

Utah Seismic Safety Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes

On October 25, 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
Keith Koper, Vice Chair	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Steve Bowman, Vice Chair	Utah Geological Survey
Kris Hamlet	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
Patrick Tomasino	Utah Division of Facilities and Construction Management
Meldee Love	Utah Insurance Department
Jessica Chappell	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Evan Curtis	Utah Governor's Office

USSC Staff Present:

Bob Carey	Utah Division of Emergency Management
John Crofts	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Adam Hiscock	Utah Geological Survey
Emily Kleber	Utah Geological Survey

Guests Present:

Brent Maxfield	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Joe Dougherty	DEM Public Information Officer
Barry Welliver	Utah Geological Survey
Lynda Viti	Assistant Attorney General for Utah DPS
Lydia Woltjen	Utah Insurance Department

Members Not Present:

Chris DuRoss	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Senator Jerry Stevenson	Utah State Senate
Steven Bruemmer	American Institute of Architects, Utah Disaster Assistance
Joaquin Mixco	Utah Department of Transportation
Craig Kerkman	Association of Continuity Professionals

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Visitors/Approval of Minutes

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

Leon presented the minutes and opened the minutes for discussion.

Patrick Tomasino made a motion for approval of the July 19, 2018 meeting minutes.

Steve Bowman seconded the motion.

Meeting minutes were approved with correction.

Discussion of Other USSC Resource Committees

Leon discussed the Commission's subcommittees and invited a discussion of their activities. He opened discussion to the possibility of opening other committees and revisiting non-participating committees.

Bob discussed the several standing committees that existed when the Commission first started. The original committees were listed in the USSC Plan. Over the years the approach evolved to keeping committees that work and eliminating non-working committees. He discussed the Safety Assessment Committee (SAP) and their very active role. Lifetimes Committee, Structural Engineers Committee, Emergency Management Committee and the Schools subcommittee were listed and discussed.

Leon asked about Rapid Visual Screening Committee (RVS). Discussion concluded that it was not part of any committee, and that it was under Evan Curtis' office. It is an ad hoc committee; however, there was no official "RVS Committee".

Leon invited discussion for a Standing Committee similar to the Building Committee and recommended an Advisory Committee. He invited suggestions and feedback from the Commission. He recommended we include new committees into our five-year plan.

Keith Koper said sometimes there would be a need for Publications Committee that could help advance Commission outreach materials.

Leon agreed that such a committee would be valuable.

Brent Maxfield discussed the Scenario Report and then recommended a Resilience Plan that would supplement the value of the report. He encouraged the Division of Emergency Management continue developing a Resilience Plan and discuss committee involvement.

Leon said that we do not currently have a Commissioner who represents EERI. He said they could support us and also get valuable input and feedback from EERI.

Jessica Chappell asked who comprises these committees.

Bob explained that the committees may include a mix of participants from different organizations.

Jessica asked about capturing Commission items discussed in the committees, acting upon them, and then discussing them in the larger body of the Commission.

Barry Welliver discussed the function of committees and how they report to the Commission.

Leon suggested a memorandum of understanding that the Commission could create with EERI. Discussion concluded that we could consider these action items and revisit for future discussion.

Final Report on Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) of Schools

Barry Welliver encouraged the State to complete a RVS of the schools. He gave a history of the funds that were used to complete the study. He explained that the schools are funded by the State and that the State had an interest to learn more about school risk. The State partnered with the State Office of Education to being the RVS. The people that originally started at the State Office of Education are now all gone, and that we are now educating and working with an entire new group of people.

Bob explained that the original concept of the RVS was to provide the Legislature with a better understanding of the State's schools and their seismic vulnerabilities. He suggested the report

have a Commission review prior to release. He discussed the problem of the Jr. Highs and High Schools being rebuilt and retrofitted; however, elementary schools are not being rebuild or retrofitted.

Leon suggested updating “The Students at Risk” document and update it with new data from the RVS report. He said we could add a section including the update—rather than creating a new document.

Bob recommended not sharing the data because it could potentially be interpreted as “pointing fingers”. He recommended the report be more global and not have specific data that could be received poorly or interpreted as accusatory. He said it is better to focus on the large problem and not get too detailed.

Barry suggested the State Office of Education share the report. He said the new director seems interested and is sensitive to school seismic safety. The State Office of Education could strongly appeal to the Legislature to take further action. There are a lot of wonderful things they can do to create improvements. He suggested developing a message within the next month or so to help advance seismic safety in schools.

Evan suggested the new Legislative Commissioner be someone that has a strong interest in school seismic safety and perhaps a new Legislative Commissioner could make a difference.

Barry gave some background to the Students at Risk publication and how they worked with a professional editor to create an excellent publication. He said we could figure out ways to partner with the Legislature who can really support school seismic safety. He said Roger, Bob and himself are working on this and invited others to participate and that they welcome other Commission members’ insight and invited others to participate.

Leon said this a standing committee and invited others to participate. School Seismic Safety could be the name and work with the State Office of Education and get other voices included.

Kris Hamlet said there is now a Utah Safe Schools Commission which was recently created. The State Board of Education, Risk Management, Public Safety and several school boards participate. Their commission is designed to address various school safety issues. He offered to place a USSC Commission member on their agenda to present on school structural safety. Currently they are searching for agenda items and offered to follow up with them.

Leon suggested a Commission member be on the new School Seismic Committee.

Evan said Bob and Barry should be complimented for keeping this issue alive and completing the RVS report. Because of both of their efforts we will soon have a completed and valuable report.

Leon suggested talking more of the RVS report and School Seismic Committee later. He suggested adding more people to this committee.

Discussion of any New Seismic Provision for the International Building (IBC) and Residential (IRC) Codes, Letter of Support from Commission

Brent Maxfield passed out a flyer and invited everyone to attend a “Let’s Talk Seismic in a Language we can All Understand” which will be held at the University of Utah today at 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The presentation will discuss engineers and how to discuss seismic concepts with simple language. He provided background and updates on Building Codes. He discussed the minor changes and the major changes included in the 2018 building codes. He also discussed the key changes from USGS seismic hazard maps from the older 2014 maps. Provo, Monticello and other areas in Utah are increasing areas of increased risk. Increases also occur in Logan and

Cedar City. The bigger change is the soils underneath building sites. Soil factors account for the waves that are classified as A, B, C and D. A represents stiff soils and D represents softer soils. Soil factors affect buildings and these changes will affect taller buildings in Utah the most. Code allows you to assume a value. In the new code it will move from type D to type C soil—which would increase ground motions. The new codes will increase the assumption of higher risk. Without a site specific study the assumptions for ground shaking could increase significantly. Un-conservative assumption in the code are being corrected. For taller buildings some of it will be significant.

Pete asked if there were changes in residential.

Brent said that residential would not change significantly.

Barry pointed out that windows affect the overall design.

Brent asked if the Commission had Legislative recommendations and thanked the Commission for presenting.

Council of State Governments West Seismic Presentation—Meeting update

Pete discussed the council and discussed who they are and what they do. Pete, Bob and Barry provided 30 minute presentations to the council. His presentation discussed transportation issues and discussed risk and repair times.

Bob discussed schools as infrastructure. He explained why Emergency Management looks at schools as infrastructure and explained how schools play an important role in recovery and provided an overview of the work on the RVS in schools. He briefed on the RVS project and turned time over to Barry on school safety.

Barry said the organization is interesting because the Council of State Governments (CPS) has the potential to problem solve. He explained that they are a group of State Legislators across the nation that discusses commonalities and their various problems. He discussed his interaction and conversations with other states and said it was excellent to attend this meeting.

Discussion of Potential Future Meeting Topics, such as: New Water Projects, Salt Lake City Airport Expansion and New Utah State Prison

Leon invited Commission Members to allow anyone to discuss any items they wanted to include on future agendas.

Adam discussed a public inquiry he received on the Metropolitan Water District which is one of two water wholesalers in Salt Lake County, he continued that the inquiry was a local consultant who wanted to know about earthquake faults so that they could re-do their water supply structures to avoid seismically dangerous areas. He named the man as Elliott Lips who works for Great Basin Geoscience. Discussion from the Commission suggested having him present later.

Pete said utilities are often concerned about what information they provide. He said he wasn't sure how successful we would be in getting us to discuss. They may not want to share with us.

Bob explained that the Federal Government is doing an analysis of infrastructure and water. He said it might be useful for the Commission to have a broader understanding of where we get water and discuss vulnerabilities.

Pete referred to Bob's comments about water and emphasized water is the most critical of all infrastructure programs.

Evan asked Bob if the Federal water study was completed.

Bob said the study is in the process of being completed.

Jessica said it would be interesting to have Salt Lake City discuss NIST, and that it might be helpful to have Mike Barrett speak to the Commission.

Patrick Tomasino discussed the State Prison and the soils study. He recommended the Geotechnical Group to the Commission and said that he serves on the project

Jessica said there are many other seismic projects. She offered to find other new projects to highlight and discuss with the Commission.

Pete said he would also look for speakers.

Barry asked who would support seismic retrofit dollars.

Bob said our representative at FEMA is Sean McCowan

Kris Hamlet discussed the Disaster Recovery Reform ACT. Now, 6% of disaster funding will go towards mitigation. This change now allows billions of dollars to go towards mitigation efforts. The new FEMA administrator has placed a strong emphasis on mitigation and this is seen as a very positive development.

Bob discussed the Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. He explained that FEMA now wants to expand that into wildfire. We can now use fire mitigation money any way we want on mitigation efforts. He suggested inviting Brad Bartholomew to address the Commission mitigation funding. Mitigation is not well publicized and there are millions of dollars that come into the state every year. He mentioned that the Commission supported the Marriott Building retrofit at the University of Utah. Our commission supported this effort and others using PDM money to support seismic projects throughout Utah.

Discussion of Legislative Replacement

Leon discussed Gage Froerer no longer being in the Legislature and asked for the Commission to explore options for a replacement.

Evan said Representative Kay Christopherson has an engineering background and may be a good person to invite.

Jessica added that Christopherson has some excellent credentials.

Evan added that Christopherson's technical background makes him ideal for our Commission. He continued that there is now a sizeable new group of incoming Legislature members with excellent credentials who may want participate on the Commission.

Leon asked for the Commission to watch in their districts and forward recommendations.

Leon suggested polling the commission over the next month or two to have some good replacement recommendations.

Five Year Plan

Leon asked on a legislative side what would we want the Commission to address?

Barry discussed Functional Recovery and that it is specific to disaster recovery. He wants us to look at ideas coming out of California. He discussed Lucy Jones and her well-intentioned bills. He discussed a need for the Commission and EERI to work with Legislature. Both Lucy and EERI were speaking to people on the community level. Once you embrace the local school as a community resource you become more attuned to mitigation in your community. Organizations like NIST are excellent at promoting mitigation.

Pete recommended concentrating the Commission emphasis on the nine items that are lined out through our Seismic Scenario document. He recommended re-visiting these nine recommendations because of their effectiveness and importance.

Jessica said she agrees with Pete and referenced the 2007 Commission update. She said that next month marks the 25-year Commission anniversary. She said there is a lot of good work in Oregon and other places for our Commission to review. She recommended taking work from EERI and overlay it with Commission accomplishments.

Leon agreed and suggested the Commission refresh our goals.

Steve said Putting Down Roots is good; however, it is now outdated, and it could be improved with relevant, updated information.

Emily Kleber suggested translating Putting Down Roots into different languages such as Spanish.

Bob said the Mormon Church started translating into Spanish; however, it was not completed.

Evan said it is really good to translate materials and then alert the press so that it is shared.

Leon said it is a great year to increase the awareness. New strategic plan could include Spanish outreach.

Barry said “Shakeout” is an excellent opportunity to do community based program. Oregon did Shakeout plus one. Their concept was they would do shakeout, then evacuate and then have the parents come and pick up the kids. He said once you engage a community it is a great opportunity for us to

Leon suggested having a meeting to explore more. Leon, Steve, Adam, and Emily will review publications and the Commission website.

Meldee Love commented on the Commission graphic meaning, and that it could be more descriptive of what the Commission is.

Open Meetings Training—Assistant Attorney General for the Utah Department of Public Safety

Lynda Viti explained that it is her job to advise Commissions and Boards on the Open Meetings Act. She provided the Commission with a handout that included the very crucial items of Open Meetings rules. She discussed that the Utah Legislature has made it difficult to conduct “closed meetings” and outlined the specific reasons for closing meetings. She warned the Commission that not following closed meeting requirements could result in criminal action.

Leon said our Commission does not close meetings and said he did not see that as a problem for the Commission.

Lynda also discussed the importance of Commission members attendance and also made mention that there are differences with Commissions when elected officials participate. She offered to answer questions. Discussion occurred regarding specific committees, which was determined they do not need to follow the Open Meetings requirements since they do not comprise a quorum and do not have any decision-making authority. A few questions were presented, and she clarified and answered questions.

General Updates

Update on USSC Trifold Brochure

Adam conducted a discussion with the Commission regarding suggested improvements. They will start a committee to review and finalize the trifold brochure that will consist of: Adam, Emily, Leon, Bob and John.

Western States Seismic Policy Council Update

Pete discussed that they are reviewing applications for the new Executive Director who will be replacing Patricia Sutch. He briefly discussed WSSPC and their goals, mission and direction.

RACES/ARES Conference 3 November 2018

Bob invited everyone to attend the conference on November 3rd and gave a brief description of what RACES/ARES does and their role in earthquakes and emergency management.

FEMA ATC-20

Bob discussed FEMA ATC-20 and re-credentialing and the new website that allows people to renew. He provided background of the SAP committee and the ATC-20 program.

Discussion on Draft Progress Report

John Crofts discussed the Draft Progress Report and explained that there were no additional inputs received from any of the Commission members. Discussion occurred about including the overall goals and strategic direction into the Progress Report and sharing it via Google Drive. This will be followed up with next year.

Other

Bob discussed that he recently discovered that there is now additional funding for mitigation of buildings that are currently sitting in a State fund—apparently few people were aware of this funding. He said that he will learn more later, and share with the Commission any updates.

Bob said that when there are Federally declared fires that there is now funding tied with mitigation. He mentioned that this could dramatically increase future mitigation funding projects.

The next Commission meeting will be held January 17, 2019, at Midvale Public works building located at 604 West 6960 South, Midvale, Utah.

Evan made a motion to adjourn.

Roger seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.