



STATE OF NEVADA MEETING MINUTES NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

Attendance	DATE	August 05, 2025
	TIME	10:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom
	RECORDER	Loren Borst

Appointed Voting Member Attendance

Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Andrew Trelease – Vice Chair	X	Shari A. Davis		Lisa Nash	X
Eric Antle	X	Rich Koehler		Star Albert	X
Solome Barton	X	Dawn Johnson		Stephen Aichroth	
DT Allen		Cameron Kramer			
Tim Hill	X	Sarah Fitchner	X		

Legal/Administrative Staff

Name	Agency	Present
Heather Lafferty – Chair (Non-Voting)	Nevada Office of Emergency Management/ Homeland Security (NV OEM) State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)	X
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General (DAG)	Attorney General's Office	X
Laney Parow – Non-Voting Member	Nevada Office of Emergency Management / Homeland Security (NV OEM)	X
Loren Borst	(NV OEM)– Recorder	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Heather Lafferty, NV OEM called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Roll call was performed by Loren Borst, NV OEM. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Heather Lafferty opened the first period of public comment for discussion.

Jon Bakkedahl, Carson City Emergency Manager, asked if NV OEM could submit an update on grant applications.

There was no further comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Heather Lafferty requested a motion to accept the minutes from May 6, 2025. Vice – Chair Andrew Trelease moved to approve the minutes. Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Management, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Introduction of new State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) and Program Updates

Chair Heather Lafferty introduced herself as the new SHMO, noting that members may know her from her previous roles as Nevada's Access and Functional Needs Officer and Chief Resilience Officer. Ms. Lafferty explained that her work has always been focused on ensuring equity and inclusion in disaster planning, especially for the underserved rural and frontier communities. Ms. Lafferty indicated that in her new role as SHMO, she is excited to strengthen Nevada's mitigation program to be both forward looking and community centered, and to put forward the priorities of building local capacity, leveraging data for smarter mitigation strategies, and aligning efforts with long-term resilience goals. Ms. Lafferty commended Chief Brett Compston, noting that he set a clear guidepost for the road forward and added that the Hazard Mitigation Program is aligning its efforts with that vision. Ms. Lafferty explained that the focus is on building local capacity by providing hands-on technical assistance and practical tools to counties, tribes, and communities that are often under-resourced, especially in mitigation planning. Ms. Lafferty further noted the desire to modernize the mitigation program using data-driven approaches and cross-sector partnerships, as well as coordinating with partners like public health, transportation, forestry, and other mitigation strategies to protect those lifelines and infrastructure.

Laney Parow, OEM introduced herself as the new Recovery Mitigation Supervisor with OEM and noted that there are currently no grant updates. Ms. Parow informed the group that she and her team are there to help out with anything possible and to provide members with excellent customer service. Ms. Parow encouraged working group members to reach out with any questions.

Vice – Chair Andrew Trelease congratulated Chair Lafferty in her new role as SHMO, noting that he enjoyed working with her.

5. Unified Review & Ranking of all Mitigation Grants

Chair Heather Lafferty explained that going forward, the working group will vote to approve projects that come before it, even in the case where only one project is submitted in a category or funding cycle. The Chair noted the importance of discussing and voting on even a single project to confirm that all members agree that the project aligns with mitigation priorities, complies with applicable funding guidelines, and reflects community resilience goals as a workgroup advising Chief Compston. The Chair noted that this approach helps to reinforce the working group's transparency, helps support public trust, and ensures that the working group is really fulfilling its role as the checkpoint in the unified hazard mitigation process as outlined in the State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan and FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guide.

6. National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Individual State Earthquake Assistance (ISEA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)FY25

Chair Lafferty indicated that FEMA did recently release the NOFO for the NEHRP ISEA grant. The Chair explained that this is a non-competitive state level grant opportunity with approximately 1 million available nationwide for which every state may apply directly. If approved, Nevada would receive 70,785 in funding from FEMA with a match of 23,595, for a total of \$94,380. Chair Lafferty explained

that due to the limited application window and timing of the release the working group could not be convened to collectively discuss potential projects the state could submit. However, Chair Lafferty indicated that in alignment with Nevada's Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan and to ensure that the opportunity is not missed, OEM is submitting a proposal focused on addressing gaps in seismic risk and understanding. The Chair explained that this is a project focused on addressing the gap in seismic risk understanding in rural Nevada and indicated that this project will conduct a rapid seismic vulnerability and continuity of operations assessment in 10 to 20 lifeline facilities, depending on the final funding. Chair Lafferty indicated that the focus will be specifically on food banks, shelters, and cooling centers that play a critical role during disaster response using FEMA's P154 rapid visual screening methodology. The Chair further noted the desire to evaluate non-structural and operational vulnerabilities with the eventual goal to create a GIS based visualization of the risk and provide a final report with retrofit recommendations and priority rankings for future mitigation funding. Chair Lafferty indicated wanting to have these assessments and justifications already completed to help support local jurisdictions should BRIC, or some form of funding like it, come back. Chair Lafferty explained that to complete this work, the state will contract with qualified engineers or firms certified in RVS assessment methods while OEM will provide oversight and coordination with local jurisdictions and tribes and the Hazard Mitigation Working Group. The Chair reiterated that this project is to help establish a clear picture of Nevada's post-earthquake sheltering and support capacity in rural areas, support planning, and increase competitiveness in the state for potential future mitigation grants. Chair Lafferty indicated that the group would be briefed again once the project is underway and approved and encouraged any interested jurisdictions to reach out.

Star Albert, State Public Health Preparedness (PHP), asked for clarification as to whether the application has been submitted yet and if the NOFO has been released.

Chair Heather Lafferty explained that the NOFO was released and that it is a 13-day turnaround from the application opening to submission deadline. As such, the Chair noted that this application is currently in review with the grants team and will be submitted by August 11 to FEMA. Chair Lafferty confirmed that the focus is primarily on tribal and rural areas and critical lifeline infrastructures. The Chair explained that OEM will be in conversation with local jurisdictions, emergency managers, and tribes, and will be prioritizing their recommendations on what they would like assessed so that those assessments are ready to go to support them for potential future funding streams similar to BRIC.

Chair Heather Lafferty requested a motion to accept that the project aligns with mitigation priorities and complies and reflects the community resilience goals of the workgroup. Vice- Chair Andrew Trelease moved to approve. Lisa Nash seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment

Chair Heather Lafferty opened the second period of public comment.

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

Chair Heather Lafferty asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice- Chair Andrew Trelease moved to adjourn the August 05, 2025 Nevada Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting. Star Albert, Nevada Health and Human Services, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.