

# Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting  
October 28, 2005  
Minutes

On October 28, 2005 a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held in the State Office Building Auditorium, 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
-Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association
-Peter W. McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
-Representative Morley	Utah House of Representatives
-Mark Pavoni	(Sitting in for Barry Smith) American Inst. of Architects
-Barry H. Welliver	Chair, Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Jim Higbee	(Sitting in for Todd Jensen) Utah Dept. of Transportation

**Members Not Present:**

Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Brian Carver	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Carl Eriksson	Utah League of Cities & Towns
Cathy Howick	Utah Insurance Department
Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Verdi White	Utah Division of Emergency Services/DPS

**DES Staff Present:**

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

**UGS Staff Present:**

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

-Steven Bartlett	U of U
-Darlene Batatian	SLCo Planning and Development Services Division
-Relu Burlacu	U of U
-Sue Campbell	Davis County Sheriff's Office
-Terri Garside	Nevada Earthquake Safety Council
-Brian Law	Davis County Sheriff's Office
-Kris Pankow	U of U
-Jim Pechmann	U of U
-Ryan Smith	U of U
-Fred Turner	California Seismic Safety Commission

➤ **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:** *With a minor change to the minutes Kerry Baum made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on July 15, 2005. Pete McDonough seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **INFORMATION AND UPDATE ITEMS**

Rick Allis reported on the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho. Seventy plus people attended the annual meeting. The meeting was more geologically focused which brought more interest among the geologist members. In the December board meeting they will be discussing the next annual meeting. Seismic safety commissions as well as emergency managers and state geologists can now become members of WSSPC.

Bob Carey reported on the pre-disaster mitigation program grants. FEMA has decided to cut the grants from \$150 million to \$50 million this year. Utah is currently working on five grants and most are earthquake related.

Bob discussed the USSC workshop to be held on December 13, 2005 at the Salt Lake County Emergency Operations Center. This will be a half-day workshop that is geared towards the emergency planning community. Topics will include a presentation on a Wasatch Front M 7 scenario earthquake, HAZUS analysis of the scenario earthquake, ShakeMap and ShakeCast, FEMA response to Katrina, and a panel discussion.

Barry Welliver discussed the 2000-2004 USSC Progress Report. The paperwork is in progress to hire the intern for the report. The report will not be finalized until 2006, and will be expanded to include 2005.

Bob Carey gave an update on the budget. The Commission discussed future expenditures. One included support from the Commission to the Utah Geological Survey for their 2-day teacher workshop on earthquake awareness in the amount of \$1200.

**Motion:** *Walter Arabasz made a motion that their request be considered favorably in the amount of \$1000 and added that the Seismograph Stations will also provide assistance if needed. Walter moved that \$1000 be allocated from our Commission funds to meet their requirements. Kerry Baum seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.*

#### ➤ **UTAH EARTHQUAKE INSTRUMENTATION**

Walter Arabasz gave an update on the proposal to expand southwest Utah earthquake instrumentation. Walter gave a handout on the concept proposal for expanding seismic instrumentation and rapid earthquake information capabilities in the St. George and Cedar City areas and rural southwest Utah. Endorsement from the Commission for the proposal was discussed.

#### ➤ **PRIORITIES FOR 2006 USSC MEETINGS**

The Commission discussed priorities for future USSC meetings outside of the Salt Lake City area. For an overnight trip to Cedar City, Gary Christenson has estimated \$2000 for 15 people to attend. The Commission would like to have a joint meeting with the Nevada Seismic Safety Council possibly in Wendover, Mesquite or Las Vegas. The USSC planning committee will continue to work on the possibility of future meetings outside of the Salt Lake City area.

#### ➤ **EXPERIENCE WITH URM'S IN CALIFORNIA**

Fred Turner, structural engineer with the California Seismic Safety Commission, gave a presentation and handouts on their state's experience with unreinforced masonry buildings (URM's). He gave an historical overview of their programs to mitigate URM's and discussed the successes and pitfalls associated with the work.

#### ➤ **URM RESOLUTION DISCUSSION**

Matt Cassel reported on the URM resolution. The resolution is in the final stages of completion. The Commission is hopeful to move this resolution through the Legislature in November as an information insert. Representative Morley will arrange for the presentation of the resolution to the interim Government Operations Standing Committee.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** Friday, January 13, 2006  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Conference Room  
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.