

March 28th, 2024
Utah Seismic Safety Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes
(Hybrid), Capitol Board Room (240) at Utah State Capitol

On March 28, 2024, 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
Kris Hamlet	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
Evan Curtis	Utah Governor’s Office Planning and Budget
Orion Goff	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Emily Morton	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Kyle Becker	Utah Insurance Department
Ari Bruening	Envision Utah
Sean McGowan	FEMA Region VIII (Ex-Officio)
Chris DuRoss	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

USSC Staff Present:

John Crofts	Utah Division of Emergency Management
Debbie Worthen	
Adam Hiscock	Utah Geological Survey

Guests Present:

Barry Welliver	BHW Engineers
Brandon Webb	FEMA FIT
Brady Cox	Utah State University, Director Earthquake Engineering Center
Mohsen Esteghamati	Utah State University
Brandon Webb	FEMA Region VIII - FIT
Kyra Norse	CREW
Jim Pechman	University of Utah
Wade Matthews	
George Deneris	Utah Division of Risk Management

Members/Staff Not Present (excused):

Divya Chandrasekhar	University of Utah
Joaquin Mixco	Utah Department of Transportation
Steven Bruemmer	American Institute of Architects, Utah Disaster Assistance

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 January, USSC meeting:

Jessica Chappell made a motion to approve the minutes with stated corrections.

Evan Curtis seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Sunset of Utah Seismic Safety Commission—Discussion on Next Steps, Matrix (Working Document) Capture Industry Support, Media Affairs

Robert initiated the discussion by noting that while the House of Representatives passed the renewal of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, the Senate decided to sunset the Commission, effective January 1, 2025. He then opened the floor to discuss next steps, the creation of a matrix for potential Commission options, and strategies for garnering industry support and managing media affairs. **Key Points Discussed:**

1. Legislative Status and Future of the Commission:

- **Evan Curtis** recommended that the Commission should either remain legislatively sanctioned or be redefined as a statutorily defined body. He expressed a strong desire to collaborate with the Legislature to achieve the best possible outcome, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the Commission's role as an advisory body. Additional conversation and suggestions ensued adding to the matrix.

2. Development of the Matrix:

- Various options for the Commission's future were discussed and added to a working matrix. This matrix will be shared with all Commission members, who are encouraged to contribute additional ideas.

3. Concerns and Motivation:

- There was concern that the status of the Commission might be diminished by the Utah Senate's decision to sunset the Commission, potentially affecting the motivation of some Commissioners. **Robert** emphasized that the involvement of Commissioners is even more critical now than ever, urging everyone to intensify their efforts and support of the Commission.

4. Legislative Relations and Media outreach:

- The group discussed potential reasons behind the Senate's decision not to renew the Commission and stressed the importance of maintaining a positive working relationship with the Legislature and to hope to ensure media relations were positive.

5. Upcoming Technical Seismic Tour:

- **Jessica** reminded the Commission of the scheduled technical seismic tour on Friday, April 19th, at 11:00 a.m. at the North Capitol complex, hosted by Okland Construction.

6. Infrastructure and Industry Challenges:

- **Steve Bowman and Jessica** led further discussions on the challenges related to privately owned infrastructure. They highlighted the importance of the ATC-20

program and other significant publications, proposing a stronger focus on infrastructure and potential media engagement.

The discussion concluded with a consensus on the importance of continued collaboration with the Legislature and the need for proactive engagement with industry stakeholders and the media to support the Commission's ongoing work.

Government Affairs

Evan Curtis briefly discussed the Governor's office and Legislative affairs without many update and repeated that many of the issues had been covered in the prior conversation.

Central Utah Water Conservancy District Alpine Aqueduct Earthquake Resilience Project (Design Phase)

Chris Elison provided a presentation on the Central Utah Water Conservancy District's seismic improvements. The presentation followed with interactive participation and questions and answer.

Westlake Jr. High/Non-ductile Concrete Discussion/ Working Group Meetings in February

Mark Ellis and **Dick Dreyer**, Holmes Structures provided a presentation on Westlake Jr. High's non-ductile concrete evaluation. The evaluation was extensive, and they both presented on the risks of non-ductile concrete with various other Utah buildings. They answered questions about the non-ductile concrete and improvements and held a discussion of Utah's code. They discussed types of damage, disproportionate damage (DED) such as occurred with West Lake Jr. High School. The presentation concluded with retrofit concepts and costs—followed by a discussion.

Ground Motions Subcommittee Update

Jessica provided a brief update on the Ground Motions Subcommittee and will the Committee plan to provide a detailed review at the next Seismic Safety Commission Meeting.

Earthquake Working Group Meeting

Adam Hiscock provided a presentation on the Earthquake Working Group which are technical meetings that share research from all the Basin and Range states, which included participants from Utah, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. They had two full days of meetings that included earthquake research and discussed further research needs.

H.B. 384 Utah Geological Data Submission Amendments

Steve Bowman provided a recap and discussed H.B. 384, which is geologic data submission amendments.

Other Business and Announcements.

Robert invited others to discuss other business which included:
The next Commission meeting will be determined at a later date.

By Acclamation the meeting was adjourned.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items

- Commissioners asked to review the matrix and provide input as to where the Commission will be housed.
- Commissioners invited to North Capitol Complex tour.
- Commissioners invited to NETAP training
- Commissioners will get back to John Crofts regarding next meeting.

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.