

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
January 21, 2010
Minutes

On January 21, 2010, 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	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Peter W. McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
-Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architects
-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
-Sheila Curtis	Utah Insurance Department
-Mike Morley	Utah House of Representatives
-Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
-Jake Watson	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning

Members Not Present:

-Keith Squires	Division of Homeland Security
-Fred Doehring	Utah Department of Transportation
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
-Senator Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
-Leon Berrett	American Public Works Association
-Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
-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
-Curtis Earl	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Steve Bowman	Utah Geological Survey
-Bruce Spiegel	Utah Risk Management
-Kris Pankow	University of Utah Seismic Station
-Kim Baxter	Division of Facilities Management
-Larry Wiley	Utah Legislature
-Carmen Swanwich	Utah Department of Transportation
-Kim Higbee	Utah Department of Transportation

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

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

➤ **Legislative Update**

Representative Wiley updated the committee on House Bill 72 – School Seismic Hazard Inventory and House Bill 77 – Seismic Requirements for Condominium Conversion Projects.

1) House Bill 72 showed no changes from 2009. The budget is problematic this year and House Bill 72 is not likely to pass with a fiscal note. Representative Wiley suggested removing the fiscal note.

The USSC discussed House Bill 72:

- It has been suggested that the Commission should be more vocal and let the Governor know how important this bill is to the safety of our children.
- The Utah Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) does not have school information other than for insurance purposes. That responsibility belongs to the individual school districts and boards.
- Roger suggested starting an email campaign with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to put pressure on school districts and (or) boards.
- The school districts and the state share this responsibility. The number of seismically vulnerable schools should be on the table as a negotiation tool to get the program started.
 - It has been decided that the lack of cooperation from school districts is due to the lack of funding.
 - There is a bill for federal money to assess schools seismically. All schools need to be inspected by the same standards.
 - The goal of the Commission is to prioritize schools within the state that belong on the list for seismic upgrades.
 - Representative Wiley asked what is needed to move forward. The response was to request a meeting and support from the Governor's Office.

- 2) House Bill 77 addresses apartment conversions to condominiums. This is a seismic issue for unreinforced masonry buildings, this law needs to be updated. This bill is a requirement of Salt Lake City, that requires owners to upgrade.

Motion: *Barry Smith made a motion to modify the House Bill 72 concerning the fiscal note. Motion seconded by Rick Allis. Motion was unanimously approved.*

Motion: *Rick Allis made a motion to modify House Bill 72 to eliminate the fiscal note so that it can move to a standing committee. Motion seconded by Barry Smith. Motion was unanimously approved.*

Motion: *Rick Allis made a motion to approve minutes of the previous meeting. Motion seconded by Barry Smith. Motion was unanimously approved.*

- **Barry Welliver** is requesting a copy of the ISIS report. This is a report that needs to be printed with all information and a copy given to each one of the legislators.

Motion: *Jake Watson made a motion to appropriate funds to print the report. Motion seconded by Barry Smith. Motion was unanimously approved.*

- **Chris Pankow** from the University of Utah Seismograph station gave an earthquake presentation describing activity around the world and in Utah. The website for the University is <http://quake.utah.edu>.
- **Bob Carey** briefed the USSC on the upcoming 2012 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) exercise. The exercise scenario is a catastrophic earthquake event. The event will be exercising the FEMA and State catastrophic plan and is scheduled for three days.
 - Bob also discussed the U.S. Geological Survey Pager product. It is a system similar to Shakemap. This product is considered a tool for responders.
- **Chris DuRoss** requested feedback on the USSC website. Any suggestions should be emailed to Chris (christopherduross@utah.gov).
 - Chris gave an update on the fault trenching to take place in Salt Lake Valley this May. This project is funded by a federal grant.
- **Steve Bowman** talked about the Earthquake working groups function taking place on September 11, 2010. Please register so he can plan accordingly.
- **Sheila Curtis** discussed the National Disaster Recovery Stakeholder forum Presented by FEMA. This is a long term recovery program President Obama is supporting. There is a website to follow progress of several groups involved.

Page 4 of 4

- **Rick Allis** reported on the Governor's Science Awards.
 - Bill Lund (UGS) received an award for earthquake studies completed in the state.
 - Reavely and Associates received an award for their work seismically retrofitting buildings in the state.

- **Bob Carey** reported on the USSC budget. There is a \$14,000 balance.
 - The middle school project in Yellowstone will be approximately \$1,000.
 - The 2000–2007 USSC Progress Report is complete and ready to be printed. A printed version of the report will be available at the next USSC meeting.
 - Water suggested that the progress report be available on the USSC Web site.

- It has been suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be produced and signed between the Division of Homeland Security and the Utah Seismic Safety Commission regarding USSC funding.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Capitol Hill Kletting Room.

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**