



Meeting Minutes Nevada Earthquake Safety Council

Attendance	DATE	Wednesday, May 3, 2017	
	TIME	9:00 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Division of Emergency Management Training Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, NV 89701	
		Clark County Fire Department – Station 18 2 nd Floor Conference Room 575 E. Flamingo Road Las Vegas, NV 89119	
	METHOD	Videoconference	
RECORDER	Janell Woodward		
Council Members			
	Present		Present
Michael Blakely	X	Ron Lynn	X
Ian Buckle	X	Connie Morton	X
Wayne Carlson	X	Jim O'Donnell	X
Oscar Delgado		Rob Palmer	
Craig dePolo	X	Vance Payne	
Jim Faulds		Woody Savage	X
Tim Ghan	X	Wanda Taylor	X
Jeff Hahn	X	Jim Werle	X
Graham Kent	X	Kyle West	X
Chris Lake	X	Michael Wilson	X
Werner Hellmer	X		
Staff and Others			
	Present		Present
Janell Woodward (DEM)	X	Kelli Anderson (DEM)	X
Shealyne Schultz (DEM)	X	Jeff Lusk (FEMA)	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Ron Lynn called the meeting to order. Janell Woodward called roll and a quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES

It was advised that Michael Blakely and Kyle West were in attendance at the last meeting.

Chair Lynn asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the November 2, 2016 meeting. Wanda Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Jeff Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. UPDATE REGARDING VIGILANT GUARD AFTER-ACTION MEETING WITH CALIFORNIA COUNTERPARTS

Graham Kent provided a quick overview of the meeting with California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). He noted some of the discussion included how to get the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and CalOES to work together and issues involved, obtaining a 4.9GHz license, and the resiliency of earthquake early warning networks.

Chair, Ron Lynn, added that the meeting did not have the right make-up from CalOES. There was some discussion on Vigilant Guard with individuals from the National Guard in attendance. He noted that making any advances in state-to-state cooperation was limited.

Graham suggested having another meeting. Ron was in agreement, but noted the importance of having the right players and an agenda that focuses on mutual benefits between the states.

5. NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DEM) UPDATE

Janell Woodward provided an update on DEM. She advised there has been a change in management with Kelli Anderson taking Rick Martin's position after he left. She spoke to the two presidentially declared flood disasters that have happened within the state and DEM's involvement with them. She explained that a Joint Field Office (JFO) has been opened with FEMA. Through the disasters and FEMA they were able to bring in tribal planners to assist the state's tribes in developing their own hazard mitigation plans or an annex to their county's plan.

6. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) UPDATE

Jeff Lusk with FEMA Region IX provided an update on the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). He advised they have a continuing resolution (CR) that has been signed by congress and the president that will allow for funding for the federal government through September. This means that the agencies that make up NEHRP should be funded through the end of the fiscal year; however they are unsure of what 2018 looks like at this point.

He noted within a CR for Earthquake Early Warning \$10.2 million was granted to the USGS, which is up from \$8.2 million last year. This is short of the \$16 million requested, but is moving in the right direction. Some things that were sighted in the increase for Earthquake Early Warning were the congressional delegations from California and Oregon that noted some successes of Earthquake Early Warning. He advised NEHRP will be reintroduced in short order in the next session of congress. He was supposed to get the file with track changes to NEHRP, but if there is interest the document will be provided to members.

He spoke to direct-to-state grants. With Early Earthquake Warning and the reintroduction of NEHRP they are able to increase the amount of money to be used.

He advised FEMA Region IX is working to fill an earthquake program manager position to represent NEHRP in the FEMA Regional Office to assist with training and support from the agency.

He discussed funding options related to the recent disasters and advised that money will be available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). He explained that since the state has an Enhanced Mitigation Plan it will allow for 20% of overall disaster costs to be set aside for mitigation. The Notice of Intent (NOI) process has been concluded and now that the continuing resolution has been passed the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) should be released shortly for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA). He is unsure of the exact amount of funding this year, but may be steady at \$100 million, similar to last year.

He voiced concern, stating over the course of years Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) has gone up and down. There was discussion and movement in the budget for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 suggesting that the HMA program would be zeroed out and taken to zero dollars. He explained that this would be a huge hit for the State of Nevada as there are infrequent federal disasters and if this was zeroed out certain parts of the agency could be lost, including NESC. He added that this has been threatened in the past, but has been saved in legislature. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

7. UPDATE FROM THE UNREINFORCED MASONRY (URM) COMMITTEE

Craig dePolo provided an update on the URM Committee. He advised the Committee now has an overall goal on how to effectively reduce the risk of URM buildings and have created a statement for the Committee that talks about the URM risk. He quickly went over the six objectives that have been set:

1. Promote an active discussion on URM building risk.
2. Develop a 10-year strategy for reducing URM building risk.
3. Develop URM building risk and mitigation messages and communication tools.
4. Create a Nevada URM buildings website. (He advised any materials that the Council believes should be posted should be sent to Janell Woodward.)
5. Conduct forums, invite knowledgeable speakers to NESC meetings, and develop partners that would help them carry messages, ultimately working toward a URM seismic risk reduction summit in two years.
6. Encourage more accurate and up-to-date URM building inventories for Nevada communities.

Craig advised that the number of URM buildings has been substantially lower than the initial estimate they had for Nevada. He used Clark County as an example, stating estimates are coming in at less than half of what was initially projected.

Craig added that the URM Committee has several ideas to address the URM problem. One thing they are proposing to popularize the idea is to give an annual URM retrofit award with the Lincoln Hall retrofit being a candidate for the North and they are looking into a potential candidate for the South. They would honor the rehab firm and the owner with the award and allow a presentation on the retrofit itself. He proposed issuing this award and having them do a presentation at the next meeting.

Werner Hellmer noted that some things the Council may be able to help with include putting together a symposium up north coinciding with the legislature with presentations to start an open discussion. Council members were asked for their input again. He spoke to the production of a future website and how it will be a holding place for information on URM buildings and provide guidance to the general public. Werner also advised that Clark County

is working on Phase 2 of their URM surveys and are about 1,000 buildings in. It was discovered as they went into the City of Las Vegas that there was an increase in the number of URMs compared to what was reported. He does not currently have the exact numbers, but will report more on this at the next NESC meeting to ensure accurate numbers.

There was further discussion on the URM retrofit award that was suggested. This will be added for discussion on the next meeting agenda.

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

Graham Kent provided an update on events over the last six months. Presentation slides will be available after the meeting.

Graham spoke to the earthquake sequence in Hawthorne around Christmas. He advised there were 15,900 earthquakes last year and that since the start of January there have been 8,300 earthquakes. He noted they have been doing a lot of 3D visualizations with respect to the actual fault rupture planes.

He advised last winter they were putting out extreme weather networks to get real time data. During the significant storm in January they recorded 173 mph wind speeds. He spoke to how they were able to monitor weather during the January floods by providing imagery of the Truckee River, watching for avalanches in Incline, and more.

They continue to build out networks in Central and Eastern Nevada. He noted they are the test network for Earthquake Early Warning and are the only ones with a hard network. He advised they have applied for funding to finish Eastern California and make it digital, as well as for finishing the Tahoe-Truckee Corridor.

Graham explained they are preparing for fire season 2017. Currently, they are working with UC San Diego on a fire map tool. This tool allows a real time model of where a fire will go for the next 6-12 hours in a matter of 15 seconds. They have tested it against multiple fires that have happened.

He advised they have revamped the Reno strong motion network which will allow for information to be received sooner. Next will be Carson, Gardnerville, and Las Vegas. This will allow for an easy lift with Earthquake Early Warning is officially started within the state.

Graham noted a project called Second West where they are retooling everything west of downtown. The structural integrity of City Hall was questioned and found to have a high potential for collapse and labeled as one of the worst buildings around. There are plans of doing a retrofit for City Hall and they are going to try to place seismometers or strong motion instruments in the building to make more measurements.

There was discussion on the need to have presentation material made available ahead of the meeting to be distributed to members and the public. This is something that will continue to be worked on.

9. REPORT FROM THE WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL (WSSPC) AND NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM (NEHRP)

Chair, Ron Lynn, provided updates on WSSPC and NEHRP. He advised WSSPC is currently reevaluating past policies with discussion regarding increasing the seismic risk category of schools. For NEHRP, he spoke at length regarding the need for improved

cooperation and prioritization within the program if it is to do well. Currently, they are working on a biannual report with the first draft needing to be completed by July 14th.

Craig dePolo advised that an earthquake emergency handbook that was proposed through the WSSPC has been produced and is in pocket form. The plan is to distribute them among county emergency management groups. He currently has 200 in house and it is available online at http://www.wsspc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Handbook_FINAL_New.pdf.

10. LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

Chair, Ron Lynn, noted that they have missed this legislative session. However, to gain visibility on the issue they are going to need to get out there. He proposed in the future they develop a program to provide recommendations to the legislature. He stressed the importance of getting on the agenda and holding a meeting that can be attended. This will encourage individuals to come in and realize this is something that they need to be aware and affects the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Graham Kent noted that the state climatologist meets regularly with the governor. He suggested mirroring or going in with Chief Cage in the future. He commented that Nevada is behind on how to integrate seismology and other hazards into the state structure.

Craig dePolo suggested having someone from DEM invite the state seismologist and geologist to these meetings to be briefed. Initiation for these meetings has to be someone from the state.

Craig added that at the URM Committee meeting they discussed possible resurrection with modification on doing the inventories within the state. He requested members keep this in the back of their mind. This is an idea to bring back for the next legislative go-around.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

12. ADJOURN

Chair, Ron Lynn, adjourned the meeting.