

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
October 22, 2009
Minutes

On October 22, 2009, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Kletting Room of the Senate Building on Capitol Hill in Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Roger Evans called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Members Present:

-Roger Evans	Chair, Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Peter W. McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architects
-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
-Sheila Curtis	Utah Insurance Department
-Leon Berrett	American Public Works Association
-Mike Morley	Utah House of Representatives

Members Not Present:

-Keith Squires	Division of Homeland Security
-Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
-Jake Watson	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Fred Doehring	Utah Department of Transportation
-Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
-Senator Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
-Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
-Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning
-Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)

USSC Staff Present:

-Bob Carey	Mitigation & Natural Hazards Section, DHS
-Karen Vetterli	Mitigation & Natural Hazards Section, DHS
-Chris DuRoss	Geologic Hazards Program, Utah Geological Survey

Guests Present:

-Barry Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Chet Rosenbahn	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Curtis Earl	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Frank Bistolfo	The Quake Brace Company
-Shane Bergen	The Quake Brace Company
-Steve Bowman	Utah Geological Survey

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

Chair Roger Evans welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance and asked for introductions.

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the July meeting.**

Motion: *Peter McDonough made a motion to approve minutes from previous meeting. Barry Smith seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.*

Roger Evans presented a list of five goals for this year to help move issues further along. Roger is encouraging all commission members to be more proactive on Commission issues. He will email everyone the list of goals; contact him if there are subjects you want to participate in.

- 1) Fund a Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory. Approximately 58% of Utah schools were constructed before 1975 when seismic regulations became a significant part of earthquake design provisions. The USSC plans to continue efforts to fund a seismic-hazard inventory through the Utah legislature (2010 House Bill 072).
- 2) Conduct a sample Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory (pilot project). The Commission has received a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to conduct a sample School Seismic Hazard Inventory. The sample will include date of construction and any additions or alterations; whether any seismic rehabilitation has been done on the school; and if possible, a description of the level of seismic retrofit performed.
- 3) Continue distributing the Putting Down Roots handbook. There has been continued success with the Roots handbook; Bob Carey will lead efforts to publish and distribute more copies, and consider a Spanish translation of the publication.
- 4) Follow up on Joint Resolution 7 – Recognizing Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URMs). The USSC plans to continue work with the Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU) to compile an inventory of all public URMs in Utah.
- 5) Update the USSC Web site. It is important that the USSC site be a focus point for advertising the message of earthquake safety and preparedness, as well as a source for seismic-hazard information.

Roger also encouraged the commission to become more involved with representatives during the Legislative session this year.

- **Bob Carey and Barry Welliver** attended the Existing Buildings Committee meeting. The discussion focused on how to survey Utah schools for seismic safety. A major issue brought up by the Legislature was for the Commission to review data from school seismic safety surveys previously conducted by school districts. The existing data should be collected from the Office of Education or directly from the districts. There is a supplemental \$68,000.00 grant from FEMA that can be used toward collecting the information. \$50,000.00 is earmarked toward collecting the data; the remaining money will be used to create an earthquake-scenario document using HAZUS runs to determine losses in a major Wasatch Front earthquake.

The FEMA money can also be used for other projects the commission deems necessary. A discussion followed:

- Inventorying schools (via Rapid Visual Screening [RVS]) would take many months to complete; there is not enough time before the 2010 legislature convenes.
 - Roger questioned if there is a complete list of all school buildings. Each district has a list of work completed, but there is not current total list of buildings.
 - 2009 House Bill 330 – Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory (2010 House Bill 072) should be looking at all state schools.
 - An important part of the pilot program will be who collects and compiles the information.
 - The standard RVS method should be used.
 - A management committee should be appointed to decide who will do the work. There is an 18 month timeline, starting October 1, 2009, for work to be completed, before the contract is over.
-
- **Bob Carey** gave presentation on the Penrose earthquake damage. Penrose is nine miles southwest of Tremonton. The event was fairly small but the damage from this earthquake happened three days after the event. Pictures of the damage was to an unreinforced masonry building.
 - **Barry Welliver** reported for the Existing Building Committee. This committee is working in conjunction with the Commission's URM ad-hoc committee. The committee is mainly working with URM projects.
 - **Projects**
 - Fisher Mansion
 - Updating the URM manual
 - Midway mitigation grant
 - Building code map, updating
 - RVS for schools
 - Reaching out to other organizations for suggestions.
 - Retrofit needs to be defined.

Chris DuRoss introduced the new Utah Seismic Safety Commission website, www.ussc.utah.gov. The Web site now has “What’s New,” “Publications,” and “Contact Us” tabs. Chris asked commissioners to provide comments, updates, or new links or publications via email.

➤ **DISCUSSION**

Bob Carey reported there are only 10 boxes of “Putting Down Roots”, and is hoping to order 50,000 more copies. A volunteer group will translate the book to Spanish. Bob also gave numbers and locations for the ATC-20 training throughout the state. There is a new version of HAZUS, training is planned for early in 2010.

Motion: *Roger Evans made a motion to adjourn at 11:12A.M. Motion seconded by Barry Smith. Motion was unanimously approved.*

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Capitol Hill Kletting Room.

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**