



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

Attendance	DATE	May 15, 2024
	TIME	9:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom
	RECORDER	Hal O'Brien

Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Eric Antle	ABS	Kathy Canfield	X	Ceira Sampson	X
Andrew Trelease – Vice Chair	X	Shari A. Davis	X	Dawn Johnson	X
Stephen Aichroth	X	Craig dePolo	ABS		
Solome Barton	X				

Legal/Administrative Staff		
Name	Agency	Present
Bill Elliott – Chair (Non-Voting)	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/ Homeland Security (DEM/HS)	X
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General (DAG)	Attorney General’s Office –	X
Janell Woodward – Non-Voting Member	Nevada Division of Emergency Management / Homeland Security (DEM/HS)	X
Hal O'Brien	DEM/HS – Mitigation Specialist	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Bill Elliott, DEM/HS called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was performed by Hal O'Brien, DEM/HS. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bill Elliott opened the first period of public comment for discussion. There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Bill Elliott requested a motion to accept the minutes from January 17, 2024. Andrew Trelease moved to approve the minutes. Solome Barton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REVIEW OF SUBAPPLICATIONS FOR POST DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2023 DISASTER RELIEF (DR) – 4708 SUBGRANTEE APPLICATIONS

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, shared a spreadsheet that included the applications for the funding from the Disaster 4708, which was the storms from March of the previous year. Ms. Woodward indicated that FEMA has cut available funding in half, so now there is only 2 million total rather than the previously allocated 4 million. Ms. Woodward explained that Carson City's project is already accounted for, as are two from Douglas County. Ms. Woodward indicated that Douglas County has added a third culvert project, and that today the working group would be going through the additional projects.

Francisco Ceballos, Washoe County, indicated that Washoe county had submitted an application on April 8 for these additional funds.

Courtney Walker, Douglas County, indicated that Douglas County had three applications. Ms. Walker explained that the first has to do with a new culvert installation where there is currently a dip section on East Valley Road for the Pine Nut Road Wash, the second is the Waterloo Lane Culvert Capacity Improvement project, and the third is a Buckeye Road box culvert, which consists of upsizing a box culvert under Buckeye Road to help drain a reservoir when more water is coming in than can be released. Ms. Walker indicated that East Valley in Gardnerville is a major arterial road through the east side of the valley, and the first project would alleviate people having to turn around and take a detour when the road is closed. Ms. Walker next discussed the Waterloo Lane Culvert capacity improvement project, noting that because the culvert is vastly undersized, things frequently get blocked in this location, which increases the capacity even more. Ms. Walker explained that in terms of the third project, when the reservoir at Buckeye Road is full, what happens is that several washes from the Pine Nut Mountains ends up in the reservoir that is primarily supposed to be used for irrigation water. Ms. Walker discussed the limitation of the culvert underneath Buckeye to drain this and as such, needs to be upsized to a larger box culvert. Ms. Walker concluded by noting that the cost would be \$525,000 for the grant and \$175,000 for the match.

Andrew Trelease asked about prioritization of these projects.

Courtney Walker indicated that the projects are all approximately the same cost and are equally necessary, and therefore could be put in any order. Ms. Walker did note that the Waterloo Lane Road is the most traveled of the three.

Scott Lewis, Nye County, discussed the difficulty the county is having difficulty controlling its flood management, which impacts the critical infrastructure for the county, including IT, and the sheriff's office, the county courthouse system. Mr. Lewis explained that the county is looking to create a barrier-type system that can be placed around the complex to divert the waters around it. Mr. Lewis explained that the estimated project costs are \$280,000, the M&A cost is \$14,000, the

total funding request is for \$294,000 which a federal share of \$220,500, and the county share of \$73,500.

Solome Barton asked if the project will protect or mitigate any utilities in the area.

Patrick Lazenby explained that everything is dependent on the IT department, and sandbagging is not holding back the water.

Scott Lewis added that the IT Department is the hub for all the informational technology for the entire county, as well as for the dispatching center inside the sheriff's office. As such, Mr. Lewis noted that every critical infrastructure that has to do with information technology is impacted by this particular area.

Janell Woodard asked if the proposal is for permanent flood control or temporary, noting that a temporary fix would not be eligible.

Patrick Lazenby explained that he has been working with the buildings and grounds director as well as the public works director and indicated that he can ensure that they understand that this needs to be permanent. Mr. Lazenby noted his uncertainty regarding cost given that the intent was for a semi-permanent fix.

Scott Lewis added that the fix needs something with a little bit of flexibility because may just come in at a little bit of a different angle and may need to have the angle changed on a deployable barrier, but that this could be a permanent fix as long as it is flexible on its deployment.

Janell Woodward indicated that DEM/HS could try to work on that to ensure that it is an eligible barrier going in place but warned Nye County that there is a chance that this will not be allowable.

Sabrina Braswell, Washoe County Emergency Management Program Coordinator for Mitigation, noted that the project is called the Washoe County Avalanche Signage. Ms. Braswell indicated that Washoe is requesting \$6,000 total, with \$4,800 of the federal share, and \$1,200 of the non-federal share, which will be accounted for in staff time, installation management, design, and process. Ms. Braswell informed the working group that the project is based on an avalanche analysis that was completed in 2023 by an association and vendor in the Washoe County region, which identified avalanche threats specific to the Include Village Third Creek area and Crystal Bay. Ms. Braswell indicated that one of the mitigation actions highlights as specific to signage and as such, two types of signage are being requested: an educational sign that gives information about the surrounding area, the context of avalanches, risk signs, and avalanche warnings; and then informational signage warning people that they are entering an avalanche area. Ms. Braswell indicated that letters of support in this project have come from Diamond Peak Ski Resort, in cooperation with IVGID (phonetic), the Department of Forestry, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, and Sierra Avalanche Center.

Janell Woodward asked whether Douglas and Nye County had any wiggle room on the non-federal match to overmatch their projects so that all projects could be potentially funded.

Scott Lewis indicated that Nye County could try and eliminate the M&A.

Janell Woodward noted that the M&A is not included in the \$30,000 as that is a separate bank of funding.

Courtney Walker was not available as she needed to attend another meeting.

5. PRIORITIZATION OF THE SUBAPPLICATIONS FOR THE HMGP FROM DR-4708 FFY 2023 GRANT PROGRAM

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, explained that the working group will score each of the projects, and then they will be entered onto the spreadsheet viewable by all members. Ms. Woodward questioned if the working group would like to go through the questions all together as a group or would prefer to go through on their own and reconvene with their answers.

Jon Bakkedahl questioned if any of the projects are eligible for BRIC, and if any are, can the rest of the funding be added to the BRIC funding.

Janell Woodward explained that BRIC should come out in October, depending on Congress' budget. Ms. Woodward noted that because BRIC is a separate grant, both grants cannot be used for the same thing, with the only exception being that the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund could allow the two to be combined. Ms. Woodward indicated that DEM/HS is not yet set up to do that.

Andrew Trelease questioned the importance of these rankings.

Janell Woodward explained that she still needs to communicate with Douglas County regarding the potential for them to go up a little bit and overmatch, but that the projects can be ranked. Ms. Woodward further noted that if something does fall under the line, it will still be submitted but may not be considered unless something else ends up falling out.

Andrew Trelease indicated he would prefer to rank the projects independently rather than to go through them all together as a group.

Ceira Sampson noted that she only received the summary of the projects for Douglas County.

Janell Woodward noted that the presentations for the other projects were the verbal ones today as they were added after the summary had gone out to work group members.

Solome Barton indicated she too would prefer to rank the projects independently rather than to go through them together as a group.

Janell Woodward asked for the totals from members for each of the projects.

Andrew Trelease's rankings were as follows:

- East Valley Road 39
- Waterloo 41
- Buckeye Road 38
- Nye County Flood Control 42
- Washoe County Avalanche Signage 39.

Steven Aichroth's rankings were as follows:

- East Valley 49
- Waterloo 49
- Buckeye 47
- Nye County 52
- Washoe County 46

Solome Barton's rankings were as follows:

- East Valley 56
- Waterloo 56
- Buckeye 56
- Nye County 59
- Washoe County 56

Kathy Canfield's rankings were as follows:

- 53 for all three Douglas County projects
- Nye County 57
- Washoe County 55

Ceira Sampson's rankings were as follows:

- East Valley 53
- Waterloo 55
- Buckeye 53
- Nye County 50
- Washoe County 52

Dawn Johnson's rankings were as follows:

- 51 for all three Douglas County projects
- Nye County 45
- Washoe County 49

Andrew Trelease indicated his belief that putting the \$6,000 project last is not a good idea as it needs to get on the list somewhere.

Janell Woodward reminded the working group that she will be speaking with Douglas County regarding their ability to overmatch and noted that the third Douglas County project was added at the last minute whereas the Washoe one was not.

Samantha Ladich, Deputy Attorney General, reminded the working group that these rankings are not final but rather a starting point and noted that under this agenda item, adjustments can be made prior to a vote.

Solome Barton questioned if the addition of Shari Davis' numbers might make a difference.

Samantha Ladich, DAG, noted that the rankings of one absentee member alone could not be counted but should also include all absentee members. Ms. Ladich indicated however that in the past, absentee members' rankings were not taken into consideration. Ms. Ladich reminded the working group that the rankings are not meant to be a vote, but rather a starting place to begin a discussion on what to forward to the chief.

Andrew Trelease indicated his belief that Washoe County can be easily funded so as to deny only one rather than two.

Patrick Lazenby, Nye County, noted that he is trying to get in touch with his buildings and grounds directors to see if they can provide more on the match as well as to confirm that the cost estimate is accurate.

Janell Woodward noted the possibility of switching the Buckeye Road project with Washoe County's as they are just one point apart.

Andrew Trelease moved to prioritize the projects in order of the numerical as listed except for to switch to make Buckeye the last project on the list. Solome Barton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Carson City Generator Project
2. Douglas County Waterloo Culvert Project
3. Nye County Courts and Information Technology Complex Flood Control Project
4. Douglas County East Valley Road Arch Culvert Project
5. Washoe County Avalanche Signage Project
6. Douglas County Buckeye Road Box Culvert Project

Janell Woodward noted that this will be the recommendation that goes to the chief, but that the Buckeye application will still be sent in as a backup project.

6. STATE ENHANCED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (SEHMP)

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, reminded the working group that DEM/HS's plan and program were enhanced last October and that getting the plan updated happens in a five-year cycle. As such, Ms. Woodward noted that in the future, DEM/HS will again be reaching out to different SMEs to update the hazard sections, and then having the committee look at the content of the plan. Ms. Woodward indicated that in the past, DEM/HS has taken the existing plan and built on it, but noted that everything in it is not required, and therefore, it could be shortened. Ms. Woodward informed the working group that they will be a big part of the updating so as all parties can have a say in the revisions.

7. NHMWG MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, noted that recurring meeting invites for the whole year have been sent out, with two more occurring in 2024, one in September and then a final one in December.

8. Public Comment

Chair Bill Elliott opened the second period of public comment.
There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Chair Bill Elliott asked for a motion to adjourn. Andrew Trelease moved to adjourn the May 15, 2024 Nevada Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting at 10:21am. Ceira Sampson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.