

October 26th 2024
Utah Seismic Safety Commission
Quarterly Meeting Minutes (Hybrid), Kletting Room at Utah State Capitol

On October 26, 2023, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was a hybrid meeting. The USSC Chair, Robert Grow, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Robert Grow, Chair	Founding Chair Emeritus, Envision Utah
Steve Bowman, Vice-Chair	Utah Geological Survey
Jessica Chappell, Vice-Chair	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Leon Berrett	American Public Works Association
Steven Bruemmer	American Institute of Architects, Utah Disaster Assistance
Kris Hamlet (Proxy Judy Watanabe)	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Patrick Tomasino	Utah Division of Facilities and Construction Management
Peter McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
Dean Dykstra	Utah State Board of Education
Divya Chandrasekhar	University of Utah
Evan Curtis	Utah Governor’s Office Planning and Budget
Orion Goff	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Emily Morton	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Ari Bruening	Envision Utah (Ex-Officio)
Sean McGowan	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)

USSC Staff Present:

John Crofts	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Debbie Worthen	Utah Division of Emergency Management

Guests Present:

Brady Cox	Utah State University, Director Earthquake Engineering Center
Mohsen Esteghamati	Utah State University
Brandon Webb	FEMA Region VIII - FIT
Barry Welliver	BWH Consultants
Jim Pechman	University of Utah
Brent Maxfield	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
George Deneris	Utah Division of Risk Management
Glen Palmer	Palmer Engineering
Judy Watanabe	Division of Emergency Management
Janell Woodward	State of Nevada, Earthquake Program Manager

Members/Staff Not Present (excused):

Joaquin Mixco	Utah Department of Transportation
Kyle Becker	Utah Insurance Department
Chris DuRoss	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Adam Hiscock	Utah Geological Survey

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Visitors/Approval of Minutes

Robert Grow asked for introductions and invited attendees to introduce themselves. He asked for a review of the minutes.

Robert asked for a motion to approve the minutes from July 7, 2023, USSC meeting:

Divya Chandrasekhar made a motion to approve the minutes.

Jessica Chapell seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Jessica read out the Action Items

Commission Recommendations to the Legislature

- Keep Water Flowing
- Keep our Kids Safe
- Increase Public Awareness of URM's
- Keep our Buildings Standing
- Build an Earthquake Early Warning System

Robert asked for a motion to approve the Commission's Recommendations

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes with the minor recommendations.

Leon Berrett and Divya Chandrasekhar both seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Subcommittee Discussion—Deterministic versus Probabilistic

Robert discussed starting a Subcommittee to examine Deterministic versus Probabilistic earthquake hazards. He discussed Brent Maxfield's contributions to the issue and recommended a committee look into this. He briefly discussed the probabilistic and deterministic issue and the greater earthquake risk this may pose for Utah.

Robert made a motion to nominate Brent Maxfield to oversee this subcommittee. **Divya** seconded the motion. Robert discussed this as a recommendation to the Executive Committee. The following people volunteered to serve on the sub-committee: Brady Cox, Divya, Robert, Ari, Sean McGowan, and George Deneris. The University of Utah Seismograph Stations was also recommended to have a member placed on the committee.

Coordination between DEM, FEMA, and CERC on Technical Assistance for School Districts

John Crofts provided a brief review of the DEM, FEMA, and CERC technical assistance efforts and expressed our wishes to continue this contract into next year. He also invited Commissioners to join the Calendar invite for the 14 November meeting on a feasibility study to expand and fix the bricks for the state.

Updates from the Utah Earthquake Engineering Center

Brady Cox provided an update on the Utah Earthquake Engineering Center and provided additional details that communicated the goals and mission of the Utah Earthquake Engineering Center. Brady expanded on the determinist and probabilistic committee and mentioned that Utah is not alone and that other states also have these issues. He discussed Memphis Tennessee as showing their deterministic ground motions are very high, and higher design standards could lead to higher construction costs. Brady also discussed liquefaction, additional equipment, and other tools that could contribute to even more advanced earthquake

analysis. He discussed the importance of Post-earthquake Building Inspection and his commitment to advancing ATC-20.

National Advisory Council (NAC) debrief

Brandon Webb discussed the National Advisory Council meeting that was held in Utah. It is a council of 40 people who come together and come up with formal recommendations and strategies. After Hurricane Katrina, there were recommendations to come together and discuss. The makeup of the group is diverse, and this was the first time it was held in Utah. Small town administrators up to the President of ASFPM. Generally, NAC works in subcommittees and discusses why the Council works towards recommendations. Generally, meetings are once a year. This year, the big discussion was disaster insurance. Earthquakes and other disasters are dramatically increasing insurance rates. Right now, insurance programs are dropping out of particular geographic areas. The Council also discussed post-disaster recovery versus pre-disaster mitigation. They also highlighted that there are regulations and other variables playing into disaster insurance. The concern now is that once insurance leaves a geographical area, the insurance responsibility then falls on to the government.

Earthquake Resilient Homes

Ari Bruening discussed earthquake-resilient homes and the minimal cost of building to higher standards.

Other Business and Announcements

Jessica discussed Ember Herrick's request for support for the BRIC grant. She discussed her support. **Jessica** made a motion to support the request; Divya seconded the motion. The motion passed with Kris Hamlet abstaining.

Adjourn

The next meeting was scheduled for January 4th, 2024.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn, and **Evan Curtis** seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Completed Action Items

- The Commission Chair will work with Brent Maxfield to get approval to oversee the subcommittee on deterministic versus probabilistic earthquake risk
- Brady Cox and John Crofts will coordinate and work together to discuss increasing ATC-20 certified evaluations following an earthquake
- Subcommittee volunteers will be finalized after Brent Maxfield is approved to head up the subcommittee approval.
- Set up a conference call with Divya

Please note, that this meeting was hybrid. Efforts were made to document the attendees. Some guests may not have been captured. Please contact John Crofts if there are attendees who were not recognized. The presentation time slots from the published agenda were modified to accommodate the speaker's request.