

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

2:00 P.M.

JANUARY 6, 2017

PRESENT:

**Bob Lucey, Chair**  
**Marsha Berkbigler, Vice Chair**  
**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**  
**Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

**Nancy Parent, County Clerk**  
**John Slaughter, County Manager**  
**Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 2:00 p.m. in an Emergency Meeting in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**17-0011      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

There was no public comment on this item.

Paul Lipparelli explained the nature of an emergency meeting was to discuss items only related to the emergency. He stated the emergency declaration would need to be ratified at a future meeting. He noted this meeting was called to discuss the pending storms and the actions needed for an emergency to be declared.

**17-0012      AGENDA ITEM 4 Presentation on current and short term weather conditions and associated impacts on Washoe County. Manager (All Commission Districts.)**

Jon Mittelstadt from the National Weather Service conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reviewed slides entitled: Atmospheric River Simulation; Initial Hit of Snow, Freezing Rain Saturday; Prolonged, Strong Atmospheric River Saturday – Monday; Truckee River @ Reno; Truckee River @ Vista; Messaging; Words of Advice; Hazards Timeline; Sunday – Monday Snowfall Projections; Top Messages; and Truckee River @ Reno. He highlighted the areas that would be affected the most and stated the National Weather Service were confident that flooding would occur. He indicated more storms were projected for the following week.

Chair Lucey stated the rainfall from the impending storm would accumulate to an amount equal to the average annual amount of rainfall.

Jay Aldean, Executive Director of Truckee River Flood Project, explained additional details of the maps that Mr. Mittelstadt's presented. He stated the maps were a simulation of the 2005-2006 flood events and indicated the yellow areas specified flooding up to 1 foot, the orange areas specified flooding up to 2 feet and the red areas specified flooding over 2 feet. He said some of the red areas were flooded as much as 9 feet. He stated the upper section of the airport was clear and planes would be able to arrive and depart. He explained the need for available shelter for the homeless during flooding.

There was no public comment on this item.

**17-0013**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Discussion and possible declaration of state of emergency due to the anticipated effects of the series of high-precipitation storms predicted for Northern Nevada including possible flooding of the Truckee River and other local natural and constructed drainage facilities. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

County Manager John Slaughter stated he had copies of the declarations of emergency from the Cities of Reno and Sparks, which would be distributed to the Board. The declarations were placed on file with the Clerk.

Chair Lucey asked if Mr. Slaughter could outline the purpose of the declaration of emergency for the Board.

Mr. Slaughter replied the County's resources would be strained over the upcoming days. He indicated the declarations for the Cities of Reno and Sparks would be provided to the Governor with the County's declaration. He stated the County was prepared and had started discussions with the State for resources such as the National Guard, Nevada Division of Forestry and other resources from outside of the area. He said when the Governor recognized the declaration, the resources would begin moving towards the County to position themselves in preparation for flooding. He stated there were other items that the declaration would allow him to purchase that were necessary during an emergency.

Commissioner Lucey said he knew the County had the Governor's complete support during the emergency.

Legal Counsel Paul Lipparelli explained the process to declare the emergency. He indicated if the Commissioners were not available to gather, Mr. Slaughter would determine the need to call the state of emergency. He stated the declaration of emergency would last until the need for it was completed. He reiterated that emergencies triggered costs for overtime, equipment and other out of the ordinary items.

Commissioner Herman wondered if there was a downside to determining a state of emergency so soon.

Mr. Slaughter stated considerable discussion had taken place regarding the timing of the declaration. He indicated the resources would need time to be positioned within the flood areas and declaring the emergency at this meeting would provide them with the needed time.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the written Declaration of State of Emergency be approved.

There was no public comment on this item.

**17-0014**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Public Comment.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

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**2:28 p.m.**      There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**BOB LUCEY**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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**NANCY PARENT**, County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk*