

Minutes of the
Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
14 November 2007

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee met from 2:20 p.m. until 4:44 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 in Clark County Department of Development Services Building, Las Vegas, 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 held the proxy for Rick Diebold*, Las Vegas Fire Department
Mark Blankensop, Nevada Division of Forestry
Press Clewe*, Washoe County resident
Mike Cyphers*, Henderson Emergency Management
Gary Dunn*, City of Sparks
Gale Fraser*, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
William Kourim, Nevada Division of Forestry
Rick Martin, Division of Emergency Management
Margie Gunn Nutman*, Lincoln County Emergency Management
Elton Nutman, Citizen
Ron Lynn* Department of Development Services, Clark County Building Department
Jonathan Price*, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Henry Ramirez, Nevada Division of Forestry
Jim Reagan*, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power
Jeanne Ruefer*, Washoe County Department of Water Resources
Jim Walker*, Nevada Department of Transportation
Kelvin Hickenbottom, Nevada Division 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:

Christine James*, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources
Bob Ashworth*, Nevada Division of Forestry

A quorum of directors (seven) was present.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM August 1, 2007

The minutes of the 1 August 2007 meeting of the committee were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Proposal Review Subcommittee

Elizabeth Ashby reported that she has distributed the Pre-Disaster Mitigation 2008 (PDM) preliminary grant package.

All members of the NHMPC need to complete the e-grant application form by December 31st in order review the submitted grant applications.

The eGrant package and form for access to the electronic proposals can be found at www.dem.state.nv.us, on the bottom right hand corner under PDM2008.

The calendar for the PDM 2008 proposal process is:

- December 31, 2007, Submission of eGrants Roles Authorization Request Form from NHMPC Proposal Review Subcommittee members due to DEM.
- January 4, 2008, Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCAs) are ready for review by the Subcommittee.
- January 18, 2008, Members are able to view and print complete applications in eGrants.
- January 29, 2008, NHMPC Proposal Review Subcommittee meeting to review and prioritize proposals. (Meeting to be held in whichever area of the state that has the most submissions.)
- January 30, 2008, FEMA deadline for submission.

Jim Reagan asked if those submitting proposals will be invited to the January 29th meeting to present and answer questions regarding their proposals. Elizabeth Ashby reported that DEM was making it mandatory that someone from each proposing entity attend that meeting.

Planning Subcommittee

Jim Walker reported that the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is complete, was submitted to FEMA, and has received FEMA's approval.

Jim also reported that the Subcommittee intends to meet quarterly and hopes to keep the plan updated.

Jon Price commented that at the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council meeting, held prior to this NHMPC meeting, there was a discussion on preparing a bill draft regarding unreinforced masonry (URMs) buildings. The reasoning behind the bill is that it would require an inventory of the most seismically dangerous buildings; mostly URMs built prior to the building code changes of 1961. Buildings built prior to 1961 are more likely to be unreinforced. The plan is to inventory the buildings in the hope of identifying those that need to be seismically updated and/or retrofitted or have the building occupancy changed in order to limit injury or loss of life during an earthquake. The HAZUS inventory module could also be updated with the URM data so emergency managers can use HAZUS to identify where to expect damage during an earthquake.

Jon asked if the committee thought they would support such a bill and if so, there's a chance that funding could be sought through the PDM process to be used for retrofitting buildings identified by the inventory.

ACTION ITEM: An agenda item will be added to the NHMPC January 29, 2008 meeting to have the Planning Subcommittee report to the NHMPC Committee and seek support for the URM bill draft. The NHMPC Committee will report the outcome at the NESC February 6, 2008 meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Planning Subcommittee is researching if there is an easily attainable inventory of both public and private URM buildings and will report their findings at the February 6, 2006 NESC meeting.

Jeannie Reufer asked if the State Hazard Mitigation Plan had the evacuation of animals as an element of the Plan. The evacuation of animals is covered under the State evacuation plan and not the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Elizabeth Ashby distributed a report (see attached) on current FEMA projects.

HMGP 1540 – Waterfall fire funding
 HMGP 1583 – Southern Nevada floods
 HMGP 1629 – State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants for 2004-2007

PRESENTATIONS

California Fires

Mark Blankensop, Deputy Chief William Kourim, and Henry Ramirez with the Nevada Division of Forestry gave a presentation on Nevada's response to the fires in southern California. With winds blowing at up to 125 mph, homes became a fuel type. Seven strike teams from Nevada responded to a request for assistance from the California Office of Emergency Services. The request came two days after the start of the fires, which meant that California had depleted all of their resources within two days. The fire was so hot that it burned all the organic components in the ground; nothing was left to sustain life, and it will take a long time for recovery. Without Nevada's assistance, more homes would have been lost.

The devastation they saw made them wonder about what would happen if we had the same type of fires in the Mt. Charleston or the Pioche areas.

The Nevada teams were assigned an area that had been pretty much written off; it contained about forty undamaged homes. None of the fire teams had been in that area until the Nevada teams arrived. When they did, they discovered that there were people still living in some of the homes. They had not evacuated and had stayed there during the entire event. The Nevada teams were able to save some of those homes.

The teams designated a meeting location every day so that they knew everyone was safe. They also had an evacuation route planned in advance, because some of the areas had only one route in and out of the fire area. It was the first time a Nevada team worked that deeply and for such a long time in California. They stayed for fourteen days and slept outside, most of the nighttime temperatures were in the low 20s.

The press created problems by parking their vehicles on the narrow roads and had to be asked to move them so the strike teams could move their equipment where it was most needed.

Using the southern California fires as an example, the question was raised whether we need to develop new criteria for defensible space for Nevada since we experience 100 mph winds? They are discussing whether we need 200-300 feet of defensible space. Unfortunately, if a neighbor doesn't mitigate for wildfires, that puts homes that do under threat. It has nothing to do with tactics and strategy but with compliance. We need the buy-in from the homeowners and the codes. Money is sometimes spent to mitigate wildfire hazards only to find that next year the hazard level is at the same threat level as before the mitigation.

Key recommendations that the State of Nevada or local jurisdictions can do:

- Urban wildfire defensible space – maintaining fuel breaks

- Fire resistant building materials.
- Mandatory evacuation at the local level.
- Adopt the international urban wildfire code and enforce it.

Jon Price requested that the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) report back to the NHMPC at the February meeting on what NHMPC can do to help Nevada become more fire resistant. The NDF will meet with the State Fire Marshal and get his buy in before they meet with NHMPC in February.

ACTION ITEM: An item will be put on the February agenda for possible adoption and action regarding the policy recommendations that the NDF would like the NHMPC to forward on to DEM.

ACTION ITEM: The Nevada State Fire Marshall will be invited to the February 6, 2008 meeting.

The Clark County Regional Flood Control District

Gale Fraser gave a presentation on the Clark County Regional Flood Control District.

The District was created in 1986. In 1987, the voters approved a ¼ of 1% sales tax to fund the District.

The Mission is to improve the protection of life and property for existing residents, future residents, and visitors from the impacts of flooding.

The Vision is to be the premier regional agency providing a community safe from the devastation of floods.

The Clark County population was:

1950 - 47,000
 1960 - 116,000
 1970 - 262,000
 1980 - 444,000
 1990 - 708,000
 2000 - 1,300,000
 2006 - 1,850,000

The budget is approximately \$90 million, of which 10% or less is used for operations.

Typical Annual Expenditures:

28% debt service
 7% for maintenance
 8% for operations
 57% pay-as-you-go

In July 1999 the Flamingo Wash near Boulder Highway flooded the Miracle Mile Mobile Home Park. Trailers were washed away in the flood. It was declared a Presidential disaster. In 2002 a flood-control channel (in design at the time of the 1999 flood) was completed.

It's estimated that the August 2003 flood would have produced 10,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) flowing down Gowan Street had the Gowan Detention Basins not been in place. Even with the detention basins, there was an estimated 3,000 CFS flowing down Gowan Street. One report is that from the time it took a red light on Gowan Street to cycle to green, water had risen on a car from the tires to the windows. Three inches of rain fell in 90 minutes.

There were two floods this year (2007), one out in the Brownstone/Red Rock area that had two inches of rain in 30 minutes and one three weeks later in the DI/Durango area that had three inches of rain in 90 minutes. Fourteen homes were flooded in the second flood but that was because of local drainage problems within the development. The flooding was caused by the perfect storm: a lot of rain in a short period of time, slope, and trash in the drainage, which washed up on the storm grates causing a dam, and the water overtopped and flooded homes.

Their progress to date is:

- 75 detention basins;
- 450 miles of channels and underground storm drains;
- Spent \$1.2 billion in construction; and
- Removed 46 square miles of flood zones.

Remaining to be built:

- 60 detention basins;
- 408 miles of channels and underground storm drains;
- \$2.2 billion in construction costs;
- Estimated 30 years to completion.

Their funding is divided based on needs identified in the master plan. Las Vegas receives 41.6%, North Las Vegas receives 15.2%, Henderson receives 11.2%, Boulder city receives 1.3%, Mesquite receives 0.6%, and unincorporated Clark County receives 30.1%.

The new airport in Roach Lake, near Jean, NV, is still planned. The airport will need to be elevated. The planners are discussing the building of retention basins and the level of threat for which they need to plan (100 year flood, 500 year flood, etc.).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future meetings will be:

January 29, 2008 (special meeting of NHMPC and Proposal Review Subcommittee)

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 in Reno

Wednesday, May 7, 2008 in Las Vegas

Wednesday, August 6, 2008 in Reno

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 in Las Vegas

Elizabeth Ashby reported that she received a call from FEMA, and there may be an opportunity for funding at federal:state 90:10 for severe repetitive losses due to flooding in Nevada, if we include "severe specific repetitive losses due to flood" language in our Hazard Mitigation Plan. The deadline for submission of projects under this program is March 31, 2008. Because the Division of Water Resources manages this program, their input is necessary to add the required language regarding past, present, and future activities to reduce the repetitive losses due to floods in Nevada.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM: An agenda item will be added to the NHMPC January 29, 2008 meeting to have the Planning Subcommittee report to the NHMPC Committee and seek support of the URM bill draft. The NHMPC Committee will report the outcome at the NESC February 6, 2008 meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Planning Subcommittee is researching if there is an easily-attainable inventory of both public and private URM buildings and will report their findings at the February 6, 2006 NESC meeting.

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ACTION ITEM: The Nevada State Fire Marshall will be invited to the February 6, 2008 meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Garside, 21 November 2007

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

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

FEMA-1540-DR-NV
DISTRIBUTION

Available Funding
 12-Month Lock-In

State Management Costs	\$	726,541.00
5% Initiative Public Awareness	\$	226,808.97
7% Planning Project	\$	36,327.00
Regular Projects	\$	50,858.00
	\$	412,547.03
	\$	50,352.00
	\$	413,053.03

Elko Co. SPWB & State Parks

Proposals	Requesting Entity	Federal	Match	Total	Balance	Status as of:
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State Parks	\$	87,202.03	\$ 29,067.00	\$ 116,269.03		In Process
Elko County	\$	50,352.00	\$ 16,784.00	\$ 67,136.00		Plan completed and under review by SHMO
SPWB	\$	325,851.00	\$ 108,617.00	\$ 434,468.00		Funds awarded
Public Awareness	\$	36,327.00	\$ 12,109.00	\$ 48,436.00	\$	2.00 Completed -Closure request in process
	\$	499,732.03	\$ 166,577.00	\$ 666,309.03		
State Management Costs	\$	226,808.97	75,602.99	\$ 302,411.96		Looking for revision of budget to provide balance to UNR
Total	\$	726,541.00	\$ 242,179.99	\$ 968,720.99		

FEMA-1583-DR-NV
DISTRIBUTION

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Available Funding \$ 533,519.00
12-Month Lock-In

	Allowable	Allocated	Difference
5% Initiative	\$ 26,676.00	\$ 25,851.00	\$ 825.00
7% Planning Project	\$ 37,346.00	\$ 37,346.00	
Regular Projects	\$ 469,497.00	\$ 469,497.00	
		SPWB	\$ 825.00

Proposals

Requesting Entity	Federal		Match	Total	Balance	Status as of:
State Parks	\$ 25,851.00	\$ 8,617.00	\$ 34,468.00		31-Jul-06	Completed, Closure requested from FEMA
SPWB	\$ 469,497.00	\$ 156,499.00	\$ 625,996.00	No expenditures		Funding Allocated
UNR Risk Assessmt	\$ 37,346.00	\$ 6,522.00	\$ 43,868.00	No expenditures		Extension to Feb 08 - HAZUS runs
	\$ 532,694.00	\$ 171,638.00	\$ 704,332.00			
State Management Costs	\$ 825.00	206.00	\$ 1,031.00	No expenditures		Approved
Total	\$ 533,519.00	\$ 171,844.00	\$ 705,363.00			

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Proposal deadline: 23-Aug-06

**FEMA-1629-DR-NV
draft DISTRIBUTION**

\$625,497.00

Allowable
 5% Initiative \$31,274.85
 7% Planning Project \$43,784.79
 Regular Projects \$550,437.36

Proposals 5% Initiative

Requesting Entity	Federal	Match	Total	Balance	Status as of:
Sparks	\$25,125.00	\$8,375.00	\$33,500.00		31-Jul-06 Approved, purchasing completed. Awaiting receipt of boards

Proposals Planning

State Plan Update	\$45,675.00	\$15,225.00	\$60,900.00		Final report and closure next quarter. (January)
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Proposals Regular Projects

Washoe Co School	\$444,017.00	\$148,005.67	\$592,022.67		Architectural and Engineering approved. Awarded 10% of total request
Reno- Lawton Interceptor	\$ 137,680.00	\$45,893.33	\$183,573.33		Architectural and Engineering approved. Awarded.
Total Requested	\$ 652,497.00	\$ 217,499.00	\$ 869,996.00		
Reno- Seismic Retrofit Bckp	\$63,750.00	\$21,250.00	\$85,000.00		Will resubmit under PDM08

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2004-2005

Requesting Entity	Federal	Match	Total	Balance	Status as of:	15-May-07
UNR-BMG	\$ 60,063.50	\$ 20,021.17	\$ 80,084.67		HAZUS Data Base new HAZUS version released - awaiting runs with new data	

2006

Requesting Entity	Federal	Match	Total	Balance	Status as of:	17-May-07
Elko Band Council	29,115.00	9,705.00	38,820.00		Plan under review by SHMO	

2007

Requesting Entity	Federal	Match	Total	Balance	Status as of:
Storey County Plan	\$ 26,378.00	\$ 8,792.67	\$ 35,170.67		Approved and in proces
Esmeralda Co. Plan	\$ 24,950.00	8316.67	\$ 33,266.67		Approved and in proces
Washoe Co. Plan	\$ 38,609.00	12869.67	\$ 51,478.67		Approved and in proces
Henderson Sewer	\$ 377,853.00	125951.00	\$ 503,804.00		In Environmental Review process
Subtotal	\$ 467,790.00	\$ 155,930.00	\$ 623,720.00		

Management Costs (10% of federal funds received) \$ 46,779.00 \$ 15,593.00 \$ 62,372.00
 UNR's assistance with 1 year mitigation plan update

Total \$ 514,569.00 \$ 171,523.00 \$ 686,092.00