



Meeting Minutes Nevada Earthquake Safety Council

Attendance	DATE	Thursday, November 5, 2014	
	TIME	9:00 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Division of Emergency Management Executive Conference Room 2478 Fariview Drive. Carson City, Nevada 89701	
	LOCATION	Clark County Fire Department – Station 18 2 nd Floor Conference Room 575 E. Flamingo Road Las Vegas, Nevada 89119	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Janell Woodward	
Council Members	Present	Staff and Others	Present
Alan Bennett	X	Janell Woodward	X
Michael Blakely	X	Rick Martin	X
Ian Buckle		Debbie Tanaka	X
Wayne Carlson	X	Henna Rasul	X
Craig dePolo	X	Stephanie Parker	X
Jeff Hahn	X	Ken Smith	X
Graham Kent	X	Werner Hellmer	X
Ron Lynn	X	Annie Kell	X
Connie Morton	X	Gary Hourt	X
Jim O'Donnell		Ron Hood	X
Vance Payne	X	Karen Johnson	X
Jim Reagan	X	Terri Garside	X
Woody Savage	X	Juliette Hayes	X
Wanda Taylor		Dimitri Theodorou	X
Jim Walker	X	Werner Hellmer	X
Jim Werle		Jake (grad student with Clark Co)	X
		Matt Jonkey	X
		Shane Jensen	X
		Yuri Graves	X
		Michael Bishop	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

In the absence of both the Chair and lack of currently appointed vice-chair, per the NESC bylaws, Chief Chris Smith appointed Jim Reagan to act as chair. Jim Reagan called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the room as well as roll call and a quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting chair, Jim Reagan, opened discussion for public commentary in both the northern and southern venues. There were no comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Acting chair, Jim Reagan, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 28, 2014 meeting. Michael Blakely made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted and Jim Walker seconded. There was no discussion regarding the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. UPDATE REGARDING COUNTY EARTHQUAKE PLANS

Bill Elliott (NDEM) provided an update regarding the regional earthquake plans and the progress since the last update at the May 28, 2014 NESC meeting. Bill's goal as lead planner for NDEM is to create regional earthquake plans for northeast, northwest and southern Nevada. Several meetings have been held in both northern and southern Nevada. Because the planners wanted to base their plans on realistic earthquake scenarios, they looked at a 6.3 event in the Mt. Rose fan area and a 6.7 event on the Frenchman fault in Las Vegas. This plan seeks to determine a gap analysis in determining what resources are available in the event of a major earthquake as well as what resources might be needed. Determination of what is available at the local level is very important in order to determine what additional resources might be determined as available from other areas to help if needed. The recovery element is an important part of these new regional plans. There will be three phases of recovery in the plan with phase 1 consisting of building capability with planning, equipment, exercise and training people. The second phase is divided into three areas of response including 2A immediate response. The 2B and 2C areas include recovery and sustained response. Phase 3 is the recovery phase. Workshops will be held in December and January.

Annie Kell clarified that FEMA was asking for likely scenarios as opposed to worst-case scenarios for the plans and this was the reason the 6.3 and 6.7 magnitude scenarios were utilized.

There was a lot of discussion regarding what type of plans these should be and how in depth the plans should go.

Acting chair, Jim Reagan, informed Bill that NESC would be more than happy to help if they are invited into the planning process.

5. UPDATE FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

FEMA representative Juliette Hayes gave an update from FEMA regarding personnel in her section at FEMA as well as some information regarding the Napa, CA earthquake. There have been a lot of changes within their division at FEMA Region IX. They will be filling the

earthquake lead position that was vacated when Jennifer Lynette left FEMA. FEMA is hoping to have their new earthquake lead join future NESC meetings.

With regard to the NAPA earthquake, much of the area was publically-owned property. There was one death from the earthquake secondary to a TV which was not strapped. Water damage from sprinkler systems was the biggest surprise. Those in charge of turning off sprinklers in this emergency failed to quickly turn off the sprinklers resulting in a lot of water damage. Napa had an MOU to bring building officials into the area from surrounding areas which helped a lot. This proved the importance of having MOU's in place prior to emergencies. Juliette indicated that Phillip Wang from FEMA is looking to help homeowners with finding rebate programs and grant programs that will help allow homeowners to retrofit their homes where needed.

6. NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NDEM) UPDATE

Rick Martin (NDEM) gave an update to NESC regarding the Nevada Division of Emergency Management. Janell Woodward, from NDEM, has been working on bringing additional National Earthquake Technical Assistance Program (NETAP) training to both northern and southern Nevada including ATC-20, single-home wood dwelling (FEMA-154), and outreach to businesses.

Vigilant Guard 17 is a statewide exercise which will include an earthquake scenario and will seek technical expertise from the UNR Seismological Laboratory as well as UNLV and the NESC. This exercise will take place in November 2016 with the planning already beginning for this large-scale exercise.

Janell and some others from the NESC board put together a list of possible projects for National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) funding and these projects are still being reviewed by FEMA.

Dimetri Theodorou with the Clark County School System has been working on a project funded through the pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) program at NDEM for automatic gas shut-off valves. One portion of the project is complete at this time having replaced the valves in about 50% of the elementary schools. The application for the second phase has been completed.

Rick mentioned that the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) helps to fund NESC and the Seismological Laboratory. This year, the Seismological Laboratory received \$52,831. Rick encouraged the council to create a list of potential projects, ranking and prioritizing them for submission to NDEM for the potential use of deobligated funds to possibly fund those projects.

Additional work by NDEM Recovery staff has included providing assistance with a number of floods that have occurred in the last several months throughout Nevada. Five or six damage assessments were completed in the last three months due to consecutive rain storms. The damage from the individual storms cannot be combined to one big storm but must remain separate incidents. A Federal declaration has been requested.

Request was made that the February meeting have an agenda item reflecting creating a list of potential projects that could then be ranked and prioritized in May to be ready when requested to give to NDEM.

7. RECENT SEISMICITY IN NEVADA

Graham Kent provided an overview of the recent seismicity in Nevada. There have been some notable earthquakes near Las Vegas as well as in Northwest Nevada near Denio. One of the more interesting earthquakes of note was a magnitude 3.6 earthquake on October 5 in the Las Vegas valley. This was 20 miles to the south of the Strip in Las Vegas. The fault looked to be a strike-slip fault. The Seismology Lab is working to enhance the Las Vegas area seismographic network with a proposal to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for funding.

The Denio swarm has been very active with a larger event last night. In the last 4-5 months, there has been in excess of 200 magnitude 2.0 or greater earthquakes in this area. The three largest earthquakes have been in the last week with the largest quake last night.

There have been quite a few triggered events from mining near the Newmont and Barrick Mines. The mines have had to close their operations several times to try to understand what is happening. There is a lack of adequate coverage to know exactly the locations of the events in this area but the mines are shutting down to inspect for damage which results in several million dollars of loss per day.

8. REPORT FROM THE SEISMOLOGICAL LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Graham Kent thanked everyone in the state for their parts in increasing the ShakeOut event with over 571,000 participants. More hospitals participated this year. The Seismological Laboratory has been utilizing a shaker truck as part of their outreach.

Graham played a couple of video news clips that were made with NBC Channel 3 in the Las Vegas area regarding monitoring of seismic activity. This has helped to bring more earthquake awareness to the Las Vegas area. The news also went over to Jeff Hahn's office at Boyd Gaming where he has the earthquake early warning system for California installed in his office. While the news crew was there, the system actually went off for an approximately 2.0 magnitude earthquake in Death Valley providing approximately 60 seconds of early warning. Jeff Hahn stated the early warning system allows you to replay historical quakes from California where the system will tell you based on your location what to expect with regard to shaking.

The Seismological Laboratory is also attaching their cameras to their network which adds to their monitoring capability and ability to assist with other hazards such as fire.

9. REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM (NEHRP)

Chair, Ron Lynn indicated that a big push will be rating of buildings with regard to retrofit including whether a building meets current codes, does not meet current code, or exceeds codes. A meeting for the NEHRP advisory committee will be scheduled in Washington DC where they will be discussing some of the points discussed in today's NESC meeting.

10. UPDATE ON CLARK COUNTY UNREINFORCED MASONRY (URM) NEHRP PROJECT

Werner Hellmer gave an update regarding the NEHRP project with the verification of URM in unincorporated Clark County. Clark County began looking at this project in approximately June 2014. By late July they had a program put together with Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and determined deliverables. In late July, Clark County purchased rebar equipment which was used for this project and then in August, two student

engineers were hired from UNLV to work with this project. Clark County utilized data from the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) list of URM buildings as a basis for their project. A URM survey form was created which will be shared and posted on the website. An overview of their findings to date was provided. Several categories were developed including buildings they could not access for one reason or another, buildings that no longer exist, visual survey only buildings, building inspected visually and utilizing rebar detection, non-rebar buildings, and finally unable to determine buildings. Werner stated as a rough estimate that approximately one-third of the buildings listed as URMs are actually turning out to be URM buildings.

Acting chair, Jim Reagan requested that Werner supply information that can be added as an attachment to the meeting minutes. As well, Werner stated he will provide a link for the rebar equipment that was purchased.

Craig dePolo asked the question of whether the NESC has a role in disseminating the information obtained in this project. The NESC did go to the Legislature in the past regarding potential legislation in this area which not ultimately pass. The purpose of the current URM verification project was informational.

Graham Kent added that San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley have hired a resilience officer to work to find funding mechanisms to help individuals and business owners pay for retrofits.

11. REPORT FROM THE AUGUST 13, 2014 JOINT WORKSHOP BETWEEN NESC AND THE CALIFORNIA SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION (CSSC) AS WELL AS AN UPDATE ON THE CSSC QUARTERLY MEETING AND NAPA EARTHQUAKE MEETING ON OCTOBER 8-9

Ron Lynn made note that while attending the California Seismic Safety Commission quarterly meeting in San Francisco on October 9, Timothy Strack from the California Seismic Safety Commission mentioned to Ron that the California Governor was interested in speaking with the Nevada Governor or parallel positions as they see that Nevada will need to be the safety relief for an event in California. The question remains how to accomplish something that would be mutually beneficial, whether training or perhaps agreements that go beyond the traditional Emergency Management Assistant Compact (EMAC) concept. California is very eager to work with Nevada toward this end. Ron stressed the importance that someone reach out to Mr. Strack and talk with him.

Graham Kent shared briefly about the workshop in August 2014 at Lake Tahoe with the California Seismic Safety Commission. This workshop highlighted potential projects where California and Nevada could work together. One such project was the Small Business Recovery project that might help some cross-border issues. The idea was that California would essentially put forth the money for the project and Nevada would help to do the work of completing the project.

Graham proposed a motion that NESC adopt a plan to work with the California Seismic Safety Commission on a handful of projects that are cross-border in nature and provide economic recovery, economic assistance, whereby California will provide the money for the support and Nevada will be willing to work with California. This gives a sense of what NESC can possibly do in various scenarios where an earthquake hits on one side or the other of the border. Ron Lynn stated he would second that motion.

Ron suggested that as an advisory board to NDEM that the NESC recommend to Chief Smith that NDEM empower the NESC to do a series of projects with California and to open up communications paths with California peers.

Ron asked Rick Martin (NDEM) for his thoughts and Rick agreed that it would be important to work with our California counterparts and felt this was a great recommendation that could be taken to the Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management. Rick indicated Chief Smith's desire to become more proactive in this area.

Acting chair, Jim Reagan, stated that NESC does not have a written plan at this time to present to Chief Smith and NDEM and the current stated motion is unclear. Deputy Attorney General (DAG), Henna Rasul stated that this would be something for Samantha Ladich to look into.

Craig dePolo clarified that the motion being discussed is more of a "spirit" motion in that NESC is interested in working with the California Seismic Safety Commission on some joint projects. Certainly NESC would like to give CSSC that indication and the motion would do just that. NESC is excited for the opportunity to work with California and it is felt important that NESC send this message to CSSC through a motion.

At the request of the deputy attorney general for the meeting, Henna Rasul, the above-stated motion was withdrawn and restated.

Ron Lynn offered the motion that the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council recommend to Chief Smith of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management to authorize the NESC to dialogue and cooperate with the California Seismic Safety Commission for mutually beneficial activities for mitigation, response, and recovery. The motion was seconded by Graham Kent. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENTATIVE 2015 MEETING DATES

Acting chair, Jim Reagan announced the suggested meeting dates for 2015 including February 4, 2015, May 6, 2015, August 5, 2015, and November 4, 2015.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting chair, Jim Reagan opened the meeting for public comment and there was none.

14. ADJOURN

Acting chair, Jim Reagan, asked for a motion to adjourn. Craig dePolo moved to adjourn and Graham Kent seconded. The meeting was adjourned.