

Utah Seismic Safety Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes

On July 30, 2015, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Kletting Room of the Utah State Senate Building. Chair Leon Berrett called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Members Present:

M. Leon Berrett, Chair	American Public Works Association
Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
Enzo Calfa	Division of Facilities, Construction and Management
Kris Hamlet	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Meldee Love	Utah Department of Insurance
Gerald McKenzie	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Carmen Swanwick	Utah Department of Transportation
Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning
Craig Kerkman	Association of Contingency Planners
Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey

USSC Staff Present:

Steve Bowman	Utah Geological Survey
Adam Hiscock	Utah Geological Survey
Bob Carey	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Sheila Curtis	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Judy Watanabe	Utah Division of Emergency Management
John Crofts	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Katie LeLaCheur	Staff Recorder

Guests Present:

Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Barry Welliver	BHW Engineers
Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Jennifer Youngfield	Utah Department of Education
Kris Pankow	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Sheryl Peterson	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Jim Higbee	Utah Department of Transportation
Gregg Beukelman	Utah Geological Survey
Cheryl Hersh Simmons	Utah Department of Transportation
Cory Lyman	Salt Lake City Emergency Management

Members Not Present:

Senator Jerry Stevenson	Utah State Senate
Mark Peterson	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Rep. Gage Froerer	Utah House of Representatives
Keith Koper	University of Utah Seismograph Stations

Welcome and Introduction

Introduction were made of members and guests present. Pete McDonough made a motion for the approval of the April 30, 2015 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Roger Evans. A few minor corrections were made to the minutes. With these corrections the minutes were approved.

Nominations and Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

Walter Arabasz was asked to preside. He briefly reviewed the nominations and elections process. Any Commission member can nominate themselves and a nomination does not need a second. Only Commission members can vote. He then opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Leon Berrett was nominated for the position of Chair. Nominations were closed by a unanimous vote. Walter asked for a vote for Leon Berrett continuing as chair. The vote was unanimous. Walter commented on the positions of the Vice Chairs and then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairs. Leon made a motion for the current Vice Chairs, Rick Allis and Keith Koper, to continue in the positions as Vice Chairs. The nominations were closed by unanimous consent. Walter asked for a vote for the continuance of the current Vice Chairs. The vote was unanimous. Leon thanked Walter for presiding and introduced the next agenda item.

Review of Action Items

Leon Berrett reviewed the list of action items from the last meeting. Most of these items will be covered by the agenda. He then asked Bob Carey to comment on the status of the progress report. Bob stated that progress report will be completed by the beginning of the next legislative session. He explained that John Crofts had been brought on to help with the completion of the progress report. The format will be similar to those that have been done in the past. Each Commissioner will need to write up a review of what their agency has done, in regards to seismic safety, over the past 5 years. Leon asked Bob to send out instructions for what he is looking for in an email.

Commission Photo

Commission members were asked to gather for a group photo on the steps of the

Capital.

Website Update

Steve Bowman provided the Commission with a tour of the new website. He commented that if the Commission approves that the new website could go live by mid to late August. There are still a few updates that need to be made before the website can go live. Steve reviewed all of the documents and photos that have been scanned and placed on the website including meeting agendas, minutes, and all documents that the USSC has produced. Pete questioned the description of the USSC. Walter responded that this language came from the statute that created the Commission. Leon asked for any other comments or questions. Jennifer Youngfield from the State Office of Education asked if they could put maps, of seismic zones or areas of seismicity in the state, on the website. The University of Utah Seismograph Stations have created a seismicity map and are currently working on epicenter and quaternary fault maps. Rick suggested that they put some of the figures from the Putting Down Roots document on the website. Walter added that it may also be helpful to encourage the public to send suggestions to the email address listed on the website. The discussion continued into the need for the website to be less technical and more user friendly for the general public. The web site address will remain ussc.utah.gov. Rick Allis made a motion to adopt the new website. Kris Hamlet seconded the motion. The motion passed.

EERI Earthquake Scenario

Les Youd spoke to the Commission about the Earthquake Scenario. The scenario is an estimate of the aftermath of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on the Salt Lake City Segment. After today it can be distributed to anyone. They want to make it available so it can be used. A copy of the scenario will be online. EERI wrote this scenario with the USSC as their audience. They would like to see the Commission put together a distribution list of people they feel should have this information. Dr. Youd took a moment to mention several individuals who were involved in the creation of the scenario. He thanked them for their efforts. Next Dr. Youd asked Bob Carey to comment on the scenario. Bob reviewed the history on how this project came together. He then explained that at the end of the scenario is a list of recommendations to the Utah Seismic Safety Commission. Bob and Dr. Youd reviewed the list of recommendations with the Commission. Bob commented that another challenge with putting the Earthquake Scenario document together was that they are also working on the Catastrophic Earthquake Plan, from FEMA Region VIII, with the State of Utah. The information is supposed to be the same in both documents. They have taken some liberties with the Catastrophic Plan because it is supposed to be a worst case scenario. Because of this there may be some variations between the two documents but the base data is the

same. Bob suggested that they orchestrate a news release now that the document has been released to the Commission. He also reiterated the need for a distribution list and stated that he could be contacted for copies of the document. Walter mentioned that there is a very compelling argument that comes from a document, like the Earthquake Scenario, when you are talking to the Governor's Office or the Legislature. With this scenario you can point at specific numbers for the expected losses and recovery needs. Leon commented that it would be helpful to set up a meeting with the Governor to give him a synopsis of the document. He continued to mention some other possible organizations that should be made aware of the Earthquake Scenario.

Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) School Report Update

Barry Welliver gave the USSC an update of the RVS reports. He began with some background information. The school districts that do not already have rapid visual screening data available have been identified and prioritized. The State Office of Education is working with Reevely Engineers to complete the RVS reports of the schools that have not been done. Jennifer Youngfield gave an update from the State Office of Education. They have been working their way through the list and getting RVS reports completed for the school districts on the list. Jennifer then explained that she still has some questions about what some of the next steps should be. Barry responded that this was a point he wanted to raise as well. He stated that there needs to be a regrouping of the efforts for this project. They have accomplished a lot up to this point and now they need to regroup the efforts and move forward. They need to identify who needs to be involved in making the final decisions on how to spend the remaining funds. Until these decisions are made the process will not be able to move forward. Jennifer commented that another concern is whether or not the charter schools can be included in the list. In a couple of months the State Office of Education will have a better idea of what still needs to happen as well as what funding is still available. At that time they will approach the Commission again for support and recommendations.

Salt Lake City Seismic Initiatives

Corey Lyman spoke to the Commission about the Salt Lake Seismic Initiatives. The Building Occupancy Resumption Program (BORP) was passed 2 years ago and yet no one has adopted the program. Salt Lake has set aside fifty thousand dollars to provide incentives for people to start taking advantage of the opportunities that are currently available. They have put together an ad hoc group to come up with a framework of how incentivize these programs. FEMA will match the fifty thousand dollars from the city with up to two million dollars in funding. They have set a deadline to have this framework in place by March. To start with they will offer a matching incentive to homeowners and building owners that is a 70/30 division of funding. They are planning a big media

campaign where they hope to publicize the information on the incentives. Corey expressed his hope that everyone can work together to make this a successful statewide initiative.

Utah Guide for URM Seismic Safety/Existing Buildings

Glen Palmer gave the Commission an update on the Utah Guide for URM Seismic Safety. They are working to get this document published right away. The point of this document is to educate people about the seismic safety of their homes. A joint SEAU and USSC committee took on the task of revising and updating this guide. They worked to keep this document aimed at homeowners and small residential contractors. They feel that they have made several major improvements.

- Chapter 1 contains an introduction of the problems with URMs
- Chapter 2 goes through some basic steps for evaluating the current state of the home
- Chapter 3 describes in more detail the history of the design and why the designs are a problem now
- Chapter 4 shows basic structural elements
- Chapter 5 describes some of the specific features of different types of URM homes
- Chapter 6 contains the actual mitigation breakdown
- Chapter 7 contains information on the non structural items

Glen stated that this has been a major effort and he thanked the committee for their work. Leon asked what formats this document will be published in. Glen responded that both electronic or hard copies will be available.

Public Outreach (PTA, ULCT)

Leon gave an update on the public outreach. The PTA had their annual conference. He thanked the Commission members who spent time down at their booth. Glen mentioned that another thing that they have done is hold training sessions on the URM guide that is coming out. They will also be presenting the guide to the Utah League of Cities and Towns. The committee is looking for opportunities to spread the word and provide training on this Guide. Corey suggested that they document the first few upgrades and include that information in the trainings as well.

NEMA Earthquake Subcommittee Update

Kris Hamlet provided the NEMA Earthquake Subcommittee update. At the NEMA Board of directors meeting it was decided that they would align the Earthquake Subcommittee with the Hurricane Committee that falls under response and recovery.

This subcommittee will form before the Fall Annual Forum. That is where the subcommittee will be introduced formally. One of the big topics for this subcommittee will be bringing back the funding, from FEMA, on the Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program. The NEMA Earthquake Subcommittee should be up and running by the end of the year.

Other Business

The USSC and Nevada joint meeting will be on November 10th. The hotel they have booked is the Eldorado Hotel and Casino. They have reserved the Brew Brothers Pub for an informal dinner on November 9th. A draft of the agenda was given to all of the Commission members. Sheila asked that if anyone wanted to add anything or had changes to let her know. More information will be emailed to the Commission members.

Steve mentioned that Lee Liberty from Boise State University recently finished some field work in Salt Lake City. He was working to get some better subsurface on the Wasatch Fault through town. It was a joint project between Lee and the Seismograph Stations. Kris Pankow explained they use a combination of active and passive source seismicity to get shallow velocity structures. One of the hopes was to image to fault as well. The data that he collected looks quite spectacular so far. This information will be very important for understanding how seismic waves will amplify in a strong earthquake. The report should be available by this spring.

Kris Pankow told the Commission about recent seismic activity. Oklahoma has had several magnitude 4 earthquakes. These were induced earthquakes caused by fluid from the wells. With this type of earthquake the maximum magnitude relates to the volume of fluid. Oklahoma has actually shut down 3 wells because of the earthquakes. The fluid in the ground started the first big event that then triggered more seismic activity. These types of events have also been seen in Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Kris continued to inform the Commission about recent local earthquakes. The most notable local earthquake was a magnitude 4.1 earthquake in Panguitch on July 4th. In late May there was a sequence of earthquakes in Nevada. Some of these were felt in the St. George area. In terms of large worldwide earthquakes was the Nepal earthquake. PEER, an engineering group out of California, will be broadcasting a day long meeting about the Nepal earthquake next week. They will present the reports and information that is being learned from the Nepal earthquake. Those that are interested can visit the PEER website for more specific information.

Pete McDonough suggested that the Commission add to the Earthquake Scenario document by extending the scenario to other segments of the fault. Leon agreed and commented that this may be a good topic for the next meeting.

Bob mentioned a few miscellaneous items. They have finished doing ATC-20 trainings with Unified Fire. They will be holding 2 classes for DFCM in August. The next training from their division will be on August 27, 2015 at 8:00am in the Magna Library. There is still space available for anyone who is interested. The RVS studies that have already been completed are being uploaded into the ROVER database. It will be interesting to see the information after it has all been uploaded into the database.

Enzo Calfa is retiring. Leon thanked him for his work and time on the Commission. Enzo suggested that the Commission watch what is happening with the building codes. The building codes are under attack from the legislature right now. He stated that it is important to get involved with what is happening to the future of building codes.

Kris Hamlet made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pete McDonough seconded the motion.

Leon Berrett adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.