



Meeting Minutes Nevada Earthquake Safety Council (NESC) Joint Meeting

Attendance	DATE	Wednesday, May 2, 2018	
	TIME	9:00 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Division of Emergency Management Executive Conference Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, NV 89701	
		Las Vegas Valley Emergency Mgmt Center Executive Conference Room 7551 Sauer Drive Las Vegas, NV 89128	
	METHOD	Videoconferenced	
RECORDER	Shea Schultz		
Council Members			
	Present		Present
Michael Blakely	x	Connie Morton	
Ian Buckle	x	Jim O'Donnell	x
Wayne Carlson	x	Rob Palmer	
Craig dePolo	x	Woody Savage	x
Rich Koehler	x	Wanda Taylor	x
Tim Ghan	x	Jim Werle	x
Jeff Hahn	x	Kyle West	x
Graham Kent	x	Michael Wilson	
Chris Lake		Werner Hellmer	
Ron Lynn	x		
Staff and Others			
	Present		Present
Janell Woodward (DEM)	x	Mike Detmer (DAG)	x
Shealyne Schultz (DEM)	x	Chris Pingree	x
Annie Kell	x		

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

Chair Ron Lynn called the meeting to order. Shea Schultz called roll and a quorum was established for Nevada.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Ron Lynn, opened the meeting for public comment. There was none.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES

Chair Ron Lynn, asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8 2017, NESC meeting. Craig dePolo made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Jim O'Donnell seconded. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

4. UPDATE FROM THE UNREINFORCED MASONRY (URM) COMMITTEE

Craig dePolo provided a brief overview on the URM Committee, noting some of the projects they have been working on which include development of a website, communication items to communicate the URM building threat, and a future summit. He advised that over the next few meetings they will be bringing these topics to the Council for discussion.

He spoke to some of the difficulties they are facing with determining the next actions with regard to the field inventories that are being done throughout the state. It was noted that statistics show a URM building has a good chance of surviving (60-65%) despite being the most dangerous seismic risk. Craig added however, twelve of the sixteen URM buildings in the historic district of Wells, Nevada sustained damage in the earthquake that occurred there. Once the URM Committee reaches the end of the inventory stage they are unsure of what should be done or ways they can prioritize the buildings. This is discussion that will be brought to future Council meetings.

Chair Ron Lynn commented on the percentage of URM buildings that do well and how that compares to a stick built building or a poured in place concrete building's survival rate. It was noted that the other buildings do significantly better and life safety should be 100% on a new shopping center.

Mike Blakely noted that the inventory is a great first step and recommended being diplomatic on how the information is presented. He suggested putting the information out by providing a list stating the buildings may be URM based on the time of construction and the public knowledge as to the type of construction. Then the owners of the buildings can have engineers determine the risk they have. He believes they should be actively following the steps California and Utah have taken, and get building departments and politicians to make progress on eliminating those buildings that are really bad. He stressed the need to move from talking amongst themselves and making changes in the codes and politics.

Ron agreed that the inventory is the first step. However, the local jurisdictions need to prioritize the criticality when given this information. As an advisory group, if their advice is to mitigate these structures in some manner, that is their recommendation. Whether individuals take that recommendation or not is up to them. He wants to ensure that, from his point of view, that he has done all he could to move this forward.

Annie Kell questioned what the current plan is with the inventory. Craig advised this is something they are trying to determine. The URM Committee will bring these items to the Council for discussion in the future.

Wayne Carlson made the recommendation of making a distinction between historic and old buildings. Some buildings the communities view as valuable and they want to preserve however others become old and are no longer useful. Craig noted they have seen a mix of these across the state.

Ron stated that in his opinion, for the inventory to be a usable and viable tool, it needs to be on an overlay map tied into GIS. This would allow it to be looked at quickly and individuals will be able to assess the extent and location of the impact in order to make any prudent decisions.

5. UPDATE ON THE CITY OF RENO URM INVENTORY

Chris Pingree with the City of Reno provided an update on their URM inventory. He advised they have concluded the inspections on the 1400 URM buildings that were identified via assessor data. This was done over a twelve month period with a team of building inspectors. He noted they have partnered with Washoe County to develop a GIS app, which does the overlay that was mentioned previously. The app identifies buildings as far as occupancy. He advised he is currently going back through the data to ensure those buildings identified contain actual structural elements of a URM and are not just interior or non-essential structural elements of the buildings. They are in the process of putting all of this data back into a final map to be distributed to their constituents. The information will then be taken to their city council to determine the notification process within their jurisdiction.

Annie Kell questioned if the app classifies building by height. Mr. Pingree advised that it is itemized by how many stories each building is within the app.

Craig dePollo asked if he has an idea on the ratio of what is in the assessor data to the actual concern. Mr. Pingree advised he does not have an honest number currently as there is a lot of verifying to go.

Craig asked if residential buildings are included and if any buildings may have been missed. Mr. Pingree advised that any information they were notified of is included, this includes residential buildings. With regard to buildings that may have been missed, he noted it would be difficult to verify and would need to be brought to their attention.

Rich Koehler asked if the map will be made public. Mr. Pingree noted the city's attorney will make the decision.

Chair Ron Lynn commended the jurisdiction on their work and the significant undertaking.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE COUNCIL'S ROLE WITHIN THE STATE

Chair Ron Lynn began by noting the importance of the Council providing a deliverable that provides value to the state's citizens and communities. He noted that he is looking to stimulate discussion on items that can be put on a future agenda for action going forward. He read some of the ideas that he had distributed to members via email:

- Requesting the geologic entities within the state prepare presentations
- Requesting the same of the engineering community
- Preparing a training session for elected officials
- Developing legislative verbiage first for URM's; second for non-ductile frame concrete buildings; and third for rural first responder training based on the WSSPC guide
- Requesting a room to be set aside at the legislature for presentations on earthquakes and earthquake awareness. Possibly a mock drill.
- Using the URM Committee as the pilot to establish a new web presence
- Develop formal lines of communication with various organizations within the state (Nevada organization of building officials, Nevada architects, the state engineering societies, civil and social groups, etc.)

He opened the meeting up for other ideas.

Annie Kell stressed the importance of pushing for legislative initiative on Earthquake Early Warning (EEW).

Wanda Taylor questioned if there was a way to advocate and meet with mayors or city councils, especially those in rural areas. There was discussion on engaging rural counties and the various meetings that can be attended with talks provided. It was noted that they would need approval from the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to speak on behalf of the state. Wanda recommended developing a 3-4 bullet point list that can be provided to those that are giving any talks. It was stressed that it would need to be a short, pointed presentation regarding the hazards and ensuring that what is being discussed will resonate with the particular audience.

Kyle West spoke to some of the events that have been held in the Washoe County region with speakers attending. Craig dePolo noted this is a proactive county and should be used as an example. Craig suggested having the City of Reno highlight what they do at the next meeting.

Wayne Carlson noted that if they develop a type of training that covers enough information he has staff that can do webinars or virtual learning platforms to reach public officials within his program which covers most of the rural areas. It was questioned if this is something DEM can publish through their website to gain more involvement. This would allow these officials to deliver the training tools to their local groups.

There was additional discussion on giving talks. Craig stressed the importance to trying to instill a responsibility in people. Annie noted that in her experience something that is effective is providing footage of what can happen as this seems to really hit home with individuals. Craig commented that this type of information would be beneficial to put on a website when they get to that point.

Rich Koehler commented on the current websites that contain outdated information. He suggested developing short one page documents that can be distributed and made available on the website for anyone to use. There was additional discussion on the development of a website. The website concept will be a topic for action at the next meeting.

Ron stressed the importance of remaining consistent with what they topics they discuss and determine what will have the biggest impact.

Jeff Hahn spoke to the business community and what has been most effective for him. He noted the need to have the right person providing talks to the proper audience to ensure the message is making an impact.

There was discussion on the possible legislative action that can be done with regards to URM and developing resources to assist with rural jurisdictions on an URM building inventory process.

Ian Buckle spoke to funding that the Council had access to years ago that is no longer available to them. He noted that while he supports the effort for deliverables to justify the Council's continuing existence, they also need to develop a way the council can access funding. It was advised that they may be eligible for earthquake funding; however, there are challenges with providing the required 50% cash-match and the inability to fund salaries. Ron recommended looking at other options for match and suggested contacting organizations that may be able to contribute.

Janell Woodward added that when noting what the Council has done, there has been significant involvement with training that has been brought in and supplied to the state because of them. Ron noted that they may need to begin listing the Council's accomplishments along the way.

7. STATE ENHANCED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Craig dePolo provided background on the State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan and its uses. He briefly went over the process that was taken to update the plan, and noted that a web link is available to view the plan during the one month public review period. This link is referenced in the agenda.

Craig reviewed the various aspects of the seismic hazard profile with members and noted any updates that were done. He noted that one of the items that was not updated this round was the mitigation goals however; earthquake early warning was added as a high priority goal. He advised he would like the Council to go through and update this in the next plan update.

8. RECENT SEISMICITY IN NEVADA AND REPORT FROM THE SEISMOLOGICAL LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

Annie Kell provided an update on the Nevada Seismological Laboratory (NSL). She advised they have recently received a couple awards for the work they have been doing to combat wildfires using microwave technology and assisting with wildfire early detection. She overviewed the growing alert wildfire system and the cameras that were placed in 2017 and those that are expected in 2018. This will put them in line for the EEW systems as it is creating the infrastructure that is needed for the seismometers and strong motion sensors. She noted they have recently installed upgraded sensors in the Tahoe region with the goal of understanding what is causing latencies and how to overcome those.

She continued, noting they are working to publish the biennial report for the NSL, hard and digital copies will be available. She overviewed some of the earthquakes in 2016-2017, and noted that for this calendar year we are on track to have in the range of 15-18 thousand earthquakes. She finished by outlining some of the education and outreach that has been done.

Rich Koehler questioned if the new cameras will be collocated with seismometers. Annie advised that not all will, but they all are part of the network. Graham Kent added that they would like to but a seismometer at each of the sites, however funding remains an issue.

Graham added that they are currently working with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to replace and update strong motion sensors. He spoke briefly to the Hayward fault scenario and the estimated \$35 billion in fire damage it would cause. This brings back the point that there is no system to alert individuals where urban fires are following an earthquake. The system they are building now will do this.

Chair Ron Lynn commended the program on their work.

9. LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING (EEW) IN THE STATE OF NEVADA

Graham Kent provided an overview of the current work that has been done with the USGS and other ShakeAlert partners. He noted that this program is now in California, Oregon, and Washington, and it has been said that Nevada and Alaska are to be the next target. He explained that in each of the first three states there have been funds contributed or congressional delegation involvement to push for the implementation of EEW. One key element that is missing for Nevada is state engagement. He added that the ongoing upgrade of the fire camera stations is ensuring they are ready to implement EEW in Nevada, however if there is funding contributed and state involvement it may happen sooner.

Chair Ron Lynn commented that involving a federal elected official and stressing the importance that individual may be able to influence the outcome. Graham noted they do have or are working to gain this support.

Graham continued and explained that the USGS is pushing to finish the first three states before starting on Nevada and Alaska. However, they would like to get the state involved in prestaging everything ahead of this so it happens quicker.

Chair Ron Lynn called for a motion. Graham Kent made a motion that NESC supports a statewide participation including funding of an EEW study for the state and potentially early stations that would help them move more quickly towards implementation at the federal level in a few years down the road. Craig dePolo seconded.

There was discussion on legislative involvement among members.

All were in favor of the motion on the floor. The motion passed unanimously.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Ron Lynn opened the meeting for public comment.

Janell Woodward noted that if members know of an elected official they would like to see on the Council that they need to submit them as a suggestion to go to the Chief.

Ron announced that he received notice today that the median occupancy report was completed and has been pushed forward for agency review and will then be forwarded to congress. He advised that when he receives it he will have it distributed. Additionally, he advised that he will be unavailable for the next two weeks.

11. ADJOURN

Chair Ron Lynn adjourned the meeting.