

## **Utah Seismic Safety Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

On January 19, 2017, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Salt Lake County Public Works Conference Room in Midvale, Utah. Chair Leon Berrett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **Members Present:**

M. Leon Berrett, Chair	American Public Works Association
Keith Koper	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Patrick Tomassino	Utah Division of Facilities, Construction, and Management
Steven Bruemmer	American Institute of Architects, Utah Disaster Assistance
Meldee Love	Utah Insurance Department
Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
Craig Kerkman	WCF Insurance
Kris Hamlet	Utah Division of Emergency Management

### **USSC Staff Present:**

Steve Bowman	Utah Geological Survey
Adam Hiscock	Utah Geological Survey
Bob Carey	Utah Division of Emergency Management
John Crofts	Utah Division of Emergency Management

### **Guests Present:**

Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Jenefer Youngfield	Utah State Board of Education
Casey Coleman	Utah Division of Public Utilities
Barry Welliver	BHW Engineers
Pat Hart	American Public Works Association and Salt Lake City Engineering
Brad Bartholomew	Utah Division of Emergency Management

### **Members Not Present:**

Rep. Gage Froerer	Utah House of Representatives
Sean McGowan	Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII (Ex-Officio)
Chris DuRoss	United States Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Gerald McKenzie	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Carmen Swanwick	Utah Department of Transportation
Senator Jerry Stevenson	Utah State Senate
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers

## Welcome

**Leon Berrett** made introductions and recognized guests. **Rick Allis** made a motion for the approval of the July 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes, and **Patrick Tomassino** seconded the motion with stated corrections. The minutes were approved.

## Action Items

**Leon** discussed Action Items from our last meeting and provided clarification of USSC letterhead that includes the Commission logo and shows the supporting agencies (Utah Geological Survey [UGS] and the Utah Division of Emergency Management [UDEM]) addresses. He discussed potential funding from UDEM. He passed out copies of the Commission letter that was sent to Kris Hamlet at UDEM in support of them overseeing the Utah Resiliency Plan.

**Bob** said that he would ensure that the letter would be sent to the Governor and state Representatives.

**Leon** stated that other Action Items would be discussed later in the meeting.

## Status of USSC Progress Report

**John Crofts** discussed the USSC Progress Report, assignments, progress, and recapped all the items we have captured to include into the Progress Report.

**Bob** suggested capturing Earthquake Preparedness month. He explained that ShakeOut has since replaced Earthquake Preparedness month and recommended including in the report. He explained they had a very large and significant earthquake outreach effort in 2009. He also explained that both Governor Huntsman and Lieutenant Governor Herbert together joined in the earthquake outreach event. He mentioned that this event represents a historical document and is vital to include in the report.

**John** invited the Commission to add anything they may want to include. No other comments or additions were added.

**Rick** asked about the plan for distribution. The Commission discussed sending it electronically and a printed version. The Commission agreed that the report should be printed and sent electronically.

**Bob** discussed how the Commission is supposed to periodically provide a Progress Report. Discussion followed that it would not be possible to have the Progress Report finished in 45 days. He discussed anything done in partnership with state agencies needs to be captured so the Commission gets credit. He mentioned the Capital retrofit was another item that should be included in the report.

**Leon** suggested sending the Commissioners a draft before our next Commission meeting.

Discussion followed on how often we should have Progress Reports. General agreement was to have a bi-yearly Progress Report and then to have an annual summation of the Commission's accomplishments.

**Bob** recommended having everyone participate in writing the USSC Progress Report and suggested creating a committee to complete the report.

**Leon** asked everyone to review the Commission's accomplishments over the last ten years to pass them on to Leon or Bob. Discussion of contributions from Commission members could conceivably be completed by January.

**Rick** suggested a January deadline for review. Various items in the previous report were discussed and some of those will carry over into the current report.

**Bob** asked the Commission to review what was included in the previous report and update the accomplishments. URM manual, scenario report, and other activities should be included.

**Leon** asked everyone to review USSC contributions and accomplishments and to get back with Bob or himself.

**Bob** referred to the previous report Action Plan and Recommendations sections and to review that and be sure that the new report includes recommendations. Maybe we should take a look of recommendations and see if we want to build on that from previous reports.

The Commission agreed the report should be based on a calendar year.

**Roger Evans** suggested having a biannual report.

**Steve Bowman** suggested doing an annual summary, but then preparing a Progress Report intermittently.

**Roger** likes having an annual summary in order to capture accomplishments to elected officials.

**Barry Welliver** suggested strong public relations and outreach to keep the Commission active.

**Bob** explained in state code the Commission sits under Public Safety. The Legislature came back and looked and which agencies to sunset. They deemed Public Safety as a vital component of government and that the Commission's standing was deemed essential. He explained that Commission is not set to have "sunset clause" and that the Commission will remain as long as it exists under Public Safety.

**Glen Palmer** suggested having bullet points and goals for the next progress report.

**Barry** discussed keeping the Commission relevant to elected leaders.

**Kris Hamlet** suggested one way that the Commission could stay relevant and on the radar is to be placed on the agenda of the **Governors Emergency Management Administrative Council**,

which is a statutory board that is brought together and chaired by the Utah Department of Public Safety Commissioner and the Lieutenant Governor. The council meets after each legislative session (spring) and in the fall. This Council meets to review all emergency management actions.

**Leon** expressed his interest on being placed onto the agenda and that this provides a pathway for support. He suggested a brief annual report and then perhaps every five years preparing a Progress Report.

**Leon** made a motion that after this Progress Report and starting next year, that we have a commission summary each year, and then a Progress Report every five years. **Rick** seconded the motion.

**Leon** clarified with **Kris** the details of getting placed onto the council agenda. He suggested to **Kris** that the Commission provide an update in the spring and then every five years.

**Bob** suggested that the Progress Report should be prepared each calendar year. At the end of the year, Commission staff will prepare a yearly summary for the Commission.

### **WSSPC Rural Earthquake Handbook**

**Bob** announced that the Western States Seismic Policy Council Rural Earthquake Handbook is complete and on the Commission's website (<https://ussc.utah.gov/pages/view.php?ref=1295>). Printed copies will soon be provided to the Commission. He discussed that Craig DePolo (Research Geologist, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology) was a key player in the Wells, Nevada earthquake response and recovery. Craig created a great publication from his experiences. This is a handbook that will help small communities organize for the next 24-48 hours after an event.

In the back of the handbook, there is information about earthquakes. The handbook was an attempt to make an educational document for small communities. It is a ringed booklet, laminated, and tabbed. The booklet was designed for ease of use in the field and that you can easily put in your pocket. The idea is that each state should give this to every community. This is a document designed for smaller communities where they have limited resources. He discussed that Utah has a very in-depth relationship with our smaller communities; however, this document has its relevance to smaller communities. Unless the community has an emergency manager, then this will be assigned to someone else as "other duties as assigned".

### **New Utah Earthquakes and Quaternary Fault Map—UGS Items**

**Steve** discussed how the UGS, University of Utah Seismograph Stations, and UDEM collaborated over several years to produce this new earthquake and fault map. The last time this was done was in 1990. This new map includes epicenters based on the recent earthquake probabilities report (<https://ussc.utah.gov/pages/help.php?section=Utah+Earthquake+Probabilities>) and more accurate fault locations than previously shown. Because of the large size of the map, it is being printed out of, and the UGS hopes to have it printed by next month. He explained this will also

be a PDF on their website. This is intended for public outreach to show where faults and earthquakes occur. This is not intended as a scientific piece because there are other sources for scientific analysis.

**Bob** discussed how this map is an improvement because faults and earthquakes do not stop at state boundaries. This new map shows the faults and earthquakes in surrounding states and used the example of Hansel Valley, Idaho, where earthquake activity is very active. This improvement shows earthquake risk better by crossing state boundaries.

**Keith Koper** said there was an earthquake felt near Park City a few months ago; however, there has not been a lot of earthquake activity recently.

### **NEMA and the NEW Earthquake Office**

**Kris** updated the Commission about the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and their efforts to restore funding to the states. Last year, he was the National Mitigation Committee Chair and they focused on creating a subcommittee for earthquakes. This year, the NEMA mid-year meeting will be presenting a White Paper with recommendations to the Mitigation and Response Committees who both oversee the Earthquake Subcommittee. The recommendations include:

1. For the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consider the Direct Support Grant Program funding to go directly to the states instead of having the funds sent to contractors without state involvement. This will have better involvement and more state guidance on how these funds are spent.
2. That there be increased emergency management presence on the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Advisory Committee.
3. Encourage Congress to reauthorize the NEHRP program.
4. Establish and empower an Earthquake Program Office with FEMA that would coordinate all aspects of emergency management for earthquakes and develop earthquake program guidance that follows 44 CFR 361, but also has some ability to be regional.

He mentioned that they met with some of the transition team from President Donald Trump and they told them there were two things that they would focus on with emergency management, which would be **mitigation** and addressing **National Critical Infrastructure**. **Kris** believes this will be a good opportunity to present these recommendations and that the recommendations fit nicely with the Trump administration's focus on mitigation and infrastructure.

**Bob** said that currently this supplemental funding was taken away and now it is anticipated that it will be restored. Previous funds were used to create the Students at Risk Report, support conferences, and help operate the Commission. He explained that the funding is based on risk. Utah has a moderate risk and gets \$50,000, and California gets over \$200,000. With the new program funding, Utah can make our required 50% state match. The match will be made by matching UGS contributions and Steve Bowman's salary. One of the things we are going to

push at the next Earthquake Program Managers Meeting is to help states leverage their match. Bob said that if the money is not given directly to the states that there is typically a 33% charge for overhead. If the funds can be restored to the states, then this 33% overhead cost would be applied to completing actual projects.

**Leon** asked about the timeframe and **Kris** said putting money back into the states began last year and that FEMA has not told the states yet, but it would be in fiscal year (FY) 2018.

### **State Mitigation Plan**

**Brad Bartholomew**, Utah State Hazard Mitigation Officer, discussed the State Mitigation Plan and how it will be updated every five years. The last plan was approved in March 2014. A core team is working on updating the new plan. He said the new plan would be very different from the old plan. He will be giving the Commission more updates in the coming months and invited anyone from the Commission to participate in regularly scheduled plan update meetings. **Steve** will be updating the geologic hazards section, including seismic hazards. **Brad** said that they are exploring ways to make the plan more helpful and easy to use.

He said they have a comprehensive list of State of Utah buildings and they are going to run a risk analysis on them. They are working on narrowing it down to eliminate sheds and minor buildings, such as restrooms.

**Bob** said **many** years ago, the Legislature passed a resolution to create a risk analysis on state buildings. **Barry** has spent a lot of time going through this. **Bob** mentioned in the past they tried to compile a list and it was very difficult because the Utah Division of Facility and Construction Management data set was not consistent with data from the Utah Division of Risk Management. **Bob** recommended that they talk to Barry to capture the amount of work he has already completed. **Barry** said the process that Envision Utah is using includes a lot of public input. He asked Brad what type of input he would request. **Brad** said that he is preparing a survey to send out to participants and get feedback and participation. He mentioned the planning team and that he is expanding that group to others and invited interested members to join in the quarterly planning meetings.

**Bob** discussed the plan and the recommendations. He emphasized that when applying for grants, it is best to have the grants reflect the recommendations in the plan. Utah has received grants to retrofit fire stations, unreinforced masonry buildings (URM), and other projects that are in line with the plan recommendations.

### **USSC Public Relations—Continued Discussion**

**Leon** discussed the website and that Steve updates the website. He asked for suggestions on who would manage the social media sites. Leon requested that if the Commission has suggestions for Twitter, to send the request to either he or John. He complimented Steve for maintaining the website so well and asked Brad if there was a link to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The USSC does in fact have a link to the state plan.

**Leon** discussed Joe Dougherty, UDEM Public Information Officer and his offer to assist the Commission with future press releases.

**Leon** asked about the proposed tri-fold brochure about the Commission.

**Bob** said we could do two things: find it and then send it out to the Commission for review.

**Leon** suggested we add the digital file (PDF) to the website and perhaps keep printed copies for Commission members to hand out.

**Leon** invited the Commission to discuss any other issues from the Commission on Public Relations.

**Roger** has provided outreach at the annual State of Utah Public Safety Summit as a speaker.

**Leon** recommended speaking with Judy Watanabe about getting placed on the next agenda of the Public Safety Summit as a speaker.

**Adam Hiscock** said he would be willing to work together to post information to Facebook or Twitter.

**Bob** mentioned the Emergency Operations Center and UDEM have Twitter accounts. The comment was made that our last “tweet” was in 2012. It was decided by the Commission that we would become more active on Twitter and other social media.

### **RVS—Status—2017 Legislative Information Sharing**

**Barry** gave a synopsis of the rapid visual screening (RVS) program. Barry recognized that they are still working on creating a report and working on a process to complete the residency of the data so far. He said the data came from a variety of sources and that it has been a significant challenge to verify the data. This will be a lengthy process to complete.

**Barry** noted that after the Italian earthquake, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute created some new policies. Mitigation of URMs focused around schools. He sent out letters to various schools and districts. He emphasized that if you have URM schools that should be at the top of your list to address. He said from a structural engineer’s standpoint, he considers it a no-brainer to address URM schools. He recommended forwarding it to the Legislature to address changes.

**Bob** explained that the money from the RVS program was given to provide the inventory. Bob suggested the funding was originally to point out the problem and then follow up with the recommendation for more funding to address URM schools. Most of the money has been going to junior high and high schools; however, they have additional elementary schools to review.

**Jenefer Youngfield** encouraged the Commission to involve Reaveley Engineering throughout the school inventory process because they were such a big player from the outset and any reporting should include their involvement.

**Bob** said he hopes to have the report completed and give to the Legislature soon.

**Jenefer** emphasized that charter schools were not originally part of this report and in the future, we could include them.

**Bob** took the point further, that when charter schools were originally approved, that local building officials were not to review construction. Bob said we have created a set of buildings that are “suspect” because they were not reviewed by building inspectors. Jennifer said a lot of people do not understand this and there are a lot of changes on what the law says in regards to charter schools.

**Leon** discussed the URM for schools issue and that it would get a lot of press. Leon said we need to make sure that we are not pointing fingers, but that everyone is doing everything they can. He recommended doing this in conjunction with the school districts.

**Barry** said the State of Utah has culpability if they do not address the URM school issues. He recommended the Commission say this is “unacceptable” for the state to say, “it good for the State of Utah to say if you live in a poor district, your URM schools will not be addressed”. There is an inequality in the state on school buildings with URMs. The Legislature is in charge of funding schools and the Commission should endorse retrofitting and improving schools. For example, “*the Utah Seismic Safety Commission strongly recommends the passage of this bond for seismic retrofits*”. Leon asked for brainstorming and recommendations.

### **General Updates**

**Bob** said the National Earthquake Program Managers meeting and WSSPC annual meeting will be April 24-28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Glen** said the Utah Guide URM manual is being used in conjunction with Salt Lake City Fix the Bricks program. He said it is an impressive program. Glen, Bob, and Leon discussed a summary of changes for the guide and also having it on the Commission website.

**Pat Hart** from Salt Lake City discussed some of the challenges with the Fix the Bricks Program going through law enforcement, instead of engineering, and that it has caused a few contracting issues that have they worked through.

**Bob** said when they did the news conference they received over 200 calls from Salt Lake City residents and another 200 calls from non-Salt Lake City residents that were interested in the program. He said that it was excellent news conference and was impressed by the amount of feedback and interest.

**Bob** said that they are looking at a workshop for building officials, city managers, ATC-20 trainees, and others on the deployment of ATC-20 volunteers to in-state and out-of-state incidences.



**Meldee Love** said that she would be attending the National Tornado Summit and Earthquake Symposium.

By acclamation, the meeting was adjourned without a motion.

**Next meeting is April 13, 2017, in the Kletting Room at the Utah State Senate Building.**

**Adjourn**

DRAFT