

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
October 12, 2001

Minutes

On October 12, 2001 a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at the State Office Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. The Chairman Walter Arabasz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
-Walter J. Arabasz	Seismic Safety Comm.-U of U Seismograph Stations
-Kerry Baum	Association of Contingency Planners
-Scott Behunin	Utah Division of Emergency Management/DPS
-Don Bush	Utah House of Representatives
-Cathy Howick	Utah Insurance Department
-Peter W. McDonough	Chair, American Society of Civil Engineers
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architect
-Anne vonWeller	Utah League of Cities & Towns/Murray City
-Barry H. Welliver	Vice-Chair, Structural Engineers Association of Utah

Members Not Present:

Jake Arslanian	American Public Works Association
Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Construction & Management
Dave Nazare	Utah Department of Transportation
Randall G. Updike	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Suzanne Winters	State Science Advisor, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget

CEM Staff Present:

-Bob Carey	Operations & Natural Hazards Section, CEM
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UGS Staff Present:

-Frank Ashland	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
-Gary Christenson	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey

Guests Present/Committee Members:

-Roy Adams	A & R Resources LLC
-Brian Law	Davis Co. Emergency Management
-John Michaelson	Tooele Co. Emergency Management
-Tricia Porter	Provo City Emergency Management

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**.....

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

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**.....

Pete McDonough asked for any correction to the minutes, noting that he wanted ASEA to be placed after his name.

Motion: *Barry Smith, Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architect, made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on July 13, 2001, with the correction. Barry Welliver seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **INFORMATION UPDATES**.....

Peter McDonough, Chair, ASCE, spoke to his vision for the Commission during his term. He would like to build on past successes, revive committees and if inactive, combine or eliminate those committees. Barry Welliver, Vice-Chair, spoke to his vision of work from the strategic plan. The future appears to be more difficult, however it could be more rewarding as new battles are won.

Peter McDonough presented to Commission with a proposal to give plaques to past chairs of the Commission.

Motion: *Peter McDonough made a motion to present plaques to the past Chairs of the Commission. Scott Behunin seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.*

Frank Ashland reviewed the USSC budget. Copy will be placed in the minutes. Frank had some concerns on costs that appeared in the category for Walter's travel and some other areas. He said that he would look into problem and report back to the Commission.

Frank reported on the progress of the "Research in Seismic Safety and Awareness" projects from secondary education. Projects can come from any academic study as long as it relates to the subject matter. A committee was needed to make any final decisions on awarding projects. Volunteer Committee members include Barry Welliver, Rick Allis, and Cathy Howick. Suzanne Winters was mentioned as another possible member of the committee.

Motion: *Anne vonWeller mad a motion to limit USSC budget contributions to \$1000 for the “Research in Seismic Safety and Awareness” projects. Walter Arabasz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.*

Bob Carey, CEM, spoke to changes in the Fault Line Forum. Diversity in the articles needs to be the main change to the Fault Line Forum. It was suggested that the Forum might have an editorial section in the future.

Barry Welliver presented ideas for the commission’s web site, which is included with the minutes. He posed the question of how to proceed, where will the home of the web site be located, and if it stays with the Department of Public Safety (DPS), getting access. Through further discussion by the Commission it was decided that the web site would stay with DPS, access would be acquired for Barry to be the web master and a simpler domain would be created.

Barry Welliver also spoke on how the International Building Code does not yet have provisions in it for existing buildings comparable to the present Uniform Code for Building Conservation (UCBS). The current UCBS has provisions for existing building, but still has problems on when and how existing buildings provisions kick-in for rehabilitation. Ann vonWeller mentioned that Senator Hellewell was drafting new seismic provisions on new construction for the next legislative session. However, the challenge for existing buildings was “what triggers” rehabilitation. Representative Bush recommended that a priority list of existing building types be created to establish a hierarchy for review. Walter Arabasz suggested that a white paper be drafted on the existing building question. Additionally, the concerns over the existing building questions should be carried to the appropriate legislative committee.

Bob Carey spoke to the problems he was having acquiring the building stock data from the LDS Church for Hazus. The ensuing decision was centered around drafting a letter on Commission letterhead, signed by the Chair, offering an explanation about the request for data and intended use of data.

Motion: *Ann vonWeller moved to create a generic letter to be mailed out to non-profit organizations explaining Hazus and the intended use of the data. Walter Arabasz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

Roy Adams, an adjunct professor with the University of Utah, spoke to the Commission about a Seismic Hazards Symposium for the general public some time in late March or April. He asked the Commission to help sponsor and if possible, help fund the event. Discuss followed the brief presentation.

Motion: *Pete McDonough moved for the USSC to endorse and sponsor the Symposium on Seismic Hazards and contribute up to \$1000 in funding support. Barry Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.*

➤ **STATUS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**_____

Pete McDonough asked for committee reports. Bob Carey stated that his committee meets by e-mail and would help with the symposium as well as earthquake month in April. Barry Welliver wanted to combine other structural committees with his standing committee. Gary Christenson stated that his committee was working on a brochure on the new microzonation maps.

➤ **CURRENT EVENTS**_____

The balance of the Commission meeting dealt with a discussion on the seismicity in western Utah. The Commission Chair and Vice-Chair felt that a discussion on western seismicity with the Commission would bring clarity to some current events. The discussion was on active faults in the region, recurrence intervals for those faults, and which faults posed the most danger to the built environment in the region. Questions were posed as to the safety of the stored chemical weapons in Tooele, at the disposal site, at Dugway and the proposed nuclear storage facility in Skull Valley. The discussion that follow centered around identifying and quantifying the hazards through earth science investigations, engineering around those identified hazards and presenting the those facts and solutions to a regulatory body whose responsibility is to protect the public.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**_____

DATE: Friday, January 11, 2002
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: Room 1110, State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**_____

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.