

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

On April 11, 2013, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Kletting 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
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

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

Guests Present:

Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Leslie Randle	Northridge Elementary
Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Gerald McKenzie	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Anne Vonweller	Retired
Richard Vonweller	Retired
Barry Welliver	Structural Engineer

Members Not Present:

Keith Squires	Division of Homeland Security
Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
Senator Jerry Stevenson	Utah State Senate
Rep. Gage Froerer	Utah House of Representatives
Mark Peterson	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

Doug Bausch
Rick Allis
Josh Sletten

Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Utah Geological Survey
Utah Department of Transportation

Welcome

Introductions were made of members and guests present. A motion was made for the approval of the January 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Leon Berrett. 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 recognizing all of the individuals who have assisted the Commission in its efforts to improve the seismic safety of Utah's schools. He then introduced House Bill 278 that Representative Froerer ran in the last legislative session. Roger stated that this bill is critical because now when a school district bonds for a new school, they must have all of their building built prior to 1975 evaluated. He also mentioned that the Governor put a \$500,000 appropriation into the State Office of Education budget to do Rapid Visual Screening of schools and the budget was approved at \$150,000. With that introduction Roger asked Barry to talk about HB 278 and the Governor's budget.

Barry Welliver stated that the Governor's budget and HB 278 will act as an active and a passive trigger. The funding in the Governor's budget will create an RVS Authority that will be responsible for moving the program forward. He explained that HB 278 is the passive trigger. In HB 278 schools only get surveyed if they go through bonding. Both of these pieces of legislation will greatly enhance the seismic safety of Utah schools.

Roger continued the discussion by reviewing House Bill 271. This bill was supposed to form a committee by legislative action, including members from the State Office of Education, SEAU, representatives from school districts, etc. This committee will be responsible for administering the \$150,000 for the RVS of schools. Roger informed the Commission that they would now form the committee outside of the legislative bill process. Roger offered to send a copy of the school district information to anyone who would like it. They have that information available for distribution to the public. He assured the Commission that he would keep them informed on the progress of the formation of this committee.

Roger introduced Senate Bill 310. He explained that Senate Bill 310 from Representative Wilson will move the 2009 Construction Codes to the 2012 Codes.

Senate Bill 310 adopts all codes except the energy codes. These changes will become effective July 1, 2013. The energy codes are found on HB 202, which adopts the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code for commercial. On the residential side, there are so many amendments that they will likely not be able to certify to the 2012. This is all on hold until the Department of Energy provides a Rescheck Program for residential. So HB 202 will not become effective until the Rescheck Program becomes available. Roger then turned the time over to Bob to discuss the legislature that will affect the Division of Emergency Management (DEM).

Bob Carey discussed two bills in particular that he felt were most significant to the DEM. First he discussed HB 302 which takes everything related to emergency management and puts it under Title 63K. This is an important change because it will remove the duplicates that have developed over years. The second bill he discussed was HB 223. This bill is a funding mechanism that has been modified so it will be easier to reimburse state agencies for assisting cities and counties with disasters. Bob reviewed other minor changes to the way funding is handled during an emergency.

Roger spoke briefly about the importance of educating people on public safety issues and the real success that this year has been for the USSC. Pete McDonough asked what level the rapid visual screening would be performed at. Barry explained that the bill refers to the federal standards for rapid visual screening as the base line for gathering this data. Following this response, Roger turned the time to Steve for the next agenda item.

Managing data a result of HB 278

Steve Bowman began by stating that as a part of HB 278 passing the USSC will now face the issue of how to manage this new data. He expressed the need to be able to store, access, and disseminate the information to the public in a simple and inexpensive manner. Steve compared this issue to the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) and their similar need to manage large amounts of data. He then continued to explain that the USSC could use the same data management system that the UGS uses.

ResourceSpace is an open-source software that is free to the user and supported by the community. It can handle pdfs, jpegs, and audio/video files. The data is searchable with metadata. The USSC can determine what metadata should be added for each file, such as title, author, or location. Data can be organized in public and private collections. Information can be searched on a map. The interface is fully customizable.

Following his explanation on ResourceSpace, Steve discussed the process for implementing this option. Currently the USSC web site is a subset of the UGS web site and it is hosted on the UGS server. If the Commission chooses to use ResourceSpace, it would need to move to a separate server. Steve suggested that a Linux server be used because Linux is also an open-source free software. He stated that when the USSC web site gets moved to the new server, that the USSC should take the time to

update their web site. He also recommended that a new email account be created for submissions. This account should be a common account and would be accessed by multiple individuals. When the server is completed, paper reports can be scanned at the Draper Prison for a low cost and ROVER data can be exported to pdf and easily uploaded. Once the data has been uploaded it can be organized into themes and collections. Overall this option will provide a low cost method for managing the data collected as a result of HB 278.

Roger started a discussion on how the USSC would be able to advertise this database to the public. He asked for input from the Commission on this as a possibility. The following discussion showed a positive view of ResourceSpace for data management. Suggestions were made for possible advertisement such as posting on the web sites and other ways to direct the public's attention.

Barry brought up concerns about the cost associated with this approach. Steve clarified that the Department of Technology Services (DTS) has a monthly fee of \$423 per server. The only other minor cost would be the amount of data storage required. This cost would be under \$10 per month. Barry voiced his opinion that with rapid visual screening data coming to the Commission, the USSC would now be held accountable for using the data. He advised the Commission to move forward with the data and use it to further their efforts. The conversation continued on to the importance of the availability of data for public safety issues. Roger stated that Steve will need direction from the USSC and asked that members revisit this issue again in the next meeting.

Bob reminded the USSC that they have no budget and that their costs were being covered in his budget. He raised his concerns that although this could be done, it would require a continued commitment from the USSC. The Commission continued to discuss the matter of making valuable information available to the public in an understandable format and at a low cost.

Overview of the Great Utah ShakeOut and Town Hall Meeting

Roger informed the USSC that the Great Utah ShakeOut will be held the following week and there would be a Town Hall Meeting associated with the Seismological Society of America Annual Meeting next Wednesday night at the Radisson Hotel. He then turned the time over to Bob and Chris to discuss the ShakeOut and Town Hall Meeting.

Bob explained that they had decided to hold the Town Hall Meeting because it has worked well in the past. He explained that the purpose of the meeting will be to give the public an overview of the geologic setting in Utah. The meeting will then move to talking about URM's and planning. Following those talks they will have a panel discussion. The meeting will be held on April 17, 2013 at 7:30. There is free parking on the streets and public transportation will also be available.

Chris DuRoss introduced a video on Utah's active faults that would be shown in the Town Hall Meeting. It was created with information from the UGS's most recent fault

trench investigation of the southern Wasatch fault. After showing the video for to Commission, he asked for feedback on the video. The USSC responded positively to the video.

Roger stated that the other participants who would be speaking at the Town Hall Meeting would be Walter and Barry. He asked if either of them wanted to share any comments about their presentations.

Walter Arabasz responded with the question, how do you motivate people and decision makers to take the long view to maintain the long term posture of defensiveness? He made the point that Chris would be showing in his presentation that indicated it has been about 1,300 to 1,400 since the last big earthquake and there is enough pent up energy to unleash another big one.

Barry agreed with Walter that people need to have good information that they can use. He expressed that his main focus will be showing the audience that we have buildings here that have never been tested. Due to this, no one can say exactly what the results will be. Even so, from a structural engineer's perspective, the results will be devastating.

Pete mentioned that he likes the graphic that shows the recurrence intervals of the fault. He explained that he has found that to be powerful because it shows that clusters of earthquakes that have occurred in the past and although there hasn't been a major earthquake in the recent past it can happen again. He suggested that that graphic should be more widely distributed to the public and the concepts should be stressed in the upcoming meeting.

Roger expressed his hope that the meeting would be appropriately publicized and well attended. He then introduced the next agenda item.

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

Glen Palmer began his update by stating that the SEAU is continuing work on editing and redrafting the Utah Guide for the Seismic Improvement of Unreinforced Masonry Dwellings. They are working to make it more relevant and consistent information. The goal is to keep it simple so it is a good educational tool for the homeowner. The SEAU has also converted it so it will be available digitally as well. They hope to republish it in the next couple of months. Roger asked when the next meeting will be held. Glen replied that it would be held May 8, 2013 in Bob's office. Bob commented that like everything else there is a cost associated with this. He explained that this has been one of the problems with the completion of this document. Despite this fact, progress is being made. Bob also mentioned that the problem with the guide is that the drawings from the previous version are not applicable today. A question was asked about the status of the Parapet Ordinance. A discussion about the sun-setting of this ordinance followed. The need to bring the Parapet Ordinance back as soon as possible, due to the life safety issues involved, was brought up as an important goal for the USSC.

ATC-20 (Rapid Evaluation Safety Assessment) Certification

Bob introduced the topic ATC-20 Certification by explaining that Gilbert Gonzales, a Murray City building official, has formed a committee with the purpose of developing an ATC-20 Certification or building inspection certification similar to the one in California. For the past 4 months the committee has been meeting monthly and as a part of the last meeting they began working on the credentialing for this certification. Bob stated that for now the credentialing involves taking the ATC-20 classroom and field training. The Incident Command, Independent Study courses (ICS 100 & 200) offered through FEMA, will also be required to receive this certification. Bob also discussed the administration of this certification. He expressed his belief that the USSC should be the authority that hands out the certification, based on the committee's requirements. Roger explained his belief that developing the qualifications will not be a problem. It will just be a matter of determining who will issue the certificate. The discussion continued about who the authority behind the ATC-20 Certification should be. Bob asked if they could go back to the committee and state that the USSC is looking at the certification favorably. Roger answered that the USSC is in favor of the certification and they will vote about being the authority in the next quarterly meeting.

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: Last week of April
- Seismological 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

USSC Joint Meeting with Nevada & Colorado

It is Utah's turn to host the joint meeting this year. The meeting will be held in Las Vegas sometime in November. The Colorado would like to join this meeting this year. Idaho will be invited to participate as well.

PTA "Spring Thing"

The PTA's annual conference will be held May 16-17 on the BYU campus. Roger and Glen will be setting up a booth for the 3 day event. The PTA is very concerned about seismic safety issues and they have given a lot of support to the USSC's efforts.

Budget

No budget issues were discussed.

Other

Walter commented that there is not a representative from the American Institute of Architects on the Commission roster. Roger replied that he would look into it and expressed his goal in life to get Senator Stevenson and Representative Froerer to attend the USSC quarterly meetings.

Pete commented that the next meeting will be election time.

Roger commented that he would possibly like to step down this summer. He mentioned that he also has a few individuals who he would like to see on the USSC. Roger stated that he would continue to stay involved with Commission even after he steps down. It was requested that the USSC acknowledge that Jeremy Achter will be leaving the Commission following this meeting. He will be replaced by Gerald McKenzie.

Roger - Tentative date for the next meeting is July 18, 2013 9:00 - 12:00.

Roger Evans adjourned the meeting at 11:25 PM.