



# Meeting Minutes Nevada Earthquake Safety Council Unreinforced Masonry Committee

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Tuesday, May 2, 2017	
	<b>TIME</b>	1:30 P.M.	
	<b>LOCATION</b>	Nevada Division of Emergency Management NDF Conference Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, NV 89701	
	<b>METHOD</b>	Teleconference	
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Janell Woodward	
<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Staff and Others</b>	<b>Present</b>
Craig dePolo	X	Janell Woodward (DEM)	X
Mike Blakely	X	Gennady Stolyarov (Div. of Insurance)	X
Tim Ghan	X	Mitch Moore	X
Werner Hellmer	X	Brett Kandt (DAG)	X
Kyle West			

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS, ROLL CALL, AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Craig dePolo, called the meeting to order. Introductions and roll call were performed. Quorum was established.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair, Craig dePolo, opened discussion for public comment. There were none.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair, Craig dePolo, asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the October 4, 2016, meeting. Mike Blakely made a motion to approve the minutes. Werner Hellmer seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

## 4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Chair, Craig dePolo, read into record the recommended goal and statement for the committee.

Goal: Provide guidance to Nevadans on how to effectively reduce the earthquake risk of unreinforced masonry buildings.

Statement: Unreinforced masonry buildings (URMs) are the greatest threat to life, limb, and property from earthquakes. URMs have been damaged by at least 12 different Nevada

earthquakes including the M6.0 Wells earthquake in 2008. There are thousands of unreinforced masonry buildings throughout the state that pose a substantial earthquake risk to Nevadans and our visitors. Nevada is earthquake country, and a wise, reasonable, and substantial reduction of this risk is essential for our long-term well-being.

Craig dePolo continued by going through each of the six recommended objectives and allowed for comments.

- *Promote an open discussion about the state of URM buildings and their associated earthquake risk in Nevada.*

Craig spoke briefly on ideas that have been discussed by the Committee in the past. Specifically, the outreach opportunities, different audiences, discussion points, and determining the rates of URM rehabilitation. He stressed the importance of broadening the awareness and discussion on URM buildings.

Mike Blakely suggested adding additional Committee members with one of them being an individual from a building department as current discussions focus on building code and enforcement. He also commented on public insurance company's lack of focus on URM buildings and low-deductible plans.

Gennady Stolyarov commented on earthquake insurance in Nevada noting a reasonable generalization that URM buildings would not be underwritten by insurance companies. He added that it is uncommon for earthquake deductibles to be under 10% of the insured value of the property.

Kyle West advised he will speak to the City of Reno building officials on having a representative sit on the Committee.

Craig dePolo commented on prior discussions on the importance of developing partnerships. He suggested discussing this further in a later meeting to determine how partnerships can be formed to involve people.

- *Develop a strategy or roadmap for substantially reducing the risk of URM buildings in Nevada over the next decade.*

Craig dePolo further explained this objective. He recommended having a strategy or roadmap both for the interim, intermediate, and over a ten year period by setting goals and landmarks to complete. Some examples would be completing a communications strategy or having the website up and running. He recommended discussing ideas and determining what is achievable to show good progress at the next meeting.

Werner Hellmer commented that he sees the most significant goals for the first two years focusing on having a website started and a summit, discussed at the last meeting, underway.

- *Develop messages and communication tools about the risk of URM buildings for several different Nevada audiences. This should include the most effective, appropriate strategy and messaging for disseminating specific information on unreinforced masonry buildings.*

Craig dePolo noted that communication tools can be used in all kinds of ways. He suggested retrofit case histories and give out awards to highlight URM rehabilitation

projects. He commented on the University of Nevada, Reno's (UNR) recent retrofit of Lincoln Hall. He recommended highlighting them in a future NESC meeting and giving them a certificate.

Mike Blakely commented on an additional retrofit being completed at UNR. He added that giving awards would be a good way to advertise both the risk of URM's and showcase that retrofitting is being done.

Janell Woodward suggested having those that are being recognized do a presentation on their project. She added that this would count on the State Plan update as outreach.

Craig advised he will move forward with this award process.

- *Create a website with detailed information related to reducing the URM building risk in Nevada.*

Werner Hellmer stated that he believes the website is a critical item and the most cost effective way to distribute information. It would be of benefit as communities start inventorying their URM's. As awareness is raised it would provide a central location for information for individuals and is a key element on keeping them informed.

Craig dePolo discussed potential items that would be contained on the website. He advised that any suggestions on important information to be provided on the website should be submitted to Janell Woodward.

There was additional discussion on who would be creating the website, where it would be hosted, and the necessary cyber security controls. Production of the website will be further discussed at a future meeting.

- *Invite knowledgeable speakers and conduct forums to help Nevadans learn the most cost-effective safety and mitigation techniques that reduce the seismic risk of URM buildings.*

Craig dePolo briefly discussed potential opportunities and using NESC meetings as a platform for speakers to have a broader audience. He noted the potential for a URM summit which will be discussed in the future and the potential partnerships to be considered. This would be done to hopefully supply and support future speakers.

- *Encourage an inventory of URM buildings be conducted by Nevada counties and/or communities. Inventory strategies and information will be assembled by the committee to assist these efforts.*

Craig dePolo spoke of some options and information that can be placed on a website. He noted the potential for a special publication on URM buildings and Info that they have can be put on website. He suggested a statewide inventory on high risk buildings and that facilities on the list could be encouraged to get some work done.

Mike Blakely stressed the importance of labeling suspected URM building and confirming these are URM buildings. He worries that labeling a building as a URM will cause problems with lost value and increased insurance cost.

Tim Ghan noted his concern with providing a list that can be used by insurance companies to exclude anyone within these buildings. He suggested a list that points out buildings that have previously been identified and have been retrofitted or brought up to code. This will show that these buildings have positively impacted themselves.

Craig advised their focus is to describe the magnitude of the problem. Any labeling of buildings will be done transparently and will go through an appropriate vetting process.

## **5. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SPEAKERS**

Chair, Craig dePolo, asked the Committee to think of potential speakers for future meetings. He suggested having the first potential speaker be representatives from the Lincoln Memorial URM project. Additional speakers suggested include Fred Turner, Barry Welliver, and Melvin Green.

Mike Blakely commented on the community's need for motivating rather than the Committee when it comes to speakers. Craig suggested topics from speakers be aimed at developing strategies to help with the Committee's goals and objectives.

## **6. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Chair, Craig dePolo, listed the following as potential assignments to discuss at the next meeting:

- Drafting the 10 year roadmap
- Layout of awards
- Listing potential partners

There was discussion of when the Committee will meet next and when minutes will be made available to Committee members. It was determined that the Committee will strive to meet around July 19<sup>th</sup>, two weeks before the NESC meeting, and minutes will be provided shortly after.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair, Craig dePolo, opened discussion for public comment. There was none.

## **8. ADJOURN**

Chair, Craig dePolo, adjourned the meeting.