

Department of Public Safety

Division of Emergency Management

State Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2002

Bert Prescott	Division of Emergency Management
Press Clewe	Washoe County Division of Emergency Management
Jeanne M. Ruefer	Washoe County Department of Water Resources
Ron Hess	Bureau of Mines and Geology/ GIS Supervisor
Frank Taylor	Nevada Department of Transportation
Jon Price	Nevada State Geologist
Kim Groenewold	State Floodplain Manager
Rick Diebold	City of Las Vegas, Fire & Rescue
Ron Lynn	Clark County Building Department

Via Conference Call: Jim O'Brien, Clark County

**Consultants: Janice Rogala
Azlina Harun**

Introduction of members:

Minutes of last meeting approved as prepared and submitted.

Old Business:

The Chairmen Bert Prescott received written comments for the draft plan from Ron Hess and Kim Groenewold.

A clarification was requested on the definition of a large venue fire: A large venue fire is a building or single facility fire which may constitute a major emergency response, but is not a major wildfire beyond local government's ability to respond to.

Old Business:

A review of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council – Priority one mitigation strategies were submitted to the committee.

A motion was made to accept Nevada Earthquake Safety Council's mitigation strategy recommendations. The motion was approved by a majority vote of the committee members present.

(Note for clarification on Steering Committee policies and Procedures: The Steering Committee adopted an open discussion meeting forum for the conduct of the Committee business and agreed that the Steering Committee shall make and pass policy recommendations by a vote of a simple majority of those members present)

A review of the Nevada Department of Agriculture Lab improvement mitigation strategy was conducted. The Dept. of Agriculture is requesting that the Plant and Agriculture Labs needs be considered and included in the plan. A prioritized needs list is included. A complete risk analysis will follow in the December meeting.

The Department of Agriculture is currently assisting in gathering public input. The public input is being solicited by Dept. of Agriculture from various conservation agencies and farm bureaus. An invitation and questionnaire to provide input by the public will be co-developed and distributed by the Department.

Members of the committee recommended that in the future, the committee will look at the Hazard Risk Analysis first and then consider the strategy. Motion and passed to table the strategy submitted by Dept. of Agriculture until more information was received. The information should be available by the January 2003 meeting.

A request was made to discuss Hazard Vulnerability Assessment sensitive issues with the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee for further direction. A meeting with the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee was scheduled and will be reported on at the December meeting.

Kim Groenewold reported that she has not had an opportunity to complete the flood plain location report but would provide the committee with the information gathered thus far.

An announcement was made for Local Mitigation DMA 2000 Workshop scheduled for December 17, 9:30 am to 5 pm at Nevada DEM. FEMA is expected to attend the workshop and be available for specific questions.

Local jurisdictions that have applied for a grant to complete a mitigation plan are the City Reno, City Las Vegas, Clark County, Washoe County, Douglas County, Lincoln County and the City of Sparks.

Discussion was held on whether the GIS portion of the Plan will contain a hard copy or a reference data disc. Bert indicated that at this time, a decision has not been reached.

A lengthy discussion was held on the general policy in the State of Nevada concerning public access to information and public information laws as they currently exist. The plan is a public document, those items that are too sensitive to be in the plan can be referred to in general terms and not included in the plan itself. This is part of the guidance Bert will be asking the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee to clarify.

A recommended concern to FEMA is: Nevada is concerned about providing detailed and specific information about each state-owned facility in a public document and exposing the State's vulnerabilities to everyone. (FEMA's answer thus far has been if the State has the information available at the DEM they may simply refer to it in the published plan.) Further information is needed on how this approach is affected by the State's Public Information Access Law.

Currently it is the intent that the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team from DEM will go through the plan and make a decision of what is to be included in the published portion of the plan and what is not to be included or published in the plan. Bert's recommendation is that we endeavor to include everything that FEMA requires as part of the plan and the Planning Committee will make the final decision. Press suggested that the plan process include a review by the State's Attorney General for Public Document content.

Kim Groenewold provided a copy of the State's Drought Mitigation Plan to the chair and copies of those strategies were provided to the committee for consideration at the November meeting.

FEMA Grant report: Each jurisdiction that requested a DMA 2000 grant was awarded their grant request.

New Business

This meeting was advertised as an opportunity for public participation and input.

Bert: Public input: Videoconferencing ability for public input is being discussed for future meetings and should become available in either December or January.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M. and the Public Input portion of the meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon, with no members of the public attending the meeting.