

## **Utah Seismic Safety Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

On July 18, 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
Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
Meldee Love	Utah Department of Insurance
Enzo Calfa	Division of Facilities, Construction and Management
Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning
Rep. Gage Froerer	Utah House of Representatives

### **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
Katie LeLaCheur	Staff Recorder

### **Guests Present:**

Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Gilbert Gonzales	Murray City
Grant Willis	Utah Geological Association

### **Members Not Present:**

Keith Squires	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
Senator Jerry Stevenson	Utah State Senate
M. Leon Berrett	American Public Works Association
Mark Peterson	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Josh Sletten	Utah Department of Transportation
Jeremy Achter	Structural Engineers Association of Utah

## **Welcome**

Introductions were made of members and guests present. A motion was made for the approval of the April 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes. Rick asked a question about the budget discussion from the April meeting. Bob gave a brief explanation. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Pete McDonough, second by Rick Allis. The minutes were approved.

## **Introduction**

Roger Evans introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

**Roger** introduced Walter as the election chairman and turned the time to Walter for the Chair and Vice Chairs elections.

**Walter Arabasz** began by expressing his belief that the Commission should consider a creating a nominating committee for future changes in the Commission's leadership. Walter then asked Roger about his willingness to continue as the Chair. Roger stated that he is committed for another 10 and half years. Walter took a moment to remind the Commission that a person can nominate themselves and a nomination does not need a second. Walter then opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

**Rick Allis** nominated Roger Evans. Walter asked for further nominations. There were none. Walter asked for a vote for Roger as chair. The vote was unanimous. Walter congratulated Roger and continued to the Vice Chairs. He indicated that Rick Allis and Keith Koper are the current Vice Chairs.

**Rick** briefly discussed the need for diversity in the Chair and Vice Chairs and, requested that if another member had an interest in taking the place of Vice Chair, that they offer to do so. Walter opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairs. Keith agreed with Rick that diversity would be good for the Commission and they stated their willingness to continue if no one else wanted to take their places as Vice Chairs.

**Walter** accepted these statements as self-nominations from Rick and Keith. He asked for further nominations for Vice Chairs. There were none. He closed the floor to nominations and asked for a vote for Rick Allis as a Vice Chair for the Commission. The vote was unanimous. Walter asked for a vote for Keith Koper as a Vice Chair for the Commission. The vote was unanimous. Walter ended with a suggestion that in the planning meeting prior to next July meeting that they create a nominating committee to assist in future elections.

**Roger** introduced Representative Gage Froerer and asked him to take a moment to introduce himself. Rep. Froerer introduced himself. He represents Legislative District

eight, which covers the Ogden Valley to the Morgan and Cache/Rich boundaries. He has been in the Legislature for eight years and has served on the Business and Labor Committee the entire time. Rep. Froerer expressed his appreciation for being on the Commission and is looking forward to working with this Commission.

### **Utah Geological Association/USSC/Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU) Joint Effort on Seismic Awareness**

**Roger** introduced Grant Willis, the incoming President of the Utah Geological Association (UGA), and turned the time over to him.

**Grant** started by making the distinction that the Utah Geological Association is a nonprofit independent organization of professional geologists. He continued that part of the mission statement of the UGA is about promoting public awareness.

He expressed his concern that the public does not seem to understand their earthquake risk. He explained that the UGA has funding that can be used to help promote earthquake awareness. Grant shared some experiences he has had with individuals who have purchased old homes without knowing the risks involved. He also shared information he has gathered through an informal, non scientific survey that he has taken while talking to the public. According to what he has found, most people living along the Wasatch fault know that Utah is due for a major earthquake but don't know much else. As a result of these experiences, Grant is looking for a more effective way to reach out to the public. He stated his belief that one of the best ideas, for promoting public awareness, is to buy billboard space. Grant explained that the UGA has enough funding to support billboard space for a year or two. He hopes that they will be able to create a fund that partners can donate to, so they can keep billboard space continually. Grant continued to explain that the billboards will have phrases such as "Utah has a brick problem" or "In an earthquake, bricks kill" with a web site for the public to visit.

**Walter** commented that the message that "bricks kill" is not completely true, only some bricks kill. He explained that there needs to be guidance with appropriate understanding and sensitivity to this issue.

**Grant** agreed with Walter and explained that this would be where the websites need to come in. They need phrases that will catch people's attention and will lead people to visit the website to learn more about their risks. Grant stated that they are planning to create a new website for this purpose. They will probably call the new site [utaearthquakesafety.org](http://utaearthquakesafety.org). The new website will contain advice about what to do before they buy or rent an older home.

**Pete McDonough** mirrored Walter's comments by stating that it may be better if the focus is on general earthquake risks, not on specific building structure types. The discussion of the best way to get information out, without bringing negative attention, continued.

**Gilbert Gonzales** briefly discussed ways that Murray City has been trying to reach out to the public. Murray City sent out information about Building Safety Month with their utility bills. During the month they went out to the areas containing URMs, and spoke with homeowners about ways to mitigate the risk. Murray City had very little feedback after the fact because most people can't afford to have structural engineers come inspect their homes. Gilbert emphasized a need, when identifying problems, to provide a possible solution as well.

**Roger** asked that Grant share his email address with the Commission. He then asked that the Commission send Grant their thoughts and comments about this discussion.

**Rep. Froerer** took a few moments to comment on the subject. He explained that it is common for home purchases to include a home inspection. Rep. Froerer asked if home inspectors look at earthquake safety.

**Pete** answered his question that some inspection forms have one line that alludes to seismic risk. As a rule it is not really a big focus for home inspections.

**Rep. Froerer** commented that educating the public and letting them make more informed decisions is a good path for them to be on.

### **Utah Structural Appraisal Program (SAP)/ATC-20 (Rapid Evaluation Safety Assessment) Certification**

**Roger** introduced the next discussion topic. He informed the Commission that Salt Lake City just passed the Building Occupancy Resumption Program (BORP). Roger also introduced Gilbert Gonzales. He is the Building Official for Murray City and he is heading the committee for the Utah Structural Appraisal Program (SAP)/ATC-20 Rapid Evaluation Safety Assessment.

**Gilbert** thanked the Commission for inviting him to attend their meeting and to discuss the Utah SAP/ACT-20 committee. He stated that he would provide the Commission with some background information about the committee and would like to ask the Commission to consider making this committee a subcommittee of the USSC. Gilbert explained that this committee is composed of 14 members including architects, engineers, building officials, plans examiners and Bob Carey from the state. In May of 2012, Gilbert and many others from this committee attended a seminar by the California Office of Emergency Services (OES). After the class they received a OES Disaster Response Card. The card confirms that the individual has been trained to be a disaster response worker. This started people thinking about developing a Utah Disaster Response Card. The committee was created and began developing a set of criteria for the receiving disaster response card. Some of the criteria for the card include attending ACT-20 training, field training, and Incident Command Training. Next the committee identified who is eligible for the training program. They determined building inspectors, architects, engineers, and others who can demonstrate, to the committee, by education and experience should be eligible to receive a Utah Disaster Response Card.

Gilbert closed by asking the Commission to make this committee a subcommittee of the USSC.

**Roger** took a moment to explain that in Salt Lake City's Ordinance under 22.06.020, under definitions, it says "approved inspector. He stated that they are looking for a motion to make the committee a subcommittee of the Commission.

**Evan Curtis** asked the question that short of legislation, why would a city accept one of these cards.

**Gilbert** answered that the card would provide evidence that the individual has received the proper training, experience, and licensing requirements to do rapid visual assessments of buildings after an incident.

**Evan** asked about the mechanics of how this would work.

**Bob Carey** explained that after an incident when the City needs help, they turn to the County for people to go out and do these assessments. This would then be pushed to the State who sends out an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request to bring these individuals in. The Department of Facilities Construction Management (DFCM) would manage and begin metering these people out to do these rapid visual assessments. This is basically to keep people out of dangerous buildings after an incident. Bob stated that the way the program will be set up is that the Commission will issue the card. The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) will administer the cards. The discussion continued about the mechanics of issuing a Utah Disaster Response Card.

**Enzo Calfa** made a motion that the Commission accept Gilbert's request to make the Structural Appraisal Program Committee and subcommittee of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission. Evan Curtis seconded the motion.

**Rick** asked for discussion on the motion. He then asked if there would be financial implications and who would be carrying these responsibilities.

**Bob** answered that there will be financial implications and they have not come to terms with this yet. They have discussed the possibility of having a small fee to cover the costs of issuing the cards and maintaining the database. Bob mentioned that the cards will have to be renewed every three years and once an individual has completed the requirements they will need to be entered into a database. He also stated that DEM has decided to help with that by maintaining the database and creating the cards.

**Walter** asked if licensed individuals would be the ones attending the program. Liability falling of the jurisdictions was also discussed.

**Bob** talked about a beta training that was held last month. There are still aspects of the training that need to be worked out and finalized. The motion was passed.

**Enzo** made a second motion for the Utah Seismic Safety Commission to adopt and endorse the Structural Appraisal Program. Pete McDonough seconded the motion.

There was brief discussion and the motion was passed.

## **Overview of 2013 Great Utah ShakeOut**

**Bob Carey** quickly reviewed the 2013 Great Utah ShakeOut. Every April there is a drill to remind people to “duck, cover, and hold”. In 2013 there were not as many people that signed up. There was still good participation from schools and colleges. On the other side of the ShakeOut is the exercise that DEM does. This year was a one day exercise that began 24 hours after the incident. Bob continued that in 2014 the drill will still be held but there will not be an exercise. Instead there will be a tabletop exercise as a run up to the 2014 Vigilant Guard exercise that DEM will be participating in. This exercise will also be an earthquake drill. The National Guard will be the lead on this week long exercise. DEM will have the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activated in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for three days and DEM staff will probably participate for the entire week. The exercise will start on October 30, 2014 and will be a multi-segment event. A question was asked if the ShakeOut drill will conflict with the SSA meeting. Bob answered that the drill will be held on April 17, and should not conflict with the SSA meeting.

## **Update on the Utah Parapet Ordinance**

**Roger** introduced the update on the Utah Parapet Ordinance. He stated that he put this on the agenda to ensure that Rep. Froerer would attend the meeting. Roger explained that the Parapet Ordinance would be coming up in the Business and Labor Committee. He asked that everyone watch the Legislative web site for when it will be on the agenda so that they can go support the ordinance. Roger also mentioned that the Building Codes Commission Structural Advisory Committee would be meeting this afternoon. The Parapet Ordinance will be coming up in that meeting and once they make a recommendation it will go to the Business and Labor Committee and then to Legislative process. Roger then asked Rep. Froerer for his comments on the Parapet Ordinance. **Rep. Froerer** talked about the work he has done with structural people for a change to statute that will work for both the seismic side and the business side. The main issue was that in the case of roof repairs some building inspectors were telling owners that they couldn't repair the roof without a total roof replacement. This became a problem because in many cases owners didn't have the funds for the roof replacement so repairs weren't made and more damage would continue to occur. The last change of statute was made so owners could make roof repairs without the roof replacement so that they could maintain the economic usefulness of the buildings. Rep. Froerer expressed his belief that now that the economic situation is getting better they may be able to find a compromise that will be fair for the building owners and still protect life safety. He also explained his hope that they will be able to educate owners that sometimes doing a roof replacement can be in their best interest.

**Enzo** shared an experience that he is currently dealing with. A state building needs a new roof and currently nothing is tied together. The roof is sitting on the walls. An engineer's report stated that a minor earthquake will cause the entire building to collapse. DFCM is preparing to put a 30 year roof on this building without addressing the seismic risks because it is no longer required. Enzo expressed his frustration with this situation.

**Rep. Froerer** responded that DFCM should have the authority to have the seismic upgrades done.

**Enzo** agreed that as a Building Official he understands the economic side, but that he also understands that there are people inside these buildings and they need to be kept safe.

**Rep. Froerer** thanked Enzo for his perspective on the issue.

**Glen Palmer** also commented that one thing that may help is if the requirements are based on the economics instead of on the code. That way some upgrades can still be required without requiring that significantly more than the available budget be spent.

**Roger** stated that he added this to the agenda because it will be coming up in future meetings and encouraged everyone to attend these meetings and voice their opinions in the meetings. Following these comments, Roger continued to the update of 2013 HB 278 and turned the time to Evan and Steve.

### **Update of 2013 HB 278 - Public Schools Seismic Studies**

**Evan** began by stating that Rep. Froerer pushed this bill through during the last legislative session and expressed his gratitude for his work on this. He reminded the Commission that according to HB 278, any district that takes out a bond, to build new buildings, will need to conduct a rapid visual screening assessment on any buildings constructed before 1975. These assessments must be performed by a qualified engineer and the results will then be reported to the Utah Seismic Safety Commission.

**Rep. Froerer** commented that this was the first bill he introduced that did not pass on his first attempt. He had to bring it back again because certain groups didn't feel that they should tell districts what to do. Rep. Froerer stated that hopefully by obtaining this data they can move forward on firmer ground. He also mentioned that he had a lot of resources to assist with his efforts and was thankful for the help. Rep. Froerer explained that they had hoped for \$500,000 and they didn't obtain that much but they may be able to keep this in the loop.

**Evan** reminded the Commission that although they didn't receive the \$500,000 they did get an appropriation of \$150,000. To guide this process along, an Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) Authority will be created that will consist of representatives from the following; Legislative representation, three school districts, a large, medium, and small district, the Utah Office of Education, Governor's Office, the USSC, DEM, and the Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU).

**Steve Bowman** spoke briefly about the presentation he made in the last quarterly meeting. He proposed that one way to manage the data, which would be gathered as a result of HB 278, would be to create a Linux server to house the data and use Resource Space make the data accessible. Steve asked for direction on where the Commission would like to go on this issue.

**Roger** commented that he has received many comments since HB 278 passed. Nevada is planning to discuss Steve's data gathering methods in the upcoming joint meeting. He explained that they need to create a central point where all of the information on all of the schools is located. Roger thanked Steve and Evan for their work and thanked the Lieutenant Governor for his support of Rep. Froerer.

**Roger** introduced a few new agenda items. He explained that although they are out of order they are related to this. First he briefly discussed the Utah Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting. Glen was the point person for this meeting. Roger stated that he couldn't believe the number of people that talked to him about HB 278. He mentioned the fact that they had the PTA endorsement of this program. He then asked Glen to give a quick update on the PTA Meeting.

**Glen Palmer** stated that the meeting went well. He was impressed by the number of people who came and asked questions and how to get more information. Glen mentioned that he was surprised by the number of comments he received from people from around the state.

**Roger** went on record as the first person to volunteer for 2014. He explained that it is a neat experience to man the booth at this meeting. Glen agreed and mentioned the concern and growing awareness in parents because the PTA is pushing this information.

**Roger** introduced the second topic that would be out of order. He asked for a brief discussion of the budget.

**Rick** mentioned that the issue that concerns him is the issue of the line item for the Commission. He suggested that this may be the time to request that the line item be restored to \$15,000. Rick mentioned that they could subdivide it into \$5,000 for database issues, \$5,000 school issues, and \$5,000 for supporting Commission costs. He reviewed that the Commission used to have a line item in the budget and costs are now at the discretion of DEM. Rick mentioned his concern that if Bob were to leave DEM, they would be highly vulnerable.

**Keith Koper** asked how long ago the line item was taken off and if there would be any memory of the original line item. Bob replied that there would be no memory. Rick continued that the Commission has been around the entire time and they should be able to sell this point. Keith agreed that they may want to visit this possibility, but it will look like a new item and may be difficult to get. Roger asked if Rick is looking for a motion on this issue. Rick answered that his belief is the need for a motion requesting that DEM restore the original line item of \$15,000 to the Commission. The discussion continued until the motion was made. Rick Allis made a motion that the Utah Seismic



Safety Commission requests that the Division of Emergency Management restore an ongoing \$15,000 line item for the support of Commission expenses, in part motivated by the need for funding for resources related to HB 278. Keith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Update on U.S. Congressional Funding**

**Keith Koper** updated the USSC on U.S. Congressional funding. He explained that the main agency that funds earthquake risks and earthquake hazards is the USGS at the federal level. Like all other agencies they are subject to sequestration. They are taking the cut in travel restrictions and a hiring freeze. They haven't done any furloughs and they maintain their external grant program. The sequestration will be ongoing and these cuts will continue over time. Keith mentioned the SSA meeting that was held in Utah this year. Large contingents of scientists were not able to attend that meeting. According to the people Keith has talked to, there will not be a new federal budget in October, but rather another continuing resolution. The question was asked about how DEM is being affected by sequestration.

**Sheila Curtis** answered that within DEM they have not been affected. She mentioned that FEMA has started doing more webinars and less travel.

**Rick** agreed and stated that the UGS is receiving 5% less funding.

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

**Roger** briefly spoke about the BORP. He emailed out a copy of the staff report and ordinance to everyone, on the Commission, prior to the meeting. Roger stated that his goal is to get it out to Building Officials and Structural Engineers Association and other groups so that people are aware of the program and that it is recognized in ordinance form in Salt Lake City.

### **USSC Joint Meeting with Nevada Earthquake Safety Council**

The joint meeting with the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council is scheduled for November 13, 2013. There is a preliminary agenda. There is a joint meeting every two years. The meeting will be held in the Clark County Offices. Colorado and Idaho have been invited to attend as well.

### **Reports from Recent Professional Meetings**

- The 2013 National Earthquake Program Managers meeting was held in Seattle in end of April. The highlight of this meeting was a discussion on the California Damage Assessment Program. They will continue this discussion next month

with Missouri. There was also a presentation from the school district that was hardest hit by the Brawley Earthquake.

- The 2013 Western States Seismic Policy Council meeting was held in Seattle. Eight policy recommendations were voted on and approved, including ones endorsing the seismic design of new schools and calling for the seismic evaluation and remediation of existing schools. This second one is in conjunction with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI). We are currently waiting for EERI's final endorsement. A third recommendation of particular interest is the recommendation that, when seismic gas shut off valves are mandated, that they conform to ANSI/ASCE 25, which is currently being updating through ASCE.
- The 2013 Seismological Society of America annual meeting in Salt Lake City was well attended. URM issues were covered. There were comments that this was the best meeting yet. There was a good piece of media coverage. A highlight was the focus on the Wasatch Fault. Roger commented on all of the calls he had received following the information that was released.
- Update on Utah chapter of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. The Utah chapter of EERI is planning a one day engineering seminar focusing on liquefaction issues, for this fall. It will be geared toward practicing engineers. We hope to schedule this for early November to coincide with other engineering seminars currently being planned.
- The State Uniform Building Commission's Structural Advisory Committee is preparing a new, simplified Code Amendment to address parapet bracing issues. Pete will be distributing this when he receives the final proposed wording.

## **News Items**

### **Other**

**Rick** proposed a motion that the Commission will support and agree to collaborate with the Utah Geological Association initiative to increase seismic awareness. Keith Koper seconded the motion. The motion passed.

In 2014 the Commission will be 20 years old. Bob reminded the Commission that there was an open house to celebrate the 10 year anniversary. He recommended that this be put on the calendars and a 20 year celebration should be held as well.

**Roger Evan adjourned the meeting at 11:25 PM.**