

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting July 15, 2010 Minutes

On July 15, 2010, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Kletting Room of the State Capitol Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Roger Evans called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Roger Evans, Chair	Utah League of Cities & Towns
Keith Koper	University of Utah Seismic Stations
Mike Romero	Proxy for Fred Doehring Utah Department of Transportation
Sheila Curtis	Proxy for Brad Tibbitts Utah Insurance Department
Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Institute of Architects
Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
Pete McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
M. Leon Berrett	American Public Works Association
Greg McCoombs	Structural Engineers Association of Utah

Members Not Present:

Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
Senator Knudson	Utah State Senate
Keith Squires	Utah Division of Homeland Security
Michael Morley	Utah House of Representatives
Kurt Baxter	Utah Division of Facilities, Construction and Management

USSC Staff Present:

Bob Carey	Mitigation & Natural Hazards Section, DHS
Karen Vetterli	Mitigation & Natural Hazards Section, DHS
Chris Duross	Geologic Hazards Program

Guests Present:

Russ Rutten	State Farm Insurance
Scott A. Holt	State Farm Insurance
Anne VonWeller	Murray City
Glen Palmer	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Barry Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismic Stations
Kevin Franke	Kleinfelder
Judy Fahys	Salt Lake Tribune

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

USSC Chair Roger Evans welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked for introductions.

Commissioners reviewed and made corrections to the minutes of the April 22, 2010.

Motion: Peter McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Barry Smith. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

- After some discussion on legislative protocol for elections, it was decided and agreed upon that at this moment there is not a quorum present. Elections will occur later in the meeting.

➤ **Roger Evans presented a plaque of recognition to Pete McDonough for his hard work and dedication as the out-going Chair of the Commission.**

➤ **Legislative updates**

Roger Evans discussed the two bills that the Commission is tracking in the legislature. The first bill is the condominium conversion ordinance dealing with existing apartment buildings converting to condominiums. The bill would require a seismic evaluation/upgrade as part of the conversion process. The bill is moving slowly through the interim committee. The second bill is the Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) of schools. Representative Willey suggested that Representative Morley sponsor the bill for the Commission.

Glen Palmer gave a status report on the Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) pilot project. The project will be a field sampling of schools across Utah, using RVS form ATC-21, which will be uploaded onto electronic collection devices (smart phones). The building type, date of construction, number of stories, and upgrades or additions will be recorded. This project should determine the buildings most at risk to earthquakes. Engineers selected by the Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU) will complete the screening. The training and sampling will take place in mid-September and the report will be completed by the end of the year.

Barry Welliver commented on the three ongoing projects. The first project, 2008 House Joint Resolution 7, is the inventorying of public unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings. The second project is related to 2009 House Bill 72 (HB-72), Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory, which did not pass. HB-72 recommended an inventory of all Utah K-

12 schools for seismic vulnerability. Two FEMA cooperative agreements are supporting these projects. A \$50,000 cooperative agreement from FEMA has provided assistance to the K-12 school inventory project (HB-72). The second cooperative agreement from FEMA for \$9,000 is in support of the third project, ROVER (Rapid Observation of Vulnerability and Estimation of Risk; ATC-67). Roger Evans explained the ROVER project is the electronic gathering of building information. The FEMA cooperative agreement will fund the purchase the equipment for the engineers to collect this school building data. The USSC will provide an oversight committee to provide instruction. This project will take place before the Commission meeting if any of the members have input or would like to work on this project, please let Barry know of your intentions.

The Existing Buildings Committee is working on the HJR7 bill to identify public URM buildings. This is an ongoing volunteer effort. The Fisher Mansion is another project in Salt Lake City that the Committee has volunteered services to help determine how to re-use the building.

SEAU through the Existing Buildings Committee will have a booth in the Avenues Street Fair again this year. The participation at this event has proven to be successful. SEAU has made a commitment to branch out and give presentations to other communities and has a website to provide a public place for URM buildings to be listed.

Bob Carey has agreed to update the URM residential retrofit manual as part of the 2011 Cooperative Agreement with FEMA. SEAU plans to update their website and make it more user friendly for engineers to get information.

➤ **Election for new Chair and Vice Chairs**

Roger Evans requested that new members introduce themselves:

Leon Barrett	Salt Lake County Public Works
Greg McCoombs	SEAU
Keith Koper	UofU Seismograph Stations

Motion: Rick Allis made a motion to nominate Roger Evans as Chair. Pete McDonough seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

Motion: Barry Smith moved to close nomination and to vote for Roger Evans as Chair. Keith Koper seconded the motion. Roger Evans was nominated and unanimously approved to be the Chair of USSC.

Motion: Nominations for two Vice-Chairs. They will assist the Chair on Commission business.

Motion: Pete McDonough nominated Rick Allis and Dr. Koper for the Vice-Chairs position. Roger Evans seconded the motion. Rick Allis and Dr. Koper were nominated and unanimously approved to be the Vice-Chairs of USSC.

Bob Carey discussed the 2012 Earthquake Exercise, Utah Shake Out. FEMA Headquarters mandated that their regional office identify potential catastrophic hazards. There will be several meetings in Salt Lake City for planning and development of a joint FEMA-State of Utah catastrophic plan. There is a need for a catastrophic plan to be in place to facilitate acquiring assistance from the Federal government. Bob encouraged the Commission to participate in some way, which can be discussed at a later time. Bob also described the details of the scenario in the exercise.

➤ **Discussion**

Roger Evans discussed assignments before the next meeting. Anyone who is willing to help with attending the interim committee meetings that start in September is always welcome just show up to the meetings or contact Roger. He will email the report on the status of bills in the interim committees to Representative Larry Wiley.

➤ **News Items**

Chris DuRoss reported preliminary results from a joint Utah Geological Survey (UGS) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) fault-trench study of the Wasatch fault conducted in May. The UGS and USGS excavated two trenches on the East Bench fault near the University of Utah and exposed evidence of at least five and possibly six earthquakes post dating the Provo stage of Lake Bonneville (17–14 ka). Age data from soil and sediment samples will help constrain the timing of the individual surface ruptures.

Bob Carey discussed the school media project. Bob talked to the Division of Homeland Security Public Information Officer (PIO) about the project. The PIO suggested getting schools involved with Utah Shake Out exercise. Bob suggested the Commission become more involved with schools as a coordinated effort. The question was asked about the two young women from Brigham Young University who attended our last meeting. Could they help with a preparedness project in some aspect?

Bob Carey discussed starting the next progress report. Do we need to form a committee to pursue this report? A yearly report would let everyone know what the Commission

has accomplishing since 2007.

Barry Welliver explained to the group all of the steps taken to prepare for the Avenues street fair. The presentation and activities expand each year for this event. This event is well attended by the public.

Bob Carey reported on the budget. There were no significant expenditures.

Pete McDonough attended and reported on the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) annual meeting. Pete was involved in a discussion with other states on the seismic issues and what other states are doing. Pete discussed the "Roots" publication and the number of copies distributed to the public. Bob indicated that more booklets and newspaper insert copies would be printed. Pete mentioned that the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council wants to discuss having a joint meeting again next year.

Roger Evans presented a plaque of appreciation to Walter Arabasz as he has retired from the University of Utah. Roger thanked Walter for his tireless support and leadership of the Commission. Good luck Walter!

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Thursday, October 21, 2010

TIME: 9:00a.m.

PLACE: Senate Building, Kletting Room
Salt Lake City, UT

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.