



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

Attendance	DATE	December 14, 2021
	TIME	9:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom and In-Person
	RECORDER	Janell Woodward

Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Lorayn Walser– Chair	X	Herman Fillmore	ABS		
Steven Aichroth	X	Sheryl Gonzales	ABS		
Solome Barton	X	Clair Ketchum	ABS		
Faith Beekman	ABS	Andrew Trelease	X		
Kathy Canfield	X	Erin Warnock	X		
Ryan Shane	X	Melissa Whipple	X		
Craig dePolo	X				

Legal/Administrative Staff		
Name	Agency	Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General	Attorney General's Office – DEM/HS DAG	X
Janell Woodward – Emergency Management	NDEM/HS	X
Mark Shugart – FEMA FIT	FEMA RIX	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Lorayn Walser, Governor’s Office of Energy, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was performed by Janell Woodward, NDEM/HS. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Walser opened the first period of public comment for discussion. There was none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Walser requested a motion to accept the minutes from September 27, 2021. Craig DePolo moved to approve the minutes. Andrew Trelease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Community Focus – North Las Vegas Hazard Presentation

Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Management, informed the group that the city of North Las Vegas was incorporated in 1946 and currently encompasses 130 square miles within Clark County. Ms. Barton explained that between 2000 and 2019, the city's population has grown by approximately 118.1 percent, and as of 2019, was home to about 251,000. The current estimation is 265,000 with a projected 335,622 in 2035. Ms. Barton informed the group that North Las Vegas continues to shine as a major industrial center primarily due to its large amount of land across the northern rim of Las Vegas as well as the industry growth, emphasizing light manufacturing, regional distribution, relocation of high-tech businesses, and custom manufacturing. Ms. Barton further indicated that the airport in North Las Vegas is the second busiest airport in the state in terms of business and tour operations. Ms. Barton informed the group that North Las Vegas is currently approximately 60 percent built out, with the majority of remaining land being considered for development. Ms. Barton explained that the biggest percentage of land developed is in a low-density residential area. Ms. Barton discussed the community partners, some of whom are established and others who are just coming in. Ms. Barton further discussed the hazards that have the potential to disrupt the community, cause damage, and create casualties discovered by conducting a thorough Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) and the comprehensive hazard mitigation plan this garnered. Ms. Barton explained that the city has conducted a consequence analysis with each of the top hazards to prioritize actions with each applicable hazard to which the city may be subject, including natural, technological, and human-caused. Ms. Barton indicated that earthquakes are one of the main natural threats faced by southern Nevada given that North Las Vegas is on Frenchman Mountain Fault. Ms. Barton further described technological hazards such as factory, manufacturer accidents, fires, power outages, and cybersecurity, explaining that this also is one of the main focuses in terms of mitigation.

Solome Barton informed the group that there are high, moderate, and low-hazard facilities in North Las Vegas, and explained that Emergency Management maintains a collaborative relationship with each of these facilities in order to remain abreast of any hazardous issues. Ms. Barton further indicated that schools and neighborhoods are also kept abreast of the facilities in their areas that could potentially contain hazards and as such, communities are engaged to train and exercise together in order to understand the potential hazards and responses. Ms. Barton further indicated that prior to COVID, there had been an awareness and emergency response group in place, and that now Emergency Management would like to reengage that program that brought all community partners together for preparedness in the case of emergency. Ms. Barton explained that Emergency Management works hard to ensure that first responders as well as communities are aware of who to call in case of such an emergency in order for the right teams to arrive from the start so as not to prolong an incident due to response.

Solome Barton next discussed training. Ms. Barton discussed internal training to ensure that all local, county, regional, and state departments know how to respond in case of emergency, including first responders, utilities, and parks and recreation. Ms. Barton further indicated that Emergency Response aims to provide vulnerable citizens and communities with the right tools in order to train them to rely on themselves prior to reaching out to local, state, or federal government.

Solome Barton highlighted the steps in the process of day-to-day operations of planning activities, which include: a comparative analysis of the current emergency response plan; incorporating the latest science and industry standards; comprehensive review by affected department supporting agencies in Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) to include protection of critical infrastructure and key resources and continuity of operations; regular revision of the emergency operations plan to include all state requirements. Ms. Barton explained the training that takes place for private entities and resort partners in incident management.

Solome Barton discussed the most current THIRA from 2018 as well as the Clark County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ms. Barton explained that it will be submitted to the state upon EOP approval.

Craig dePolo commented on the importance of considering the Frenchman Mountain Fault and explained that the last events on the fault have recently been dated. Dr. dePolo indicated that an event took place approximately 54,000 years ago, and then two smaller events 27,000 years and 25,000 years. Mr. dePolo informed the group that no events have taken place since that time, and as such, the hazard of that fault could go up a bit based on conditional probability. Dr. dePolo next discussed the Eglington Fault in the Aliante area and its inclusion in building codes, as well as the basin effect in the Las Vegas Valley, which has not really been incorporated into the building codes yet and needs better definition in terms of things like measurements. Dr. dePolo cautioned that the basin effects could be some of the strongest in North Las Vegas given that the basin is approximately two times deeper in that location than in most of the rest of the valley.

Solome Barton requested a meeting with Craig dePolo for further information regarding the Eglington Fault.

Chair Lorayn Walser cited the Kentucky tornado incident as a cautionary tale of the importance of having things such as food, water, and medication on hand in the case of an emergency and commended Solome Barton and Emergency Management for teaching citizens to prepare in advance for self-sufficiency in emergencies such as these in the case that the state or FEMA are unable to respond immediately. Chair Walser next asked if Emergency Management requires notification of things like a transport of hazardous materials traveling through North Las Vegas.

Solome Barton explained that Clark County Emergency Management should be notified in this sort of situation.

Janell Woodward emphasized the importance of the Two Weeks Ready program that allows people to be prepared for two weeks' time in the case of an incident or disaster. Ms. Woodward further explained the ability of citizens to prepare these kits gradually rather than invest all at once.

Craig dePolo explained that in terms of personal supplies, citizens may find it easiest to incorporate/replenish them during their routine in order to always have fresh supplies on hand.

Solome Barton discussed the education on rotating supplies that Emergency Management has put in place in order for citizens to be truly prepared in the case of an emergency, including things like shoes and clothes, and children's items such as blankets and toys.

5. Nevada Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan Status Update

Janell Woodward, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, reminded the group that the plan is approximately 1200 pages long, is available in hardcopy in her office, as well as online for anyone's availability. Ms. Woodward explained that an RFP is currently being put together to go out for bid to a company to update the plan. Ms. Woodward further explained that the Bureau of Mines and Geology has been utilized for this in the past, but due to some changes within the Bureau, they were unable to provide the update this year. Ms. Woodward informed the group that all of the different hazard areas have been sent out to the subject-matter experts for updating and once the completed portions are returned, Ms. Woodward will bring them back to the group for review and approval of the different sections. Ms. Woodward explained that an amendment to the state plan is currently in the works, which includes adding mitigation actions in the back section for drought as this is one of the pushes from HMGP, who funded \$13.5 million from COVID. Ms. Woodward informed the group that the current mitigation action section includes earthquake, flood, and wildfire, but does not yet include drought. Ms. Woodward further informed the group that the only funding that can be applied for is that which is included in the mitigation action section, which also does not include pandemic-related mitigation efforts. As such, an amendment is in the works that will then go from the state to FEMA for approval, after which funding can be requested for those added things. Ms. Woodward informed the group that the current plan is set to expire in October of 2023; thus the plan must be fully updated and submitted to FEMA approximately three months prior to that date in order to allow FEMA to review and approve the plan.

Lorayn Walser asked if extreme weather events are included in the plan.

Janell Woodward confirmed that they are, explaining that high wind events, snow and cold weather events, and high heat events are all included.

Ryan Shane asked if hired contractors would be contacting the different agencies for solicitation of information, and if so, whether the agencies should provide the requested information for a more robust report.

Janell Woodward indicated that the contractors would more likely come to committee meetings to request the information collectively from the committee rather than solicit the information from individual departments.

Ryan Shane questioned what the change in operations would look like in terms of updating the sections and how things would work differently with involved contractors.

Janell Woodward explained that contractors have always been involved, and that the biggest difference between the last update and this update is the lack of a subcommittee consisting of subject-matter experts this time. Instead, Ms. Woodward explained that the different hazard sections have been parsed out to the subject-matter experts of which the committee is comprised. Ms. Woodward further indicated that the hazard-mitigation section of the plan, Section 3, is the largest one.

Craig dePolo added that the big emphasis this year is on getting all the mitigation actions possible into the plan and encouraged the members to add as many mitigation strategies as possible.

6. Mitigation Grants Update

Janell Woodward, State Mitigation Officer, discussed the BRIC program, indicating that the application had a NDEM deadline of December 3 with a FEMA deadline of January 28. Ms. Woodward informed the group that the state set-aside contains \$1 million this year and because the grant applications does not reach the million dollars, Ms. Woodward will be continuing to encourage people to apply for the leftover funding that's set aside. As such, Ms. Woodward informed the group that most eligible projects will likely get funded due to the amount of money in the set-aside, the largest amount thus far. Ms. Woodward further indicated that there a billion dollars for competitive projects. Ms. Woodward informed the group that there is only one competitive project thus far and that as a rule, there are not generally many applications for competitive projects.

Janell Woodward next discussed the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the \$13.5 million received as a result of the COVID pandemic. Ms. Woodward explained that one project has been submitted thus far for this program. Ms. Woodward informed the group that the applications are due to NDEM by June 30 in order to review for completeness prior to the August 5 official BML deadline. Ms. Woodward explained that applicants do not need to wait until the deadline to submit; submissions can be accepted beforehand.

Janell Woodward concluded the grant discussion with information about the HMGP Post-Fire grant, applications of which are due to FEMA on March 31. Ms. Woodward explained that this funding comes as a result of the Fire Management Assistant Grants (FMAGs) that NDF manages for local communities when wildfires occur. Ms. Woodward informed the group that there is a little over \$2 million in funding for that given that there were three FMAGs this year, two in Douglas County and one in Washoe County. Ms. Woodward encouraged anyone with project ideas, even if unsure for which grant or with a fully fleshed out project plan, to contact DEM, who could help decipher which grant might fit best for the project idea.

Stephen Aichroth asked if any grant opportunities were provided in the infrastructure bill for emergency management or if there was any consideration of emergency management in the Build Back Better plan.

Janell Woodward explained that she is not an expert on the infrastructure bill as none of the funding comes through emergency management, but indicated her belief that there are some opportunities coming to the state for different infrastructure-type projects. Ms. Woodward further explained that because Build Back Better has not yet been signed, she has no information at this time of what will be included in that plan.

Andrew Trelease asked if the BRIC funding requires a disaster declaration in the state.

Janell Woodward explained that it does not and that the requirement with BRIC has been building codes that have been added as a scoring option. Ms. Woodward further explained that this works against Nevada as the state does not have statewide building codes but rather adopts at the local level. Ms. Woodward clarified that the HMGP funding is the disaster and post-disaster funding whereas BRIC is the pre-disaster for mitigation.

Andrew Trelease asked if levies are eligible for funding through the BRIC program.

Janell Woodward explained that although levies were not eligible in the past, they are now.

Ryan Shane asked for clarification of the due date for the HMGP Post-Fire applications.

Janell Woodward confirmed that they are due to FEMA by March 31 but that DEM would like them as soon as possible in order to review them against the checklist from FEMA.

Ryan Shane asked about the timeline regarding outstanding applications.

Janell Woodward explained that posting needs to be for 15 days and that DEM needs to let FEMA know the start date of the posting, following which, the project will be funded to move forward.

Ryan Shane explained that some inaccurate information had been provided to DEM and that his staff would be in contact with the correct information to submit to FEMA.

Andrew Trelease asked if a particular community within Clark County could be considered underserved or disadvantaged despite its location.

Janell Woodward confirmed that the community would meet the criteria.

Lorayn Walser questioned whether lesser populated counties could put in a regional application.

Janell Woodward explained that this was dependent upon the project.

Lorayn Walser asked if projects that crossed state lines were allowed.

Janell Woodward confirmed that this was allowable but cautioned that only one state would be responsible for the grant.

Lorayn Walser commended Janell Woodward for always being available and responsive to questions and problems.

7. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Application Review and Ranking

Janell Woodward, State Mitigation Officer, discussed the ranking form for the BRIC application. Ms. Woodward explained that NDEM does not generally receive many applications in the state so as such, FEMA requires a process to review and rank the received applications. Ms. Woodward informed the group that of the \$1 million set-aside, \$600,000 can be used for planning or planning activities and the total \$1 million can be used for projects and project scoping. Ms. Woodward also indicated that any project that's going to cost over that \$1 million would fall into competitive projects. Ms. Woodward asked the members of the group to fill out the forms either manually or electronically and return them to her to keep on record.

Janell Woodward explained that the FEMA GO is the application system for BRIC. Ms. Woodward explained that one of the issues with the system is that it does not sort applications but rather lists everything. Ms. Woodward next went through the Washoe County application for their Hazard Mitigation Plan update to familiarize the group with the application process. Ms. Woodward informed the group that applications can contain any and all attachments needed to support the application. Ms. Woodward explained that the applications is setup to allow the applicant to pick the top three hazards as well as to include the scope of work.

Ryan Shane asked if scoring happened outside of the meeting.

Janell Woodward explained that for these applications, the group would score together as an exercise and confirmed that members should fill out their score sheet. Ms. Woodward further indicated that in the future, she will revise the scoring to include the planning grants.

Kathy Canfield asked for confirmation that the group should be ranking these between each other to see which would be the most important one.

Janell Woodward confirmed that this was correct, a decision would be made on the ranking order of projects and the order would be submitted to the chief, who would then make the final decision regarding the application. Ms. Woodward conceded that likely a part of the ranking process would always come down to opinion of the person rating as to what was most important.

Ryan Shane suggested the importance of considering qualifying criteria, as well and asked if it was possible to adjust the score sheet in a way that would allow for that qualifying criteria.

Craig dePolo concurred with Mr. Shane's suggestion.

Janell Woodward suggested informing the group of what each project is doing, indicating that an overview might be easier than actually going through each application individually.

Solome Barton concurred with this suggestion, particularly because the group has not had opportunity to read through the applications.

Janell Woodward gave the group an overview of the application from Washoe County.

Erin Warnock asked if the group should be viewing the applications in FEMA GO.

Janell Woodward indicated that to do so would be cumbersome because part of the issue with FEMA GO was the inability to view the application in its entirety. Ms. Woodward explained this issue also prevented the ability to print applications in their entirety, thus the reason why Ms. Woodward was not able to provide the group with them in advance. Ms. Woodward continued her synopsis of the Washoe application for the purpose of having the group rank it. Ms. Woodward next provided synopses of the additional applications for the group, indicating that the Truckee Meadows application was not entirely complete.

Craig dePolo asked if outside of the application being incomplete, did all other considerations appear to be met.

Janell Woodward indicated that they were, and reiterated that this is a project scoping so no BCA is required because it is considered a type of planning grant where the BCA work will typically be done during the project scoping.

Solome Barton asked if the application has the capacity to finish the project within the project 36-month timeframe.

Janell Woodward indicated her belief that it does. Ms. Woodward next moved onto the third application from NDEM, explaining that the final application needed to be beefed up prior to submission.

Solome Barton asked if with the RFP process, the match would be secured prior to sending out the application.

Janell Woodward confirmed that it would as the final total of the match needed to be secured prior to sending.

Solome Barton asked if the applicant would have the capacity to finish the project within the 36-month timeframe.

Janell Woodward confirmed that it would. Ms. Woodward next indicated that approximately \$547,000 of the \$1 million set-aside would be incorporated into these three projects. Ms. Woodward indicated that Washoe County has a potential project-scoping application in the works, as well, that will redirect water into Pyramid Lake and explained that this is was for information-only for the time being and should not be considered within the ranking along with the aforementioned three projects.

Craig dePolo asked if Washoe County was scoping to the point where the problem would be mitigated given that all the water could neither be eliminated or diverted.

Janell Woodward affirmed that Washoe would be scoping to where the problem would be mitigated.

Ryan Shane asked if this application would be scored the same way as the previous three.

Janell Woodward indicated that it should.

Lorayn Walser asked if feedback for unfunded projects was included to applicants as this project has not been funded the previous year.

Janell Woodward indicated that in the past, only technical feedback was given to projects up to a certain amount of funding.

Ryan Shane asked if the project was considering seismic or flooding resilience.

Janell Woodward indicated that this is a seismic project as it is a seismic retrofit of the dam.

Ryan Shane asked for an explanation of the difference between the terms seismic and non-structural seismic.

Janell Woodward explained that seismic refers to retrofit type and non-structural would include things that can go flying.

Craig dePolo clarified that non-structural would include the contents within a building that could fall, such as ductwork, but do not affect the structure.

Solome Barton asked if flood reduction would also encompass basins and reservoirs.

Craig dePolo's answer was inaudible.

Lorayn Walser asked if it would be possible to partner with a private utility for this project and use their money for the match.

Janell Woodward indicated that this was potentially a possibility, but explained that this project had already matched. Ms. Woodward explained, however, that extra points could be gained under technical criteria for overmatch.

Craig dePolo indicated that his ranking on this particular project would be higher than the other three because the project was for mitigation.

Janell Woodward indicated that this project falls into the competitive rather than the set-aside, and as such, will be considered separately from the other three projects.

Solome Barton asked if Janell Woodward needs copies of the drafts sent to her upon completion.

Janell Woodward confirmed that she would like the copies of the drafts but indicated that for today's purposes, she would ask the members verbally for their order of the three applications and then take a vote within the group for the order in which the applications would be submitted to the chief.

Erin Warnock asked for a quick recap of the three projects.

Ryan Shane listed the three projects for the group: the Washoe County Plan Update for a total of \$67,500; the Truckee Meadows Water Seismic Scoping Project for \$300,000; and the NDEM Underserved Communities Outreach for \$180,000.

Janell Woodward asked each of the members to list their order of the projects. The members listed their projects as follows:

- Craig dePolo: 1, Washoe County; 2, NDEM; 3, Truckee Meadows
- Andrew Trelease: 1, Washoe County; 2, NDEM; 3, Truckee Meadows
- Solome Barton: 1, Truckee Meadows; 2, NDEM; 3, Washoe County
- Kathy Canfield: 1, NDEM; 2, Truckee Meadows, 3, Washoe County
- Ryan Shane: 1, Truckee Meadows; 2, Washoe County; 3, NDEM
- Lorayn Walser: 1, NDEM; 2, Truckee Meadows; 3, Washoe County
- Erin Warnock: 1, NDEM; 2, Washoe County; 3, Truckee Meadows
- Stephen Aichroth: 1, Washoe County; 2, NDEM; 3 Truckee Meadows

Following the tally, Janell Woodward indicated that the majority read as follows: 1, NDEM; 2, Washoe County; 3 Truckee Meadows

Janell Woodward reminded the group to submit their forms to her by the end of the week.

Craig dePolo moved to vote on the slate of prioritization as provided by Ms. Woodward. Solome Barton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Approved Abbreviations for Use with Hazard mitigation Plans and Updates

Janell Woodward, State Mitigation Officer, provided the group with a list of NRAC-approved terminology and abbreviations as listed in the Nevada Threats and Hazards document, explaining that Henderson had requested that all jurisdictions use the same, standardized language when referring to hazards as listed in the document.

Andrew Trelease asked if there was more that the group should do with this document beyond using it as a reference.

Janell Woodward explained that the document is already NRAC-approved but given that this group has not yet seen it, she wanted to provide the group with an opportunity to review the document as well as potentially provide any suggestions for future revisions for the next iteration.

Craig dePolo vocalized his support for the state to standardize its terminology.

Andrew Trelease concurred.

Solome Barton concurred.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Walser opened the second period of public comment. There was no public comment.

10. ADJOURN

Chair Walser asked for a motion to adjourn. Solome Barton moved to adjourn. Andrew Trelease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.