

# Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting  
July 13, 2007  
Minutes

On July 13, 2007 a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in room 1112 State Office Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Pete McDonough called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

## **Members Present:**

-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey (UGS)
-Walter Arabasz	University of Utah (U of U) Seismograph Stations
-Laura Ault	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
-Jon Bischoff for Boyd Wheeler	Utah Department of Transportation
-Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association
-Sheila Curtis	Utah Insurance Department
-Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Mike Kuehn	Division of Homeland Security (DHS)
-Peter W. McDonough	Chair, 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 Architects
-Jake Watson	Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU)

## **Members Not Present:**

Kerry Baum	Association of Contingency Planners
Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Senator Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (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, UGS
-Christopher DuRoss	Geologic Hazards Program, UGS

**Guests Present:**

-Emily Aikins	VA Hospital
-Kevin Franke	Kleinfelder
-Greg Schlenker	Kleinfelder
-David Stevens	Kleinfelder
-Jim Stritikus	Kleinfelder
-Barry Welliver	SEAU

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

Chair Pete McDonough welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance and asked for introductions.

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Pete McDonough 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 May 10, 2007. Roger Evans seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS**

**Motion:** *Roger Evans made a motion to nominate Pete McDonough for Chair of USSC. Barry Smith seconded the motion.*

**Motion:** *Walter Arabasz moved to close nominations and to vote for Pete McDonough as Chair. Barry Smith seconded the motion. Pete McDonough was nominated and unanimously voted to be the Chair of USSC.*

**Motion:** *Pete McDonough moved that Roger Evans and Kerry Baum be nominated for Vice-Chairs of USSC. Rick Allis seconded the motion. Roger Evans and Kerry Baum were unanimously voted to be Vice-Chairs.*

➤ **FY 2008 USSC GOALS**

Gary Christenson reported progress on the first goal identified at the May 10, 2007 USSC meeting to create a “Putting Down Roots” brochure. Brochure design, formatting, and funding will come from the Utah Division of Homeland Security (Bob Carey), FEMA (Doug Bausch), U of U Seismograph Station (Kris Pankow and Walter Arabasz), and UGS (Gary Christenson). The brochure will be a full color, informational tool geared toward the general public and modeled after the USGS’s “Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country” brochure for the San Francisco Bay area of California. The Utah brochure will include a “why, where, and how often” section on earthquakes; fault- and earthquake-hazards information and maps; and

steps to prepare for an earthquake. The brochure's distribution will coincide with the April 2008 Earthquake Preparedness Week.

Bob Carey spoke on the HAZUS loss estimates/planning scenario that was identified at the last USSC meeting. Homeland Security would like to make two documents for a planning scenario and earthquake scenario. The Commission encouraged the ad hoc committee, which includes Bob Carey, Walter Arabasz, Gary Christenson, Doug Bausch, and Barry Welliver, to (1) make the earthquake-scenario document simple and in terms the general public can relate to, (2) partner with EERI if possible, and (3) obtain writing help from the UGS. It was also encouraged to have a section on insurance with contact information and to have a section on steps to minimize the risks associated with unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings.

Barry Welliver spoke about the URM initiative that was discussed at the last USSC meeting. Doug Bausch has put together two project proposals for the URM initiative in Utah, including (1) an inventory of URM buildings throughout the state by university students and (2) the development of a video and scale model providing information for Utah homeowners and contractors to utilize for retrofitting residential URM buildings in earthquake-prone areas. FEMA may fund the mitigation portion of the projects. The Commission would like to support both of these proposed projects with a letter of support addressed to FEMA (Doug Bausch).

**Motion:** *Sheila Curtis moved that USSC write a letter of support, stating that if FEMA were to fund these project proposals to gather an URM inventory for the state, USSC would approve and support. Roger Evans seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Commission.*

#### ➤ **PROPOSED “RAPID VISUAL SCREENING” OF UTAH SCHOOLS**

Roger Evans and Jake Watson reported on the proposed “Rapid Visual Screening” for Utah Schools. At the last legislative session, the Commission requested legislative support and funding for the proposal. Jake and Roger asked for any questions and comments to be made on their proposal, which they plan to present during the next legislative session. It was suggested that a timeline (cut-off date) be set for completing all school screenings and that a single person or group perform all of the screenings for the state. The Office of Education would like to have all screenings done in one year.

#### ➤ **UGS WEBER SEGMENT WFZ TRENCH IN NORTH OGDEN**

Chris DuRoss, UGS, gave a power point presentation on recent UGS and USGS paleoseismic trenching near North Ogden on the Weber segment of the Wasatch fault zone. Preliminary findings suggest that several (at least five) surface-faulting earthquakes have occurred on this part of the Weber segment during the Holocene. Results from the trench investigation should help refine the timing and recurrence of large earthquakes on the Weber segment as well as the segmentation of the northern Wasatch fault zone.

➤ **NEWS AND UPDATES**

Walter Arabasz gave an update on the U of U Seismograph Stations' recent activities. First, Walter reported on the U of U Seismograph Stations Centennial celebration that included a tribute to the U of U former president James E. Talmage for his installation of the first earthquake recording device at the U of U. Walter then reported on seismic instrumentation in southwestern Utah, which was bolstered by a \$1 million grant from the Utah Legislature. This funding helped with the purchase of 10 new regional stations and 12 new strong-motion stations. The Utah Strong-Motion Advisory Committee is currently selecting final sites for the new instrumentation.

Development of seismic instrumentation at the Capitol Building is underway. With a \$200,000 budget, the US Geological Survey, along with Reaveley Engineering, has done most of the design work, which includes 36-channel instruments throughout the Capitol that will be installed by the Capitol Preservation Board.

Walter attended the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Advisory Committee meeting, held in Washington D.C. The NEHRP interagency coordinating committee includes FEMA, the National Science Foundation, USGS and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The directors of each of these agencies and the directors of the Office of Management and Budget and the President's Office of Science and Technology Council are all mandated by law to serve on this committee.

Bob Carey reported on the 2000-2006 Progress Report. The Commission will receive a copy of the last draft that was given to Bob. Commissioners are assigned to review and edit what they have written for the report. Bob hopes to have the report completed by the end of the year.

Bob gave a brief summary on the Commission budget, which did not account for student research grants or the upcoming WSSPC conference in Reno.

**Motion:** *Walter Arabasz moved to authorize the Chair of the Commission to attend WSSPC Conferences and also to fund the trip for the Chair. Jake Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

Jim Stritikus, VA Hospital, reported that a VA Hospital Preparedness Open House will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Room 1112  
State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.