

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

On January 17, 2013, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Seagull Room of the Utah State Senate Building. 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
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
Jeremy Achter	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning
Josh Sletten	Utah Department of Transportation

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
Katie LeLaCheur	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Judy Watanabe	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Josh Groeneveld	Utah Division of Emergency Management

Guests Present:

Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Leslie Randle	Northridge Elementary
Saori Barlow	Orchard Elementary
Tibby Milne	Utah Parent Teacher Association
Grant Willis	Utah Geological Survey
Bruce Spieqel	Division of Homeland Security - Risk Management
Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations

Members Not Present:

Keith Squires	Division of Homeland Security
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Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
Senator Jerry Stevenson	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 October 25, 2012 Meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Rick Allis, seconded by Peter McDonough. The minutes were approved.

Introduction

Roger Evans introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Discussion - 2013 Legislative Session

Roger began the discussion on the 2013 Legislative session by expressing his gratitude for the funding recommendation in the Governor's Budget. He then turned the time over to Evan Curtis.

Evan Curtis provided a brief explanation of the Governor's recommendation for a one time allocation of \$500,000 for public education funds for seismic safety studies. He stated that the legislature will still need to approve and fund this. Evan explained that this recommendation shows the political support of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Roger took the opportunity to thank the Utah Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for their support and initiative. He spoke about his experience last spring when the Utah PTA's Safety and Welfare Commission made the Utah Students at Risk, Need for Rapid Visual Screening Seismic Survey Resolution.

Roger introduced a handout that listed 2013 Legislation by subject. The boxcar bills listed, on the handout, are bills that Roger wanted to discuss. One of these bills was the 2013 Construction Codes Amendments Bill. Roger gave a history of the process for building codes adoption in Utah. Two years ago the process changed. Codes now go through the Senate Business and Labor Committee before they go into bill form before the Legislature.

Roger continued to discuss other bills listed including the Public School Seismic Studies bill that he believes is a repeat of HB 414 with technical corrections and the Parapet Ordinance. Roger explained that there are concerns about the uncertain nature of the boxcar bills. He asked that USSC members be aware of these bills and keep the commission informed on what is happening with these bills.

Rick Allis commented on the Governor's funding recommendation. He stated that USSC members should attend the Public Education Appropriations Committee meetings. Rick explained that this would be a crucial step in gaining this appropriation.

Roger agreed to the importance of attending these meetings.

Rick followed up by suggesting that they create a list of schools that are at the highest risk. He explained that presenting the issue in this way may provide a better starting point for the project. Rick asked what schools would be at the highest risk.

Bob Carey answered Rick's question. School districts have made an effort to update middle schools and high schools. Elementary schools have fewer students so they are of less priority. Bob continued by stating that progress will continue regardless of the receipt of funding from the Governor's budget. He explained that money has been set aside for the update of schools in the Cache District. Bob expressed concern for schools in the Ogden and Weber Districts and suggested that the focus needs to be on the elementary schools.

Roger added that many of the districts surplus schools have become charter schools and that there is significant concern for these schools as well.

Keith Koper asked Bob about the outside funding for rapid visual screening projects.

Bob replied that he receives a supplemental grant each year. He explained that he can apply a portion of that federal funding to projects. Bob suggested that they have Risk Management come present, in the future, to provide some added perspective on the conditions of Utah schools.

The discussion then continued to the administration of funding. If the Governor's funding recommendation is passed by the legislature, issues involving funding and program administration will need to be resolved. The State Office of Education will receive the funding appropriated to this project. It was suggested that the USSC start meeting with the State Office of Education about the issue. Bob advised the USSC that the Lieutenant Governor may be willing to ask legislators to advocate the funding

appropriation. Rick stated his belief that if USSC members send letters to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, thanking them for the recommendation, that it may serve as a reminder for the importance of the funding appropriation. Roger agreed that if anyone, who represents an organization, wanted to send a letter it would mean a lot. The recommendation of funding shows that things are moving forward. There is so much information available and growing public awareness that legislators will not be able to ignore seismic safety issues as easily as they have in the past.

Update from Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU) Existing Buildings Committee

Glen Palmer began by commenting that the SEAU Existing Buildings Committee is a joint committee that is also an ad-hoc USSC Committee. He explained that the committee's primary goal for 2013 is to complete the update of "The Utah Guide for the Seismic Improvement of Unreinforced Masonry Dwellings". Glen expressed his hope to have this completed for initial submission by spring. He continued that the committee's second goal for 2013 will be a continued effort to improve public education through presentations, support for the PTA's efforts, and support in the upcoming Utah Shakeout, and any other public outreach options. The third major goal, that Glen discussed, is the ongoing support for legislative and community actions that will prepare Utah for future seismic events.

Glen mentioned some concerns of the committee, such as the reinstatement of the parapet ordinance and establishing programs of improvements in building safety.

Bob commented on the committee's first goal. He discussed a meeting he attended that focused on the document being updated. Bob stated that steps are being taken to finish the update soon. He commented that they are also working on a three-fold brochure that introduces the document. This will help improve public knowledge of this document.

Walter Arabasz commented on the second committee goal. Whoever is responsible for search and rescue would bring some valuable information to this discussion. They could provide information based on the inventory of location of potential collapsed buildings as well as their capacity for response. Glen replied that are working on a database of relevant information. He explained that the SEAU has a SEER Committee that is responsible for emergency response. They are currently coordinating with that committee on their efforts.

Bob stated that last year, during the Shakeout, they generated a map based on HAZUS information that contained this information. He mentioned that according to the last

HAZUS run the numbers had come down significantly. Bob explained that this is because short period ground shaking is off by 10% and because we have lost about 40,000 unreinforced masonry buildings (URM) between the previous run and this run. The URM number decreased because of work that Barry has done and the recalibration of county assessor's database. These adjustments make the hazard look less significant.

Rick expressed his concern for the importance of not over predicting the risk. He mentioned that the over dramatization of risk is bad for the development of the state. Bob replied that the problem has been undersold because infrastructure has not been included in these numbers. Although the numbers look slightly better, than they have in the past, this is still a major risk for the state. HAZUS data is more of an estimate that a solid set of numbers.

Update on U.S. Congressional Funding

Keith Koper provided an update on U.S. Congressional Funding. He stated that there are two issues. The first is that the FY13 budget is still undecided at the federal level. As a result, we are on a continuing resolution until the end of March. If there is a funding cut, we will have to make up the cut over a truncated fiscal year. Nothing can be decided until the FY13 budget is determined. The second issue is the idea of sequestration in relation to the fiscal cliff. Again, this issue will not be until the end of March. If this goes through there will be about an eight percent cut to the USGS. If the FY13 budget is cut and the sequestration goes through then there will be a decrease in service. Keith expressed his concern for the possible losses in funding and the effects that these cuts may have on services provided. June would be the earliest time that changes would become noticeable.

ATC-20 (Rapid Evaluation Safety Assessment) Certification

Bob introduced the ATC-20 Certifications topic. Last May, SEAU and others met at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to attend a webinar on California's certification programs. Gilbert Gonzales from Murray City had the idea that Utah come up with a similar program. His ideas were based around a "train the trainer" approach. Bob recently met with Gilbert and a committee of building officials and construction people to further discuss this program. Bob continued by stating that it needs to be Utah-based program with our standards of training. This is a certification to go out and to a post-earthquake building safety assessment. He also explained that the California program is recognized by FEMA and there was concern about getting FEMA recognition for this program as well. Bob indicated his belief that the importance of this program comes in the Utah specific standardized training and not in FEMA's recognition. He then

emphasized that this program should not be housed by a state agency but by that committee, on a local level. Finally Bob discussed the process of certification. The committee discussed having a half-day ATC-20 classroom training followed by a half-day in the field using ROVER technology. The committee also felt that there are a couple of FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) courses that would greatly benefit individuals seeking this certification. There are administrative and other concerns that need to be addressed, still Bob expressed his feelings that this is a good idea and can be a great local program.

Leon Berrett asked the question who would be recommended to be trained. Bob answered that generally it would be licensed engineer but anyone who attends the courses can be certified. He reminded the group that this would not be a detailed study. It is a 20 minute assessment. Bob expressed that it is as much about gut feeling as training that will determine the decisions on the assessment. The discussion continued about the certification requirements and the process of implementation of for the program.

Roger announced that Gilbert Gonzales is the point man for this program. He expressed the desire to continue the development of this program and the standards of training in Utah. The question was asked about how the ROVER program would assist with the field assessments. Bob answered the question. ACT-21 required a detailed assessment and has a form that needs to be filled out. Unlike ACT-21, ATC-20 form can be added to ROVER. The ROVER technology would help gather information. After assessing a building, information would be entered into a database, via the ROVER software. Roger asked for final questions on the ACT-20 topic and continued to the news items.

News Items

Upcoming Professional Meetings

- Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Annual Meeting: February 12-15
- National Earthquake Program Managers Meeting Annual Meeting: Last week of April
- Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) Annual Meeting: First week of May
- Seismologists Society of America (SSA) Annual Meeting: April 17-19 (a town hall meeting will be held on Wednesday evening as well)
- Utah Earthquake Working Groups Meeting: February 4-5 (Liquefaction Advisory Working Group and Quaternary Fault Parameter Working Group)
- Earthquake Probabilities Group Meeting is being closed to the public.

- Utah League of Cities and Towns
- Utah Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting: May 16-17
- Public Safety Summit: May 7-8

2013 Utah ShakeOut

Earthquake Drill: April 17th at 10:15 am. People will be encouraged to Duck, Cover, and Hold followed by an evacuation. A one day functional exercise will be held on April 18. This will not be a full scale exercise. State agencies can sign-up to do the drill part of the exercise. We are pushing for a million participants this year.

USSC Joint Meeting with Nevada & Colorado

It is Utah's turn to host the joint meeting this year. Traditionally this meeting is held in St George. There is a concern that Nevada may not have the funding to travel out of state. If this is the case the meeting may be held in Las Vegas. This would make it easier for Nevada and Colorado to travel to the meeting. Rick suggested inviting Idaho to this meeting as well. The USSC has money for travel so holding the meeting in Nevada is not a concern.

Budget

Bob reminded the USSC that they have no budget.

Other

Utah Emergency Managers Association (UEMA) awarded the USSC with the UEMA Community Impact Award. They were grateful for the commission's support of the agencies that promoted the development and publication of "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country".

The Utah Division of Emergency Management (DEM) still has the Student Research Grant Program. The only schools that are currently participating are North and South Summit Middle Schools. Every year they take a field trip to Yellowstone National Park and the grant pays for their hotel rooms. They have an impressive geologic element to their trips.

Pete McDonough took a moment to review the WSSPC awards in excellence nominations for this year. The Washington State Seismic Safety Committee has a rapid visual screening program for schools. They have done some extensive screening of schools lately. They are naming the USSC as a source of their inspiration.

EERI hosted their first public venture as a chapter. They held a lecture, at the University of Utah, on designing building over active faults. Over 100 people in attended this lecture.

Leon commented that Utah is developing a good reputation in relation to seismic safety efforts.

The comment was made that the web site needs to be updated.

Bob made a final comment. Senator Jerry Stevenson was assigned to the USSC in 2011.

Roger - Tentative date for the next meeting is April 11, 2013 9:00 - 12:00.

Roger Evans adjourned the meeting at 11:25 PM.