



# STATE OF NEVADA MEETING MINUTES NEVADA HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	September 28, 2021
	<b>TIME</b>	9:00 a.m.
	<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom and In-Person
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Janell Woodward

Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Lorayn Walser– Chair	X	Herman Fillmore	X		
Steven Aichroth	ABS	Sheryl Gonzales	X		
Solome Barton	ABS	Clair Ketchum	ABS		
Faith Beekman	X	Andrew Trelease	X		
Kathy Canfield	X	Erin Warnock	X		
John Christopherson	X	Melissa Whipple	X		
Craig dePolo	X				

Legal/Administrative Staff		
Name	Agency	Present
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General	Attorney General's Office – DEM/HS DAG	X
Janell Woodward – Emergency Management	NDEM/HS	X
Mark Shugart – FEMA FIT	FEMA RIX	X

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Lorayn Walser, Governor’s Office of Energy, called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Janell Woodward, DEM/HS. Quorum was established for the meeting.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Walser opened the first period of public comment for discussion. There was no public comment.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Walser requested a motion to accept the minutes from June 29, 2021 Working Group meeting. The Craig dePolo made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Kathy Canfield seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

### **4. OVERVIEW OF OPEN MEETING LAW**

Ms. Ladich provided the Working Group with an overview of the Open Meeting Law. She is assigned this committee and her job is to ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law. NRS Chapter 241 was shared, and Ms. Ladich indicated it is always good to look at the legislative intent of a law. Agenda, proper notice three days in advance of the meeting by 9 a.m., multiple options for public comment, items must be noted for proper action, must be public meeting. Quorum is established by simple majority. For this body, there are 13 members, and a quorum would be 7 members to have a meeting. Two legislative sessions ago the legislative session clarified proxies. Proxies or alternates do not count as quorum. The majority of members present are needed to approve a motion. Preparation is the biggest way to ensure compliance. Be careful of achieving a quorum outside of a meeting. Please do not reply all on email.

### **5. CHIEF'S INTENT OF THE HAZARD MITIGATION WORKING GROUP**

Chief Fogerson recreated the Working Group after speaking with Janell, Kelli Anderson, and Susan Coyote. The Resilience Committee (Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee- NRAC) was created and numerous committees were brought up under the NRAC. A problem was noted in not having a committee that gave sufficient attention to the mitigation program so this Working Group was created. The requirements of an enhanced mitigation program were reviewed. All members serve on this Working Group at Chief Fogerson's desire. If members do not participate, he will remove them and replace them with someone who can participate. Participation in this Working Group is essential to its success.

The Federal government is looking to provide more mitigation funding to states and would like the states to expand their mitigation programs. Chief Fogerson would like this Working Group to look at the natural hazards in the state and how to mitigate them like how the preparedness program has state emergency managers look at the Threat and Risk Assessment (THIRA) for the state. There is currently only one mitigation staff member at NDEM. NDEM is looking at hiring a couple of contractors to assist in building this program.

The other ask of Chief Fogerson is to look at future disasters. Increased disasters are most likely going to continue. How can we take the funding we have for mitigation and use it in the best ways to increase resilience for Nevada? It is up to the State and this committee to provide support to locals. He does not want to put any edges on what we are doing. The committee should start thinking about how we start buying down risks. Look at technology and people hazards, in addition to the normal natural hazards. The committee should think global big picture.

Chief Fogerson appreciated Working Group members and the work that they are doing, His door is always open if there are any questions or concerns.

## **6. CARSON CITY HAZARD PRESENTATION**

Deputy Chief Jason Danen provided an overview of the demographics of Carson City. There is a population of 54,000, with mild temperatures, 24" of snow each year.

From the Carson City Hazard Mitigation Plan, the biggest hazards they are concerned with are earthquakes fires, and floods, as well as severe weather and acts of violence. Drought continues to be a concern as well as pandemic. There is a hazardous materials concern as well though there are no railways but there are some commercial businesses. Cybersecurity has been a big issue that Carson City is concerned with potential of city infrastructure being hacked and shutting down ability to function. As the Capital City of Nevada, acts of violence is a concern. Cascading events that occur in other areas can affect Carson City. An example was the Caldor Fire which evacuated 25,000 people from Lake Tahoe and most ended up down in the Carson City area. This affects ability to function as the requirements are more than their current resources allow.

Rodd Rummel, Fuels Management Officer, provided a presentation on overview on wildfire in the Carson City area. Wildfire has no boundaries. He provided history of wildfire in Carson City, effects of wildfire, what is being done to mitigate, etc. See the presentation as attachment to this meeting.

This is not just a California problem with huge fires. Nevada has a wildfire issue as well. Nevada has its own share of wildfire burning in over 1 million acres in the past. Wet winters give large fuel growth and result in fires. This is a natural process.

When the trees burn, there is a fuel shift as the grass grows and changes the fuel. Eventually trees will come back. When a highway is shut down, commerce is not coming in which affects businesses.

Wildland fire is a natural part of the ecosystem. You cannot stop wildfire, but you can mitigate the effects to people. What is Carson City doing to mitigate the wildfire risk? They have several programs, one of which is called "You Call, We Haul." This is a trailer program with four trailers and four dumpsters where citizens remove fuels from around their structures and then call and the Fire Department will come and haul away that brush. They have hand crews that go out and remove fuels. Last year they collected 400 tons of fuel. Homeowners are invested in this program doing their own work to protect their own property. They also have a new owner. A list is provided from the Assessor's Office and they pull out the new homeowners and visit them within 60 days to provide risk of the area.

Discussion also included losses avoided wins related to work that NV Energy accomplished with cleaning out vegetation from the bottom of power poles.

All of their programs are grant funded. Without this grant funding, they would not be able to provide these mitigation services.

## **7. CARSON CITY EARTHQUAKE RISK**

Dr. Craig dePolo provided an overview of the Carson City area earthquake risk. The reader is directed to the posted presentation. Carson City has the highest risk in the Basin and Range. Dr. dePolo provided information on the history of earthquakes in the area. The 1887 earthquake was the largest earthquake in the area.

There are many faults out there which are not yet mapped.

The good news for Nevada is that the state invests in building safe buildings. It does not improve old buildings and these buildings are still vulnerable.

Building codes contain the seismic provisions. Newer buildings all have the newer codes and the Earthquake Safety Council was instrumental in getting counties to adopt those codes. The buildings are much safer. The concern is with older buildings. There is a 78% chance of having an earthquake within 50 kilometers of Carson City in the next 50 years causing cracking of walls and shaking that causes fear in people. There is a little over 50% chance of an intensity score of VII earthquake causing chimney damage and requiring emergency response in 50 years. Chances of intensity 8 causing recovery issues and more damage, there is a 1 in 5 to 1 in 4 chance that could happen in Carson City within 50 years. A very large earthquake has a 6-10% chance. These are probabilities to pay attention to.

The Genoa fault is similar to the Wasatch fault in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Rock falls and landslides are also associated with earthquakes. Aftershocks should also be expected. Liquefaction can happen as well as fire after earthquake. Carson City has addressed the threats with strong building codes and inventory of vulnerable buildings. Public awareness is probably down in Carson City as well as the rest of the state though we do have The Great Shakeout drill. There are concerns of unreinforced masonry buildings where there could be potential injuries in a larger earthquake.

The State has done a good job on mitigating state buildings regarding building safety. The communities are the next step in addressing the unreinforced masonry buildings.

We have lost our State guidance without the Earthquake Safety Council so it is up to the counties and cities now to take up this messaging. We have also lost our momentum on unreinforced masonry buildings. Our urban preparedness is also diminished. Earthquake messaging is not taken to heart. Nevada is the third most active state for seismic activity. The entire focus is on when is the next earthquake going to happen.

NOTE: A 5-minute break occurred with a rollcall afterward which confirmed a quorum still existed.

## **8. STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN STATUS UPDATE**

Ms. Woodward provided an update to the Working Group of the basic process of completing the FEMA-required 5-year update to the State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan. The timeline of the update was reviewed. All hazard sections have been provided to the subject matter experts to be updated outside of the Working Group. These updates are due in January 2022 and will be reviewed by the Working Group. Discussion also included the addition of Drought to the mitigation actions section of the plan as an amendment to the current plan so that agencies are able to apply for these types of projects.

**9. MITIGATION GRANTS UPDATE**

Ms. Woodward provided an update to the Working Group regarding current FY 21 mitigation grant opportunities available. The BRIC grant was announced in August 2021 and the application period is currently open. The deadline for completed applications in the FEMA GO system is December 3 so that we have time to review and rank applications. There is \$1 million available in State set-aside funding meaning that anything submitted within that \$1 million will be funded if the application is eligible. HMGP-Post Fire for FY 20 applications are due to FEMA by March 31, 2022. The focus is Washoe County and Douglas Counties as this is where the three fires occurred. Finally, the HMGP funding because of COVID is due to FEMA by August 5, 2022. The deadline for HMGP applications is June 30, 2022, again for the review process. With HMGP application, these applications will also be funded if they are eligible projects. Please reach out to Janell Woodward with any questions or for technical assistance.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Walser opened the second period of public comment and there was none.

**11. ADJOURN**

Chair Walser asked for a motion to adjourn. Craig dePolo made the motion and Andrew Trelease seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.