



**STATE OF NEVADA  
MEETING MINUTES  
NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	January 17, 2024
	<b>TIME</b>	9:00 a.m.
	<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Sherrean Whipple

Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Eric Antle	X	Faith Beekman	ABS	Ceira Sampson	X
Andrew Trelease – Vice Chair	X	Kathy Canfield	X	Dawn Johnson	X
Stephen Aichroth	ABS	Shari A. Davis	X	Melissa Whipple	X
Solome Barton	X	Craig dePolo	ABS		

Legal/Administrative Staff		
Name	Agency	Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General (DAG)	Attorney General’s Office –	X
Janell Woodward – Non-Voting Member	Nevada Division of Emergency Management / Homeland Security (DEM/HS)	X
Sherrean Whipple	Administration Assistant	X
Bill Elliott – Chair (Non-Voting)	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/ Homeland Security (DEM/HS)	X

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

Chair Bill Elliott, DEM/HS called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was performed by Sherrean Whipple, DEM/HS. Quorum was established for the meeting.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Bill Elliott opened the first period of public comment for discussion. There were no public comments.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Bill Elliott requested a motion to accept the minutes from July 10, 2023. Andrew Trelease moved to approve the minutes. Solome Barton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. REVIEW OF SUBAPPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2023 GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) GRANT CYCLE AND AVAILABLE SUBAPPLICATIONS FOR THE DR-4708 HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)**

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, reminded the Committee that this is a bit of an odd situation given that there are fewer applications than available funding. Ms. Woodward explained that DEM/HS is continuing with the mitigation section to try and get additional applications to utilize the available funding. Ms. Woodward explained that the Committee would review the three applications and then go through the process of ranking them more for practice and reminder purposes than for necessity as the number of applications did not exceed the amount of funding.

Jon Bakkedahl, Deputy Emergency Manager for Carson City, discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan rewrite plan for which Carson City is requesting funding. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the plan is due in 2025, but because of the timeline of federal continuing resolutions and grant funding actually being awarded to the states, Carson City is looking to start early and is in the process of building the application. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that Carson City is waiting on estimates from a couple of the contractors so as to submit the application and notify DEM/HS of the 75 percent federal amount, as well as the 25 percent match from Carson City.

Janell Woodward added that while DEM/HS does not yet know what the budget will be for this project, they are aware that the plan update is a normal, regular process done every five years for which the jurisdictions look at two to three years ahead of getting a grant to update the plans because of the time it takes for the BRIC program to actually fund the projects. Ms. Woodward shifted to the questions, beginning with Number 2, which talks about the proposed activity addressing climate change adaptation and resiliency with consideration of future impacts and risks associated with climate change.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated that this is one of the top five major hazards listed for Carson City, primarily with the impact of drought on climate change, wildland fire, and other risks. Mr. Bakkedahl assured the Committee that this will be addressed in the next version of the plan, as well.

Janell Woodward read Number 3: does the proposed activity project mitigate or assess risk to critical infrastructure, utilities, and/or repetitive loss structure.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated that it would as it takes into account all potential threats and hazards, which then leads into the risk. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that Carson City owns the water and water treatment facilities, and there is direct impact to that critical infrastructure, as well as other major areas of utilities in the state capital.

Janell Woodward read the three parts of question Number 3: does a proposed activity protect, mitigate, or assess risk to critical infrastructure; does the project or proposed activity protect, mitigate, or assess risk to utilities; does the proposed activity protect, mitigate, or assess risk to repetitive loss structures.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that this is included in the work Carson City does with the Carson River Conservatory Group, as well as all of the flood retention basins that have been put in around the city by the public works department.

Janell Woodward read question Number 4: does the proposed activity mitigate or plan to mitigate an imminently dangerous problem that would pose a significant risk to public health and safety if left unresolved.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that there are several Wildland Urban Interfaces (WUIs) throughout the city and that the city has been working with fire within the environment to help mitigate wildland fire risks to those neighborhoods. Mr. Bakkedahl discussed the efforts put into alluvial fan flooding from the Stormwater program but noted that the city is not yet where it needs to be, so additional projects will be written up for that as well.

Janell Woodward read question 5: does the budget include a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with the proposed activity. Ms. Woodward reiterated that Carson City is in the process of doing their budget right now, has been delayed by Congress' late release of the BRIC program, and that DEM staff will ensure that everything is included upon review of the applications.

Jon Bakkedahl added that the basic funding spreadsheet will be 75 percent federal, 25 percent state, and 100 percent of the funding going to a contractor to establish routine meeting schedules with the whole community environment within Carson City. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that the city does already have a hazard mitigation working group and has also invited other partners to participate in the plan writing efforts.

Solome Barton asked for confirmation that by the time of submission, all line items will be complete.

Jon Bakkedahl confirmed that this was correct.

Janell Woodward confirmed that this was correct. Janell Woodward read Question 6: is the proposed activity timeframe clear and realistic with a breakdown of activities and milestones to demonstrate the ability to complete the work within the established timeframe. Ms. Woodward informed the Committee that DEM/HS encourages the full 36 months to be requested on any and all grant applications because that cuts down on the need to request extensions from FEMA and explained that barring things like natural disasters and pandemics, most projects are able to be completed within the 36 months.

The Working Group members scored the application as follows:

- Eric Antle, 57
- Solome Barton, 52
- Kathy Canfield, 55

- Dawn Johnson, 58
- Ceira Sampson, 52
- Andrew Trelease, 52
- Shari Davis, 55
- Melissa Whipple, 52

Jon Bakkedahl next discussed Carson City's HMGP generator project, noting that this request is for a generator for the new Emergency Operation Center, Emergency Management offices, and the building that will include the cyber IT and two-bay apparatus fire station. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that the request is for \$313,570 for the generator itself, the foundation, and the bollards to protect it. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the committee that the funding for the building was from two years ago, but with current logistics supply chain issues as well as increased costs, the project was cut by the planning efforts through the city. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that 313,570 was the full cost, with 235,178 being the federal portion and 78,932 being the 25 percent match from the city. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that the project has already gone in front of the Board of Supervisors and was approved unanimously 5 to 0.

Janell Woodward questioned how this project will address the climate change adaptation and resiliency with consideration of future impacts and risks associated with climate change.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that this project can be directly related to the PSOM events and the ability of NV Energy to not have power available at all times, including winter storms. Mr. Bakkedahl noted that winters are changing, that there are more climate change impacts and PSOM events that shut down power, and for Carson City to be able to continue to operate its emergency operations center on a daily basis requires backup generation.

Janell Woodward asked Mr. Bakkedahl to address critical infrastructure, utilities, and the risk of repetitive loss structures, specifically the NFIP and flooding risk.

Jon Bakkedahl indicated that when it comes to the critical infrastructure, this would be the city emergency operations center and IT and cyber center. Mr. Bakkedahl pointed out that nobody can operate without computers, so ensuring that everyone is up and running and having the cyber IT partner next door will be a big advantage. Mr. Bakkedahl further noted that should the critical infrastructure go down, this would severely impact the city as well as the state government. Mr. Bakkedahl next addressed the flooding issue, noting that the water treatment facility is next door and has several water canals that come into the area from the runoff of the Sierras to intake water, thus creating the potential for flood impact for the water treatment. Mr. Bakkedahl noted that the property will be built up so as to be elevated, and with a generator in place, the hope is to avert repetitive flooding.

Andrew Trelease asked if there are currently repetitive loss structures being protected by this project.

Jon Bakkedahl noted that there would not be by this specific project but could be in the future as this is a new facility being built right near the floodplain area in hopes of trying to prevent flood losses and will serve as the operation center to work and coordinate to work on mitigation projects in the future to prevent repetitive flooding in other areas throughout the community.

Janell Woodward asked Mr. Bakkedahl to address how the proposed activity will mitigate or plan to mitigate an imminently dangerous problem that would pose a significant risk to public health and safety if left unresolved.

Jon Bakkedahl explained that the generator will mitigate the loss of power and being able to continue to operate for any hazard or threat, including public health events, as well as all natural and technological hazards that could impact the community.

Janell Woodward indicated that the budget does include a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with the proposed activity. Ms. Woodward reiterated that DEM/HS does ask that submissions requests are for the full 36 months, noting that the ship time for generators has been pushed back quite a bit.

Jon Bakkedahl informed the Committee that the building is supposed to break ground in the next two months, and then follow an 18-month building plan, so the project should fall well within the 36-month project parameters.

The Working Group members scored the application as follows:

- Eric Antle, 48
- Solome Barton, 59
- Kathy Canfield, 51
- Dawn Johnson, 53
- Ceira Sampson, 55
- Andrew Trelease, 54
- Shari Davis, 56
- Melissa Whipple, 49

Janell Woodward informed the Committee that this application would rank a Number 1 as it is the only application for the HGMP 4708.

Jon Bakkedahl thanked the Working Group for their time and the DEM/HS team for their efforts in helping Carson City through the application process.

Sherrean Whipple invited the City of Las Vegas to share their screen for their building codes project.

An unidentified speaker from Las Vegas indicated that the request for the virtual inspection screen and code adoption program aims to conduct a comprehensive study of CLB building codes and

provide a comprehensive digital access to all updated building codes and reference standards. The speaker noted that the City of Las Vegas will also be able to implement enhancements to the remote virtual inspections program currently offered. The speaker indicated that the potential benefits include ensuring a safe built environment for today as well as addressing concerns for future environmental constraints, a well-trained staff, buildings built to the latest standard plans and plan reviews in an efficient and effective way, and flexibility for contractors and homeowners. The speaker further noted that this project will reduce the hazards associated with in-person inspections.

Ceira Sampson asked for a brief explanation of the project's goals.

Michael Cunningham, City of Las Vegas, explained that one goal is to get the city on the latest version of the building codes whereas right now, the city is using different versions from different years. Mr. Cunningham indicated that this would get the city to the latest and greatest in terms of methods of constructions, materials, and addressing issues that may not have been picked up on the last series of codes. Mr. Cunningham further noted that this would provide consistency for the construction industry. Mr. Cunningham next indicated that the training piece is also a component, noting the importance of ensuring that staff fully understands all the changes and how to successfully implement them. Mr. Cunningham discussed virtual inspections, noting that the city does offer some now, but would like to expand that to make it more accessible to not only staff, but to the industry as a whole as this helps with efficiency and cuts down on costs.

Janell Woodward noted that this is the first Nevada application for building codes, which falls under the capability and capacity building that FEMA has been pushing. Ms. Woodward next noted that the federal share for this project is \$260,633.47, and that the city will need to match 25 percent. Ms. Woodward asked Mr. Cunningham to address how the proposed activity addresses climate change adaptation and resiliency with consideration of future impacts and risks associated with climate change.

Michael Cunningham indicated that one of the proposed bodies of codes is the International Energy Conservation Code, which is intended to address the environmental impacts and resiliency of a building in terms of energy conservation. Mr. Cunningham further noted that the building and residential codes from the structural provisions typically help ensure that buildings can withstand any type of natural disasters.

Eric Antle questioned if this project includes the WUI Codes established in 2018.

Michael Cunningham indicated that it does and explained that Las Vegas is currently on the 2021 WUI code and would be proposing to adopt the 2025.

Janell Woodward asked Mr. Cunningham to address the issues of critical infrastructure, utilities, and repetitive loss.

Michael Cunningham explained that one of the components of any of the building codes is the infrastructure to the buildings, and similar to the structural provisions, the plumbing and mechanical codes ensure that the latest and greatest products are being used so as to withstand any damage and the long-term life cycle of a building. Mr. Cunningham explained that the building codes don't directly apply to public works and the infrastructure that the city maintains but indicated that the standards do tie into that and work cohesively with the city's infrastructure. Mr. Cunningham indicated he is not familiar with repetitive loss structures and explained that he is not certain that he would be able to provide additional information at this time.

Janell Woodward asked Mr. Cunningham to address how the proposed activity will mitigate or plan to mitigate an imminently dangerous problem that would pose a significant risk to public health and safety if left unresolved.

Michael Cunningham noted that the existing building code addresses this issue, and the process would be to adopt that code as well and indicated that this code helps the city to analyze and ensure that existing buildings are slowly going to come up to code to be as safe as buildings that are built today. Mr. Cunningham explained that there are provisions based on the alteration level, and there are certain components of that that have to be brought up to code. Mr. Cunningham further noted that the code provides the city authority and provisions to go in and look at a building following a disaster and determine whether or not it is safe and what needs to be done to bring it up to a safe standard.

Janell Woodward indicated that DEM/HS has received a complete line-item budget for this project, and asked Mr. Cunningham to address the timeline of the proposed project, with a focus on a clear and realistic timeframe with a breakdown of activities and milestones to demonstrate the ability to complete the work within the established timeframe.

Michael Cunningham indicated that for this type of project, the timeline is straightforward and easy to follow as it is an ordinance adoption process, and not a construction project that could potentially be delayed. Mr. Cunningham informed the working group that the city has already begun the project, noting that some of the costs are pre-award costs, and committee meetings have already begun. Mr. Cunningham indicated that the planned timeframe is summer through 2025, but that this is dependent on the IECC being published. Mr. Cunningham further noted that the training and virtual inspections lapse over the three-year time period and indicated that each of those are annual things. As such, Mr. Cunningham stated that the city can easily meet the timeline goals.

The Working Group members scored the application as follows:

- Eric Antle, 55
- Solome Barton, 51
- Kathy Canfield, 50
- Dawn Johnson, 52
- Ceira Sampson, 55

- Andrew Trelease, 54
- Shari Davis, 55
- Melissa Whipple, 58

Janell Woodward informed the group that the next application comes from Truckee River Flood Management Authority for a project within the CDRS Zone. Ms. Woodward explained that CDRS stands for Community Disaster Resilience Zone, and projects completed within that area have a 10-percent match or cost sharing amount. Ms. Woodward further indicated that for Washoe County, the City of Reno actually has a large part that's right in the city, and that this project falls directly within that area. Ms. Woodward added that the budget amount on this project, however, is something that needs to be discussed.

George Robeson, Truckee River Flood Management Authority Executive Director, explained that the location of this project is right against the Truckee River and is actually in the floodway as well as floodplain. Mr. Robeson informed the group that this is an inholding of approximately two acres that is completely surrounded, with the 110 acres around the property valued at \$48 million, which was paid wholly by the 1/8 cent sales tax Washoe County for Flood Control adopted in 1998. Mr. Robeson discussed the buildings that have already been purchased to the east of this location that have been deconstructed and explained the plans to remove the concrete and turn it into terracing. Mr. Robeson indicated that a request for qualifications for consulting firms to work on terracing setback levies and other features such as floodplain restoration has already been put out. Mr. Robeson next discussed buildings with repetitive loss and provided the 2017 flood as an example where two buildings were completely surrounded by water. Mr. Robeson reminded the working group that this is part of a larger project, the Meadows Flood Project, and that this sub-project is called the Rock to McCarran Reach and incorporates floodplain restoration on both sides of the river, potential channel realignment and habitat enhancement, as well as setback levees on both sides to allow more water to flow through. Mr. Robeson indicated that the larger project includes numerous projects to fully protect the airport, the Reno and Sparks industrial areas, and other infrastructure. Mr. Robeson discussed the feature, much like the one done in Las Vegas, that involves adding in a recreation area that provides a strategic design tool over top for the ability to take the top off the peak. Mr. Robeson indicated that in recent calculations, this would appear to take about 300 CFFs off the peak flow, a significant amount for the area in question. Mr. Robeson noted that the buildings were built back in the 70s and there are a total of 13 claims on the two properties, which are generally thought of as together, despite the fact that they can be separated in the APNs. Mr. Robeson explained that claims occurred in 1986, 1997, 2006, and 2017, and that this is the poster child of repetitive claims in Washoe County. Mr. Robeson indicated that the appraised estimate at the top of the real estate markets in the early 2000s, prior to the crash, commercial property was 4.2 million, and noted that this is approximately the value today. Mr. Robeson indicated that several appraisals have been received and the budget is based on those appraisals. Mr. Robeson discussed the estimated resettlement costs of the people needing to be relocated, noting that approximately \$500,000 has been estimated for this. Mr. Robeson informed the working group that one of the drivers behind the grant application was his work with the Bureau of Reclamation on how to manage their dam spillway and gate operations for flood control. Mr. Robeson discussed how this impacts flooding as well as influencing water



supply and noted the problem of the locations of these buildings. Mr. Robeson next discussed the Meadows Project planned costs \$160 million, most of which will come from sales tax. Mr. Robeson indicated that grants would minimize the amount of bonding needed and would help to get the flood work done faster. Mr. Robeson added that the mitigation plan is not just to stop flood mitigation, but to improve habitat for an endangered species of Lahontan cutthroat trout, especially in the area where the building is. Mr. Robeson explained that as well as floodplain restoration with wildlife, it would be a nature park. Mr. Robeson next discussed the damage a hundred-year flood could do in the current condition, noting that the total economic impact could be 2.5 billion. Mr. Robeson concluded his presentation by discussing the benefit-cost ratio with this project, noting that they would be extremely high, considering the economic impact that occurs during these floods.

Bill Elliott asked about occupants and hazardous materials.

George Robeson indicated that there are currently occupants, and that because there are car shops that handle things like oil and gasoline, there may be some cleanup involved upon commencement of the project.

Janell Woodward discussed the origin of this project, noting that some funding did ultimately need to be returned to FEMA when it began due to needing to leave the cement pads in place longer than was allowable.

George Robeson indicated that the ultimate plan here is the Washoe County Park, which could include a nature preserve and potentially a spawning habitat for the Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Janell Woodward asked Mr. Robeson to address how this proposed activity addresses climate change adaptation and resiliency with consideration of future impacts and risks associated with climate change.

George Robeson indicated that the actual purchase of the property is a pivotal thing because it allows more flexibility and management for flood control and as such, would help with management in that it would allow greater in-between releases of water.

Janell Woodward asked Mr. Robeson to address the issues of critical infrastructure, utilities, and repetitive loss.

George Robeson indicated that critical infrastructure is impacted by the reduction of the peak flow by approximately 1,000 CFS during a hundred-year flood, that utilities would be heled in the reduction of that peak flow, and that the building in question is the definition of repetitive loss, noting that there have been 13 repetitive losses in the two buildings over four different events since 1986.

Janell Woodward asked Mr. Robeson to address how the proposed activity will mitigate or plan to mitigate an imminently dangerous problem that would pose a significant risk to public health and safety if left unresolved.

George Robeson discussed the buildings and the people in harm's way that have been impacted by the flooding over the years, noting that one person was actually killed in 1997, and two people needed rescuing in 2017.

Janell Woodward explained that the budget with the detailed breakdown of all costs is still in process and under review.

George Robeson added that there have been several appraisals that were at the top of the commercial market several years ago, and that those are similar to costs today. Mr. Robeson further noted that the other big cost is the relocation cost. Mr. Robeson indicated that the budget is based on actual and realistic numbers and for that reason, the final number should be fairly precise.

Janell Woodward asked for confirmation that this project is asking for the funding to purchase, move the people and businesses out, and to demolish.

George Robeson confirmed that the project is asking for funding to purchase and relocate people and businesses, but that demolition would be handled outside of this funding.

Janell Woodward asked Mr. Robeson to address the timeline of the proposed project, with a focus on a clear and realistic timeframe with a breakdown of activities and milestones to demonstrate the ability to complete the work within the established timeframe.

George Robeson indicated that the person who owns the building has twice approached him about buying it, and so it is his belief that this project can be completed within the mandatory three-year timeframe.

Andrew Trelease commended the project and its designers for thinking outside the box.

The working group members scored the application as follows:

- Eric Antle, 57
- Solome Barton, 55
- Kathy Canfield, 57
- Dawn Johnson, 58
- Ceira Sampson, 58
- Andrew Trelease, 54
- Shari Davis, 57
- Melissa Whipple, 59

Janell Woodward indicated that based on the input from the working group, the ranking of the three projects came in as follows:

- Truckee River Flood Management Authority Project for the acquisition, 455
- Carson City Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 433
- Las Vegas Building Code Project, 430

Janell Woodward explained that anything that fits into the set-aside amount is going to be funded by FEMA as long as it is eligible and meets all requirements, and as such, the DEM/HS team will be going through all project applications and ensuring that everything is in line for submission to FEMA. Ms. Woodward further noted that DEM is working on trying to find additional projects to utilize the grant funding from FEMA prior to the due date at the end of February. Ms. Woodward informed the working group that once the final funding numbers come in for Carson City and the acquisition project, DEM/HS will relay that information to the working group.

Chair Bill Elliott requested a motion to accept the rankings and proceed with the submission process. Andrew Trelease moved to approve. Ceira Sampson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. PRIORITIZATION OF THE SUBAPPLICATIONS FOR THE HMGP FROM COVID FFY 2021 GRANT PROGRAM**

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, explained that this is the generator project discussed by Jon Bakkedahl, and the only application at the moment that is on the 4708. Ms. Woodward indicated that DEM/HS does still have some outreach to do and hopes to have more projects in place prior to the due date at the end of April.

Chair Bill Elliott requested a motion to accept the generator project for the Hazards Mitigation Grant Program, DR 4708. Andrew Trelease moved to approve. Solome Barton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **6. STATE ENHANCED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (SEHMP)**

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, indicated that DEM/HS did receive approval for the updated enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan for the state for another five years. Ms. Woodward indicated that this means that DEM/HS is looking annually at that plan to see what parts may need work along the way. Ms. Woodward reminded the working group of its responsibility to be involved in that update and thanked them for their work in this process. Ms. Woodward explained that every region within FEMA is looking at the new guidance for the local and state plans a little bit differently and so plans across the country to do not look the same, particularly for things like individual hazards given that different locations face different types of hazards. Ms. Woodward discussed her desire to update this next five-year plan by removing pieces no longer applicable to the state, and informed the members that this is information on which input from the working group would be requested. Ms. Woodward thanked Randy Brawley for his help in completing the process, then opened the floor for questions, of which there were none.

Chair Bill Elliott commended the DEM/HS team on their work in completing the plan, noting that Nevada is one of the few states that has an enhanced plan

**7. NHMWG MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR**

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, informed the working group that DEM/HS would like to set the meetings for the year in order to have them on the calendar early on. Ms. Woodward indicated that Hal O'Brien would be setting the meeting dates and encouraged the working group to let DEM/HS know if the dates do not work.

**8. Public Comment**

Chair Bill Elliott opened the second period of public comment.

Bunny Bishop thanked the working group, Janell Woodward, and the DEM/HS mitigation team for continuing to actively support mitigation in Nevada, noting that it is an important facet of moving the state towards resiliency for all disasters.

There was no additional public comment.

**9. Adjournment**

Chair Bill Elliott asked for a motion to adjourn. Andrew Trelease moved to adjourn the January 17, 2024 Nevada Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting. Solome Barton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.