

**Utah Seismic Safety Commission
Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

On April 13, 2017, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Kletting Room of the Utah Senate Building in Salt Lake City, 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
Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Patrick Tomasino	Utah Division of Facilities, Construction, and Management
Steven Bruemmer	American Institute of Architects, Utah Disaster Assistance
Meldee Love	Utah Insurance Department
Craig Kerkman	Association of Continuity Professionals
Kris Hamlet	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
Evan Curtis	Governor's Office
Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering/SEAU

USSC Staff Present:

Steve Bowman	Utah Geological Survey
Adam Hiscock	Utah Geological Survey
Sheila Curtis	Utah Division of Emergency Management
John Crofts	Utah Division of Emergency Management

Guests Present:

Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Jenefer Youngfield	Utah State Board of Education
Casey Coleman	Utah Division of Public Utilities
Barry Welliver	BHW Engineers
Pat Hart	Salt Lake City Engineering
Bruce Spiegal	Utah Division of Risk Management
Gerald Mckenzie	BHP Engineers
Emily Kleber	Utah Geological Survey

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

Welcome/Approval of Minutes

Leon Berrett made introductions and recognized guests.

Leon made a first motion for the approval of the January 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

Kris Hamlet seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Keith Koper asked if the meeting minutes were recorded and archived.

Leon clarified that the meeting minutes are recorded and archived and the audio is available upon request. Written meetings minutes are on the website.

Kris discussed having a required training for the Open Meetings Act for the next Commission meeting.

Leon agreed and said we would put the training into our July meeting.

Salt Lake City Fix the Bricks Program Update

Glen Palmer spoke with Salt Lake City and addressed the Fix the Bricks Program. Salt Lake City with limited funding has initiated the pilot program. The city has reviewed over 100 homes. The program is in the process of providing drawings to city building officials. There have been 35-40 sets of drawings provided. Residents demonstrated more interest than city officials expected and there is more demand than funding allows.

He mentioned the city and the Homebuilders Association are working together to prepare various training videos that can be used for CEC credits.

Leon mentioned that he understood that interest was so high that with limited funds Salt Lake City has limited advertising because the limited funds can't meet current demand.

Glen said after the press conference it jumped up to 500-600 applicants.

Pat Hart said these people are motivated and care so much that they are willing to tear up their roofs and open up their homes for seismic improvements.

Leon further discussed older homes that had no footings, rebar or anchor bolts. He mentioned there are over 200,000 unreinforced masonry buildings in Salt Lake County and that these dangerous buildings are not uncommon.

Glen discussed cutting through roofs and doing major intrusions into people's homes. He stated that public outreach is working—even though it is just scratching the surface. The educational process this group has been contracting with is working. People are stepping up and taking mitigation efforts seriously. He met with the Salt Lake City Building Department to discuss saving money and speed up Fix the Bricks Program approval processes. He stated that in those meetings the contractors provided valuable feedback on advancing the program.

Kris met with Cory Lymon and Brad Bartholomew. They have a large waiting list and that they only received \$500,000 for the first phase. The city wants to put some of their effort into multi-family structures and they are looking at a few projects. Once this was announced through a media release the city had additional inquiries from outside of Salt Lake City. Now the city is working with the Salt Lake County to see if they can expand Fix the Bricks to the entire County.

Post-Earthquake Building Evaluation Workshop (Layton Conference Center)

The March 30th Building Workshop was well attended with over 133 participants.

John Crofts thanked all the Commission members who attended the workshop and thanked the Commission for helping advertise. He mentioned that we had hoped to have 100 participants; however there were 133 final participants. He mentioned the feedback was extremely positive.

Steven Bruemmer thanked Bob Carey, Barry Welliver and John Crofts for participating and making the event so successful. He discussed the keynote speaker, Ben Ross, and how he brought to the table his valuable experience from the Joplin Tornado. He discussed the key role the Safety Assessment Program (SAP) program played in the Joplin recovery. He reviewed best practices used by Missouri Save and how these best practices were exercised in Joplin. He discussed the value of handheld GPS units and how very helpful they were after disasters to help recognize the coordinates. He also mentioned how important it is to maintain a current and updated SAP list of people who will be engaged after a disaster with the SAP program. Steve mentioned that the SAP credentials will be expiring soon for those who joined three years ago and that Utah is working with other States to begin a re-credentialing program to renew the SAP participant's credentials.

Barry Welliver also presented at the workshop and discussed the hands-on experience with ROVER. He discussed the use ROVER at other venues and has been promoting the tool as data collection device. After the workshop, he was approached by a number of individuals from Granite High School and the LDS Church that were very interested in learning more about these tools. Barry said the workshop was very successful and applauds us putting on the workshop.

National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Update NEHRP Funding Update NEMA and new Earthquake Office

Kris discussed the National Emergency Managers Administration (NEMA) mid-year conference where all the Emergency Management Directors from the States and Territories meet to discuss Emergency Management programs. The Directors met with FEMA Administration and other Federal partners. He provided a few highlights: at NEMA there were a lot of people in "Acting" roles—including the FEMA Administrator. Because so many FEMA officials were in "acting" roles there was not definitive instructions. FEMA's new Administrator may be drawn from a few State Directors that are final candidates. One of the big topics discussed was the Budget and President Trump's "skinny" budget". Grants may be cut by 20-25% under the proposed budget. The skinny budget recommended the elimination of the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) and the FEMA mapping program. President Trump said those programs should be run at State level and not supported by the Federal Government. Many NEMA participants said that President Trump's proposed budget would be "dead" when presented to Congress and it will never be approved. There was consensus that there is a long budget fight ahead. The budget is at least a year away at this point. As far as the FY 2017 we haven't received details and we are on Continuing Resolution. The Federal government is well over a year behind on the current 2017 budget. FEMA is exploring a new concept of a FEMA Public Assistance (PA) deductible. Fugate was looking at reducing costs to nation for disasters. Catastrophic events like Katrina and Super Storm Sandy were extremely costly. Those few catastrophic events have made disaster costs increase dramatically. Right now Utah has to reach a \$4 million threshold before we are eligible for a Presidential Declaration. Now they want to readjust numbers to keep up with inflation. Utah's new threshold would be around \$15-20 million. None of Utah's Presidential disasters would have been eligible. Utah is 49 out of 50 States for disasters. Idea of PA deductible and they want to push onus back onto the States. States can be encouraged to buy down their deductible by using mitigation, Emergency Management and other disaster recovery methods.

Changing our thresholds from \$4 million to \$20 million is a significant change. All the onus is being pushed onto the States from the Federal Government. Comment period has ended and the new Administrator will have to weigh in on the new proposals. If they do go through with this initiative then the States and perhaps Utah Legislators will be putting in additional funds for mitigation.

Keith asked Kris about the Skinny Budget. Kris explained that Homeland Security was listed as a cut. Kris said there was a two page narrative by department and that the skinny budget talks about cuts to FEMA; however, it specifically talks about hiring 5,000 additional border agents and building the wall. Department of Defense (DOD) looks to have a huge increase. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and others are going to have funding cuts

Kris stated the Earthquake Subcommittee is created to mitigate, prepare and recover from earthquakes. Just one of the recommendations, white paper presented in the mitigation committee which was approved and forwarded to FEMA. Recommendations:

1. FEMA maintain National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) to enable States to have their own earthquake programs
2. FEMA to have an earthquake office in FEMA
3. Collaborate with NEMA legislative committee to urge Congress to fund NEHRP
4. Increase NEHRP Advisory Committee to have more representation

For the past few years the States have been requesting to have their supplementary earthquake budgets restored. If States have their own money then the States can complete state specific projects.

Barry said those were excellent recommendations and he agreed with each of them.

Kris explained that Utah used to receive money directly to the State from NEHRP. In the past the money was used for the traveling earthquake display and supported other important programs. NEMA has been working with FEMA to restore this money to the States. Now there will be a 50% hard match. If states don't want the money then they may return the funding back to the pool. There are 33 qualified states. The base is \$30,000 and then funding is increased based on risk. Utah was rated fifth at \$37,500. California receives \$310,000, Washington \$60,000, Oregon \$46,000, and Tennessee and Utah \$37,500 each. Right now DEM gets a lump sum from the State can use this money as a hard match.

Kris stated that they have three goals for funding:

A) Improve understanding of earthquake impacts.

B) Reduce earthquake impacts.

C) Improve earthquake resilience nationwide.

Kris stated he expects funding will be available to the States this October.

Rick Allis asked to clarify NEMA's recommendations and if it is proposing the money from the States come out of science and research.

Barry said that the money is pretty miniscule and would not be taken from research.

Steve Bowman added that NEHRP has a lot of programs and that these two programs are not related.

Kris said that the total budget for the States is only \$1.3 million.

Rick clarified that many are worried about skinny budget and the effects it could have.

Kris said they are discussing changes to state agencies that may occur as fallout from the Skinny Budget.

Barry said that relative to NEHRP he has been working with Congresswoman Diane Feinstein's office to advance legislation that promotes NEHRP and earthquake related mitigation efforts. He explained it would be a bi-partisan bill and he hoped to have both Senator Lee and Senator Hatch support for Congresswoman Feinstein's bill. He said Hatch and Lee were not immediately interested in supporting the bill; however, he had hoped to utilize the USSC to draw support.

Leon said the Commission would be interested to advocating to Senator Hatch and Senator Lee to support the bill after the bill is better understood and prepared. Barry said there will be Republican support from Alaska and Nevada and he hopes this can also encourage Utah's elected officials to support the legislation.

Keith Koper proposed the Commission should draft a letter of support after we learn more about the bill.

Barry mentioned that Jason Perry with State Legislature may be willing to work with the University of Utah to do more lobbying to help promote NEHRP funding which also provides funding that finances 50% of seismometers in Utah.

Keith said it is important for the Commission to write a letter of support for legislation that would secure NEHRP funding and that our elected officials should support NEHRP because it helps the State of Utah on so many levels.

Steve suggested providing a formal invitation to elected officials and perhaps staffers to attend Commission meetings.

Evan Curtis suggested making sure the bill comes forth is one that we can fully support.

Meldee Love suggested that this is something that elected officials should look at crossing party lines and agreeing with since it helps everyone in the State be better prepared for an earthquake.

Evan suggested being proactive right now and work within our Commission to support the PDM program. Evan said he agrees and working with the Commission to review proposed legislation.

Leon proposed to have Barry draft a letter for the Commission or assist the Commission to have a letter. He asked Keith to lead the effort and work with Barry. Keith will be point-person and work language that supports the concept.

Walter Arabasz suggested Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) could meet with the WSSPC states to further advance legislation.

Kris followed up on other funding supporters within NEHRP money made to FEMA and various other cooperating organizations within the Western States Seismic Council to support legislation and to demonstrate the big "Bang for the Buck" we are currently getting with these programs.

Leon added that cutting costs and cutting key items from a budget could end up costing much more in future.

It was the general consensus at the meeting the Commission should support and defend funding these programs.

Legislative Update

Evan said there were 535 bills and not a lot with seismic. HB 30 is a historic preservation bill. HB 32, cities need to use plain language with their ordinances. SB 122 is the Wildland fire suppression fund. Fire suppression was \$12 Million. He said the Department of Agriculture building is very unsafe and that it has been pushed yet another year for replacement.

Kris said this Legislative year was a pretty quiet year overall.

Roger discussed 27 bills that were covered that he has been involved with as a Business Labor committee member. He explained that builders are uptight that cities take so much time for

review and they want to enact a time frame for a plan review. He believes it is time for USSC to sponsor another seismic bill for consideration to the Legislature this year.

Jenefer Yougfield said she has reviewed more incomplete plans this year than she has previously reviewed. She mentioned many plans for buildings are lacking and incomplete. She referenced that if certain legislation is passed then Utah would have to deal with a many additional problems. She said that next year they will decide what to do in regards to builders' suggestions.

Rick expressed his concerns about some of the proposed legislation.

GENERAL UPDATES

Leon discussed Utah's DEM display and Marilyn Hoff's presentation and display and that she is a wonderful person for earthquake outreach. He wants to make sure that each one of Commissioners are aware of Be Ready and Marlin's presentation is top notch

Walter says social media can be improved and he recommended Marilyn groom an intern that is younger to assist in social media.

Leon said that he could have Marilyn Hoff help train the public for earthquake readiness.

Rough draft in July, October better Draft, and January meeting.

Kris discussed Governors Emergency Management Meeting (next meeting is May 11th) 11:00-12:30 Holmstead Room. It is chaired by Lt Governor and the Commissioner of Public Safety. Most members are State Directors or local Emergency Managers.

Kris said that he would put Leon on the agenda and that he could give a 5-10 minute presentation that promotes the USSC.

Walter talked about messaging and a discussion with Evan about Utah vulnerabilities. Walter invited Evan to discuss about resilience.

Kris discussed catastrophic earthquake plan and what impact on Utah would be and how Utah could suffer an economic loss exceeding \$33 billion. Walter recommended emphasizing attention grabbers for this particular group. Kris agreed that this would be on the heels of the Utah Shakeout. Kris mentioned that people want to be prepared and participate in the Shakeout exercise.

Leon thanked Walter for the excellent suggestions and will take Walter's suggestions into the meeting. Kris suggested providing a one page handout with various statistics that should be of next concern. Leon and Kris will get with Rick and Keith and others in the Commission that have suggestions. Kris said he could include DEM for the meeting.

Rapid Visual Screening

Jenefer says they are down to six schools off the Wasatch Front and the decision was because of language of the law that all school districts be reviewed there is over \$8,000 left the remaining schools will be evaluated. When they were at Utah Facilities Operation & Maintenance Association (UFOMA) conference. The 8,000 will go to Reaveley to provide a report on the schools. The Goal is to get the report and data before fiscal year ends.

Barry stated that the state-wide survey and ROVER data can be collected and put into once server.

Jenefer suggested first collecting the low hanging fruit. Fiscal year is June 30th. She suggested they all sit down and discuss the outcomes. There was some concern with new construction and concerns such as wire spec out and that specs aren't being met.

Barry said the RVS screening for schools is mainly for building collapse. The last UFOMA meeting will discuss inspectors training. They are trying to get schools educated.

Jenefer also asked Reaveley to look at importing all the information into a database without too much effort or work. She said she was not sure if they could share other's information—but rather have their own information for review.

Leon asked about having someone from Reaveley come and present in July. Jenefer recommended that they sit with Barry, Bob and Reaveley. Leon suggested having Bob review it.

Wasatch Wobble 2017

John discussed the Wasatch Wobble which was a joint exercise between Utah and Idaho. Idaho looked at creating an exercise with the Bear Lake fault and they invited Utah to participate. Utah and Idaho's EOCs were participating. The exercise was not statewide but rather regional. The exercise was held May 8-12th. It will be a full-scale exercise with Northern Utah and south east Idaho.

Sheila added that the SERT will be meeting Tuesday and that on Wednesday Box Elder and Cache will open up their EOCs and the coalition of Health Departments will be participating. The Utah EOC will be staffed and talk to the counties and health departments.

Sheila invited anyone wishing to participate to let her know.

John added that Bob Carey and Bruce Spiegel would be providing ATC-20 class in Preston, Idaho and that this training is open to both Utah and Idaho participants.

National Tornado Conference

Meldee discussed the National Tornado Conference that was held February 26-28th. The conference itself was developed and implemented by the Insurance Commissioner for Oklahoma. They had tracks for insurance, emergency management and earthquakes. Items discussed were regarding earthquakes and how insurance does play a vital role in recovery. Insurance money will come in after an earthquake and the financial side of a disaster needs to be looked at carefully to look at recovery. They discussed FEMA funds and how that would work and coordinate with people who are uninsured and address the very large deductibles. It was revealing that financial recovery is important in recovery since Utah has so many URMs. In Utah there are only 10% of URMs that are insured. Meldee said a fascinating track she went to was regarding Farmers Insurance where they have local agents and local teams that are ready to go through and provide information on who to talk to with insurance and provide key information. Meldee said she would like to talk that up to some of Utah's larger insurance companies.

John said the conference did an excellent job integrating insurance, emergency management and other key groups that should be working together following an earthquake. He mentioned that the Emergency Management track was excellent because it brought together different professions that typically do not interact. He mentioned that now financial institutions are paying attention to disasters and will be charging more for loans in disaster-prone areas. It will be interesting to see if the cost of loans increases because of our increased earthquake risk in Utah.

Meldee mentioned agriculture and what happens in an earthquake as well. They discussed just outside of Oklahoma City where a horse stable was hit. This is a factor for dealing with personal pets and it has a tremendous impact on people and their recovery at the time. Know who the State Agriculture specialist is and having your contacts in place before a disaster.

Leon asked how many people attended and Meldee said that there were at least 2,000 participants.

Jenefer suggested including the link to the National Tornado Conference for future meetings. **Meldee** said if anyone was interested the meeting would be held next year and that she would be glad to provide additional information.

Chair Election in July

Leon discussed the upcoming election and invited anyone interested in running to notify Bob or himself.

AIA Disaster Assistance Program

Steve discussed American Institute of Architects (AIA) disaster assistance program and what they are doing for disaster outreach. Recently AIA released a disaster assistance handbook. It was originally designed for architects. The booklet looks at all hazards. **Steve** discussed the press release, the Get Involved Guide, and then the Handbook which is available on PDF. The handout has instructions for opening the link. The information is already included on the USSC website.

Barry clarified that FEMA 154 is a document different from ATC-20 and that ATC-20 has become the nationwide standard but that ATC-20 is not a FEMA document.

Kris said that in the event of an earthquake and a shortage of inspectors we have been asked to participate with EMAC pilot program to develop mission-ready packages. He said it will help fill some of the gap in qualified inspectors if we have an earthquake.

Leon said he would be happy to involve Public Works in the pilot.

Statewide Resiliency Plan

Leon said that DEM has the Commission's support on the Resiliency Plan. They sent a letter to **Kris** and the letter was passed on to others. He asked for additional feedback and wanted to make sure DEM understands that the Commission gives their full support towards the Statewide Resiliency Plan.

John said that Bob may address the Statewide Resiliency Plan in July.

WSSPC

Pete McDonough said WSSPC is having their annual meeting this month in Oklahoma City. **Pete** said they don't have any submission for awards this year. He encouraged submissions for next year.

Pete discussed the Earthquake-Actuated Automatic Gas Shutoff Devices document was updated from ASCE and it was available for purchase. He mentioned there were several changes from the previous edition and recommended purchasing the new guide.

Jenefer asked if it is free to inspectors. She said that if it law there is a requirement that there be no charge for materials.

Pete said he would try to find out a link to provide without charge.

Other Items

Leon invited anyone else at the meeting to include items to discuss. He suggested at future meetings to have a moment to go around the room to bring up items not previously discussed.

Meldee asked about the combined Utah-Nevada meeting in October.

Keith asked if we could have the Nevada Commission come to Utah.

Leon discussed that Nevada typically can't come to Utah but that we are probably going to hold the October meeting in Las Vegas.

Pete made motion to end the meeting.

Craig Kerkman seconded the motion to end the meeting. By acclamation the meeting was ended.

Next meeting

Next meeting is July 13, 2017 at the Kletting Room at the Utah State Senate Building at 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Adjourn