

**Approved Minutes
Utah Seismic Safety Commission
Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

On July 19, 2018, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Kletting Room of the Utah Senate Building in Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Leon Berrett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Leon Berrett, Chair	American Public Works Association
Rick Allis, Vice Chair	Utah Geological Survey
Keith Koper, Vice Chair	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
Patrick Tomasino	Utah Division of Facilities and Construction Management
Steven Bruemmer	American Institute of Architects, Utah Disaster Assistance
Meldee Love	Utah Insurance Department
Jessica Chappell	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Bob Carey (designee for Kris Hamlet)	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Joaquin Mixco	Utah Department of Transportation
Craig Kerkman	Association of Continuity Professionals

USSC Staff Present:

Steve Bowman	Utah Geological Survey
Adam Hiscock	Utah Geological Survey
Emily Kleber	Utah Geological Survey
John Crofts	Utah Division of Emergency Management

Guests Present:

Walter Arabasz	University of Utah (retired)
Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Greg McDonald	Utah Geological Survey

Members Not Present:

Chris DuRoss	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Senator Jerry Stevenson	Utah State Senate
Evan Curtis	Utah Governor's Office

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Visitors/Approval of Minutes

Leon Berrett made introductions, and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

Jessica Chappell introduced herself as her first meeting as a Commission member representing the Structural Engineers Association of Utah.

Bob Carey mentioned he would be representing Kris Hamlet.

Leon presented the minutes and opened it up for discussion.

Rick Allis made a motion for approval of the April 26, 2018 meeting minutes.

Roger Evans seconded the motion.

Walter Arabasz mentioned a correction to the minutes. Meeting minutes were approved with correction.

Elections for Chair and Two Vice Chairs

Walter by invitation assisted with the elections of the officers.

Keith Koper made a nomination for Leon to be chair.

Rick Allis seconded the nomination.

Walter invited other nominations. No other nominations were made and the nominations were closed by unanimous consent. Leon was elected Chair by unanimous consent.

Walter asked Leon to provide background on the Vice Chairs.

Leon discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Vice Chairs and nominated Keith Koper for Vice Chair.

Rick seconded the nomination and by acclamation Keith was re-elected.

Rick discussed his upcoming retirement and gave explanation as to why he was not seeking re-election. He then designated Steve Bowman as the Commission member representing the Utah Geological Survey and nominated him for a Vice Chair position.

Steve Bowman said he was happy to accept the nomination.

Patrick Tomasino seconded the motion.

Leon closed the nominations and by acclamation Steve was elected Vice Chair.

Walter provided an historical explanation of the Chair and Vice Chairs responsibilities and interaction with the Utah Division of Emergency Management, University of Utah Seismograph Stations (UUSS), and the Utah Geological Survey. He discussed they are part of the planning meetings.

Leon thanked Walter for his participation.

Update on the USSC Progress Report

John Crofts provided an update on the USSC Progress Report and discussed everyone's participation. John invited everyone to review their prior submittals and provide updates or additions by the next Commission meeting. The USSC Progress Report Committee includes: Bob Carey, Steve Bowman, Leon Berrett, and Jessica Chappell. The goal is to have the Progress Report completed by the next Legislative session.

Leon said he said he would like to have the draft prepared and ready by next USSC meeting.

Leon explained to Jessica the purpose and scope of the Progress Report.

Bob Carey said the last report was from 2007 and that there would be a lot of new material to provide for the Progress Report.

Leon recognized commissioners who entered late and asked they introduce themselves.

Discussion of USSC Trifold

Adam Hiscock discussed the new trifold and provided a draft to the Commission. He invited input from the Commissioners and asked for input. He discussed the trifold as a tool we could use to take to meetings and help provide information about the Commission. He invited input.

Bob made a few suggestions, including making the publication four-fold on legal paper. He suggested expanding it to include Commission accomplishments and sharing the mission.

Leon asked to go through it and the Commission reviewed the concept.

Roger said he works with a number of engineers and he was surprised how many engineers and architects do not know about the Commission. He suggested we send them email when the trifold is completed.

Emily Kleber suggested eye-catching phrases that would capture attention.

Jessica asked for clarification of the trifold's goal.

Leon and others discussed the primary goal is to increase awareness and the resources we have and what we have accomplished.

Rick suggested adding "what is our mission" and the goal of reducing earthquake risk.

Jessica said that many professionals' eyes gloss over when reading such reports. She suggested adding something that would keep professionals attention and help business owners understand the importance of the Commission. She continued that the issue is business and we could work to make sure it keeps their interest. She suggested putting in "this matters to the life of your business" and that the commission is working to improve the longevity of our community and measures we can take that better ensure our survival to a seismic event.

Adam said he would capture those comments.

Bob added that the new HAZUS model results are significantly worse for business, homeowners, and others, because we are now able to look at more square footage of business and home structures. Previously, HAZUS was not capturing replacement costs of basements.

Glen Palmer said earthquake awareness is improving, and the Commission is responsible for increasing awareness. He also suggested including more pictures of earthquake events into the trifold.

Adam said he would capture more photos.

Leon discussed the editing process and we would include the mission statement about the USSC and then going on stating our purpose of why we are here. He likes listing our accomplishments. He suggests seismograph stations, trenches, and thinking about it more, maybe it should be quad fold.

Meldee Love said the map showing the earthquakes is valuable and she would like that explained more.

Keith offered Adam more updated earthquake information and offered to send a real seismogram from an actual earthquake.

Leon requested Adam keep both he and Bob informed updates to the trifold and suggested completing the trifold by the next meeting.

Glen asked if we could include Salt Lake City's *Fix the Bricks* into the trifold.

Bob said the Commission was responsible for *Fix the Bricks* and it could be included.

Jessica asked if the Commission was involved with Salt Lake County and Murray's seismic mitigation efforts.

Leon explained that several city and county programs have not been the Commission's idea; however, the Commission fully supports and encourages seismic safety programs. He added

that seismic safety programs have been incubated beginning with the Commission, but that the concepts have been pushed by our Commission to many others.

Bob said the Commission has been vital in helping others promote seismic safety.

Glen said this commission has done a great deal in supporting programs such as *Fix the Bricks* and said the Commission could call these as potential action items.

Meldee said it would be nice to have a list of seismic actions and that the Commission has supported many seismic safety initiatives.

Walter suggested that the Commission choose a major message and to place the message prominently in front of the trifold.

Steve said we need to have a mission statement and advertise that statement.

Adam suggested an introduction and welcome from the Chair.

Bob said if you look through all of our stuff, we do not actually have an official mission statement. He said as a byproduct of the brochure, maybe the Commission should have a mission statement.

Leon thanked the message and we could send out an email and solicit comments from everyone. The Commissioners agreed to have a copy sent out and then have the new graphs and materials sent out.

Leon suggested meeting around the middle of August if that works for Adam, Emily, Steve, Keith, and Bob.

Discussion of Available Commercial Resources, Contractors, Lists and Other Information the Commission Can Provide to People

Leon discussed a request from a non-profit association (Tuck) that promotes healthy sleeping.

They had a section regarding earthquake safety on their website. They asked if they could put a link on our website. Discussion occurred regarding their website and the request. The discussion concluded that the Commission was not willing to put their link on our website, but they would be permitted to put our link on their website.

Utah State Board of Education—Obligation to Complete the School Seismic Safety Report

Bob discussed the results of the data collection from the Rapid Assessment Evaluation (RVS) for schools. He said that the contractor offered to summarize all the data that was collected. Last month the contractor held a meeting that was designed to bring the State Board of Education officials up to speed on the report and the process; Barry Welliver and Evan Curtis also attended this meeting. The contractor is currently working to complete the final report.

He explained that the funding did not cover the expenses for completing all the schools and that he and Barry (themselves) completed San Juan, Uintah, and Daggett County School Districts. Their efforts, combined with the contractor, will give a statewide overview. The Commission recognized and thanked Bob and Barry for their contribution to the report, which was free to the Commission.

He clarified that the report said that some of the schools have been replaced. The end product here that we used to have a line-item in the State of Utah budget to replace schools. The purpose was to have the money restored. He said he would have to talk to Evan Curtis because the funding came through the Governor's budget. He added that there was interest from Channel 2 and that there was a GRAMA request for the information and there is further

pressure to have the report completed. The report should illustrate the problem. They are trying to bring more people to play. We must update the State office because all the people working on these are new. All the people involved now are gone. He would just assume give him the final report. He further discussed the upcoming RVS for Schools meeting in which they hopefully will get the final report of the work performed by Reaveley Engineering.

Bob seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

Leon discussed his participation in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). He said he will share with the Commission EMAC information from his continued participation.

Jessica asked that nobody wants the bad information we are discussing. Now that Jennifer has retired, we are working to explain the issue of the big picture.

Bob said this was the problem. We have to go out and work. We have an intimate picture of the problems with the schools. The longer that we go, the more the districts do. When he and Barry did Union school on the border of Duchesne and Uintah Counties, that school is now gone. When school districts are involved the biggest bang for the buck is junior high and high schools. The elementary schools are the problem because there is not the big bang for the buck, then we have the problem with charter schools because they go into abandoned older schools. The money was appropriated in 2013, and we are not done yet. The new people with the Utah Board of Education are working to get this completed.

Keith asked if he is ever looking at publishing this information

Bob explained that the report could be put on the USSC website and expanded that the RVS mission was twofold.

1. Solicit legislature to get funding to improve the seismic safety of schools. He said rural districts have significant funding challenges because they have a lower tax base. He said it is a requirement by law you put children in schools. Because of the funding disparities, the Legislature may want to address seismic improvements.
2. The report will alert officials to seismic deficiencies in our schools and bring the danger of our schools to representatives who can affect change.

Keith agreed that the final report would be an excellent tool to communicate seismic risk in schools, and that it would provide the big picture when it comes to seismic safety in schools.

Keith said there could be criticism from parents that there was a state-funded report detailing the risks if the report is not properly addressed.

Bob said they have had this same discussion in the past. He said that we now have the data and we know what it means. The last question is where does the money come from? It is not that we did not address money, but the problem is that we do not have the current funding to fund all necessary seismic retrofits. The long-term decision is what to do now.

Keith asked about publishing all the detailed findings to citizens.

Bob said that would be something to consider.

Keith said it would be interesting to see how a parent would react to the report.

Bob said that the good thing is that this is a Governor's report.

Keith asked if the schools are aware of the specific risks.

Bob said schools are happy to share problems they see. He said at least the maintenance people are aware.

Keith suggested sending letters and the RVS report to the school principals.

Bob said he was not sure he would characterize the building as an inspection, rather an evaluation. Based on buildings, age, and construction type, you have a lot of buildings that would fall into a vulnerable category.

Jessica discussed Oregon and how they used certain rooms at schools as gathering points where they could go during and after an emergency.

Bob said that is a concept we have not emphasized that schools can be big assembly areas and retrofits could begin.

Glen said the initial goal was to categorize the buildings and see where the next step leads.

Jessica said one more step is educating the Legislature about vulnerable structures and inform them how much money is required to retrofit each school.

Jessica said her suggestion would be to recommend to schools the cost benefit analysis.

Bob said recommendations could also be based on finance.

Leon said as a Commission we strongly suggest the project be completed as quickly as possible and to let the commission know if there is anything they can do to finish it. Once the report is completed, it will open up other doors of other things that need to be done.

Leon said we will postpone Brent Maxfield's presentation until next time.

Discussion of Recommendations to the 2019 Session of the Utah Legislature

Leon encouraged everyone to come up with ideas for the next Legislature session.

Roger suggested we look at the State of California like the parapet ordinance. Are there things that other cities have adopted that we could use? He said every time we go the Legislature, it is a win, even if it does not pass, because we educate people. He said the audience listens and that educating people helps awareness. There are things we can do that makes tremendous differences on buildings.

Jessica asked if there was ever an opportunity to bring in others. She said that our risk for lives rivals Los Angeles because of our URMs. Dr. Lucy Jones can get a lot of attention. Oregon did a study for their schools. There are a lot of great examples and we could start indexing a lot of great work that has being done to present to lawmakers. She said it would be a nice talking point. They are actually building these buildings now and there are a lot of good examples.

Leon said there is a lot of great examples; he mentioned Texas, and that they have a huge task in debris management after Hurricane Harvey. What would you recommend legislatively here to help if Utah faced the same challenges?

Joaxin Mixco said the other phases of emergency management would help. He said he thought Brad Bartholomew invited someone out from New Zealand and he is the guy the Legislature needs to listen to. Two events back to back with their geography and situations that are similar to ours. Christchurch is a lot like to Salt Lake City.

Leon mentioned Gage Froerer is not in the Legislature now. Discussion occurred about finding a replacement.

Jessica said Dr. Jones talked about engaging the elected officials. Maybe the next legislator could be actively involved in the Commission.

Leon said we have a lot of other communities that have done things with elected officials. He suggested writing a letter to the Utah Speaker of the House asking for a replacement. Maybe in the letter include criteria for the next Legislator.

Bob said he would take it up with Kris about who has championed things with the State.

Bob discussed the state restricted account and how it could be used for an earthquake.

Walter said from his experience that you only go to Legislature with clearly stated goals and specific process it would be more successful. He added that Ad hoc committees and identification of existing committees that we could further improve effectiveness in communicating with the Legislature. He suggested thinking about Commission committees and engage these committees into working groups to help find what we are looking for as a Legislative representative. Further discussion included an Action Item of drafting a letter to the Legislature about adoption of building code cycles.

Steve Brummer will help draft a letter. If we are not adopting the cycle every three years, we are lagging. He recommended the Commission support the adoption of the codes every three years they are available.

Leon suggested that Steve and Pete work together to draft a letter supporting codes, and that Patrick, Steve, and Pete write a draft letter of support stating the Commission support keeping our codes updated and correct. Steve will take the lead on this.

Update on the Western States Seismic Policy Council

Pete gave a background of the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) that was established in 1979 and explained to the Commission their contributions and how they are available to support and help the states. For the last several years, he has been on their Board of Directors and now he is Chair. There are now 39 members, 14 Geological Survey Directors, and various liaisons from across the country from thirteen U.S. states, three Pacific territories, one Canadian province, and one Canadian Territory. He explained WSSPC has participants from Guam, Marianas, and other U.S. territories. WSSPC develops seismic policies and shares information to promote programs intended to reduce earthquake related losses and share information to reduce risk. There are over 83 million people in the WSSPC member areas. Improve overall awareness and serve as a resource. Adapting policy resources that support state earthquake policies and staff is small which includes one full-time executive director and one staff member.

Roger asked if there is a list of inventoried accomplishments with adopted policies.

Pete explained that there is a published list of adopted policies with WSSPC members on the website. He continued that the work these two individuals do is significant, and they support a lot of groups with financial assistance. WSSPC awarded Utah with an award in 2008 for the Capitol Preservation. He discussed the various committees that are involved with WSSPC such as the Tsunami Committee, Engineering Committee, Construction Committee, and the various policy recommendations that are on the table from the committees.

Roger asked about the WSSPC website and Pete provided the website and also told the Commission he would email the group the WSSPC policies and updates.

Bob made a motion to adjourn.

Roger seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

The next Commission Board Meeting will be held October 25, 2018, in the State Senate Building, Kletting Room.