

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
January 11, 2008
Minutes

On January 11, 2008, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in room 1010, Department of Natural Resources Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Peter McDonough called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

-Peter W. McDonough	Chair, American Society of Civil Engineers
-Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
-Kerry Baum	Association of Contingency Planners
-Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association
-Gary Christenson*	Utah Geological Survey
-Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Jason Richins*	Utah Department of Transportation
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architects
-Jake Watson	Structural Engineers Association of Utah

*Gary Christenson in for Rick Allis

*Jason Richins in for Boyd Wheeler

Members Not Present:

-Laura Ault	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
-Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
-Sheila Curtis	Utah Insurance Department
-Jeff Graviet (Excused)	Division of Homeland Security
-Senator Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
-Rep. Michael Morley	Utah House of Representatives
-Matthias Mueller (Excused)	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
-Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

DHS Staff Present:

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

UGS Staff Present:

-Chris DuRoss	Geologic Hazards Program, Utah Geological Survey
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Guests Present:

-Emily Atkins	Veterans Administration Medical Center
-Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
-Jim Higbee	Utah Department of Transportation
-Shawn Olsen	State Farm Insurance Company
-Larry Reaveley	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
-Jim Stritikus	Veterans Administration Medical Center
-Mark Walton	State Farm Insurance Company
-Barry Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Jane Zhang	Utah Office of Education

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

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

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Motion: *Peter McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on October 26, 2007. Roger Evans seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Roger Evans and Jake Watson gave an update of the “Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory” bill. A copy of the draft bill was provided to the Commissioners. There were two changes to the bill’s language. First, by law, the school safety committee created in the bill cannot have a legislator as part of its membership. Instead, a representative from the executive branch will be appointed to fill the legislator’s spot on the committee. Second, the public committee meeting to discuss the building evaluations and rankings will be moved to the end of the project to avoid biasing the process. Thus, the initial committee meeting will occur after the building evaluation process has been completed. Representative Larry Wiley will be sponsoring the bill in the House. Walter Arabasz suggested that Roger contact the director of the Utah League of Cities and Town to let him know of the legislation. Jake pointed out that the Division of Facilities Construction & Management (DFCM) does not have a structural engineer on staff and could be part of the committee even though they are aware of the school building issues. Bob Carey mentioned that Risk Management has a structural engineer, Bruce Spiegel, on staff and has a good working knowledge of school buildings around the state. Walter suggested that a letter of support from the Commission for this bill be drafted to show that the Commission is aware and informed about the bill and the school building issue.

Motion: *Jake Watson made a motion that the Commission prepare a letter of endorsement for the “Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory” bill. Roger Evans seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.*

Barry Welliver presented the final version of the joint Unreinforced Masonry (URM) Resolution for Utah. Barry contacted both Representative Morley and Senator Knudson to sponsor the resolution for the 2008 legislative session. Representative Morley responded to the request to review the joint resolution and suggested a change in wording to the resolution. Barry indicated that Representative Wiley was willing to sponsor the joint resolution. The SEAU Seismic Committee and the USSC’s Ad Hoc URM committee felt that the Commission should be the lead organization for the resolution. Walter expressed concerns that the Legislature may question the Commission’s ability to perform and complete the inventory. Barry indicated that the resolution was the Legislature’s way of acknowledging the URM problem and telling the Commission to move ahead with the inventory without including performance measures.

Barry mentioned that the two committees were still working on the “White Paper” as supportive information for the dangers of URMs in Utah

Bob Carey discussed his attendance to the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council’s November 2007 quarterly meeting in Las Vegas. There was discussion at the meeting regarding what date to use as the benchmark for identifying URM’s. Some engineers in Nevada prefer 1964 as the benchmark date as reinforcement appears in the code at that time. Utah’s benchmark date has been 1974, as post-1964 brick buildings are under-reinforced structures. The Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) has a draft policy on setting a benchmark date for URM’s. A discussion followed about code adoption in Utah communities in . Peter thanked SEAU for their efforts on the “White Paper” and dealing with legislature.

Barry Welliver spoke to the SEAU-sponsored structural-engineer licensing bill. The Structural License Practice Act would better define the practice of structural design by explicitly stating which buildings and structures would be considered not only complex, but also of sufficient importance to warrant the added expertise of structural engineers. The buildings that the structural engineers feel need more expertise in design are occupancy category 3 and 4 buildings found in the International Building Code. Amendments would be made to the existing Professional Engineering Licensing Act to accommodate a transition to the licensing standards. A discussion followed as to what other states have done with this issue and the scope of the Utah bill compared to other states.

Peter spoke about the American Society of Civil Engineers’ (ASCE) position on this bill. ASCE is concerned with the bill and solicited comments from ASCE members. ASCE had arranged to meet with the Legislative Committee Chair who was hearing the bill so they could express their concerns. Peter sent out an email to the membership of the Commission expressing his concerns that the complexities of this issue were beyond the Commission’s scope. He suggested that the Commission generally support the concept that competent individuals design and construct

structures. The Legislature and Utah Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing (DOPL) should be the organizations that determine who is allowed to design and construct structures. A discussion followed about DOPL and the state's licensing of professional engineers.

Motion: *Peter made a motion that the Commission endorse the concept that all significant structures and facilities be designed and constructed by qualified professionals in compliance with applicable seismic design standards and to encourage discussion of the various stakeholders to improve seismic safety in our state. Kerry Baum seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.*

➤ **EERI 2009 ANNUAL MEETING**

Larry Reaveley was invited to the Commission meeting to provide information on the upcoming Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) annual meeting. The meeting will be the third time that EERI has held its annual meeting in Utah and Larry has proposed a theme of "Voluntary Seismic Rehabilitation." The proposed theme highlights the process of voluntary seismic rehabilitation and successes in Utah in the absence of legislation. He requested that the Commission provide a list of sponsors from the state for the meeting. Walter made two suggestions about highlighting Utah's seismic efforts at the conference. First, seismic projects that have take place in the state should be documented, which may be accomplished by hiring an intern. Second, from the 2006 San Francisco Conference, Chris Poland received accolades for his ability to create partnerships in the Bay Area. As part of the conference, the Commission should showcase the Utah earthquake program so that the participants have a better understanding as to why the state been able to accomplish so much. Larry requested a list of key people from the different organizations to be part of the local planning committee. A discussion followed about possible talks for the breakout sessions at the meeting.

Motion: *Peter made a motion that the Commission be a co-sponsor to the 2009 EERI Annual Meeting. Kerry Baum seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.*

Roger spoke to having the Commissioners bring a top-ten list of landmark activities to the next Commission meeting, including highlights or issues that have happened in the state. Barry was asked to bring the list of Commission activities that was part of a survey conducted by WSSPC. A formal request for funding from the Commission for an intern who will be the lead on the documentation of significant seismic activities will be made at the next Commission meeting. Jake Watson was selected to represent the Commission on the EERI planning committee.

➤ **LINKING SHAKEMAP AND EMERGENCY MANAGERS**

Bob Carey made a presentation on a poster that was developed for the American Geophysical Union's 2007 fall meeting in San Francisco. Kris Pankow of the University of Utah Seismograph Stations was responsible for the poster's genesis and development along with providing the ShakeMap scenario. The poster depicted how

ShakeMap and HAZUS could be used to aid emergency managers in dealing with the exercising, planning, response, and recovery activities associated with a large earthquake. Doug Bausch provided a HAZUS analysis along with several maps for the ShakeMap scenario for Utah County. The poster can be viewed at the Seismograph Stations' website.

➤ NEWS & UPDATES

Bob spoke about the upcoming 2008 National Earthquake Conference in Seattle. The conference will be held April 23-25, 2008. On April 22, the National Earthquake Program Managers meeting will be held along with a half-day meeting for state seismic safety councils. The WSSPC annual business meeting will be held in the evening of April 22 and its annual awards luncheon will be April 24. Field trips for the conference will be conducted on April 26.

Motion: *Walter made a motion that the Commission provide travel funds for the Chair of the Commission to attend the WSSPC conference under the guidelines established in the past. Barry Smith seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.*

Bob reported that the Commission has \$12,258.41 in its account. Funding commitments include publishing of the progress report (\$2,500), publishing of the "Putting Down Roots" document, student research grant reimbursements, and the reimbursement of the Chair's travel expenses to the WSSPC conference. . All excess funds over \$10,000 after June 30, 2008 will be returned to the general fund. Funding commitments for the EERI conference project may be decided at the April quarterly meeting.

Gary Christenson informed the Commission about the Awards in Excellence given out annually by WSSPC and the Lifetime Achievement Award. Both award submissions are due to WSSPC by February 29, 2008. Gary suggested that the Commission nominate the Capitol retrofit project.

Gary reported on the 2008 WSSPC Policy recommendations. Two new policies have been recommended for adoption. The first policy recommendation is supporting unreinforced masonry inventories and mitigation and the second is supporting Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS). The policy recommendations are in draft form waiting on the WSSPC Board to vote on them.

Gary reported on the 2008 Utah Earthquake Working Group meetings, which were held at Utah Geological Survey (UGS) on February 12-14, 2008. The technical working groups replaced the Geosciences Standing Committee. There are three working groups, Ground Shaking, Fault Parameters, and Liquefaction.

Gary reported on the progress of the "Putting Down Roots" brochure. A draft brochure is ready for review by the committee.

Gary reported on Draper City's approval of a geologic-hazards ordinance. The city put together a panel of technical experts that included Steve Bartlett (University of Utah), Gary Christensen (Utah Geological Survey), David Simon (Simon Bymaster, Inc.), and Tom Blake. The panel put out a draft of the ordinance for public comment and received comments back from consultants and developers in the Draper area. The ordinance was unanimously adopted by the Draper City Council in December. The League of Cities and Towns, through its Property Rights Coalition, will review the ordinance. If the ordinance makes it through that process, it will be put out as a model ordinance for other cities to adopt.

Barry Welliver gave an update on the progress of the 2000-2005 USSC Progress Report. Revisions of the executive summary and foreword have been completed along with the action plan. Bob indicated that an additional section was added to the report listing past Commissions. Barry reminded the Commission about its obligation of presenting the Progress Report to the Government Operations Interim Committee. The Commission has committed \$2,500 to the publishing of the report.

Earthquake Preparedness Week is April 6 thru the 12, 2008. The Commission will submit a proclamation to the Governor's Office in conjunction with Earthquake Preparedness Week.

This meeting was the last meeting for Kerry Baum and Gary Christenson. A special thanks was offered by the Commission.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

DATE: Friday, April 4, 2008
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Room 130
State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.