunteering to serve on the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant proposal review panel, which meets for about a week (at FEMA's expense) in the spring of 2007. This is a good opportunity for individuals to become familiar with the best proposals and the types of projects that FEMA is willing to support.

f. Mitigation Report

Elizabeth Ashby provided a report on mitigation efforts of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management.

FEMA announced today that funding will be available for PDM grants in federal fiscal year 2007. The application deadline is February 5, 2007. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted. There will be a 3% cap on administrative costs.

Through a revision of Section 404(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(a)), FEMA has restored the Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP) funding to 15% of the total public assistance authorized for a disaster (up from 7.5% in the previous year, which had been lowered because of the Katrina Hurricane disaster) for amounts of not more than \$2 billion, 10% for amounts more than \$2 billion but not more than \$10 billion, and 7.5% on amounts of more than \$10 billion but not more than \$35 billion.

DEM has scheduled the following workshops and meetings for hazard-mitigation planning:

1. HAZMAT Explo in Las Vegas at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 14 November 2006.
2. Nevada HAZUS users' group meeting tentatively scheduled for 29 November 2006 in Reno.
3. Possible benefit-cost analysis training in early December (two days, possibly December 5-6 or 6-7).

The updated State Hazard Mitigation Plan is due to FEMA in October 2007, although there is a possibility of a six-month extension.

In addition to approving the State plan, FEMA has approved plans for the following local jurisdictions: Carson City, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Nye County, Lincoln County, Washoe County, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Plans pending approval are for Clark County and Douglas County. Plans under development include ones for Elko County and the Elko Band Council.

Lyon County expects to apply for a planning grant during the upcoming round of PDM grants.

Elizabeth Ashby, in her role as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, will schedule meetings, beginning next year, with local jurisdictions that have an approved plan to discuss updates to their plans. Local hazard-mitigation plans need updating to reflect mitigation projects not originally listed in the plan, but that the jurisdictions want to complete. According to the Code of Federal Regulations, the projects funded by FEMA must be in conformance with the State plan and local plan.

Christine James announced that the Association of Flood Plain Managers will hold its 2008 annual meeting in Reno.

FEMA is developing a new severe repetitive loss (SRL) program. This is in a pilot status. FEMA has very specific criteria for properties to be applicable for this program. Last year's guidance for this program was published by FEMA in late May of 2006 with a 30 June 2006 deadline for proposals.

Please contact Elizabeth at 775-687-0314 if you have any questions.

#### D. OLD BUSINESS

a. Lack of Funding and Implications for Revision of the Standard State Plan vs. Development of an Enhanced State Plan.

Because the federal government has modified the Stafford Act, there is no longer a strong incentive to produce an enhanced plan, which requires considerable extra work. In addition, there is no funding available for DEM to produce an enhanced plan.

The committee unanimously approved a motion to advise DEM to not pursue an enhanced plan but to update the existing plan.

Elizabeth Ashby provided updates on the status of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program awards associated with recent disasters, including HMGP 1540 (Waterfall Fire 2004), HMGP 1583 (Southern Nevada Floods 2005), and HMGP 1629 (Northern Nevada Floods 2006). She also reported on the status of Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants for 2005 and 2006. The latter two include funding to update the HAZUS database for Nevada (ongoing work by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology) and funding to the Elko Band Council to develop their hazard mitigation plan.

#### E. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ben Hutchins thanked Elizabeth Ashby for her efforts in reporting on mitigation opportunities.

#### F. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- a. Wednesday, February 7, 2007 –after NESC (Reno)
- b. Friday, May 23, 2007 (Las Vegas)
- c. Wednesday, August 1, 2007 – after NESC (Reno)
- d. Wednesday, November 14, 2007, (Las Vegas)

#### G. ADJOURN

The committee adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m..

#### H. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Elizabeth Ashby will update the committee on the membership of the Planning Subcommittee.

Robert McCord will provide Elizabeth Ashby with information on volunteering to serve on the PDM grant proposal review panel, which meets for about a week (at FEMA's expense) in the spring of 2007. This is a good opportunity for individuals to become familiar with the best proposals and the types of projects that FEMA is willing to support.