



Meeting Minutes Nevada Earthquake Safety Council Unreinforced Masonry Committee

Attendance	DATE	Monday, April 23, 2018	
	TIME	1:30 P.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Division of Emergency Management Executive Conference Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, NV 89701	
		Las Vegas Valley Emergency Management Center Executive Conference Room 7551 Sauer Drive Las Vegas, NV 89128	
	METHOD	Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Shea Schultz	
Committee Members	Present	Staff and Others	Present
Craig dePolo	X	Janell Woodward (DEM)	X
Mike Blakely	X	Shea Schultz (DEM)	X
Tim Ghan	X	Henna Rasul (DAG)	X
Werner Hellmer	X	Stacy Belt	X
Kyle West	X	Bob Carey (Utah DEM)	X
Gennady Stolyarov	X	John Crofts (Utah DEM)	X

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 was none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair, Craig dePolo, asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the October 24, 2017, meeting. Mike Blakely made a motion to approve the minutes. Tim Ghan seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

4. UPDATES ON MISSION ASSIGNMENTS

Chair, Craig dePolo, spoke to the Committee's two year timeframe and the number of meetings remaining. He noted the five areas of focus that are beginning to take shape. He

continued that a lot of these are recommendations for the future and that he would be surprised if the recommendations were taken up right away. He added that there are times when a sense of urgency comes about, typically when an earthquake happens, and there is a sense of outrage and desire to do better. He spoke to the Wells earthquake and the URM damage and the citizen response. He explained that what they want is to develop a good foundation when the questions are finally asked. He quickly skimmed over some of the ideas: developing messaging, setting a framework/roadmap that those with concerns can plug into, and first steps into the inventory process.

He reported that he is working with Sparks on the inventory process, noting they are beginning to think about doing a URM inventory and are looking into the best approach for this.

Kyle West advised that the City of Reno has completed their inventory. He does not know the exact numbers or percentages however; he will connect with Chris Pingree following this meeting to get more detail. Mike Blakely noted that the NESC meeting is the following week and that it would be great to have this information presented at this meeting. Kyle advised he will see if this can be a possibility.

Janell Woodward commented that when she spoke to the City of Sparks she got the impression that they didn't feel an inventory was necessary at that time. Craig advised his discussion has been with the fire department and their desire to have the locations available for initial rescue strategies. He added that the fire department was going to talk to the engineering department.

Members were able to provide updates on their assignments.

- URM Summit – Craig provided members with an outline of a possible agenda for the summit. He noted that it is similar to a prior summit he attended. He provided an overview of the outline with members, noting that the summit would span over a three day period with various topics discussed each day.

Kyle advised he has been looking into some of the logistical issues. He commented on some confusion between the dates for the summit. It was confirmed that the plan is for this to be held in the February-April 2019 timeframe. Gennady Stolyarov recommended doing it in February if possible due to the legislative session that would take place that year. There was brief discussion on legislative representation within NESC membership and that it would be beneficial to identify individuals that are interested in seismic issues and ask them to participate.

Kyle questioned the location of the summit and if they are looking at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) grounds or elsewhere. There was consensus among members that UNR did not have the room and there were difficulties with the parking at that location.

There was discussion on holding it at the area casinos and the benefits associated. Kyle commented that he has had a good experience in the past working with the three main casino properties downtown (Silver Legacy, Eldorado, and Circus Circus), and had worked with them closely with other activities. It was noted that if this route was taken there would need to be a contract set up. Craig noted they would need to determine what agency would handle this and they would need to explore funding. Janell advised she can discuss this with her supervisor to see what funding options are available. She noted that when going through the state the contract process can be cumbersome and this is why they have gone through UNR in the past.

Craig advised in the way of funding he was thinking of a potential earthquake hazard reduction grant. Additionally, if they have a partnership with the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) they may be able to fund something.

Craig outlined some of the things that would need to be funded and they included keynote speakers, meeting rooms, and proceedings following. Mike mentioned lunches as well, but Craig advised these would be covered under the registration fee. He added that he would like to have lunches at the meeting to keep attendees there. Mike Blakely noted they would need to get an idea of how many people would be in attendance. Craig explained he would like an event where individuals have a lot of high level interaction.

Craig questioned what the next steps would be. Kyle advised from his perspective the next step would be to develop an outline of the logistics for the summit based on the agenda Craig provided. He will begin work on this and developing an outline on what is needed over the next few weeks.

Kyle added they would need to determine who the speakers are. Craig recommended developing an organizing committee to assist with identifying appropriate speakers. He suggested members of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, as they are interested in participating, an engineer from the College of Engineering or the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) as ideas. Craig advised he would like to see this committee put together in the next month.

Craig asked Bob Carey from the Utah Division of Emergency Management, his thoughts on these ideas. Bob commented on potential funding and recommended reaching out to WSSPC for partial support as this fits well into the scope of work. He added that depending on how this is approved they may consider making this a multi-state event, which may open additional opportunities for funding through co-sponsorship and more. Janell added that they should reach out to California, noting they may have the ability with funds, and this may be something they are interested in as well.

There was discussion among members on who would sponsor the summit. It was determined that sponsors would include Utah, WSSPC, California Seismic Safety Commission, and EERI. Craig will provide a list of these points of contact to Kyle. He noted he would like to form the organizing committee within a month. It was advised that a working group would have to meet according to Nevada Open Meeting Law if they will be ultimately reporting to the full committee.

There was discussion among members on the goal of the summit. Mike Blakely stressed the importance of ensuring there is forward movement on fixing the URM problem versus educating those that are already aware of the issue. Tim Ghan questioned if there is any action being taken in notifying owners of the hazards. It was explained that this was the goal of the Committee, but not to be done in the midst of identification. Stacy Belt noted that this is the economic and political climate to begin pushing for policy change and to begin the outreach process. There was agreement that this should be a systematic process.

- URM Building Inventory Project – Craig noted prior discussion regarding the City of Sparks beginning an inventory process. Werner Hellmer advised that of the 14,500 potential URMs, Clark County has done the initial review on approximately two-thirds of them. They have been placed into five categories, with one of those being unable to access/determine. They estimate it will take another year to complete the initial

round of surveying. He noted that at that time it would be appropriate to begin putting things on a website and available for public consumption.

Craig questioned if they should wait for Clark County to be completed with the inventory before putting out messaging to property owners. Werner suggested drafting it, but he is concerned with the potential backlash associated. He would like to be completely finished with the initial inventory before putting any information out there. Once complete they can provide property owners with the proper information. Bob spoke to what Salt Lake City has done and noted the need to take precedence on approach. Members agreed that this being a sensitive topic and stressed the need on taking a strategic approach in Nevada.

- Messaging and Communications – Tim noted he is waiting to hear on the progress of the website as that is a location to begin publicizing information to make individuals more aware. He referenced the Nevada Consumer’s Guide to Earthquake Insurance and how they can do more to target URM’s within it. He explained he is cautious of publicizing a list of URM buildings. Rather, he suggested noting different ways to identify and characterize URM’s to give property owners an idea of how to identify them, and then making them aware of the responsibility, precautions, risks, and liability.

Craig questioned if a one page fact sheet can be drafted. This will be done and provided to the Committee by the next meeting.

- URM Building Website – Gennady Stolyarov noted that most of this information can be provided to the public and is available right now. It isn’t building specific information, but can provide general educational information. They can begin developing a consumer guide and fact sheets with placeholders to fill in anticipation of the finished product. He explained that setting up the website and putting existing informational materials can be done fairly quickly. He continued that they would need to develop a domain name a point person to maintain the website. He advised he is willing to work with that individual to get the site set up. He overviewed some of the content options for the website.

Craig questioned if this is something DEM could help fund. Janell advised potentially, and she will look into this.

It was determined that the next steps for the website are to determine funding and the webmaster.

- Roadmap for Nevada and Overarching Final Message of the Committee – Craig spoke to Mike Blakely’s report provided at the last meeting and noted that it was well done, but technical. He recommended beginning with what the problem is and developing a problem statement to begin with. He suggested, “URM buildings, especially historical, are commonly damaged or collapse during strong earthquakes. This damage can potentially kill or injure people and result in large economic losses for building owners.” The statement would need to be something that makes sense to people. At the next meeting he would like a very clear problem statement.

For the roadmap he presented the idea of a flow diagram, something that is easy to follow. He recommended starting with the problem and working down through awareness, strategy, motivation, engineering support, and finishing with financial support. This would be something simple to give individuals an idea of what is being done. There was agreement among members on this idea. Craig will begin working on this and provide to Janell for distribution.

5. COMMITTEE PROGRESSION AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Chair, Craig dePolo, noted he would like to do a field trip meeting to Fallon and would like the Committee to think about this. He explained that the idea would be to go with the emergency manager from Churchill County, a building engineer from Fallon, and others to view the damage that occurred in 1954 to URMs and what their situation today. He noted that they would need plane travel for one member and a vehicle for the day. Janell Woodward advised this may be a possibility. This will be looked into.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair, Craig dePolo, opened discussion for public comment.

Kyle West announced that the 2018 Safety and Preparedness Expo would take place on June 21st in Reno. This event will showcase all aspects of disasters and preparedness, and is a great opportunity for individuals to come and obtain information.

7. ADJOURN

Chair, Craig dePolo, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kyle West made the motion. Werner Hellmer seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.