

## Utah Seismic Safety Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes

On July 17, 2014, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Utah State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). 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
M. Leon Berrett	American Public Works Association

### **USSC Staff Present:**

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

### **Guests Present:**

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
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 and Introduction**

Introductions were made of members and guests present. **Rick Allis** made a motion for the approval of the April 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion was second by **Pete McDonough**. A correction was made to the SAP Program section. The IPP should be ICC. **Leon Barrett** verified a comment that he made in the last meeting. With these corrections the minutes were approved.

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

**Roger Evans** introduced the elections and the time was turned to Walter to preside. **Walter Arabasz** commented that Roger was still presiding and he was present to keep the Commission honest. He briefly reviewed the nominations and elections process. People can nominate themselves and a nomination does not need a second. Walter also noted that there were 7 Commission members present to vote. He then opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Leon Berrett was nominated for the position of Chair. **Rick Allis** made a motion to close nominations.

**Walter** explained that this motion is not necessary. The nominations were closed by consensus.

**Roger** asked for a vote for Leon as chair. The vote was unanimous. Roger congratulated Leon on his election.

**Walter** continued to the Vice Chairs nominations. He indicated that Rick Allis and Keith Koper are the current Vice Chairs. Rick and Keith were nominated to continue in their positions as Vice Chairs. Nominations were closed.

**Roger** asked for a vote for Rick Allis and Keith Koper as a Vice Chairs for the Commission. The vote was unanimous. Roger thanked Walter for his role in the Commission. He stated that he has been honored to serve as the Commission's Chair. Roger expressed his appreciation for the support he has had. He then turned the time to Leon.

**Leon Berrett** took a few moments to discuss his goals as the Utah Seismic Safety Commission Chair. He stated that he would like to talk to each member individually over the next few months. He will be asking the other Commission members for guidance about new directions the Commission should go. Leon provided some background information on himself. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Brigham Young University. Leon worked in the private sector for 7 years, in consulting for 7 years and has worked in Government service for about 16 years. Leon expressed his love for his work. He has been the Chair for the APWA Emergency Management Committee for the last 4 years and will begin serving on the National APWA Emergency Management Committee next month. Leon has also worked on the Speakers Committee for the Governor's Public Safety Summit. Leon concluded and asked for comments.

**Rick** requested that the Commission officially thank Roger for all of his work and time spent with the Commission. He expressed his hope that Roger will stay connected.

**Roger** agreed that he will never give up.

**Leon** stated that he appreciated this and wants to continue with Roger's passion and commitment to seismic safety.

### **Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU) Discussion**

**Glen Palmer** stated that he was asked to provide an update on the Existing Buildings Committee. He expressed his appreciation for the Commission and for the work Roger has done. One of the SEAU's major goals is public awareness of building seismic safety. One of the efforts they have made to increase awareness has been to man a booth in the PTA Convention for the last 2 years. Members from both the SEAU and the USSC have helped to man the booth. The PTA has been one of the other groups that help to push for seismic safety. Glen expressed thanks for the support they have received in the last 2 years. Another issue that has occurred recently has been the reestablishment of the original Parapet Ordinance. SEAU has sent out an email to notify all of the engineers that the Parapet Ordinance is back in place as of July 1. Glen discussed how this change will improve seismic safety in structures. The Existing Buildings Committee is working on finishing the Utah Guide for Seismic Improvement of Unreinforced Masonry Dwellings. This book was originally published in 1993. It was last updated in 1996. They are updating document and have received feedback from FEMA. Currently, the committee is finalizing the illustrations and some text. They are very close to sending it out for final review.

**Roger** reinforced Glen's earlier comments. He told the Commission about some unique experiences he had while working at the PTA Convention. This last year Roger was sitting next to Representative Cosgrove, who was there representing Primary Children's Hospital, when a prominent Senator came up. They were discussing how long it took to get the Rapid Visual Screening through the legislature. The Senator looked at Roger and told him that he is costing school districts 1.9 billion dollars. Roger responded by asking him how much a child's life is worth. This concluded the discussion between Roger and the Senator. Roger noted that the public is becoming more and more aware of what is happening in our state.

**Walter** asked Roger for clarification about where the 1.9 billion dollar figure came from. No one else had heard a specific price and commented that if they ever had the opportunity to speak with the Senator again they would ask for clarification.

### **Utah Structural Appraisal Program (SAP)**

**Bob Carey** gave a quick report on the (SAP) program. They took another vote and the Committee agreed to issue cards with the following categories: Engineer, Architect, and

ICC Certified Inspector. Bob was asked to clarify his acronyms for the guests attending the meeting. He briefly reviewed the acronyms and purpose of the Structural Appraisal Program. He commented that in the future the SAP Committee will need to address other engineering aspects and some other areas of concern. The Committee will also need to find a way to organize this volunteer group in such a way that when DFCM calls for their help, SEAU will be able to assist them. The Committee will be setting up a program so that every 3 years the cards will need to be reapplied for and individuals will have to be retrained. The Committee wants the Commission to approve the designations so they can start issuing the cards.

**Rick** asked how the cards would be issued.

**Bob** responded that the Division of Emergency Management is doing the administration of the program. The Commission is overseeing the program to give it longevity. The issuance of the cards will come after the administrators of the program verify that the required criteria have been met.

**Enzo Calfa** asked Bob about the ICC Certifications that would be accepted. Bob replied that the applicants only need a ICC Certification in any of their disciplines.

**Pete McDonough** asked if most of the people who have attended the training so far have been certified.

**Bob** replied that most have been. Those who do not qualify will be issued a certificate for completing the training. They will not receive a card without meeting the licensing requirement.

**Keith Koper** asked if there is a part of the program that evaluates building prior to the event.

**Bob** responded there is a different program called the BORP Program.

**Roger** stated that more information about the BORP Program is available at [www.slcgov.com](http://www.slcgov.com).

**Bob** asked the Commission to give approval of these designations.

**Roger** made a motion for the Utah Seismic Safety Commission to approve Engineer, Architect, and Building Inspector as the designations for the cards.

**Pete** seconds the motion. The motion passed.

**Leon** thanked Bob for this update. He told the Commission about a tabletop exercise he lead 8 or 9 years ago. They were going through the scenario of a 7.0 earthquake. He asked the director of the planning and development what he was going to do next with fifteen thousand buildings to inspect. He responded that they would be very overwhelmed. Leon commented that it is programs like the SAP Program that will make a big difference. He then turned the time to Robert Grow of Envision Utah.

## **Envision Utah**

**Robert Grow** introduced himself. He began by providing some background on himself. His mother was a State Red Cross disaster nurse. His father was an engineer. He was

the President and Chief Operation Officer of Geneva Steel and when they built new equipment they built it to earthquake standards so that in the event of an earthquake their buildings and equipment would still function. Robert studied and learned about these issues over the years. His daughter is a professor at law at BYU and her field is Disaster Law and his son is an Emergency Room doctor who is on the State Medical Emergency Board. Robert continued to introduce Envision Utah. It was founded in 1997 with honorary co-chairs Governor Mike Leavitt and Larry Miller. It is a nonprofit, non-partisan, volunteer organization. Envision Utah is a partnership of business and government communities. In Robert's presentation, he introduced some of the members of whom are directly and indirectly interested in Utah's disaster resilience and recovery from a disaster. Envision Utah's first visioning process was done in 1997. They had about 20,000 people respond to their surveys. Since that time, they have helped over 40 local areas do plans or visions for their quality growth in the future. The question now is how can Utah grow between now and the year 2050. What are the issues we need to address as we look toward the future? Robert explained that they are studying with action teams, appointed by the governor, that are on 8 different task forces. One of these task forces is Energy and Disaster Resilience. This task force is currently gathering information from groups including the Commission and want the Commission to understand what they are doing and why. These large-scale, state-wide visioning exercises happen about once every 20 years and they are a great opportunity to get issues out in front of the public. Disaster resilience is about disaster response, survival, and recovery. There is the initial safety response that is followed by an economic recovery. Robert used Hurricane Katrina to illustrate his point. He then explained how this related to Utah. He stated that earthquakes are probably the biggest risk. The wildland urban interface is growing and increasing the risks of fire. Other risks include flooding, climate variability in terms of storms, landslide, and rock fall areas. Envision Utah's goal is to get 50,000 Utahans to answer surveys online. This is an effort to take what is a highly leveraged public process and fill it with information about disasters so that the public will get on board with some of these issues. In 2007, Envision Utah did a couple of disaster drills with the State and tried to start some dialogue about the issues. Robert continued that Envision Utah would like to take the education resources that the USSC has to put online as a part of the public education efforts. He continued to discuss the information and materials that will be used with the public education efforts. **Walter** commented that the economic variables are not readily apparent. He suggested that the variables and results should be simplified for the public to increase understanding.

**Robert** agreed with Walter's point.

**Pete** commented that new construction, if codes are being followed, is fairly resilient and asked for clarification on this point. A brief discussion about the building codes followed.

**Meldee Love** commented on the importance of helping the public understand that the direct link between building damage and their paycheck.

**Robert** agreed and explained how Louisiana was an excellent example of what happens when a business ecosystem is altered.

**Glen** commented that the educational process is slow moving. It is hard to convince people that they need to take action.

**Robert** answered that this is a chance to educate the public on these issues and to put them into the correct context. He closed by asking the Commission to share materials with Envision Utah and once it is online to share the information with people in their networks.

**Evan Curtis** thanked Robert for his work and for coming to speak to the Commission about this initiative. He asked the Commission to make some sort of statement that they are going to support these efforts.

**Leon** expressed that it is clear that they support this and would like to be an active part of it.

**Rick** commented that it would be helpful to target the kids now because they will be decision makers in the long run.

**Robert** responded that they are working on a kid's campaign as well.

**Walter** suggested that they take it one step forward and find a way to engage the kids by letting them be a part of making videos or other things.

**Robert** thanked Walter for the suggestion.

## **Trench Update**

**Chris DuRoss** gave an update on the Salt Lake City segment of the Wasatch Fault trench. The trench is a project that is funded through the USGS National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and through the UGS. The trench is located on Draper City property. It was ultimately permitted by Salt Lake County. Chris expressed his thanks to Draper City and to Pete for his help in the permitting process. It was a 5-month process to get this trenching project permitted. Chris referenced his presentation graphics. They are interested in older earthquakes that are 5,000 to 10,000 years old. They are working to refine the timing and ruptures that occurred in these older earthquakes so that they can target the timing evidence of these earthquakes. This project really ties in with the work being done on the Provo segment. Chris finished his presentation. The next steps will be to submit the samples for sorting, laboratory work and dating. This will take about 6 months and they will have the final results after they analyze all of the data in about a year. Chris was asked if the trench is still open. He explained the trench was too sandy and unstable to leave open, so it is now closed. They are hoping to be able to compare the results of the projects on the north and south side of the segment.

**Keith** asked how they would correlate the events on the separate segments.

**Chris** commented that using displacement data they could make an educated guess.

## **Public Schools RVS**

**Roger** updated the Commission on the rapid visual screening of schools. He began by crediting the passing of this bill to Evan Curtis. Once he got the Lieutenant Governor involved they were able to get the bill passed. Roger reminded the Commission that the bill requires that when a school district bonds for a new school they must evaluate all of their existing buildings. They offered to put together a complete master list of what they have in their files and what is missing. This has been the hard part. The committee has had 4 meetings and is still working to acquire the information from the school districts. They have a list of where all of the schools located. They are still trying to gather the rest of the detailed information. This project has been funded and they are just waiting for the school districts to cooperate.

**Bob** mentioned that they are working on an RFP.

**Barry** is working on the language of the RFP for the requirements they feel they need for whoever gets the bid. They have had discussions about how to do the surveys. The other thing that will happen is that the Utah Office of Education has a meeting with the Districts in a few weeks. Bob is going to offer to go to each of the Districts and personally collect the data from them. This must happen so that they are not duplicating work that has already been completed. He expressed his hope that they will be able to make some progress in the next few weeks.

**Rick** asked about the reports that are required.

**Bob** clarified that the reports will be required.

**Keith** asked who would be required to write the report.

**Bob** responded that he believes they will be responsible for writing the reports.

Following a brief discussion on the RVS reports, Leon asked for the News Items.

## **Reports from Recent Professional Meetings**

- The National Earthquake Program Managers meeting was held in Denver in May. One of the topics was on changes in the way FEMA will be distributing funding to the States. In the meeting, they found out that the future funding will now be going to vendors and consortia. Some of the 2013 funding has been awarded EERI for the Salt Lake Scenario Project. The 2014 money has already been awarded. They are already discussing 2015 funding.
- **Pete** commented that from the perspectives of WSSPC and local EERI they are completely in the dark about this funding situation.
- **Bob** replied that no one is happy about these updates.

## **News Items**

**Walter** asked about the periodic reports of Commission activities. The last report went from 2000 to 2006. Walter suggested that they scope it more simply and the next report should probably be done soon.

**Leon** asked Sheila to send out an updated list of all of the Commission members.

**Sheila Curtis** responded that she would work with Chris to get a current list sent out.

**Leon** then took a moment to thank Roger again for his service with the USSC.

The next meeting will be on October 16, 2014.

**Evan Curtis** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Rick Allis** second the motion.

**Leon Berrett adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.**