

# Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting  
January 13, 2006  
Minutes

On January 13, 2006 a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Department Conference Room, 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
-Jim Higbee*	Utah Department of Transportation
-Peter W. McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
-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
* representing Todd Jensen	

## **Members Not Present:**

Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Cathy Howick	Utah Insurance Department
Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Representative Morley	Utah House of Representatives
Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Vacant	Utah League of Cities & Towns
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:**

-Darlene Batatian	SLCo Planning and Development Service Division
-Laura Bohn	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
-Relu Burlacu	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Greg Jones	Governor's Office of Economic Development
-Bruce Spiegel	DAS-Risk Management
-Jane Z. Zhang	Utah 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:** *Rick Allis made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on October 28, 2005. Kerry Baum seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **INFORMATION AND UPDATE ITEMS**

Barry Welliver reported on the URM Resolution.

Representative Michael Morely and chairman, Barry Welliver presented the resolution to the Government Operations Interim Committee of the Legislature as an information item. Several Gov. Op. Committee members believed that the inventory needed for the resolution would hold sensitive information such as personal and private property information. Other committee members believed that it would be in the best interest of the public to go ahead with the inventory.

After a brief discussion, the USSC Commission decided to have the ad hoc Committee consider this information and discuss the future strategies. It was suggested to have this as a highlight in the 2000-2005 USSC progress report.

Bob Carey discussed the USSC workshop that was held on December 13, 2005, at the Salt Lake County Emergency Operations Center. The workshop was successful and was well received by those that attended. Nearly 70 people attended the half-day conference.

Bob Carey reported on the pre-disaster mitigation program grants. For FY05, Utah had seven grants funded. One was for wildfires, two for planning and four were seismic related. For FY06, Utah has five grants total. Jordan Valley Water and Salt Lake City Library are two of the projects to use the 2006 grant money.

Bob Carey gave an update on the budget. The Commission has almost \$6000 available for expenditures for the coming year.

Bob gave a quick report on the Student Grants Program. There have been two submissions for this year; one from Rowland Hall Middle School for a hazard analysis within their school and one from South Summit for their annual trip to Yellowstone.

Barry Welliver presented and the Commission discussed the plan for a USSC meeting outside of Salt Lake City. During the last planning meeting the executive committee discussed having the Commission's quarterly meeting in the southern part of the state in the fall. Costs, transportation, and speakers from the local area will be considered. The joint meeting with the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council is still in consideration for a location and time that is convenient to both states.

Barry Welliver sent a letter on behalf of the Commission endorsing the National Earthquake Preparedness Response and Recovery Act (H.B. 4205; Rep. Harold Ford E. Jr. [TN-9]). This bill is before the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress and proposes to provide funding for seismic retrofits of buildings.

Rick Allis reported on Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) news. At the 1906 Anniversary Conference in April 2006, WSSPC will hold their annual business meeting. March 1, 2006, is the deadline for all nominations for awards in excellence. This year the awards are focused on lifetime achievement in reducing earthquake losses.

**Motion:** *Walter Arabasz made a motion for the Commission to pay the registration expenses for the Commission Chair to attend the 1906 Anniversary Conference and WSSPC Annual Meeting. Matthias Mueller seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.*

➤ **STATUS OF 2000-2005 PROGRESS REPORT**

Barry Welliver distributed a copy of the Progress Report in a rough draft form for the Commission to review. Final editing of the report will happen between now and the next Commission meeting. April has been set for the deadline of the final draft of the report.

➤ **CRITICAL LANDS INITIATIVE**

Laura Bohn, from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, gave a presentation on the critical lands initiative, earthquake component. Laura distributed a brochure to the Commission discussing this issue. You can access the toolkit online at: [www.planning.utah.gov/CriticalLandsHome.htm](http://www.planning.utah.gov/CriticalLandsHome.htm).

➤ **NEW HAZUS LOSS ESTIMATES**

Bob Carey gave a presentation, with handouts on the new HAZUS loss estimates.

➤ **DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS & LOSSES**

Walter Arabasz reported on developing consensus on earthquake hazards and losses. Walter circulated a brochure entitled “Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country, Your Handbook for the San Francisco Bay Region” that was mass distributed in northern California regarding local earthquake danger and information about preparedness and potential impact to businesses, hospitals, and homeowners. The U.S. Geological Survey, Utah Geological Survey, Utah Office of Emergency Services, and the University of Utah Seismograph Stations invite the USSC to participate in this partnership to produce a document such as this brochure for the businesses and homeowner of Utah or the Wasatch Front. An ad hoc working committee that includes Gary Christenson, Walter Arabasz, Bob Carey, and Barry Welliver was formed to help complete this document. This document is to be a readable, reliable brochure that includes scientific, engineering, and emergency preparedness information.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** Friday, April 7, 2006  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** TBA

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.