

# Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting  
July 7, 2000

## Minutes

On July 7, 2000, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at the State Office Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by the Chairman Walter Arabasz.

### **Members Present:**

-Walter J. Arabasz	Chair/Seismic Safety Comm.-U of U Seismograph Stations
-Karla M. Barnes	Utah Insurance Department
-Don Bush	Utah House of Representatives
-Kimm Harty	Acting Director of Utah Geological Survey
-Michael C. Helmantoler	Association of Contingency Planners
-Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
-Peter W. McDonough	Questar/American Society of Civil Engineers
-Earl R. Morris	Utah Division of Emergency Management/DPS
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Construction & Management
-Dave Nazare	Utah Department of Transportation
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architect
-Anne Von Weller	Utah League of Cities & Towns/Murray City
-Barry H. Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah

### **Members Not Present:**

Jake Arslanian	American Public Works Association
Dan Bauer	State Science Advisor, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Steve Pratt	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Randall G. Updike	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

### **CEM Staff Present:**

-Bob Carey	Liaison, Operations & Plans Section, CEM
-Amisha Stringfellow	Liaison, Operations & Plans Section, CEM

**UGS Staff Present:**

-Francis X. Ashland	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
-Gary Christensen	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
-Sandy Eldredge	Information Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
-Barry Solomon	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey

**Guests Present/Committee Members:**

-Carl H. Carpenter	Consulting Engineer
-Jill Marie Fritsche	U. of U. student
-Jan Gibbons	Schools Subcommittee
-Marv Halling	Utah State University
-Brian Law	A & E Committee
-Pat Lewis	A & E Committee
-Sue Nava	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Eric Olsen	A & E Committee
-Tricia Porter	A & E Committee
-Bruce Spiegel	A & E Committee
-Mike Stever	A & E Committee
-Val Wiltsey	A & E Committee (State Office of Education)

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**.....

Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) Chairman Walter Arabasz welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**.....

**Motion:** *Anne Von Weller, Utah League of Cities & Towns made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on April 7, 2000. Peter McDonough seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved*

➤ **ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHAIR**.....

Walter Arabasz first excused himself from the meeting then a discussion of the new chairman took place.

**Motion:** *Anne Von Weller nominated Walter Arabasz for Chair of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission. The Commission discussed the nomination for the new chairman. The nomination was unanimously approved.*

➤ **INFORMATION UPDATES**

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Walter Arabasz introduced and welcomed 3 new members to the Commission. Karla Barnes, Utah Insurance Department, Michael Helmantoler, Association of Contingency Planners, and Jake Arslanian, American Public Works Association are welcomed and thanked for joining the Commission.

Walter made a motion to thank Jim Bailey for his exceptional work for the Commission.

**Motion:** *On the occasion of the end of Jim Bailey's term of service on the Utah Seismic Safety Commission as the representative of the Structural Engineers Association of Utah, Walter moved to thank Jim, first, for his dedicated service to the Commission since it's origin in 1994, including his leadership and efforts on the Engineering and Architecture Standing Committee, and, second, for his prior service from 1991 to 1994 to the Utah Earthquake Advisory Board, the predecessor of this Commission. Barry Welliver seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.*

Walter made a special thanks to Barry Solomon for his hard work on the Utah Geological Survey during these past three years. Frank Ashland is to be taking his place on the staff.

Walter spoke on the WSSPC 2000 Annual Meeting will be held in Seattle on September 17-22, 2000. All are encouraged to attend the annual meeting. FEMA is sponsoring a one-day meeting, during the WSSPC Conference, for chairman of all the Seismic Safety Committees throughout the Country. On behalf of the Committee, Walter will be attending the WSSPC Meeting in September.

Barry Welliver, Engineering & Architectural Committee, followed up to the Educational task force for Utah carpet ordinance. The UBCC through their structural advisory committee has taken on the task of preparing a brochure to educate the general public, building official, and those who need to know of the current regulations regarding the carpet ordinance.

Karla Barnes, Utah Department of Insurance, spoke on the FEMA proposed insurance regulation. The express goal of FEMA is to reduce federal disaster costs, while still protecting the state and the local flexibility and their interests. However, the path and the rules that they are taking, is to move most of the burden from the federal level to the state and local government level. They are also hoping to move costs to insurance companies. It has to be pre-insurance and not post-insurance.

Bob Carey, CEM, spoke on the Fault Line Forum. The Fault Line Forum is a publication that is put out quarterly by the Utah Geological Survey. The Utah Geological Survey was no longer able to publish this and CEM has volunteered to assist in the publishing the Fault Line Forum. UGS, along with CEM will help with the editing responsibilities on the Forum. The funding for the publication will come from USSC and the Earthquake Program at CEM.

Barry Solomon, UGS, spoke on the budget status for USSC. There was 3 contributions to the income last year. The first was a carry forward from the prior fiscal year, an \$8,000 transfer from CEM to help pay for the draft of the Progress Report of Commission Activities for the past four years, and the second was the funding from the legislature. After the reduction of significant items for the coming fiscal year, there is estimated to be approximately \$6100.00 left for other commission activities.

➤ **STATUS & DISCUSSION OF (1) REPORT TO LEGISLATURE AND (2) UTAH ELEMENT OF AN ADVANCED NATIONAL SEISMIC SYSTEM (ANSS)**\_\_\_\_\_

Walter spoke on the report to legislature and ANSS. The report to the Legislature is still under construction and is to finished by the fall USSC meeting. Whereas, the national management plan for an Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) urges the information of local coalitions of earth scientists, emergency managers, engineers, and other users of earthquake information products and services to help guide the implementation of an ANSS.

**Motion:** *Walter Arabasz moved that the Utah Seismic Safety Commission agree, first, to be a facilitator for the formation and functioning of such a stakeholder group in the state of Utah and, second, to be a partner with the U.S. Geological Survey in advancing the goals of an ANSS. Kimm Harty seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.*

➤ **STATUS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**\_\_\_\_\_

Gary Christensen, UGS, reported on the Geo-Science Committee updates. After looking over the Strategic Plan, the Geo-Science Committee has created four main goals to achieve in the near future. Instrumentation is the first goal, second, guidelines for local governments, third, to run an effective conference, and last will be to hold workshops for various professional organizations.

Bob Carey, CEM, reported on the updates for the Awareness & Education Committee. After great consideration, the Awareness & Education Committee and the Emergency Management Standing Committee have decided to combine into one Committee. The A & E Committee is now working on getting out information of the risks and hazards throughout the state. Disclosure for real-estate transactions is also in the works for the future.

Peter McDonough, American Society of Civil Engineers, reported on the Lifelines Committee updates. The Lifeline Committee in Utah has always been rather small. The Lifelines Committee took on an extensive project 3 years ago to contact all the municipalities and utilities within the state to solicit information of their primary lifeline facilities. With this information, the goal is to incorporate this information on to a GIS based map that will also show seismic risk. Lifelines is also hoping to put together a statewide conference relating to these issues.

Barry Welliver, reported on the Engineering & Architectural Committee updates. Max Gregerson has just recently resigned from the Engineering & Architecture Committee. A goal for the coming year is to look for opportunities to fit in among other activities throughout the state.

➤ **REPORTS FROM THE BREAKOUT GROUPS**\_\_\_\_\_

Bob Carey reported on the Awareness & Education Committee breakout information. The A & E Committee wants a general information sheet that will explain how building codes work for the general public. Also, a frequently asked questions format to go along with that as well. A brochure on non-structural hazards as it relates to homes was also thought to give good information. Another brochure to guide older home and business owners to information on existing buildings. A resource sheet that listed other information such as web-sites and books or magazines was thought to help the public turn in the right direction. Then bringing this information to the public through the state and county fairs, the library system, emergency managers and through inserting it inside utility bills.

Bruce Spiegel, Risk Management, reported on the Geo-Science Committee breakout information. The Geo-Science Committee thought an impact map that not only shows where the faults are, but what areas would be impacted would be useful for the community. A statewide exercise involving schools and businesses would also be beneficial for the communities. An informational statewide video on how to prepare for an earthquake would be useful for the public. An informational sheet for businesses specifically on “How To’s” and how to ask for help will greatly benefit businesses.

Anne Von Weller, Utah League of Cities & Towns, reported on the Engineering & Architectural Committee. Distribution of a flow chart and hazard maps for future homebuyers will greatly inform the public on different steps to take when buying a home. A list of resources would be beneficial because there is so much information out there already. Also a handout on disclosure for lenders, insurers, and appraisers would be useful for helping these types of people to consider disclosure during their business.

Peter McDonough, American Society of Civil Engineers, reported on the Lifelines Committee breakout discussion. Lifelines would like to make an information sheet just on changes of the building codes over the years. They would also like to make a sheet of contact people and web-sites and links to other web-sites for the public to use.

➤ **COMMISSION FOCUS AND WRAP-UP** \_\_\_\_\_

Walter Arabasz spoke on the commission focus. The USSC acts as a source of information for individuals and groups concerned with earthquake safety and as a promoter of earthquake loss reduction measures. The acting chairs of each committee should review what has come about as far as informational sheets then bring the committees together and discuss realistic goals for the near future. Then it is to be decided what informational sheets are to be completed and a future deadline to have possible packets distributed.

➤ **NEXT MEETING** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** Friday, October 13, 2000  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT** \_\_\_\_\_

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.