



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

Attendance	DATE	March 10, 2026
	TIME	10:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom
	RECORDER	Loren Borst

Andrew Trelease – Vice Chair	X	Shari A. Davis	X	Lisa Nash	ABS
Eric Antle	X	Rich Koehler	X	Stephen Aichroth	X
Solome Barton	X	Dawn Johnson	X	Matt Williams	X
DT Allen	X	Cameron Kramer	ABS		
Tim Hill	X	Sarah Fitchner	X		

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 (OEM/HS)	X
Zach McCullough– Non-Voting Member	Nevada Office of Emergency Management / Homeland Security (OEM/HS)	X
Kammy Kinkade– Non-Voting Member	Nevada Office of Emergency Management / Homeland Security (OEM/HS)	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 Loren Borst, 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 November 4, 2025. moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Andrew Trelease, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, made a motion to approve the minutes. Shari Davis, Governor's Office of Economic Development, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. OVERVIEW OF HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) POST FIRE (HMGP-PF) ASSISTANCE AND INTRODUCTION OF RANKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATIONS

Chair Lafferty, SHMO OEM/HS, provided a brief overview of the HMGP. She stated the grant program provides federal funding to states following major wildfire events, supporting long-term hazard mitigation projects to reduce risk in Nevada. She highlighted that the OEM/HS was awarded \$1,285,231 in HMGP funding for the Callahan fire, and that today they will be reviewing submitted project proposals seeking to use a portion of these funds.

Chair Lafferty then highlighted cost share requirements of 75% federal and 25% non-federal, further clarifying that the non-federal match must be cash, in-kind contributions, or a combination, but cannot be federal funds or funds already used as a match for another federal award. She stated that the NHMWG has decided to prioritize applications into three prioritization categories that will be used by voting members, using previously established criteria. The first priority was to be given to any project that is located in the specific area impacted by the fire for which the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) was granted. The second priority was to be given to projects located within the county where the FMAG originated or occurred. The third priority is all other eligible projects, statewide.

Chair Lafferty continued by stating projects would be open to everyone else in the state who has a qualifying project, but today's eligible projects are not exhaustive. She gave examples of wildfire mitigation, seismic retrofit, drought mitigation, flood control, utility and infrastructure protection, codes and standards, acquisitions, and education and awareness. There were three sub-applications for FY '25 received for post-fire funding. She directed members' attention to the provided ranking guide and outlined detailing how to complete the ranking and document for each presentation. She also stated that each member would receive an email for them to return their documents, so that they are retained for the record. Ms. Lafferty stated that ranking one was the highest priority and three was the lowest priority. Once the members have completed their sheets, they will be asked to verbally state their rankings, for the record.

Sarah Fitchner, Division of Water Resources, stated she added up all the funding requests and amount available. She indicated there was only \$30,000 more requested than what's available. She asked if there was a possibility of all three projects being approved if small cuts were made to the proposed project amounts.

Chair Lafferty stated this was a possibility. She stated all of the rankings will be submitted to the Chief for review, as a recommendation of what projects should be submitted. This way, there are a couple of options. After the first round of rankings, the three submitted projects can be asked if there are areas where their budgets can be reduced. She indicated that she believed the exact amount was over \$27,567. The project that falls into third place would just be reduced by \$27,567. Ms. Fitchner indicated

her understanding of this explanation.

Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager, asked if the proposed projects were sent out for review, as she hadn't seen any. Chair Lafferty indicated they had been sent out, via email, to all members. Some members indicated they had never received an email with the attached proposed projects. Others stated they did get the email and attached proposal packets.

Chair Lafferty then asked Loren Borst, OEM/HS, to look into the issue of certain members not receiving the email and others receiving it, stating there may be some sort of firewall problem with new systems being put in place by the state, for security purposes. Ms. Ladich then asked if the documents were posted on the OEM/HS website. Ms. Borst confirmed that they were. Ms. Borst then directed the members who did not receive the email to the OEM/HS website, giving step-by-step directions on where to access the forms.

Chair Lafferty then confirmed that all members had access to the ranking forms and asked if there were any other questions, concerns, or problems. There were none. She then welcomed new members Matt Williams, UNR Organizational Resilience Coordinator, Kammy Kincaid, Rural and frontier Coordinator OEM/HS, and Zach McCollough, Assistant State Hazard Mitigation Officer OEM/HS.

5. REVIEW OF SUBMITTED HMGO-PF APPLICATIONS

Chair Lafferty, SHMO OEM/HS, gave an overview of the review process. Each agency representative was to have five minutes to present to the group. During the presentation, voting members will refer to the ranking sheets to evaluate each project. After all three presentations are finished, there will be time for member questions.

- **Reno Fire Department Standby Generators**

Aaron Wike, City of Reno, presented a request for three fire station emergency generators. These will be for fire stations 2, 6, and 10. The current generators are original to their existing stations, ranging from 40-50 years old. He stated they are asking for funding, as the existing equipment has exceeded its useful life, with repair parts exceedingly difficult to find. He stated the total project cost is \$300,000, with \$225,000 for the federal share and \$75,000 for the city share.

Mr. Wike then gave an overview of the reason for the request. The fire stations are in 24/7 operation for fire suppression, EMS, and disaster response. With the region experiencing increases in power outages related to wildfires, red-flag wind events, winter storms, and NV energy preemptive shutdowns, the outages affect station apparatus bay doors, communication systems, late lighting, HVAC systems, and equipment charging capabilities at each of the stations. He stated that without the reliable back-up power, responsibility can, and has been, delayed during emergencies.

He stated the scope would include replacement of these generators, as well as updates to the automatic transfer switches and electrical distribution panels. The project will have minimal impact, or ground disturbance, as they're replacing the existing generators. The impact for the community will ensure that there is continuous emergency response during power outages. It will help protect life safety and property, supporting fire suppression and EMS efforts,

improving community resilience during hazardous events.

Mr. Wike stated it aligns with the recently approved community wildfire protection plan, which is specific to the City of Reno. The project is also listed within the local hazard mitigation plan for Washoe County. He then added that the building community resilience (BCR) score for this project was 3.29.

Stephen Aichroth, Division of Housing, asked if there were any costs that could be mitigated to fund all three of them, or was this a baseline cost for the generators and their acquisition.

Mr. Wike stated this is a baseline cost for acquisition of the generators, as well as an estimate for labor needed to install them.

Mr. Aichroth then asked, upon receipt of the generators, if they would be manageable and up and running. Mr. Wike stated that, according to their Public Works staff, the electrical work will be minimal, and the project is manageable by the Public Works staff themselves. He stated it is a shovel-ready project, consisting of putting them on the existing pads, plug-n-play, and update, as he put it.

Mr. Aichroth then asked if there are existing crews to maintain the generators once they are operational. Mr. Wike stated there are existing crews to manage and maintain the new generators, from their BTS and Public Works staff.

Eric Antle, Division of Forestry, asked if the Reno fire stations indicated, 2, 6, and 10, were geographically located close to the Callahan Ranch fire, stating his awareness of being in Washoe County. Mr. Wike stated they are not geographically close to the Callahan fire, but that this is more for the region.

- Douglas Co. Home Acquisition

Tom Dallaire and Courtney Walker, Douglas County, presented a request to purchase a house. This house is part of the Connor Fire, which he stated hasn't received a federal project number yet. He stated the house is in Ruhestroth. He indicated the house is in the Smelter Creek drainage basin, which the Conner fire burned through last year, having a subsequent flooding event, with the house incurring quite a bit of damage from water.

Mr. Dallaire stated the owner has been doing quite a bit of work on it due to this event, but the county wants to acquire the house, as this is not the first time this house has had significant flooding damage, with events in 2019 and 2023. It is now considered a repetitive loss property. They want to deconstruct the house and turn it into open space for the neighborhood. Mr. Dallaire then showed some pictures of the significant damage to the house.

Mr. Dallaire indicated that the most expensive part of this project is acquisition of the property, which at pre-event numbers is between \$720,000 and \$740,000. If purchased, demolition would start once applicable permits are obtained, with three already ready for submission. He stated Southwest Gas and Nevada Energy will remove their applicable meters. He indicated there are also telephone and cable lines to the site, which will be removed. There will also be a permit to remove a well with the Nevada Division of Water. He believed the septic was through Douglas County, but if the state has a program where they're tracking septic

abandonments, they would file the appropriate paperwork.

Mr. Dallaire stated that once all permits were received, the demolition process would commence, finish, and then close out the grant process, which is estimated to take about a year. He then showed post-event pictures of the house, stating that the deck that used to be in the backyard ended up a significant distance downstream, at the Settlemeyer ranch.

Mr. Dallaire stated their project budget is \$799,778, consisting of a request for \$600,000, a county match just under \$200,000, and demolition and permitting around \$60,000. He then stated Senator Cortez-Masto has been working in Congress to get some bills passed for this area for disaster assistance. She has been on site and toured the area. The bills that are proposed to fund her plans are held up in Congress, so he wasn't sure how long that will take, he is asking for help for this project as outlined.

Shari Davis, Governor's office of Economic Development, stated she had never heard of a project like this. She asked if it was standard to pay someone who has had such a loss, for their home, when they would not be able to get the cost in the open market. Mr. Dallaire indicated he hadn't gone through this process but indicated the paperwork he has read through was a pre-event, which is how they would be purchasing the property. He indicated the appraisal will take some time, but when they determine what the price is, it will be a pre-event, which is the amount that they would be paying for it. With neighborhood estimates, he estimated it to be between \$720,000 and \$740,000.

Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager, asked if work had been done to other homes in the area to mitigate for damage to those properties. She asked if those are on a slope that doesn't accumulate too much water damage, and if they required any financial assistance from the Hazard Mitigation Program to maintain the property and not incur any more damage to those locations. Mr. Dallaire stated there were other homes that did have water damage, but that this house is the only one to have attained extensive damage, with water going through the entire house.

Mr. Dallaire added there is a county stormwater master plan, where they have identified a large basin that would be installed upstream on Smelter Creek, where they would be able to monitor and release flood waters in a flooding event, at a lower rate, because of the basin. He stated this is a priority project for their board, but it is in the future. He stated they are trying to get a stormwater utility set up and a mechanism to pay for that kind of infrastructure improvement, they're currently working through the process, which will take years.

Mr. Dallaire stated there has been work done, including channels being cleaned out, berms being cleaned in a floodplain, amongst other projects, post-event. They are waiting for more property owners to allow access to their property to clean other channels up to ensure that the flows are along Smelter Creek itself and not through the homes.

Mr. Antle asked if it was appropriate to rate an HMGP off the FMAG that is not awarded a grant yet? He stated he felt they were too far ahead. Chair Lafferty stated this one is coming in under option three in priority, which is open to the whole state to submit projects. She indicated it was not being submitted under the Connor fire, but under money that was approved for Callahan, which is open to the state project at priority three.

Mr. Aichroth wanted to confirm that the home is currently occupied. Mr. Dallaire stated it is currently in a remodeling state and not occupied. Mr. Dallaire indicated the owner has been given options on how to get into compliance, which is to raise the foundation and the whole house a few feet and add flood vents; or let the county acquire it and demolish it.

Mr. Aichroth wanted to confirm that the owner is receptive to the proposal from the county. Mr. Dallaire confirmed that the owner is aware that the county is attempting to buy the property and appreciates that this process is significantly faster than the couple-year process he has been told it could be, as he is in the middle of repairing and remodeling it.

- Douglas Co. Airport Generator

Heather MacDonnell, Minden-Tahoe Airport, presented a request for a generator for the Minden-Tahoe Airport. She started by showing members a GIS map of the layout of the overall airport. She stated this is a growing, regional, general aviation airport located in Douglas County. It is owned by Douglas County but not funded by Douglas County. All of the operational and maintenance costs come from hangar tenant rent and property leases by the airport.

Ms. MacDonnell stated there are major capital improvement funds from the FAA to ensure runway and taxiway codes and standards are met. There is a wide variety of traffic that uses the airport, including small gliders to class III jets. She voiced a current grant request for lighting the main taxiway, Taxiway Alpha, which will be lit next year, giving the airport one lit taxiway and one lit runway, helping with evening and nighttime operations.

Ms. MacDonnell continued by telling members that their master record plan states they have approximately 90,000 operations a year, which translates into about 200 a day, clarifying an operation as one takeoff and one landing. This project will help them mitigate their power outages, through wind events, cable repairs, and flood and fire potentials. She stated they do get floods at the airport, with the last large flood damaging one dirt runway and starting to cross over into the main runway.

Ms. MacDonnell indicated this project will create a generator that will back up their runway lights and taxiways, and their visual aid systems that help for landing their all weather observing, AWOS, system, which reports weather to pilots frequently. The battery life of the AWOS system is only 30 minutes and Ms. MacDonnell stated they have had power outages that last all day, causing loss of their safety equipment. This project generator would operate the airport beacon, runway lights, visual aids, AWOS, and the main administration building during emergency outages.

Ms. MacDonnell indicated this would be a new generator, as the airport does not currently have an emergency generator, stating that a concrete pad would need to be installed. There is a natural gas line that runs down a nearby road, and she is hoping this funding would cover attachment to the natural gas line to run the generator. If funding was sufficient for a gas hookup, a diesel model could be selected as an alternative, but the gas option is the optimal choice, with less maintenance and less need for refilling.

She continued by stating they are part of Douglas County, as part of the Public Works Facilities Department, which has a plan and contract to maintain and operate all generators within the

county, and this generator would fall under this maintenance contract, which includes any annual maintenance or necessary service.

Ms. MacDonnell stated they are asking for a base cost of \$213,000, with a match of \$53,250, which they are prepared to give right away to start the project. She estimates the project timeline to be about 36 months, on the generous side. She also added that the airport also houses two, main firefighting facilities, the Nevada Division of Forestry and the Toiyabe National Forest Firefighting, both of whom perform critical firefighting operations through California and Nevada. She indicated that this airport is used as a main hub for regional transportation from the south of Douglas County up to Reno.

Chair Lafferty asked if the members needed time to review the projects further. No members needed time to review the projects, but Laney Parow, OEM/HS, requested a five-minute break for a technical malfunction.

6. RANKING OF THE HMGP-PF APPLICATIONS

Stephen Aichroth, ask for confirmation if the grant was for \$1,285,231. Chair Lafferty confirmed. Mr. Aichroth then asked if applicants are asking for roughly 75% of their project costs, and that the Douglas County property acquisition is just shy of \$800,000, which would make their request about \$600,000. Chair Lafferty confirmed that this was correct. Mr. Aichroth then stated that, after his calculations, all of the projects could be potentially funded, as the requests are just shy of \$1 million. Chair Lafferty stated that he was correct, she added that despite this, after the official rankings, she still wanted to discuss possible reductions, just in case, as when FEMA is operating again, they may not agree.

Mr. Aichroth then asked if OEM/HS has administrative costs coming off the top of the \$1.285 million grant? Chair Lafferty indicated they do not, and that they are not asking for any type of administrative funds. All of the grant funds are going directly to the sub-applicants in the state to try and support mitigating some of the efforts for the wildfires.

Laney Parow, Mitigation Grants Supervisor OEM/HS, then asked each member, one at a time, to vocalize their ranking preference for each of the previous presentations, in order of presentation and according to the ranking guidelines and instructions given. Member preference ranking was as follows:

Stephen Aichroth: 3,2,1
Solome Barton: 3,1,2
Matt Williams: 3,2,1
Eric Antle: 2,3,1
Rich Koehler: 3,2,1
Shari Davis: 3,2,1
Sarah Fitchner: 2,3,1
Dawn Johnson: 3,2,1
Tim Hill: 3,2,1
DT Allen: 3,1,2

Ms. Parow then asked if there was anyone that was missed or didn't get to rank a project. No member indicated being missed. She then shared her screen to review the rankings and make sure everyone was okay with the final rankings. She then stated that, according to the final rankings, Reno Fire

Department emergency generators came in at number one, Douglas County, Minden-Tahoe Airport came in at number two, and Douglas County, 1830 Bennett Court came in at number three.

Chair Lafferty then called for a motion to approve the final recommendations to the Chief of the OEM/HS for HMGP post-fire FY '25.

Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager, made a motion to approve the proposals as ranked. Rich Koehler, Bureau of Mines and Geology, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Lafferty then spoke to Tom Dallaire, stating that she and Zach McCullough were fairly sure this project will be funded under what the federal cost share/match is. But, if FEMA comes back and says it will be based on the total project, even with the match, would he be able to reduce the project by the allotted amount of \$27,567. Mr. Dallaire indicated that this was agreeable.

7. HMGP PROGRAMATIC UPDATES AND COUTNY HAXARD MITIGATION PLAN REVIEW

Zach McCullough, Assistant Mitigation Officer OEM/HS, provided an update on hazard mitigation plans and statuses for counties.

Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander counties are in the updating process, and recently submitted for FY '24, post-fire, still awaiting approval and set to expire in October 2026.

Eureka, White Pine, and Ely-Shoshone Tribe multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans are expired but currently being updated.

Storey County, Esmeralda, and Mineral County's hazard mitigation plan is expired, but also currently being updated.

Elko County's plan is set to expire in October 2026.

Churchill and Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe plans are complete and in the final review stages with FEMA.

Carson City's hazard mitigation plan has been submitted to FEMA and is awaiting review and approval.

All other county hazard mitigation plans are approved and expected to expire in 2029-2030.

8. MITIGATION GRANTS UPDATES AND REVIEW BY OEM/HS MITIGATION GRANTS TEAM

Laney Parow, OEMHS, stated that DHS and FEMA are still in shutdown status. During this time, all grant reimbursement payments are on hold, including mitigation grants. Although they are unable to disperse payments currently, they are continuing to review quarterly financial report submissions, with payments resuming as soon as federal systems are running again.

Time extensions are under extreme scrutiny and are taking a significant amount of time for decisions from FEMA. They can be requested; however, if details are not fully identified and reasonable, they will most likely be denied. So, if the need for a time extension is anticipated, reach out to them at mitigation@oem.nv.gov as soon as possible to receive instructions on how to move forward with a request.

Ms. Parow stated Building Resilient Infrastructure and Community, BRIC, guidance has not changed.

When updates are received, they will reach out to applicants. For hazard mitigation, grant program post fire 5546, the application is due to FEMA by 3/31/2026. After today's ranking, recommendations will go to the Chief and applications will be submitted to FEMA for review. For 5283, the period of performance expires 9/15/2026. If submitters feel completion will not happen by then, reach out to grant staff immediately, so they can move forward with corrective actions. For 5382, the period of performance expires 5/31/2026. If you feel completion won't happen by that deadline, please reach out.

For hazard mitigation grant program 4307, the period performance ended 12/31/2025, with a time extension request still pending with FMEA. So, if you have a project within that grant program, they will reach out to you regarding any concerns. With 4523, the period of performance ended on 2/1/2026. An extension decision from FEMA is still pending. When an update is given, grant applicants will be contacted. For 4708, all applications submitted under this grant are still with FEMA, in the review phase. As updates are received, they will reach out.

9. UPDATES ON THE STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Randy Brawley, Wise Oak Consulting, started his presentation by stating the mitigation plans are with FEMA region nine. He stated, for 2026, in 2028 plan, they are in good shape, making sure they are aligning with the FEMA guidance, but wanting to not only do an update to the 2028 plan, but develop an entirely new process and system that Heather and Zach will lead as an ongoing process, instead of the current one- to five-year process. It also hoped to support each county, as well.

Mr. Brawley stated that the change of approach is to make it a continuous process, making it a tighter, more active update of processes, which is a big item at FEMA right now. It should be treated as a living document, instead of updating over and over, with a five-year update being almost an entire re-write anyway. He indicated there will be a system of smart sheets, which will collect, manage, and share information. Once established, each county will have a sheet within the record system, which will allow more coherent and easier updates. This will be scalable across the state, which will include counties, sub-jurisdictions, such as tribes that may want to be involved. All of this will maintain full FEMA compliance.

The plan is for it to be a database, which will automatically keep things on track and in compliance. It will be a shorter, cleaner and tighter hazard mitigation plan, which will be standardized and slimmed down in the coming years. It will be easy to upload into, easy to input data and updates, and easy to create reports and final documents. Mr. Brawley then gave numerous examples of what things will be done when and where, talking through the improvements and streamlining that will occur at certain phases.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Heather Lafferty opened the second period of public comment.

There was no comment.

11. Adjournment

Chair Lafferty asked for a motion to adjourn. Rich Koehler, Bureau of Mines and Geology, moved to adjourn the March 10, 2026, Nevada Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting. Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.