

# Utah Seismic Safety Commission

## Quarterly Meeting Minutes

On July 19, 2012, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the State capital. Chair Roger Evans called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

### Members Present:

Roger Evans, Chair	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
Keith Koper	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Josh Sletten	Utah Department of Transportation
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
Meldee Love	Utah Department of Insurance
Enzo Calfa	Division of Facilities, Construction and Management
M. Leon Berrett	American Public Works Association
Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning

### USSC Staff Present:

Chris DuRoss	Utah Geological Survey
Steve Bowman	Utah Geological Survey
Bob Carey	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Sheila Curtis	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Judy Watanabe	Utah Division of Emergency Management

### Guests Present:

TibbyMilne	Utah Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Leslie Randle	SSC - Northridge Elementary
Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations

### Members Not Present:

Keith Squires	Division of Homeland Security
Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
Senator Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Rep. Mike Morley	Utah House of Representatives
Mark Peterson	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)

### **Welcome**

Introductions were made of members and guests present. A motion was made for the approval of the April 26, 2012 Meeting Minutes.

**The motion was made by Peter McDonough and second by Enzo Calfa. The minutes were approved.**

### **Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**

Roger Evans turned the time over to Walter Arabasz for the nomination and election of the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Walter explained the rules for nominations and opened the floor for nominations of the position of Chair. Peter McDonough nominated Roger Evans for the position of Chair. Roger Evans accepted the nomination. No further nominations were made and the nominations were closed. A unanimous vote elected Roger Evans as Chair.

Walter opened the floor for nominations of the positions of Vice Chairs. Nominations were made for Rick Allis and Keith Koper to continue as Vice Chairs for the commission. Rick Allis and Keith Koper accepted the nominations. No further nominations were made and the nominations were closed for the positions of Vice Chairs. A unanimous vote elected Rick Allis and Keith Koper to continue as the Vice Chairs for the commission.

## **Overview**

**Roger Evans** presented a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting. He mentioned that during the meeting there would be a discussion on the USSC Strategic Plan and he asked that everyone be prepared to share two goals for the next two months. Roger commits to making sure that everyone he works with knows about the USSC web site through the use of handouts and email updates. For his second goal Roger commits to spending 63 hours at the legislature.

## **Report on the New Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

**Bob Carey** gave a presentation on the new State EOC. He discussed how the new space was acquired and the remodeling that was done to prepare the space for the purpose of State EOC. Bob presented the capabilities of the new EOC including the Christie, Smartboards, paging system, VOIP, and a camera located in the EOC that can project to outside locations. He discussed how the EOC will be able to perform during an event using these resources. Bob reported briefly on the Great Utah ShakeOut, which was held in the EOC. Bob expressed his appreciation for having the USSC meeting held in this location so he could showcase the the EOC.

## **Report on recent fault-trench investigations of the Wasatch fault**

**Chris DuRoss** presented on the ongoing UGS & USGS project of fault-trench investigations of the Wasatch fault. He expressed that they have a good timeline of events for activity on the Salt Lake and Provo segments of the fault but the Nephi segment, which is the southernmost segment of the fault has unresolved issues. To further the investigations he obtained USGS grant funding. The Nephi segment has evidence of young surface-faulted earthquakes on it. Chris presented a map that showed that the northern strand of the Nephi segment overlaps with the Provo segment. He stated that there were important questions in relation to this such as: Does this part of the fault that overlaps with the Provo segment behave independently? During an earthquake would it rupture with the Provo fault, Nephi fault, or both? And also how do earthquake times on the southern strand relate to those of the northern strand of the Nephi segment? He explained the process of putting together a surface-faulting history and how this could answer some of these questions.

**Chris** discussed the North Creek site on the southern strand of the Nephi segment. There is evidence of 3 or 4 earthquakes with large displacement in each event. He presented a photomosaic of the site. Chris explained how paleoseismic data can be used to determine information about the earthquake events such as earthquake recurrence, magnitude and time since the last earthquake.

The question was asked if the Provo segment had been trenched. Chris explained that the Provo fault has been trenched and results showed the last earthquake was around 600 years ago. It was brought up that this earthquake could relate to the earthquake that they were seeing on the Nephi segment. Chris agreed and stated that how the Provo and Nephi segments relate is one of the things that they are currently studying.

### **Salt Lake City Building Occupancy Resumption Program (BORP)**

**Orion Goff** presented on the Building Occupancy Resumption Program. BORP is a program that has been running in California for several years. They have drafted a similar program for Utah. This will be a value added program that is voluntary but popular. It will be a partnership between the private industry and other associations such as the Salt Lake City Building Services and Code Enforcement, Structural Engineers Association, Building Owners and Managers, and the American Institute of Architects.

**Orion** explained that after an event the number of buildings, in Salt Lake, that would need evaluations would greatly outnumber the resources available. The goal of BORP is to partner with the private industry to get these post-earthquake building inspections done, by the private industry, before the event. BORP will be available to building owners in jurisdictions where the program has been approved. There will be a cost to the owner for the preparation and review of a BORP plan but there will be no cost to submit a BORP plan. The benefits of BORP come post-event for building owners with a BORP plan because their buildings have been pre-evaluated and necessary actions have been pre-negotiated. With this advantage buildings can be reopened much sooner. Orion expressed his belief that this program will be successful with city council and committed to keep the USSC updated on the progress of the adoption of this program.

### **Utah Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) - The need for a rapid visual screening seismic survey**

**Tibby Milne** gave a brief introduction on the Utah PTA as one of the top three in size nationally with 125,000 members statewide. Utah has more children per capita than any other state in the country. She explained that she had worked extensively with Roger to create a resolution, for the need of a Rapid Visual Screening Seismic Survey, to take to the legislature this year. Tibby expressed the concern that many schools in Utah were built before 1972. She expressed her belief that if educate the parents of the dangers involved with children being in these old schools, in the event of an earthquake, that they will not be willing to risk it.

**Tibby** suggested that a committee be formed and that someone on the republican side be identified to work with Representative Larry Wiley on this issue. She suggested that meetings be held every two weeks to create a strategy and to track this until this goes through. On October 24 there will be a Legislative Conference at the capital. If they have a draft bill, Tibby will identify a workshop for this issue. This will provide an opportunity to educate the parents as well as the members of the legislature on the issue.

### **Strategies for the 2013 Legislative Session**

**Evan Curtis** presented on the Strategies for the 2013 Legislative Session. He stated that the top issue has been the seismic safety of schools. School Bonding for Seismic Purposes (HB 414) was passed but was then vetoed due to technical issues. Evan also discussed HB 305, a bill that passed and effectively

guted the previous Parapet Ordinance. Evan expressed that the USSC needs new legislative representatives from both the House and the Senate. He stated that the Lieutenant Governor has shown sympathy for the issues and that the League of Cities and Towns has shown interest in a reinstatement of the Parapet Ordinance.

The goals for 2013 are to bring Utah schools up the seismic safety standards, reinstate a new Parapet Ordinance, get more active participation from the legislature on the commission, and to increase public awareness of the USSC. Evan defined several options for trying to reach these goals including re-introducing improved versions of both HB 414 and HB 305.

**Evan** suggested the following timeline:

**Now** - Identify legislators who have supported our bills in the past and will likely support us in the future.

**August** - Work with legislators to determine a strategy.

**September** - Meet with the Lieutenant Governor for support and potential funding in the Governor's Budget.

**Now - January** - Have commissioners meet with legislators about the issues. Increase Public Awareness through media and social media.

**Fall** - Present to ULCT, APWA, PTA, UCEA, ASCE, SEAU, ect.

**January** - Have groups available to lobby for the bill.

**Roger** expressed his belief that this year, between Evan Curtis and the Lieutenant Governor, we will be able to come up with the funding to complete RBS study on school building regardless of the bill. He referred to the progress the USSC has made in promoting public awareness of the issues and the work being done.

### **USSC Strategic Plan and Goals for the Commission**

**Roger** asked that any member that hasn't already done so, go onto the USSC web site and read the USSC Strategic Plan. He then opened the floor and asked that everyone stand and commit to at least one thing.

**Leon**- Get the media more involved by talking to contacts that I have and work with public organizations to make sure these issues make it onto the agenda

**Evan** - Link to USSC on Facebook

**Keith** - Get a third traveling display that can go to the southern part of the state.

**Meldee**- Go to at least one PTA meeting to discuss these issues and post something on Facebook and our blog

**Steve, Chris, & Rick** - Look at the UGS website to ensure earthquake information is easily available to the public

**Judy** - Start a USSC facebook page or twitter account

**Peter** - Working to get 3 new policy recommendations approved regarding vulnerability of schools

**Enzo** - Talking with his Director and Legislator about concerns on buildings

**Leslie**- Work with my legislators on school safety issues

**Sheila** - Help Judy with face book and twitter account

**Bob** - Get insurance brochure and hazus publication out

## **News Items**

**Peter** - The new Earthquake Engineering Research Institute Chapter recently had its second meeting. The President for the next year and a half is going to be Barry Welliver. President Elect will be Peter McDonough. They will be trying to get university students involved in the Chapter and he is hopeful that will become a resource to the USSC in the future. Peter also mentioned the 3 recommendations that he is working on, with the Western States Seismic Policy Council, for the vulnerabilities of schools.

**Keith** - Around July 4th the House Appropriations Committee passed out a bill that funds the DOI as well as the USGU that funds natural hazards research with a 20% reduction compared to 2012. This will threaten funds to hazards research, not only in Utah but in the whole USA. If this bill goes through then our seismograph stations would have to be cut by about a third. It is unclear how this will end.

**Peter** - The seventh National Seismic Conference on Bridges and Highways is open in California on May 20 - 22.

**Roger** - Next meeting will be held on October 25, 2012 9:00 - 12:00.

**Motion to adjourn; motion was made by Rick Allis and second by Leon Berrett.**