STATE OF NEVADA
MEETING MINUTES
NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

Attendance	**DATE**	July 14, 2026
	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	ABS	Shari A. Davis	ABS	Lisa Nash	X
Eric Antle	ABS	Rich Koehler	X	Stephen Aichroth	ABS
Solome Barton	X	Dawn Johnson	X	Matt Williams	X
DT Allen	X	Jackie Conway	X	Heidi Johnson	ABS
Tim Hill	X	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 (OEM/HS)	ABS
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)	X
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, OEM/HS, requested a motion to accept the minutes from May 5, 2026. Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager, moved to approve the minutes. Lisa Nash, Lyon County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) GRANT FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS (FFY) 2024 & 2025

Chair Lafferty, OEM/HS, provided a brief overview of the BRIC program. She stated that fiscal years 2024 & 2025 were being done together, because of the federal pause. She outlined three funding streams – the state allocation, the national competition, and the building code plus-up.

Nevada OEM/HS state allocation is $2 million, including a state 5% management cost, which equates to $100,000. She stated that, should proposals exceed the $1.9 million cap, applicants will be asked to reduce their budget to fit within the cap or asked to have their application considered at the national level.

Chair Lafferty then stated that all national competition applications are capped at $20 million and are ranked separately from the state allocation. These are also reviewed and ranked by FEMA. She indicated that even though all applications will be submitted to FEMA, they do require that the committee vote on all of them for ranking to determine which funding streams should be applied to them, as well as the state-level rankings are taken into consideration when FEMA applies their own ranking system.

Chair Lafferty then moved to the building code plus-up, which has a $1 million cap, with no applicants eligible for the national competition, which is a FEMA NOFO guideline.

Chair Lafferty stated there were five projects to be ranked, three for the state set-aside, one for the national competition, and one for the building code plus-up. She indicated the ranking was from highest to lowest, with the highest ranking being one (1) and the lowest rankings moving to two (2), three (3), etc. Applicants received five minutes for their presentation and projects were voted on after all presentations were concluded. She indicated that, since there was only one project for the building code plus-up, members were to rank this application with a one (1), representing the most favorable.

Rich Koehler, NV Bureau of Mines and Geology, then asked for clarification on the number ranking system. Chair Lafferty outlined the ranking system again, with one (1) being the highest rank and zero (0) being the lowest rank, and two (2), three (3), etc., being less favorable. She did confirm that, even though there are two categories with only one application, members are to vote with a one (1), as most favorable, as a rank of some type is required by FEMA on all applications. She did point out that the applicants are not being ranked against each other, but on whether or not they meet criteria of the category.

5. BRIC PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Chair Lafferty, OEM/HS, again outlined the ranking system, presentation time limits, and which applications were in which category. She then introduced the first application in the state set-aside allocation, which was the Washoe County Urban Avalanche Atlas.

A. Washoe County – Urban Avalanche Atlas

Sabrina Braswell, Mitigation Coordinator, Washoe County Emergency Management, presented a request to fund an urban avalanche atlas. This would be a comprehensive, urban avalanche atlas for identified risk zones in Washoe County, to include Third Creek, Crystal Bay, Sand Harbor, and Mount Rose Highway/State Route 431. It would provide a standardized data supported reference, allowing support for risk identification to protect residents, recreationalists, and critical infrastructure. Ms. Braswell explained that an avalanche atlas is a structured, technical reference that maps known and potential avalanche paths, integrating key terrain and historical activity data. It compiles large amounts of complex data into a central reference that is easy to understand and use.

Ms. Braswell explained that Washoe County is one of the few areas in North America that has avalanche concerns affecting urban areas with residential structures and critical infrastructure. She indicated that current mapping and data is either inconsistent, incomplete, or outdated, and a need for an updated avalanche reference was specifically called out in a 2023 Washoe County Avalanche Analysis report, as well as the 2025 Washoe County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is also an action item for numerous agencies, including Washoe County Emergency Management and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District.

Ms. Braswell stated the atlas will not only be used presently, but will be designed for future use and growth. It will have an infrastructure lifeline impact of three, including Incline Village, where a 1986 avalanche damaged a water tank reservoir, as well as coming within feet of Mount Rose Highway/State Route 31. The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Station 13 was also within feet of being physically damaged by that same 1986 avalanche.

Ms. Braswell indicated the atlas will map all paths with elevation, slope, runout, historical activity with high-resolution images for each path, with a start zone, track, and runout area. She indicated a timeline of eight months, with an estimated cost of $100,000, with a match coming from employee salary time. It aligns with BRIC, with community benefits of prioritizing risk reduction and lifeline protection; supports data-driven mitigation, planning, and moving forward responsibly; enhances public safety and emergency response; allows future improvements to zoning and mitigation efforts and investment; and continues to build long-term operational capabilities.

B. Washoe County Emergency Management – URM Code Enforcement

Sabrina Braswell, Mitigation Coordinator, Washoe County Emergency Management, then gave a presentation on a project for Washoe County's URM code enforcement. She stated this is a proposal for a Unreinforced Masonry Code project. Unreinforced masonry is a term for structures that do not have steel to reinforce masonry walls. The concern is that, in the event of an earthquake, such structures are eligible for severe damage with hazardous consequences. The purpose of the program is to inform and educate Washoe County property owners about the dangers.

Ms. Braswell indicated there are 3,500 known, unreinforced masonry buildings that are highly

vulnerable to earthquakes and life safety hazards, which were identified by the Washoe County Geographic Information System (GIS) team. She showed the committee a map of concentrations of identified structures, to include downtown and northeast Reno, Sparks west, and Sun Valley. This map is also useful in the event of an earthquake, as all identified structures are identified with a black circle around a yellow house.

Ms. Braswell stated they will first need to notify property owners of identified problematic structures by means of storyboards, mailers, door hangers, public service announcements, and billboards. They would also plan to host community workshops and contribute to voluntary safety improvements. A comprehensive public outreach campaign is also planned over a period of six months. The entire project will take approximately seven months, with an estimated cost of $15,000. Again, there is an opportunity to match with employee salary time.

This program will strengthen building code enforcement capacity and support seismic risk reduction for vulnerable structures. This type of program has been done on a large scale for public buildings for a while, and Ms. Braswell indicated they want to start addressing homeowners and small businesses with the same benefits. The program will also improve community safety and resilience, providing awareness and education to at-risk neighborhoods who don't know about or don't know what to do about their risk.

Rich Koehler, NV Bureau of Mines and Geology, inquired about the avalanche atlas. He indicated there was mention of using academic partners. He asked if there was going to be an RFP and then a subsequent decision about who will be doing the work.

Ms. Braswell confirmed that this was correct. She did state that there are a very small number of vendors that are capable of doing the field research and information gathering, with a high probability of one or two final vendors to choose from, due to the vendor limitations. Mr. Koehler then stated the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology is currently working on a statewide avalanche and debris flow inventory and wondered if there was any overlap with Ms. Braswell's project. Ms. Braswell stated they are looking for more of an urban interface, but would appreciate any contributions, enabling a more robust reference.

Chair Lafferty then introduced George Robinson for the Truckee River Flood Management Authority's request for their Vista Narrows Floodplain Terracing project.

C. Truckee River Flood Management Authority – Vista Narrows Floodplain Terracing Project for Truckee River Flood Hazard Mitigation, Nevada

Mr. George Robinson, Executive Director, Truckee River Flood Management Authority, presented the Truckee River Flood Hazard Mitigation project for the above agency. He started by showing the members a slide of the Vista Narrows, which is on the east side of Sparks, right as one goes into the Truckee River Canyon, and is part of the Truckee Meadows Flood project, which is from the I-580 Freeway bridge, downstream to Vista Narrows. There are three terraces, which are a comprehensive project, with a cost between $200-220 million, with a potential to protect estimated flood damage of $2.6 billion.

Mr. Robinson stated the Vista Narrows project goal is to lower the water level, as the ability to store water is lost, which makes the peak water flow higher and raises the water level. He showed the

members an area that repeatedly experiences flooding in the area that the Vista Narrows project would be constructed. If this project were completed, these areas would be projected. This project would harden infrastructure, using flood walls, levees, terracing, and other revetments and structures to make a secure system.

Mr. Robinson stated the Vista Narrows is part of a larger flood project, stating this needs to be done first, as it provides the mitigation – lowering water level – to compensate for the loss of flood storage and rising water level, as there is no more flood storage. He gave a brief history of the project origins, planning, different rejections, legal and regulatory requirements, culmination, with a final design being worked on right now. Mr. Robinson ran out of time and was not able to fully complete his presentation, but emphasized that it does meet BRIC guidelines and is a critical part of the overall flood prevention and mitigation project.

Sabrina Braswell, Mitigation Coordinator, Washoe County Emergency Management, asked if the numbers given included recent impacts on bridges, based on the 2026 Hidden Valley flooding event. Mr. Robinson responded that those numbers did not include that event. He did state that, as a part of the Vista Narrows project, some areas affected by the 2026 Hidden Valley flooding event will be cleaned up and repaired, as well as adding measures, such as terracing, to prevent future flood damage.

Chair Lafferty then introduced a presentation for the City of Henderson. This project is for their Regional Power Resilience Hub, which is under the state set-aside fund.

D. City of Henderson – Regional Power Resilience Hub

Christy Ciccotelli from the City of Henderson Department of Emergency Management presented the city's Regional Power Resilience Hub project. The project addresses the life safety risks caused by extended power outages, due to extreme heat and severe wind events. It will update the Heritage Park Senior Facility, the Downtown Recreation Center, and the Henderson Multi-Generational Center, which are three, existing municipal facilities that operate as emergency shelter and cooling centers during power outages. The primary project focus is to establish reliable, redundant backup power across these three sites.

Ms. Ciccotelli indicated the project area includes approximately 47,000 residents, focusing on the 89015 and 89012 zip codes, which include a significant number of vulnerable residents to include seniors, which make up 20% of that population, as well as low- to moderate-income households. The total project cost is $1,545,000, with 75% requested here, at $1,158,750; and a 25% municipal bond match of $386,250. This purchase would include two mobile generators; site upgrades, such as quick-connect, docking stations; manual transfer switches; reinforced, concrete pads; and underground, conduit improvements. The two generators will be shared across all three sites.

Ms. Ciccotelli stated the project is already well advanced, with design work approximately 90% complete, including detailed drawings and specifications ready for bidding, permitting, and construction, which are bid-ready, being signed, and stamped by a licensed professional engineer. This project directly supports the 2024 Clark County multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan by addressing both excessive head and severe wind hazards. It also advances a plan goal of life safety and property protection, by ensuring these facilities remain operational during times of outages, maintaining essential community lifelines.

Ms. Ciccotelli indicated the City of Henderson will take full responsibility for all long-term maintenance and operational upkeep of the regional power resilience hub following project completion. The City also assumes full responsibility for routine inspections, equipment servicing, fuel management, testing, replacement of parts, and any necessary repairs to maintain the system in a state of readiness. The City estimates an ongoing maintenance cost of $7,000, to which the City will absorb through its existing operational budget structure. This will guarantee the project remains functional, reliable, and available for emergency use over the useful life of the equipment.

Ryan Turner, City of Henderson, thanked the committee for their extensive help and assistance with this application.

Chair Lafferty then introduced the City of North Las Vegas and their Emergency Shelter Standby Generator project, presented by Scott Cree.

E. City of North Las Vegas – Emergency Shelter Standby Generator Project

Scott Cree, Infrastructure Manager, City of North Last Vegas stated the Emergency Shelter Standby Generator Project will be for the City of North Las Vegas, which is one of the fastest growing and highly diverse municipalities in Nevada. The Silver Mesa Recreation Center is a vital community asset, serving a critical role in times of power outages, including temporary shelter, cooling/warming space, electricity for medical equipment, charging facilities, emergency information, and response and recovery coordination.

Mr. Cree indicated that, while the standby generator will be installed at a single facility, the project will benefit the entire community by increasing the City's emergency shelter capacity and strengthening its disaster response capabilities. It also provides emergency managers with a reliable location to support displaced residents, distribute emergency resources, coordinate community services, and provide safe refuge during disasters.

Mr. Cree stated the City of North Las Vegas will design, procure, and install a permanent, standby emergency generator at the Silver Mesa Recreation Center. This project will include all engineering and design services necessary to determine generator sizing, electrical load, site layout, fuel requirements, and integration with existing electrical infrastructure. It also includes environmental and permitting requirements, procurement of the standby generator and associated equipment, construction of reinforced concrete equipment pad, installation of automatic transfer switches, electrical distribution upgrade, fuel storage, and appropriate delivery systems, security features, testing, commissioning, and final inspection.

Mr. Creek indicated that, once operational, the generator will automatically detect commercial power loss and transfer critical building systems to emergency power, without requiring manual intervention. This will allow the central building functions to continue operating throughout an outage. The total cost for the project will be $800,000 -- $250,000 for equipment; $350,000 for design engineering; and $200,000 for construction. There will be a $200,000 cash match.

There were no questions or comments from members on this presentation.

6. BRIC STATE-SET ASIDE FUNDING APPLICATIONS – RANKING AND VOTING FOR FFY 24/25

Chair Heather Lafferty went over the ranking sheet and instructions with members again, with a reminder that there is a cap of $1.9 million. She also indicated the state management cost is only 5%, to allow applicants to have access to the most funding possible. She indicated that the total of all three proposed projects is $2,008,750, which is $8,750 over the cap. She then gave the three applicants in this category a chance to reduce their financial ask a bit, to enable all three to fit within the monetary cap.

Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager, indicated they would reduce their financial request for the full $8,750, enabling all three applications to fit within the financial cap of the state set-aside category.

Krista Ficken, OEM/HS, then gave ranking instructions to the members again, specifically indicating one (1) is the highest priority and three (3) is the lowest priority, with the projects given the lettering labels below:

A. City of Henderson – Regional Power Resilience Hub
B. City of North Las Vegas – Emergency Shelter Standby Generator Project
C. Washoe County Urban Avalanche Atlas

D.T. Allen, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 1; and C, 2

Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager (N.LV EM), gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 2; and C, 1

Rich Koehler, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 2; and C, 1

Lisa Nash, Lyon County, gave the following rankings – A, 2; B, 1; and C, 3

Matt Williams, UNR Organizational Resilience Coordinator, gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 2; and C, 1

Jackie Conway, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 2, and C, 1

Sarah Fichtner, Nevada Division of Water Resources (DWR), gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 2; and C, 1

Tim Hill, NV Energy, gave the following rankings – A, 1; B, 3; and C, 2

Dawn Johnson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 2; and C, 1

Kammy Kinkade, OEM/HS, gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 1; and C, 2

Zach McCullough, OEM/HS, gave the following rankings – A, 3; B, 1; and C, 2

Heather Lafferty, OEM/HS gave the following rankings – A, 1; B, 2; and C, 3

Ms. Ficken re-confirmed that Stephen Aichroth, Eric Antle, Shari Davis, Heidi Johnson, Laney Parow, and Andrew Trelease were absent. None responded to her inquiry. She then gave the results of the ranking, which were item C coming in first, item B coming in second, and item A coming in third.

Chair Lafferty then called for a vote to confirm the state allocation ranking. Solome Barton, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager, motioned to approve the rankings. Lisa Nash, Lyon County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. BRIC NATIONAL COMPETITION FUNDING APPLICATIONS – RANKING AND VOTING FOR FFY 24/25

Chair Lafferty then introduced the one application under this category, which was the Truckee River Flood Management Authority, Vista Narrows Floodplain Terracing project. She turned it over to Krista Ficken, OEM/HS, to conduct the ranking/voting.

Ms. Ficken instructed members that ranking will be conducted the same as the last category, from zero (0) to one (1), with zero indicating not in favor of it, and one (1) the strongest support.
D.T. Allen, DPBH, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Solome Barton, N.LV EM, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Rich Koehler, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Lisa Nash, Lyon County, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Matt Williams, UNR Organizational Resilience Coordinator, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Jackie Conway, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Sarah Fichtner, DWR, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Tim Hill, NV Energy, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Dawn Johnson, NOAA, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Kammi Kinkade, OEM/HS, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Zach McCullough, OEM/HS, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Heather Lafferty, OEM/HS, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Ms. Ficken then gave the results of the tanking, with the one project being presented as passing/acceptable.

Chair Lafferty then asked for a motion to approve the national competition ranking. Lisa Nash, Lyon County, motioned to approve the national competition rankings. Sarah Fichtner, DWR, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. BRIC BUILDING CODE PLUS-UP FUNDING APPLICATIONS – RANKING AND VOTING FOR BRIC FFY 24/25

Chair Lafferty again introduced the one project in this category, which was the Washoe County URM Code Enforcement. She turned it over to Krista Ficken, OEM/HS, the mitigation grants representative, to conduct the ranking/voting.

Ms. Ficken instructed members that ranking will be conducted the same as the last category, from zero (0) to one (1), with zero indicating not in favor of it, and one (1) the strongest support.

D.T. Allen, DPBH, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Solome Barton, N.LV EM, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Rich Koehler, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Lisa Nash, Lyon County, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Matt Williams, UNR Organizational Resilience Coordinator, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Jackie Conway, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Sarah Fichtner, DWR, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Tim Hill, NV Energy, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Dawn Johnson, NOAA, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Kammi Kinkade, OEM/HS, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Zach McCullough, OEM/HS, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Heather Lafferty, OEM/HS, gave the following rankings – A, 1

Chair Lafferty then asked for a motion to approve the national competition ranking. Solome Barton, N.LV EM, motioned to approve the national competition rankings. Dawn Johnson, NOAA, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There was no comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lafferty, OEM/HS, asked for a motion to adjourn. Rich Koehler moved to adjourn the July 14, 2026, Nevada Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting. Sarah Fichtner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.