

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
April 22, 2005

Minutes

On April 22, 2005 a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held in room 5112 State Office Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Barry Welliver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
-Walter J. Arabasz	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Kerry Baum	Association of Contingency Planners
-Brian Carver	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
-Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association
-Carl Eriksson	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Todd Jensen	Utah Department of Transportation
-Peter W. McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
-Representative Morley	Utah House of Representatives
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architect
-Barry H. Welliver	Chair, Structural Engineers Association of Utah

Members Not Present:

Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Cathy Howick	Utah Insurance Department
Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Verdi White	Utah Division of Emergency Services/DPS-Excused

DES Staff Present:

-Bob Carey	Operations & Natural Hazards Section, DES
-Amisha Lester	Operations & Natural Hazards Section, DES
-John Rockich	Operations & Natural Hazards Section, DES

UGS Staff Present:

-Gary Christenson	Geologic Hazards Program, Utah Geological Survey
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Guests Present/Committee Members:

-Jim Higbee UDOT Legacy Pkwy
-Jane Z. Zhang State Office of Education

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

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

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Barry Welliver asked for any corrections and comments to the minutes.

Motion: *Carl Eriksson made corrections and then made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected from the last meeting held on January 14, 2005. Kerry Baum seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **INFORMATION AND UPDATE ITEMS**

Barry Welliver gave a brief update on the Marriott Library-Legislative funding. The Marriott Library has been fully funded and will begin construction roughly on May 1, 2005. Along with the state funding, 2.9 million dollars of pre-disaster mitigation money was awarded.

The Commission discussed having meetings that would allow tours of buildings that are under going seismic upgrades. Possible tours of the Tabernacle building and the Marriott Library was discussed. The Commission will be taking a tour of the State Capitol for the next meeting along with a possible lunch.

Bob Carey spoke on the Earthquake Preparedness Week that was held on April 3-9, 2005. The signing of the declaration was much different then in past years. Governor Hunstman engaged the group more than other Governors in years past. He asked many questions and was curious about Utah's future risks to earthquake. Walter Arabasz suggested having a placard that would define who we are and what we represent. Walter also recommended always being prepared to verbalize critical points when meeting public officials.

Bob Carey, Gary Christenson and Rick Allis spoke on the WSSPC updates. The Capitol, the Marriott Library and the Tabernacle are being considered for future nominations for WSSPC awards. The 2005 WSSPC Conference is going to be held in Boise, Idaho on September 11-14, 2005. The conference will be smaller than last year's national conference in St. Louis. State reports will be given during the conference and posters will be displayed during the break out sessions in the display area. The concept for the poster will be given in the July meeting. For more information regarding the conference, you can log on to www.wsspc.org.

Gary Christenson gave a brief report on the 2005 Working Group meeting. The working groups have met annually and consist of seismologist, geotechnical engineers and geologist active in earthquake engineering since 2003. During these meetings these working groups discussed existing, new and future projects and set priorities. Gary handed out a list of priorities that were set for each working group.

Gary spoke on the IBC ground-shaking maps. These are maps using the US Geological Survey National Seismic Hazard Maps that illustrate the levels of ground shaking here in Utah. The issue is when or if to make hard copies of these maps and distribute them. Having the maps accessible on the web is felt to be the best option. Another option is having the maps in a PDF format for emailing. Some hard copies are still to be printed for distribution. Maps include Salt Lake, Weber, Davis and Utah counties at the present time. The maps will be statewide following adoption of the 2006 IBC.

Bob Carey gave an update on the UGS-sponsored teacher workshops. The workshops are geared towards 5th and 9th grades. One was held in Salt Lake and the other in St. George with 18 participants in each. Teachers were able to receive continuing education credit from the State Office of Education for the two day workshop. More advanced workshops are being planned throughout the state.

Bob Carey gave an update on the student research grant program. The group out of Summit County will be going to Yellowstone and have expanded their research to have a more geology. Bryant Middle School had to withdraw from the program due to a family illness.

➤ **BUDGET REPORT**

Bob Carey gave report on the USSC budget. Bob gave a handout of the current account balance. Minus the expenses and committed funding, the USSC has a balance of \$4800.

➤ **USSC DISCUSSION OF NEW CHAIR**

Barry Welliver let the Commission know that he is still interested in being nominated for Chair for the coming year. Barry encouraged anyone that is interested in being nominated for Chair or Vice-Chair to please come forward.

➤ **2000-2004 USSC PROGRESS REPORT**

Barry Welliver asked for the Commission to have an open discussion on the USSC progress report. Each Commissioner has been tasked to write their perspective, keeping it simple and precise, and sending it to Barry Welliver by June 24, 2005. These one page perspectives should include a meaningful report on what is felt to be our mission and vision that can be included in the progress report. An intern is to be selected and to start drafting the report by the next USSC meeting.

➤ **URM AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

Barry Welliver began his discussion with a handout that includes a resolution recognizing the URM building hazard in Utah and a table of contents that includes the committee's tasks. Several members suggested the resolution may be cast in the form of a motion at our next meeting with the intention of sending it to the legislature as recommendations on how to deal with the existing URM hazards in the state.

The table of content lists the committee members and their tasks that they will be working on for the paper. The ad hoc committee includes Barry Welliver, Carl Eriksson, Matt Cassel, and Darlene Batatian, Ryan Smith and Steven Bartlett.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

DATE: Friday, July 15, 2005
TIME: TBA
PLACE: 5110 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah
Followed by a tour of the Capitol retrofit project at 3 PM

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.