



STATE OF NEVADA MEETING MINUTES NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

Attendance	DATE	April 5, 2023
	TIME	9:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom
	RECORDER	Heather Cinani

Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Lorayn Walsler– Chair	X	Kathy Canfield	X	Shari A. Davis	X
Steven Aichroth	ABS	Eric Antle	X	Andrew Trelease	X
Solome Barton	X	Craig dePolo	X	Erin Warnock	ABS
Faith Beekman	X	Ceira Sampson	X	Melissa Whipple	ABS

Legal/Administrative Staff		
Name	Agency	Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General (DAG)	Attorney General’s Office –	X
Janell Woodward – Non-Voting Member	NV Division of Emergency Management / Homeland Security (DEM/HS)	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Lorayn Walsler, Governor’s Office of Energy, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was performed by Heather Cinani, Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lorayn Walsler, opened the first period of public comment for discussion.

Jon Bakkedah, DEM/HS, recognized that the Mitigation team went out and supported the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) with the recent flooding caused by the atmospheric river weather in Douglas County, Lyon County, Eureka County, Lincoln County, Churchill County, Elko County, various Tribes, and White Pine County. Once the Federal declaration has been approved, locals can receive up to 75% in reimbursement. The mitigation team will be sent out again to help with the assisting in the preliminary damage assessments once the flooding starts.

3. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF A VICE CHAIR FOR THE NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

Chair Lorayn Walser. Andrew Trelease, Southern Nevada Regional Flood Control District, was nominated as Vice-Chair.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Lorayn Walser requested a motion to accept the minutes from January 19, 2023. Craig dePolo, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, moved to approve the minutes. Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Management, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. SAFEGUARDING TOMORROW THROUGH ONGOING RISK MITIGATION (STORM) ACT PROGRAM

Janell Woodward, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, noted that STORM is a new program in mitigation that comes from the STORM Act that was passed in January. Ms. Woodward explained that the STORM Act authorized FEMA to create this program for mitigation, and the program consists of low-interest loans that allow jurisdictions to use mitigation funding to reduce their risk. Ms. Woodward further explained that this is a mechanism that allows the state to provide loans issued from DEM/HS through that process that are low-interest and are over a long period of time. Ms. Woodward indicated that this program is geared towards the disadvantaged in underserved areas that are not as readily able to put forth any money for match. Ms. Woodward informed the group of the types of things that this funding can be used for. Ms. Woodward next discussed the similar type of loan program put forward by the EPA that is done through NDEP, called the State Revolving Loan Fund, which exists to help some of the more disadvantaged areas to be able to mitigate and reduce natural risks, noted that there is a cost share match for other HMA grants, so this would be combined with that. Ms. Woodward informed the group that FEMA is putting forth \$500 million for a five-year investment in this program, that the loan ceiling is \$5 million per project, and that there is a 10 percent required match, which would be provided by the state. As such, Ms. Woodward indicated that these loans are provided only to local government rather than to homeowners or individuals. Ms. Woodward explained that this program does not under President Biden's Justice 40 initiative, but the goal for FEMA across all of their programs for mitigation is that 40 percent goes to underserved areas. Ms. Woodward further noted that the interest rate will be 1 percent or less and that the percentage that is paid back by the loan recipients is what will build out this program and make it self-sufficient. Ms. Woodward next discussed future lending cycles, noting that FEMA intends to use this first year as a learning experience from locals and state governments and will continue engagement with stakeholders to better the program as it grows. Ms. Woodward informed the group that there is some language that needs to be added into NRS before Nevada can participate so that the state can work the program the way it is intended. Ms. Woodward indicated that leadership intends to submit a BDR in the 2025 legislative session for these changes in the statute that will enable Nevada to participate in this program.

6. NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP CHARTER REVISIONS

Jon Bakkedah, DEM/HS, explained that the charter is designed as a document that helps act as bylaws for this particular body because the body was created by Chief Dave Fogerson. Mr.

Bakke Dahl indicated that the charter is the document that helps to guide this particular body and is manipulated and changed in support of the program. Mr. Bakke Dahl indicated that three specific changes have been made to update the efficiencies of this group: inside of purpose and mission, under Roman Numeral II, "rank" was added and is now review and rank; fixing the Roman numerals because they were out of order; under Roman Numeral IV, the reporting requirement was reduced from twice a year to one time annually.

7. WISE OAK CONSULTING L.L.C. – PRESENTATION OF UPDATING THE STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (SHMP)

Randy Brawley, Wise Oak Consulting, discussed the process of updating the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Brawley explained that mitigation is done because it reduces loss of life and property and minimizes the impact of disasters and reminded the group that in order to receive public assistance following a disaster, the hazard mitigation plan needs to be updated every five years. Mr. Brawley added that from an economic standpoint, every dollar in mitigation saves \$6 later in a disaster, indicating that the mitigation dollars are anywhere from \$2 to \$10 billion, and explained that the BRIC grant also puts about \$2.295 billion on the line. Mr. Brawley next discussed his level of support as a general project manager, explained the research and analysis he does as needed, and the fact that he fills in gaps due to new FEMA requirements or outdated information. Mr. Brawley further indicated that he is working GIS support, which requires multiple maps, is building out the hazards profiles across the state, and doing the necessary technical writing. Mr. Brawley next discussed the major actions to date, including creation of a style guide that can be filed with the complete project to help with future standardization. Mr. Brawley indicated that the FEMA National Risk Index Maps are in development, which also gives some standardization across the country. Mr. Brawley informed the group that big items that will be seen with each hazard profile are: a hazard risk index; expected annual loss; historic vulnerability index; social vulnerability; and community resilience, and that all of these will be brought into GIS format for standardization. Mr. Brawley next discussed the importance of aligning the national and state hazard terminology, as well as working with FEMA on a potential new hazardous assessment. Mr. Brawley provided the group with some examples of the style guide work, including things like font and outline formats, and figures, tables, and graphics, indicating the importance of the style guide in helping to retain formatting for future updates as well as for consistency throughout the document. Mr. Brawley discussed the update methodology, noting for the group that this is an update, not a rewrite. Mr. Brawley discussed the different hazards included, focusing on the updates made to existing hazards and the new ones that have been added, as well as to some of the changes to the hazard locations within the SHMP itself.

Chair Lorayn Walser noted that because of her work with the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy, she has some interest in continuing the discussion on the natural gas and electricity sectors.

Andrew Trelease asked if levees are included in the plan.

Randy Brawley indicated that he was unsure and would get back to the group regarding this question.

Kathy Canfield, Storey County, questioned the angle from which the SHMP would be coming that wouldn't conflict with the requirements and/or responses the utility companies already have in place for these hazards.

Randy Brawley explained that it is the consequence management of these types of hazards that really affect emergency management.

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, explained that this is a two-pronged approach: everything needs to be listed in the plan in order to receive funding for mitigation; focus needs to be on the consequence management of a particular hazard rather than on the hazard itself.

Randy Brawley next discussed social vulnerability and presented examples of some of the maps that outline some of the social vulnerability areas in the state, which can help for future planning. Mr. Brawley also discussed the national risk index, explaining that this is the state's overall score as compared to the country in general. Mr. Brawley next discussed expected loss, and FEMA's requirements to have a quantitative impact of climate change. Mr. Brawley informed the group that everything built out is in the plan and is also shared with the group in their shared folders. Mr. Brawley next discussed the top hazards in Nevada's Climate Strategy, noting that the largest hazards are heat and heat waves, drought, loss of snow, floods, and wildfire risk. Mr. Brawley discussed ranking, noting that he has pitched a new method to FEMA based on the Wisdom of Crowds but explained that if FEMA does not approve this methodology, the ranking procedure will go back to how it has been done in the past. Mr. Brawley concluded his presentation by informing the group that they are currently about a month behind the desired timeframe.

An unidentified speaker asked if the ranking of the hazards is ranking the risk or the actual hazards themselves.

Randy Brawley explained that it is using the factors of probability, magnitude, warning time, and duration to provide a rank.

Janell Woodward noted that one of the comments received from Region IX back in 2018 was that anything for which a grant might need to be applied needs to be included, not just the high hazards.

Randy Brawley revisited the discussion on maps, noting that with the updates, it should now be easier for people to focus on particular areas of need. Mr. Brawley concluded his presentation by informing the group that all hazards have been updated to date and that he is looking to wrap up the hazard analysis by the end of April.

8. Public Comment

Chair Lorayn Walser opened the second period of public comment.

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, informed the group that there will be a couple of quick, turnaround meetings for this plan update because the end goal is to finish things up by the beginning of July with a deadline of beginning of August at latest so as to get it to FEMA in time. Ms. Woodward that either Ryan or she will be reaching out to the group to schedule additional meetings that are closer together.

9. Adjournment

Chair Lorayn Walser asked for a motion to adjourn. Andrew Trelease moved to adjourn the April 5, 2023, Nevada Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting. Ceira Sampson, Reno-Sparks Indian Coloney, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.