

**Utah Seismic Safety Commission**  
**Held Virtually**  
**July 30, 2020, Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

On July 30, 2020, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held virtually on account of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Leon Berrett, USSC Chair, 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
Kris Hamlet	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Orion Goff	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Jessica Chappell	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Bill Keach substituting for Steve Bowman, Vice Chair	Utah Geological Survey
Steven Bruemmer	American Institute of Architects, Utah Disaster Assistance
Patrick Tomasino	Utah Division of Facilities and Construction Management
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
Evan Curtis	Utah Governor’s Office Planning and Budget
Meldee Love	Utah Insurance Department
Kyle Becker	Utah Insurance Department
Joaquin Mixco	Utah Department of Transportation
Chris DuRoss	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Sean McGowan	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)

**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:**

Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations, retired
Barry Welliver	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Jim Penchman	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Mark Hale	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Kyle Becker	Utah Insurance Department
Brent Maxfield	Utah Citizens for Seismic Safety
Brad Bartholomew	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Wade Matthews	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Janna Wilkinson-Mayo	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Eric Martineau	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Ember Herrick	Utah Division of Emergency Management

\*Please note other guests were present and not identified, due to meeting being held virtually.

Attendees and guests were introduced or identified online; however, other guests attending via LiveStream were not identified.

**Members Not Present:**

Craig Kerkman	Association of Contingency Professionals
Steve Bowman, Vice Chair	Utah Geological Survey

**Welcome and Introduction of Members and Visitors/Approval of Minutes**

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

**Leon** asked for a vote on the approval of Minutes from the July 30, 2020 Utah Seismic Safety Commission meeting and the 2019 Fourth Quarter Joint Utah/Nevada meeting.

**Pete McDonough** made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections for the July 30, 2020 USSC meeting.

**Leon Berrett** seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

**Election of the Chair and Two Vice-Chairs**

**Leon Berrett** opened the nominations for Chair and Vice Chairs, recused himself from being nominated for another term as Chair, and nominated Keith Koper for Chair. Nominations were closed and Keith Koper was unanimously elected Chair.

**Keith Koper** thanked the Commission for electing him Chair and he expressed his excitement for serving the Commission as the new Chair.

**Leon** opened up nominations for the two Vice Chairs.

**Steve Bruemmer** nominated Jessica Chappell as a Vice Chair.

**Leon** nominated Steve Bowman as a Vice Chair. No other nominations were made, the nominations were closed. Both Jessica Chappell and Steve Bowman were unanimously elected Vice Chairs.

**Jessica Chappell** thanked the Commission for her new role.

**Leon** mentioned that he had spoken with Steve Bowman and that Steve had expressed his willingness to continue serving the Commission as a Vice-Chair.

**Commission Membership**

**Leon** introduced Orion Goff as the new Commission member representing the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

**Orion Goff** thanked the Leon for the introduction and mentioned he was looking forward to the experience.

**Leon** congratulated Meldee Love for her last two days as a State of Utah employee and congratulated her retirement and service to the Commission.

**Meldee** thanked Leon and the Commission for her participation and said she had enjoyed the experience and mentioned that she may show up for future meetings.

**Leon** introduced Kyle Becker from the Utah Insurance Department as the new Commission member replacing Meldee.

**Kyle Becker** thanked Leon and Meldee and expressed his willingness to serve on the Commission.

**Leon** mentioned that Craig Kerkman retired, and he will work with the Association of Contingency Planners to get another Commissioner appointed.

**Leon** said we have an excellent variety of Commission members with diverse expertise. He mentioned that we are very fortunate to have such a broad range of expertise.

### **2020 Magna, Utah Earthquake Discussion**

**Leon** stated that Brent Maxfield would be a little late and moved Brad Bartholomew to present next.

**Brad Bartholomew** presented an update on the emergency management of the 2020 Magna, Utah magnitude (M) 5.7 earthquake. He discussed the March 20, 2020, Governor's request for an Emergency Declaration to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The State of Utah extended the 30-day Emergency Declaration because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. FEMA accepted the extension request and extended it to April 18, 2020. The damage assessments were conducted between April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that the State requested Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. Utah was approved for the IA funding, but was denied the PA funding. The State of Utah had 30 days to appeal the denial of PA funding. He discussed the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) that provides payments to state, local, and tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. There are 88 applicants across the State that are requesting CARES Act funding. He discussed that the Utah Division of Emergency Management (UDEM), Mitigation Section was heavily involved in the CARES Act support. He then continued to discuss the Magna earthquake and the resulting damage. He stated that Salt Lake County reported \$50 million in damages, Tooele County reported \$700,000 in damages, Utah County reported \$400,000 in damages, the Utah Division of Facilities and Construction Management reported \$25 million in damages to 25 buildings, and nearly 500 private home and building owners reported various levels of damage. He mentioned that not all the numbers were updated and added that the Granite School District suffered significant damages. He explained how FEMA approves PA funding. If the damages are insured, then FEMA removes the insured buildings from eligibility. He explained that the Utah Division of Risk Management has amazing insurance and there is a one-time deductible of \$1 million. The school districts also had additional insurance. In this event, insurance covered most of the losses. For this reason, FEMA rejected the PA declaration. He concluded that other eligible organizations also had insurance. FEMA provided the State of Utah until August 15<sup>th</sup> to appeal the PA denial. Recently, FEMA has allowed faith-based organizations to be eligible for funding. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will not request PA funding and explained that the Church does not request State or Federal assistance. Other religious organizations have been reluctant to come forward and request assistance. The State of Utah made the correct decision to have earthquake insurance covering losses. Had Utah not been covered by appropriate insurance, FEMA would have approved the PA funding. He discussed that crisis counseling was covered under the COVID-19 Pandemic funding and there was crisis counseling overlap from the Magna earthquake response. As of July 28<sup>th</sup>, there have been 245 applicants registered for FEMA and

IA assistance, and 34 have currently been approved. He mentioned most applicants were from Salt Lake, Davis, and Tooele Counties, and few other areas.

**Keith** asked for a clarification of total damages.

**Brad** clarified the damage numbers were estimates; however, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) also had damages. He continued that the damages would be significantly more than \$135 million.

**Leon** asked about the damages for UDOT.

**Joxin Mixco** said they had a couple of bridges for follow-up inspections, and several inspections and many ancillary actions to complete.

**Brad** said there was approximately \$2.5 reported earthquake damages from UDOT.

**Pete McDonagh** asked about a website or phone number for IA funding who they could contact.

**Wade Matthews** clarified that you could visit <https://earthquakes.utah.gov> for IA funding information.

**Brad** said they are working with FEMA to advertise additional outreach. He discussed FEMA's Unreinforced Masonry (URM) Risk Reduction Strategy and that the draft document is 90% complete. He mentioned taking part in several meetings with a variety of stakeholders. Right now, they are completing the document and are looking to have the strategy completed before the end of this fall. Everyone has been submitting honest feedback and that is making the document better.

**Leon** said he appreciates Sean McCowan and all the people at FEMA and other organizations working towards the strategy. At the EERI online meeting, Sean described in detail more of what was happening. It was noted that Utah was the first state in this pilot program beyond hurricanes and other natural disasters. This report is ground-breaking and setting the stage for other mitigation strategies. We are fortunate to have this pilot program.

### **Utah Citizens for Seismic Safety and Earthquake Messaging Discussion**

**Brent Maxfield** introduced himself and the volunteer organization, Utah Citizens for Seismic Safety. The purpose of the group is to create and develop a unified earthquake message that can touch all seismic safety issues and are seeking Commission input. He presented the focus of the group and discussed a single-page message that is easily understood by a general audience, agrees with Envision Utah to test the message, and get feedback and support from the Commission. He wants to coordinate with different organizations to promote and disseminate the message and to have the final message presented at the next USSC meeting. He discussed a lack of consistent earthquake messaging in Utah and wants a message that is clear, concise, and consistent. He hopes to have Commission buy-in from the all the Commission members. Four things we need to know about the earthquake problem in the Wasatch Front are:

1. The threat is real.
  - A moderate or large earthquake is likely to happen within the next 50 years in the Wasatch Front region (greater than a one in two chance).
2. The impact could be BIG.

- A large earthquake along the populated Wasatch Front will cause billions of dollars in damage and a staggering number of injuries and deaths that will cripple the Utah and regional economy, disrupting normal life for years to decades.
3. We have a URM problem.
- An estimated 75% to 95% of all deaths and injuries from an earthquake in the Wasatch Front region will result from collapsing URMs. Almost every person living in the region either lives, learns, shops, works, plays, or worships in a URM building.
4. Your Action is needed!
- Actions we take now will save lives, reduce injuries, and reduce the physical and financial impact. Here is what you can do: “Customized message to target audience here.”

He suggested this will be used in virtual meetings and placing on USSC’s and other organizations websites. No matter what group is targeted, this information should be used. Action Items must be tailored to specific audiences. He provided examples and suggested specific actions could be added to the messages. The suggestions included:

1. Inform the Governor’s Office and the State of Utah.
2. Inform stakeholders.
3. Assess the operability of critical facilities.
4. Promote post-earthquake recovery planning by utility providers.
5. Advocate seismic retrofitting of vulnerable buildings.
6. Encourage adoption of polices for building occupancy resumption.
7. Promote improvement and application of geologic hazards information.
8. Advocate continued support for critical seismic monitoring in Utah.
9. Advocate disaster resiliency planning.

**Leon** remarked this is a great compliment to FEMA and the Commission’s goals on the URM strategy. This is exactly what FEMA and the State are looking for, and the buy-in and participation of everyone that could be affected by earthquakes.

**Keith** asked if they had interactions with communications or public relations specialists who had any comment or suggestions to make it more effective.

**Brent** said he reached out to Envision Utah and that they provided detailed feedback and suggested using their feedback. They spent a lot of time looking at technical detail and recommending keeping it simple. He said they would like to involve public relations in the future, but they are not to that step yet. He discussed exploring the balance of being technical and understandable. He clarified they are not to the point of including communications specialists yet.

**Sean McCowan** said the recommendations dovetail very nicely with the FEMA URM strategy. FEMA is working to find funding for more outreach. He said their intention was to build on this and he hoped to help further this message. He said that he thought FEMA could help with providing more assistance with the messaging.

**Brent** said he hopes to make messaging and document more attractive. He welcomed the Commission and FEMA's assistance with any improvements.

**Emily Kleber** asked about the four points and asked if they developed this before the 2020 Magna earthquake and asked how it should change.

**Brent** explained that they had this completed a draft before the earthquake. He said they wanted Commission agreement before they went public. The message is appropriate, but the Magna earthquake is a moderate earthquake and that the impact from a large earthquake will be significantly greater.

**Emily** told Brent it looked great and she would like to see the message increase.

**Keith** made a few points. In #2, he suggested the impact will be big and instead of "could" say will. In #4, the catchpoint could be "*Fix the Bricks.*" For a lot of audiences, it would be a great motivation to call to your attention and recognize that this is something they could do.

**Brent** said they discussed this in detail and provided details to prior discussions.

**Leon** suggested saying the impact "would" be big. He discussed the removing the impact.

**Jessica Chappell** agreed that we need to be clear with probabilities or we lose the audience. The impact "will be big" with an earthquake is an important message.

**Brent** suggested getting Walter Arabasz' opinion.

**Emily** agreed with Jessica, saying the "impact will be big" and that they do not want to bury the lead. Even in other areas, everyone will be affected by a large earthquake.

**Jessica** suggested not compromising facts but suggesting item #2 become the item #1.

**Walter Arabasz** provided clarity to the discussion provided suggestions for better language and discussed the most threatening probability. Item #2, the "will" part will come from a large surface earthquake of M 6.75 or greater along the Wasatch fault zone that has an 18% probability of occurring. He explained that we can solve the problem by taking the number out to the report for a M 6.75 or greater earthquake in the Wasatch Front region. The premise that the threat is real along the Wasatch Front.

**Brent** asked for additional clarification from Walter.

**Walter** suggested simplifying the message without using numbers. FEMA can help with focus group studies and discover what resonates with various audiences. He said there is clear threat that is real and that is the message that needs to be communicated.

**Walter** suggested clarifying language and discussed the urban corridor and the 18% risk of a large M 6.75 earthquake is real.

**Jessica** suggested changing it to a narrower definition that would not distract from the message. We do not want to create fearmongering, but we need to emphasis that this is going to happen. Given enough time, it will happen, so we should prepare now.

**Brent** said in a large earthquake URM's are a huge deal. He said maybe we could use professionals to see how to approach it. He told the Commission we had great feedback and thanked everyone for their message. He mentioned he liked the idea of a focus group and hopes to get a unified message.

**Leon** agreed that focus group would be worthwhile and thanked Brent for the presentation. He would like to see it highlighted that URM's will be the leading cause of death from a Utah earthquake.

**Brent** thanked the Commission and requested the Commission support a specific message.

**Meldee Love** provided some clarification on the message and offered additional guidance on improving the message.

**Brent** said this message would be consistently used and tailored with more additional information for specific audiences. He hoped the message could be used across a broad spectrum of audiences with varying detail to different audiences.

**Meldee** discussed moderate and severe earthquakes. The likelihood of moderate and severe earthquakes in a wider area and its affects in particular areas.

**Brent** liked Meldee's comments and said we can add detail to specific, targeted audiences. He shared four call to action items with the Commission:

- Creating a URM action committee. The Commission should engage now to implement with the Governor and Legislature.
- Hazard mitigation planning should be a standard practice.
- Implement the nine recommendations from the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) scenario report (<https://ussc.utah.gov/pages/view.php?ref=1058>).

**Leon** asked for suggested comments and feedback from the Commissioners. He complimented Brent for his input and suggestions. He noted that we do have a list from the EERI scenario report and other items we need to be addressing. He asked to keep in mind how the Commission can move forward and move the Legislature and Governor towards more positive actions.

**Brent** suggested he would like to see the Commission be more involved with the messaging.

**Jessica** said it was a great effort to unify the message. She suggested talking to Bob Carey and his group about the 2021 Great Utah Shakeout and make sure this message agrees with what FEMA and the State of Utah are working on. She asked about a mysterious website with no names and that it concerned geologists and engineers. She asked if there is going to be some home that this can be housed.

**Brent** said that ultimately when they hone this message, they would like to see the Commission share this message. He would like the Commission to share this message and they are here to serve as a catalyst to help the Commission share the message.

**Walter** said that if one proceeds with an activist public message, that we choose our message carefully. If he were going forward with limited public attention to the problem, then we risk losing the message. If you read the EERI scenario report carefully, all the compelling information is in that document. He would stay focused on the "big one" in the urban corridor.

**Bill Keach** discussed his experience with the Legislature. It is political and industrial. He suggested finding the root of the problem and focus on that. Most people are not afraid of the "big one" because they cannot grasp it. If we are going to have a discussion, we need to ask if the Legislature has acted. If they have not acted, then it is important to ask why. It must be a solution—more than money.

**Walter** suggested Evan Curtis respond.

**Evan Curtis** said it is a challenging question to answer of why it has not clicked. A large earthquake is a probably not going to occur within elected officials' terms. The Legislature may find it difficult to wrap their mind around a large earthquake occurring. He discussed when Lt. Governor Bell was in office, they asked for several million dollars to look at schools about rapid seismic evaluations. That was the first elected official we were able to connect with and it was a little bit of a fight to get funding. A lot of resistance was from the Legislature side. What if we find there is a problem and then we are liable? There may be a discussion of private buildings, and it is so expensive and there are not private dollars that can

solve all the problems. It is a good question, but we must find a way to get this message out. Here is the problem and here is a solution. It is a challenging question to ask.

**Bill** suggested laying out a series of steps in a five-year solution. A good approach would be to include it incrementally.

**Barry Welliver** said that after the 2008 Wells, Nevada earthquake, we supported a resolution to review buildings and it really did not succeed. He feels truthfully that the Commission and others are poised to place this back onto the agenda.

**Brent** suggested going to the Legislature with small-bite-sized pieces and the message we are advocating to them.

**Bill** said that in his experience, dealing with the legislature can work.

**Leon** recommended a creating a five- or 10-year plan that everyone review, and we can also explore other steps.

### **Lessons Learned from the 2020 Magna, Utah Earthquake**

**Leon** welcomed everyone back from the break and invited a discussion about lessons learned from the 2020 Magna earthquake. He hoped to share experiences and lessons from all the organizations. He began and shared his experiences from the Salt Lake County Municipal Service District that covers Magna, Kearns, and a few other townships. There is a significant amount of URMs along Main Street in Magna. He described he was the project manager for the Magna Main Street cleanup and learned a few lessons, such as the county needs more training and engineers need their ATC-20 training and need to review and understand their local Emergency Operations Plan. Different supervisors need to better understand their tasks and responsibilities when an earthquake occurs. Their colleagues performing building inspections were out immediately after the earthquake. He suggested better preparation training for a future event. When there are calls by other agencies to have everything ready, they need to be ready to go. For instance, if the fire department wants to tear down a building, they need to have other eyes on it. For instance, a structural engineer reviewed a proposed demolition of a building and the engineer determined the building did not require demolition. On a personal side, there were a lot of rumors and that the media played a great role in stopping rumors. He provided the example of the media correcting the M 9 earthquake rumor.

**Emily** sent an email to her colleagues at the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) to remark about the lessons learned and is currently compiling their messages. Immediately following an earthquake, there are significant demands placed on scientists to provide accurate information. Scientists are sometimes at a loss for immediate data and information. Everyone is making immediate requests for information based on science—which is very difficult to provide without data. This event from the seismological and geological perspective is very complicated and is difficult to give a clean answer immediately. The earthquake was complicated, and the geologic context takes time to provide accurate information. She discussed information, communication, and that the UGS Geologic Hazards Program pushed information out as soon as possible. The program focused on gathering as much information as possible about the earthquake and adding data to the clearinghouse website (<https://geodata.geology.utah.gov/pages/search.php?search=!collection609>) as quickly as possible. They effectively worked with UDEM, the University of Utah Seismograph Stations



(UUSS), and other agencies. She mentioned that they had excellent communication between all our Commissioners. She asked Adam Hiscock and Bill Keach if they had anything to add.

**Adam Hiscock** said it was learning experience for everyone to get information back to their Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He said it was a challenge to look at all the effects of the earthquakes, and to cover all the areas of the earthquake. He commented that they did a really great job reporting back and supplying key information.

**Bill** responded that good and bad information is communicated extremely fast. He was impressed how quickly people responded. The lesson he learned is that communications were up; however, he wondered how well it would have gone had communications failed? He asked how quickly they could have responded if all communications went down.

**Keith** said one of the big lessons is that preparation really matters. The thing with social media, Google Hangouts, and working from home really paid off on that first day. They had quarterly meetings with UUSS, UGS, and UDEM. Bob Carey and Steve Bowman took part in the Governor's press conference to dispel rampant social media rumors. It would not have been so smooth if they did not have all this preparation, communication, and cooperation between the three key groups of the Utah Earthquake Program (<https://ussc.utah.gov/pages/help.php?section=Utah+Earthquake+Program>). There is tension with getting accurate information out quickly. Within seconds of feeling the earthquake, there were several information requests and people wanted detailed information immediately. You do not want to say inaccurate or misleading information. One of the things that helped is that he had hired a Communications Specialist who has helped tremendously with interacting with the press and setting up interviews.

**Leon** asked about recommendations and other preparation suggestions with Salt Lake County Public Works, UDEM, and county emergency management recommendations for getting a compilation and putting together a subcommittee. He invited the other Commissioners thoughts.

**Keith** said that as a Commission, it is important to document this earthquake, and that we should get as much information together into one place as possible. This would be helpful for Utah and other states. As a Commission, we have struggled coming up with these documents. With the depth of experience on the Commission, a worthy goal is to document this.

**Emily** expanded a little more on what this could be like.

**Keith** said it could be a report or a website.

**Emily** suggested being creative recommended that we could capture this information on a variety of ways. We could do interviews with each one of us. What were the lessons learned from the earthquake in your field? As a publications committee member, she thinks we should include a page or two about the 2020 Magna earthquake in the new edition of the Putting Down Roots handbook. We need to know exactly what everyone is thinking in their professional discipline. She said future commission members can look at it and review it.

**Jessica** recommended a matrix we could fill out. There is a lot of information where we could share a spreadsheet, where we can share all our challenges between ourselves. When are we going to do ATC-20 inspections, what would the protocol be, and what should the Structural Engineers Association of Utah want to know before the information comes out?

**Brad** suggested sending out a survey.

**Bill** discussed getting the Legislature's attention. He said this is the time to get a moment a revisit the Legislature for lessons learned.

**Emily** said she liked the idea of survey on behalf of UGS if they could have a quote from a staff. All of those with the Commission if we had bite-sized information.

**Leon** suggested Keith work on a survey.

**Keith** suggested a subcommittee for setting up the survey.

**Emily** said she, John, Bob, and Steve are on the committee and if anyone else on the committee wants to be involved to let her know.

**Leon** volunteered to be on the committee and if any of the commissioners have lessons learned they could work on those immediately. What are lessons learned in our areas of expertise and then come together and come up with a survey we can share with others such as the fire departments, police departments, and others so that we have something to spread around. That is something we could take to the Legislature. Here are some lessons learned, and by the way, here are other things such as the URM Strategy.

**Walter** said the “Designer Earthquake” originated from Bob Carey and would be an opportunity to prepare for a larger event. The Legislature might be more inclined to address COVID-10 Pandemic issues right now. Pre-2016, there was an analogy to pandemic reports and scenarios. He said nothing came of it because it did not seem real at the time. Compare economic impacts between the COVID-19 Pandemic and an earthquake and begin resurrecting the EERI scenario report.

**Brent** said when he discussed with Envision Utah ways to try to put things into context with people are who are already familiar with these events and what Walter said makes sense.

**Pete** said a lesson learned was the failure of mobile homes and how many tie-downs failed. He suggested having a presentation at an upcoming meeting. We were very fortunate not to have fires from tie-down failures. The types of tie-downs could be a future meeting topic.

**Leon** said there is an engineer who has discussed tie-downs and that he could provide a presentation to the Commission at a future meeting. He mentioned that he, personally, found gas leaks that had been overlooked by earlier inspections.

**Bob Carey** provided a review of the 2020 National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Plan. He discussed the ATC-20 discussion about the communities’ need to make a bit broader discussion of the Magna earthquake. The activation of in-state and out-of-state evaluators and the differing needs and requirements. He suggested having things ready to go to the Legislature by the next meeting because of their committee meeting schedules. He suggested getting a committee before the next Commission meeting to discuss mobile home tie-downs. Many of us get money via the NEHRP program. As part of this program, FEMA has provided additional funding to the states to cover activities. He discussed that FEMA changed the program without prior notification and eliminated the moderate hazard risk states, such as Colorado, New Mexico, and most states on the East Coast. He said our M 5.6 Magna earthquake would be a large event for the moderate risk states. He said it is a mistake to remove moderate risk states from the program because of the high cost associated with even moderate earthquakes and referenced the millions of dollars this earthquake cost us. FEMA eliminated funding for the earthquake consortia, including the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC). He discussed FEMA creating an earthquake office to further enhance earthquake efforts. He said Utah has a more mature earthquake program and having an earthquake office at FEMA would be helpful so that we can have more influence. Utah did receive our funding, and this might be a great time to focus more on publications. We are close on the URM reprint, updating of the *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country*

*Handbook* (<https://ussc.utah.gov/pages/view.php?ref=1>), and the scenario document can be reviewed and improved.

**Leon** asked about the future of WSSPC.

**Bob** said that WSSPC had a discussion on what we can do to push projects to help WSSPC with additional funding. Earthquake program managers from across the country are not very happy and FEMA will get some pushback. He continued discussion of the usefulness and success of the consortia. Once we get out of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we can put the peddle to the floor and get the seismic risk on the broader level. He thinks that we can capitalize on major things done legislatively, because we now have evidence, and we can accurately show it.

### Other News and Discussion Items

**Leon** asked for brief updates from the other commissioners

**John Crofts** discussed the USSC Progress Report and that we would have a draft for the report soon. He reminded Commissioners to look over their reports and get back with him with updates.

Pete said he was asked by several people if there was any liquefaction based damage on this earthquake.

**Emily** said all the liquefaction damage was on roads and photos of that damage is on the clearinghouse.

**Joaquin Mixco** said that FEMA needs to update the *Wasatch Range Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan* (<https://ussc.utah.gov/pages/view.php?ref=1971>). There is some question if the state is going to take part as FEMA needs to update the plan. He suggested the Commission look at the plan and look at it to see how the plan be better updated.

**Bob** described this plan as being between FEMA and UDEM. He explained that the plan is how we are going to manage a large earthquake and that the plan is still being prepared. He said he wants to do the exercise; however, the COVID-19 Pandemic might change how it will be executed. He added that the private sector is also aiding in the plan. The clarifications are worse than we originally thought. We would be more than happy to provide you with a draft of that. It is not a state evacuation plan; it includes a plan for visitors and has been a lot of work. We planned to distribute a draft plan in June and instead, we opened a supply distribution center for the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Bill** mentioned that they have a student intern working on translating the *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake County Handbook* into Spanish. They are working on making sure we can get the communication out to the Spanish speaking public.

**Emily** said she has him working on the parts that are not going to change. She is sending out emails to people working on updating the handbook.

**John** referenced the Applied Technology Center's courses offered in November.

**Leon** thanked everyone and asked those with agenda items to contact Keith for the next meeting. The Commission agreed to hold the next meeting on October 29, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The meeting was ended by acclamation.