

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
January 12, 2007
Minutes

On January 12, 2007 a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at Consonus Inc., 7202 South Campus View Drive, West Jordan, Utah. Chairman Pete McDonough called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Members Present:

-Walter J. Arabasz	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Laura Ault	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
-Kerry Baum	Association of Contingency Planners
-Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association
-Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Mike Kuehn	Utah Division of Homeland Security/DPS
-Peter W. McDonough	Chair, American Society of Civil Engineers
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architects
-Jake Watson	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Boyd Wheeler	Utah Department of Transportation
-Gary Christenson*	Utah Geological Survey
*proxy for Rick Allis	

Members Not Present:

Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Sheila Curtis	Utah Insurance Department
Senator Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Representative Morley	Utah House of Representatives
Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

DHS Staff Present:

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

UGS Staff Present:

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

-Emily Aikins	Guest
-Scott Holt	State Farm Insurance
-Robert Martin	Consonus
-Shawn Olsen	State Farm Insurance
-Kelly Sawyer	Consonus
-Mark Walton	State Farm Insurance
-Barry H. Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Jane Zhang	State Office of Education

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

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

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Pete McDonough asked for any corrections and comments to the minutes.

Motion: *Walter Arabasz made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on January 12, 2007. Jake Watson seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **REAL-TIME EARTHQUAKE MONITORING AND EXPANSION OF SEISMIC INSTRUMENTATION**

Walter Arabasz reported on real-time earthquake monitoring and expansion of seismic monitoring in the St. George-Cedar City area and rural Utah, as well as, strong-motion instrumentation for the State Capitol building. He also gave a handout on the Strategic Building Blocks for Effective Statewide Monitoring in Utah. The expansion in southern Utah is needed for emergency response and earthquake engineering of buildings and lifelines. The cost for a combination of both 10 new regional stations and 12 new urban strong-motion stations will be approximately \$420,000 one-time and \$125,000 ongoing.

Walter explained how seismic monitoring of the State Capitol would help evaluate how the building performed if it was hit by a damaging earthquake, as well as pinpointing where damage may have occurred. The cost estimate is \$200,000 one-time and about \$10,000/year ongoing.

Motion: *Pete McDonough made a motion for the Commission to endorse and support the proposal of expansion of seismic instrumentation and rapid earthquake information products in the St. George – Cedar City area and rural Utah, as well as seismic monitoring for the State Capitol building, and the Strategic Building Blocks for Effective Statewide Monitoring in Utah. Roger Evans seconded the vote and it was unanimously passed. Walter Arabasz was recused from the vote.*

➤ **PLANNING FOR JOINT USSC/NESC MEETING IN ST. GEORGE**

The Commission reviewed the draft agenda of the USSC/NESC joint meeting to be held on May 10, 2007. Several changes were made to the agenda for speakers and moderators. The field trip on Friday, May 11, 2007 will consist of a half-day visit to the Springdale landslide and the Hurricane fault. Matthias Mueller could possibly get the State plane for those that are interested in flying. The cost would come from each member's organization.

Bob Carey will send out an e-mail to pole Commissioners on who will be attending the meeting and the field trip and make arrangements for transportation.

The Commission then discussed its Top Actions for the joint meeting. After a brief discussion of possible actions, the Commission decided one action will be HAZUS training and education, mainly for building officials but also for the Commission, public officials, design professionals, the Utah Leagues of Cities and Towns and the public to increase understanding of earthquake danger in Utah. Another action will be the URM initiative and inventory of URMs in Utah.

During the discussion of the top actions, the State Office of Education retrofit initiative for Utah's schools was discussed. The Commission would like to support the education and training of individuals or engineers for school seismic-safety evaluations. Bob Carey and Jake Watson will draft a letter to give to Larry Newton, State Office of Education, to offer the support of the Commission.

Motion: *Jake Watson made a motion to support the State Office of Education with the school seismic-safety initiative with the qualification that licensed professionals do school evaluations. Roger Evans seconded the vote and it was unanimously passed.*

The Commission decided other actions will be earthquake building notifications regarding seismic safety, and preparation of the Utah "Putting Down Roots" document.

➤ **TOUR OF THE CONSONUS**

Kelly Sawyer, Director of Marketing and Product Development, Consonus, gave a brief overview of the history and services that Consonus provides their costumers. USSC then split into several groups for the tour of the earthquake-resistant building.

➤ **NEWS & UPDATES**

Barry Welliver reported on the 2000-2005 Progress Report. Barry is hoping to get the final draft out between now and the next meeting.

Bob Carey gave a brief report on the changes in the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants. \$500,000 has been set aside for each state and if a state would like more money they will have to compete for the grants.

Bob also reported on the current Commission budget. There are outstanding balances to pay for the progress report, “Putting Down Roots” brochure, WSSPC meeting, the joint meeting with NESC in May, and the student grants.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

DATE: Thursday, May 10, 2007
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
PLACE: Comfort Suites
1239 South Main
St. George, Utah 84770

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.