



## Meeting Minutes Nevada Earthquake Safety Council

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday, May 11, 2016	
	<b>TIME</b>	9:00 A.M.	
	<b>LOCATION</b>	Nevada Division of Emergency Management Executive Conference Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, NV 89701	
	<b>METHOD</b>	Videoconference	
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Janell Woodward	
<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Staff and Others</b>	<b>Present</b>
Alan Bennett		Janell Woodward (DEM)	X
Michael Blakely	X	Rick Martin (DEM)	
Ian Buckle		Henna Rasul (DAG)	X
Wayne Carlson	X	Caleb Cage (DEM)	X
Oscar Delgado			
Craig dePolo	X		
Jim Faulds			
Tim Ghan	X		
Jeff Hahn	X		
Graham Kent	X		
Chris Lake	X		
Ron Lynn	X		
Connie Morton			
Jim O'Donnell			
Rob Palmer	X		
Vance Payne	X		
Jim Reagan	X		
Woody Savage	X		
Stephen Silberkraus	X		
Wanda Taylor	X		
Jim Werle	X		
Michael Wilson			

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair, Ron Lynn called the meeting to order. Janell Woodward called roll and a quorum was established.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair, Ron Lynn opened discussion for public commentary for this meeting. Ron indicated that he volunteered Chief Cage to attend the next meeting for the Nevada Organization of Building Officials. There were no other comments.

## **3. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Lynn asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the February 3, 2016 joint quarterly meeting. Vance Payne made a motion to approve the minutes. Jeff Hahn seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes from the February 3, 2016 meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

## **4. JOINT EFFORTS WITH CALIFORNIA**

There has been an ongoing discussion with the California Office of Emergency Management as well as the Governor's office in California regarding the importance of Nevada and California working together in anticipation of an emergency arising. Ron opened the discussion for the Council regarding whether or not to make a support reaching out to the Nevada Governor's office through the Division of Emergency Management. Graham Kent indicated they have started building relationships with the California Seismic Safety Commission and the Director of Emergency Management in California. Craig indicated this is a critical idea as the chance of something happening on the border of California and Nevada is very high and it is important to foster a relationship with our border states. California has resources available to Nevada and Nevada certainly has resources that would be of use to California.

Jeff Hahn asked if there was anything that could be done to bridge the hurdles that have been there before with regarding to both states meeting together. Deputy Attorney General Henna Rasul indicated that the Council really cannot do anything outside of the state borders. Craig asked if there was a law preventing this cross-border interaction. Graham indicated that California is able to cross borders but rather just do not like to do this. Henna indicated that any boards created by the state must meet within state borders. Wanda asked if this would apply in the case of an emergency. Henna indicated the law requiring boards to meet within state borders is not in the Open Meeting Law but elsewhere and she would need to look it up.

Ron suggested that we need to find out if it is actually policy or law. If it is law, there is no debate to be had; if it is a policy, then discussion can move forward. If a policy, the NESC could write a letter to the Governor's office through the Division of Emergency Management requesting permission for both state Councils to meet together for the purposes of state security and the health and welfare of the citizens of both states.

Jim Reagan clarified that the real issues is that a business meeting cannot be performed outside the state borders. However, the Council is free to do whatever else they want, just not conduct business.

Graham indicated that as Chief Cage works through the multihazard approach, perhaps this issue could be looked at and reviewed. Perhaps for most boards, this issue does not make a

difference. However, it was Graham's view that by tying the hands of the Council and denying their ability to work together with other states could potentially cost the lives of our citizens. Graham suggested that it would be important to resolve this issue sooner than later.

Ron indicated the agenda item listed the possibility of sending a letter from the NESC to Chief Cage. It was noted that Chief Cage had reentered the meeting and Ron indicated that multiple issues were being discussed with regard to working with California and Utah for the benefit of both states. California has tremendous resources. California has taken on a number of initiatives that Nevada could take advantage of. Additionally, a staff member from the California Governor's office has previously broached the subject of meeting with the Nevada's Governor's office to discuss support for each of the states in an emergency, certainly piggybacking on the primary efforts that California has already done with the early warning system. The stumbling block is the political boundary of conducting a joint meeting across state lines. The two primary questions are 1) is it a law or just a policy, and 2) is there the ability of the Council to recommend to Chief Cage to recommend to the Governor's office to suspend such a policy for the purposes of the betterment of the citizens of California and Nevada as well as facilitating a relationship between the Governor's offices of Nevada and California for the purposes of establishing the ground rules or protocols for support particularly for citizenry in working together when an event occurs in either Nevada or California.

Chief Cage indicated his feeling that if a policy barrier exists that we find a way to deal with the barrier. His suggestion was to set up a videoconference meeting with key members of both groups. This does not have to be a formal meeting as Chief Cage and the Chair and Vice Chair can report back to the full Council. This would allow the conversation to be started and see what California's interests are. Regarding the two Governor's offices meeting, Chief Cage's opinion was that we would need to have a pretty developed idea of what both sides want prior to bringing it to the Governor's offices in order to maximize outcome.

Graham indicated that someone from the Seismological Laboratory attends the California meetings. There is a good likelihood that sometime soon the Nevada Seismological Laboratory will be running the Eastern California early warning system so this would add more reason for the states to collaborate at that level.

Werner Hellmer questioned whether it would be advisable to simply ask permission for the two states to meet together. In so asking, it would either be approved or not approved and we would know the reason it was not approved. Ron Lynn indicated that the Council could in fact vote to write a letter to Chief Cage as an advisory board to him requesting this permission. Chief Cage indicated he would not be so formal as to write a letter but just take a vote requesting that he act to establish a meeting with his counterpart in California and the Seismic Safety Council in California and begin the process of having that conversation. Graham and Ron have been talking about this for a while and Chief Cage indicated he would move forward with this if the Council requests it.

Wanda Taylor made a motion that the Council request Chief Cage move forward to establish a meeting with his counterpart in California as well as the California Seismic Safety Commission. Craig dePolo seconded this motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Cage indicated that he would get together with Ron and Graham and anyone else that should be included to ensure that we move forward on the same page. He will proceed as indicated.

Ron questioned the possibility of having a VTC meeting between the NESC and the California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC) and Henna indicated this would be acceptable under the Open Meeting Law as long as the Council is in Nevada. Ron asked Janell to facilitate this meeting.

## **5. UPDATE FROM CITY OF RENO ON THEIR UNREINFORCED MASONRY (URM) SURVEY**

Kyle West from the City of Reno provided an update of the City of Reno URM project. Kyle will be working alongside the City of Reno Building Official moving forward with this project. The assessment team will be made up of a building inspectors as well as volunteers who have taken the FEMA P-154 and ATC-20 courses and have also volunteered to be part of a list of those who would be willing to be contacted for damage assessment if needed. The teams will go out with radios and will do their verification and call back to the City Hall office with the information which will then be entered into the City of Reno infrastructure database. This will provide an opportunity to not only complete the URM verification but also train the building inspectors for a real-life emergency management situation. They plan to create a flyer to provide individuals who own URM buildings to provide potential next steps to the public. City of Reno has a start date of July 1, 2016 and a finish date of October 31, 2016 for this URM verification project.

Werner Hellmer indicated that Clark County successfully utilized University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) engineering students for their URM project. They were unable to utilize internal staff for their survey. Ron Lynn added reaching out to UNLV to utilize engineering students was part of their government reaching out to the University.

## **6. NEVADA URM BUILDINGS – NEXT STEPS BEYOND THE INVENTORY**

Craig dePolo noted that the NESC has been a leader in advocating studies and reinforcement of URM buildings within the state. An assessment was completed and now that jurisdictions are taking a look at the URM buildings within their jurisdictions, the NESC should provide some next steps for dealing with these buildings. Craig proposed that the NESC create a URM Subcommittee to come up with next steps that communities might utilize. These URM buildings could be prioritized as to risk. Possibilities include the prioritization, placarding buildings, actions that might be taken by building owners. A national and international survey could potentially be performed to see what these action items might include. Additionally, other opportunities available could be provided. Ultimately, communities need to begin to appreciate the seismic risk associated with these buildings and risk to public and governments. Conversation needs to occur with the local governments and community itself regarding the risk of URM buildings.

Of note, Kyle West indicated that the City of Reno government has directed them to work together as possible with the University of Nevada Reno Seismological Laboratory. Michael Blakely discussed the fact that it is now popular to give a second life to old URM buildings for use as a restaurant. There is provision in the building code to retrofit these old buildings but it appears that politics sometime get in the way. Nevertheless, this is an issue that needs to be recognized. Kyle indicated that this may be something going forward in the future for the City of Reno.

Craig indicated the importance of the NESC to provide some guidance regarding URM next steps for communities. Discussion of a subcommittee ensued.

Ron Lynn indicated that Los Angeles, by 2025, intends to have all URM buildings retrofit.

Craig added that the NESC could develop suggested legislation for Nevada. This could go on the shelf and be easily pulled out as necessary.

The issue of insurance status for URM buildings was brought up and the fact that once a building is retrofit, insurance costs would be reduced. Extensive discussion ensued regarding URM buildings being utilized for businesses. Ultimately each individual policy a business has will determine how any potential claims in the event of an earthquake would be handled. Comment was made that most people in Nevada do not carry earthquake insurance secondary to cost or availability.

Vance Payne indicated that he felt this discussion was excellent. He saw three important points out of the discussion including 1) a solid identification of URM buildings in each community, 2) how to handle the URM buildings, and 3) a recommendation by NESC to the state, building departments, and the general public. Vance recommended that the NESC support the methods that Clark County Building Department has utilized to conduct the URM survey in Clark County. Additionally, he supported some type of handout to be given to individuals in lieu of legislation and recommended that the NESC vote to adopt a direction to move with regard to URM inventory in Nevada.

Craig moved to create a subcommittee to explore all items discussed regarding next steps beyond the URM survey and Vance seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ron added that a legislative initiative was made years ago to deal with URM buildings in a 20-year period. This initiative was defeated in legislature secondary to what some rural communities felt was an undue economic risk to their jurisdiction. There is the ability to placard buildings already through the State Fire Marshall's office. Ron discussed this with the State Fire Marshall who was supportive of the idea.

## **7. NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NDEM) UPDATE.**

Janell Woodward provided an update from NDEM. She announced her new position as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) officially starting on May 23.

An overview of the NETAP training for this year was provided. A repeat of the FEMA P-154 and ATC-20 combined course was provided as well as the hospital mitigation course and these were very successful in early March. There is a potential of mitigation for schools training later in the year dependent upon available NETAP funding.

It is expected that Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) will be available very soon. NDEM expects the same funding amount as last year to support the Council. No additional year-end funds have been identified at this time.

The pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) 2016 grant cycle started in mid-March and will have a 90-day turnaround. Application will be due to FEMA on June 15. They are expected to have 3x more available funding nationally than last year. Nevada will receive \$500,000 with the rest of the funding competitive nationally.

Recovery was a Homeland Security top 5 priority last year and an approved project was to develop a statewide Recovery Framework Plan that will tie into the National Recovery Framework. A timeframe for this project was released and meetings will be held throughout the state.

Rich Martin attended the National Earthquake Program Managers conference in Long Beach on May 2-3. There were some great ideas that came from the conference this year and Janell passed around some of the materials that Rick brought back including the deck of playing cards with emergency preparedness information on them as well as the cards with the thumb drives with FEMA Earthquake publications.

A review of historical NEHRP funding was provided as follows:

2010: \$57,943 to UNR

2011: \$50,228.37 to UNR – NBMG/Seismological Laboratory

2012: \$53,282.83 to NV Seismo Lab for 2013 Shakeout

2013: \$20,000 to NV Clark County Building Dept URM Verification project (Received only \$17,000 of this amount with \$3,000 kept for EERI administrative costs) as well as booklet for Pleasant Valley Earthquake centennial. This project was largely funded by Clark County Building and Fire Prevention.

2014: \$10,000 for Northern Nevada billboards

2015: \$31,500 for several projects - \$10,000 to Clark County for billboards, \$1500 for flashcards, and \$20,000 for the Clark County URM App.

2016: ?? Project proposals due to be submitted May 31, 2016

Craig dePolo suggested a potential future project of doing the card flash drive similar to the NEHRP sample which was passed around and a card could be created from NESC including the items that Nevada has regarding earthquakes. This might be a cost effective method to get this information out to people. This would give some name recognition.

Finally, the VG-17 National Guard exercise will be in November 2016 and will be an earthquake scenario. A presentation on this exercise was provided at the February NESC meeting.

## **8. RECENT SEISMICITY IN NEVADA AND REPORT FROM THE SEISMOLOGICAL LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO**

Ken Smith from the Seismological Laboratory provided an update regarding recent seismicity. A map was provided showing seismicity in Nevada and Northeastern California and there have already been 6000 earthquakes this year. Numerous broadband sensors have been installed over the state providing coverage in central and eastern Nevada and some into California. This is part of the source physics experiment with the Department of Energy but it is hoped these will be made permanent instruments with many more earthquakes being detected in central and eastern Nevada. Ken indicated that outside of California, Nevada gets more earthquakes than anybody in the west. There have been 25 events greater than magnitude 3.5. There have been 6 magnitude 4 events with more than 40 magnitude 3 and above earthquakes so far this year. This is 2.3 earthquakes per week which are responded to 24/7 with a rate of approximately 119 per year. Nevada is locating 50 earthquakes per day with Utah approximately 3 per day, and Washington/Oregon about 6-10 per day. Several sequences were discussed as well as the newest "Burning Man" sequence. The Sheldon sequence starting in 2014 is still going strong. The Elko press has picked up more on some of the earthquakes near the mining locations in Carlin. Some of these events have been larger than 3.0. Each time an event occurs the mines evacuate and

perform a safety inspection. With sometimes 150 people underground, this is a huge safety concern. Barrick and Newmont Mines have hired seismologists because of the events that have occurred nearby.

## **9. RESILIENT NEVADA ALL HAZARDS DOCUMENT AND UPDATE ON SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE**

Graham Kent provided a report on the Seismological Society of America (SSA) Conference which included 700 seismologists from around the world coming to the City of Reno. This conference received very good feedback.

The All Hazards Subcommittee fine-tuned a Resilient Nevada one-page document which was provided to Caleb in support of the earthquake program in Nevada. Chief Cage requested that a document be developed, the NESC approve this document and then send this document to Chief Cage who will then move forward in support of the earthquake program.

Jim Reagan made a motion to approve the All Hazards document and forward that on to Chief Cage to move forward with this document as he deems appropriate. Craig dePolo seconded. Possibilities moving forward for Chief Cage would include providing this document to the Governor's office as well as legislators to garner support. The timing of this is important and as the summer moves forward and there are fires, this will help clarify the All Hazards approach. Once legislators are aware of the need, a few champions would be needed to move this forward legislatively. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

## **10. EARTHQUAKE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY FORUM UPDATE**

An economic resiliency forum was held the day before the SSA Conference with approximately 110 people signed up. This meeting received great feedback from the local community. A variety of topics were covered. People were very interested in this topic and there is desire to do a similar meeting in the south. It will be important to garner some funding for a second meeting. We will look at options for funding another meeting in the future.

Craig indicated that he was impressed with the type of people who attended the meeting and the agencies they represented. The right people attended the meeting.

Craig made a motion to hold a similar Earthquake Economic Resiliency Forum meeting in the south. Tim Ghan seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

## **11. UPDATE FROM THE WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL (WSSPC) AND NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM (NEHRP)**

Chair, Ron Lynn provided an update from the Western States Seismic Policy Council. Ron attended the business meeting for WSSPC in Long Beach. Policy 16-1 (Tsunami) was addressed. Something was added for landslide and it can now be used for the Lake Tahoe area. Policy 16-3 (post-earthquake clearinghouse) was established. Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) has a wonderful model. Policy 16-4 (2015 Codes) was passed. Canadian building code will be added as applicable. Policy 16-10 (remediation of schools) passed with no change from previous. Policy 16-12 (automatic gas shut-off valves)

was supported. Comment was made requesting a policy with water shut-off valves. Policy 16-11 (reliability of lifeline services) was discussed.

NEHRP was involved. Of note, availability of funding for NEHRP is not keeping up with inflation.

## **12. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ron Lynn announced that he will be retiring this year and may not be at the next NESC meeting in August. Ron will be out of the country for the next month and all email will be rejected. Once he returns, he will announce his retirement date.

Craig dePolo encouraged the NESC to think about how the NESC addresses the tourist community both from a safety standpoint and the economic standpoint. Perhaps a subcommittee or something to review what would happen with tourism and what steps might be taken beforehand or in the respond to mitigate any bad things should a sizeable earthquake occur. An example might include an exodus out of Las Vegas that might interfere with first response.

Craig suggested an agenda item for the future to have Jeff Hahn reflect and share what he learned from the process of working through the preparation for VG-17 with regard to mass migration and other issues. Chief Cage agreed and indicated he would be happy to provide an overview of the upcoming mass migration workshop for the Committee.

## **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair, Ron Lynn opened the meeting for public comment. There was none.

## **14. ADJOURN**

Chair, Ron Lynn declared the meeting adjourned.