



**STATE OF NEVADA
MEETING MINUTES
NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP**

Attendance	DATE	November 04, 2025
	TIME	10:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom
	RECORDER	Ella Ramirez

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

Legal/Administrative Staff		
Name	Agency	Present
Heather Lafferty – Chair (Non-Voting)	Nevada Office of Emergency Management/ Homeland Security (OEM/HS) 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)	ABS
Loren Borst	(OEM/HS)– Recorder	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Heather Lafferty, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEM/HS) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was performed by Ella Ramirez, OEM/HS. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lafferty, OEM/HS, opened the first period of public comment for discussion.

There was no comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Lafferty requested a motion to accept the minutes from August 5, 2025. Vice Chair Andrew Trelease, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, moved to approve the minutes. Star Albert, Nevada Health and Human Services, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES BY THE STATE HAZARD MITIGATION OFFICER (SHMO) AND ASSISTANT STATE HAZARD MITIGATION OFFICER

Chair Lafferty, SHMO OEM/HS, introduced the new Assistant State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Zach McCullough.

Zach McCullough, OEM/HS, spoke briefly of his history with OEM/HS, stated he was happy to be on board, and looked forward to working with all.

Chair Lafferty announced the HMGP post-fire FY '25 application period had opened. She stated Nevada had been approved for four Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs), having already received funds for the Callahan fire for \$1,285,231. Award letters have been received for the other two, with expectation of the funds being the Marie and Peavine Fires. They are awaiting news from FEMA on the status of the Connor Fire but are anticipating the funds. She spoke of the allocation details and when funds are roughly expected, stating it was quite challenging to know any specifics with the current federal government shutdown in effect. Also, the deadline for applications is February 27, 2026, to OEM/HS for review, and OEM/HS's deadline to FEMA is March 30, 2026.

Chair Lafferty spoke about how the work group should approach application awards, trying to prioritize appropriately and be transparent with how projects are reviewed, ranked, and awarded. She then spoke of detailed prioritization ranking, laying out first, second, and third priority evaluations in application assessments, as applied to the four FMAG awards. First priority is projects located in the specific area affected by the fire for which the FMAG was granted. Second is projects within the county where the FMAG occurred. Third is all other projects statewide. Additionally, she encouraged everyone to apply, no matter whether a belief is held that an application won't be awarded because of lower priority, stating funds often become available in stages or after other applications are reviewed and may not be approved.

Chair Lafferty spoke of future work with Mr. McCullough on establishing predictable and repeatable office hours in November, through to the end of the application period, to assist with processing the incoming grant applications, if anyone wanted hands-on assistance in their application process.

Rich Koehler, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG), asked what the funding level was the last time, for post-fire grants. Chair Lafferty indicated she would research this and get back with him with the information.

Stephen Aichroth, Nevada Division of Housing, asked what the specific date of the Callahan fire was, curious if it was right after the Davis Creek fire. Chair Lafferty indicated that it was right after the Davis Creek fire, with the Davis Creek fire being part of the 2024 award, but the cut-off is September and the Callahan fire didn't get declared until November 2024, therefore, it made the 2025 award.

Mr. McCullough then gave details on pending mitigation plans and their associated expiration dates, which were numerous.

Chair Lafferty, did highlight that the mitigation team is currently beginning the process of updating and writing the hazard mitigation plan, being about two and a half years out from their deadline. She stated they have been approved and do have funding, contracting with Wise Oaks to do it. She did point out that part of the role of Wise Oaks this time around will be to mentor the OEM/HS's mitigation team staff in building the plan, to bring it internal, with the hope to move it internally in the future. She also pointed out that there is a digital clause, stating that any digital products created in the process will be the property of OEM/HS.

Mr. Koehler, asked if there was an RFP to determine what contractor writes the hazard mitigation plan, wondering what determination is used in who writes the next version. Chair Lafferty stated they are hiring to fill a position for this role, not as a contractor, on a temporary basis.

5. REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF ALL MITIGATION GRANTS

Shea Slone, OEM/HS, stated that most of the information she would speak about was already covered, but added that with the end of BRIC and the current federal government shutdown, there either isn't anything to report or things are very slowed down or on hold. She stated if anyone has questions to reach out to the mitigation team at mitigation@dem.nv.gov.

Chair Lafferty then indicated that there have been ten applications for the FY '24 post-fire grants, but are still waiting for FEMA approval, pending the government shut down issues.

Jon Bakkedah, Carson City Emergency Manager, indicated he had a BRIC grant for his hazard mitigation plan that he is almost done with, and was previously awarded. He asked that, when information is obtained about this, can he get reimbursement for it, as they have been paying the contractor, ongoing, with no way to seek reimbursement. Additionally, they have a post-disaster grant for a generator at the EOC, stating they had emails from Chair Lafferty and the previous Chair, that there was funding, but no money has been produced to them. Chair Lafferty indicated that as soon as she had any information or updates, she would let him know.

6. NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM (NEHRP) FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 24 AND FFY25

Chair Lafferty provided an update on the NEHRP funding for FY '24 and '25. She stated the funding for FY '25 has been placed on hold. Additionally, due to these funds being placed on hold, the programs and objectives for FY '24 have been significantly set back. Therefore, FY '24 funds will be de-obligated back, due to FEMA recommendations and statement of no extensions. She did indicate, though, that the FY '25 application was awarded for NEHERP.

7. TRIBAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING UPDATE

Aaron Thacker, OEM/HS, provided an update, stating that five tribes have approved plans. FEMA Region Nine had reached out before the shutdown, to tribes that had expiring plans, with letters offering assistance. He then reviewed the tribes that are in various stages of their mitigation plans, but that all of them are currently on hold, due to the government shutdown.

8. Public Comment

Chair Heather Lafferty opened the second period of public comment.

Sarah Fitchner, Nevada Division of Water Resources, indicated that the Nevada Flood Awareness Week is November 9-15, 2025, and to check out their content on social media, sharing as those feel

necessary.

Ella Ramirez, OEM/HS, indicated she saw Dawn Johnson come online.

Dawn Johnson, National Weather Service, indicated she had logged into the meeting and was present.

9. Adjournment

Chair Lafferty asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Andrew Trelease moved to adjourn the November 04, 2025, Nevada Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting. Sarah Fitchner, Nevada Division of Water Resources, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 am.

DRAFT