

**August 15, 2024**

**Utah Seismic Safety Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**Hybrid Meeting – Capitol Board Room (240), Utah State Capitol**

On August 15, 2024, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held as a hybrid meeting. The USSC Chair, Robert Grow, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Due to some scheduling errors, Robert Grow slightly adjusted the order of the agenda to accommodate timing, but the meeting proceeded essentially as planned.

**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
Divya Chandrasekhar	University of Utah, American Planning Association
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)
Steve Bruemmer	American Institute of Architects, Utah Disaster Assistance

Brent Maxfield

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
(Volunteer)

**USSC Staff Present:**

John Crofts

Utah Division of Emergency Management

Adam Hiscock

Utah Geological Survey

**Guests Present:**

Sofia Jerimias

Salt Lake Tribune

Rachael Adam

Utah Geological Survey

Jim Pechmann

University of Utah Seismograph Stations

Glen Palmer

Palmer Engineering

Barry Welliver

BHW Engineers

Brandon Webb

FEMA FIT

Mohsen Esteghamati

Utah State University

George Deneris Jr.

Utah Risk Management

Kathy Holder

Utah Division of Emergency Management

Judy Watanabe

Utah Division of Emergency Management

Tammy Kikutchi

KSL News

**Excused:**

Brady Cox

Utah State University, Director Earthquake  
Engineering Center

**Welcome and Introduction of Members and Visitors**

Robert Grow welcomed all attendees and called for introductions. Each member and guest briefly introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the March 28, 2024, meeting was adopted with minor corrections.

**Jessica Chappell** made a motion to adopt the minutes with the stated corrections. **Steve Bruemmer** seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

## **Show and Tell: Best USSC Products and Accomplishments**

Adam Hiscock presented a brief overview of the Commission's most significant accomplishments and products, highlighting key achievements in seismic safety education and outreach.

## **Sunsetting of USSC – Discussion on Next Steps, Matrix (Working Document)**

**Robert Grow** led a discussion on the Commission's future following the Senate's decision to sunset the Commission by January 1, 2025. One option discussed was the possibility of refocusing the Commission's scope to primarily address infrastructure issues rather than buildings. However, the Commission members agreed that limiting the focus to infrastructure alone could overlook critical concerns, especially considering the significant inventory of unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings in Utah. The consensus was that the Commission should retain flexibility to address both infrastructure and buildings, ensuring that both long-range planning and short-term safety priorities are considered. Members stressed the importance of a balanced approach that prepares for long-term resilience while addressing immediate seismic risks. Furthermore, the Commission reiterated that there is no other group like the Utah Seismic Safety Commission. The USSC exists solely because its members are committed to the mission of protecting Utahns from earthquake hazards, demonstrating their dedication to safeguarding the state's future.

## **Break**

A short break was taken at 10:15 a.m.

## **Update on Deterministic vs. Probabilistic Approaches to Modeling and Seismic Design**

**Brent Maxfield** provided an update on the comparison between deterministic and probabilistic approaches to seismic design, emphasizing the benefits and limitations of each methodology in Utah's seismic context.

## **Update on Recommendations for Fixing URM Schools Report**

**Jessica** provided a progress update on the ongoing efforts to address recommendations in the Unreinforced Masonry (URM) Schools report, which is based on the ATC-159 project and aims to improve the seismic resilience of Utah's K-12 public schools.

## **Discussion on USSC Recommendations to State and Local Governments**

**Robert** led a discussion on the next steps for the Commission in terms of recommendations to state and local governments, focusing on how the Commission's work can continue to support seismic safety initiatives even after its sunset.

## **Other Business and Announcements**

**Jessica** opened the floor for additional business. Adam Hiscock provided updates on the USSC website, including additional pages and improvements made to enhance user experience. He also discussed the Spanish version of the 'Putting Down Roots' publication, aimed at helping Spanish-speaking communities better understand earthquake preparedness. Additionally, Adam highlighted efforts to assist the public with non-technical publications and outreach, making seismic safety information more accessible to a wider audience.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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## **Action Items:**

- Commissioners are asked to review the matrix for the next steps of the Commission and provide input. (Completed)
- Commissioners are reminded to participate in NETAP training. (Completed)
- Commissioners will follow up with John Crofts regarding scheduling the next meeting. (Completed)
- Recommendations for USSC to review for the October meeting. (Completed)
- Commissioners may be asked to participate in additional meetings as needed. (Completed)
- Commissioners need to remain involved in earthquake mitigation efforts beyond January 1, 2025, even after the Commission is sunsetted. In their respective roles, they should continue contributing to seismic safety initiatives. (Completed)
- Commissioners are asked to provide additional feedback to Jessica on seismic safety matters. (Completed)
- Commissioners are to consider becoming an advisory body for the state's people and explore ideas and recommendations in this regard. (Completed)
- Brent Maxfield's working group will distribute a Word document outlining steps to improve resilience and will continue exploring recommendations to strengthen Utah's seismic preparedness. (Completed)
- ATC-159 has been completed and is now posted on the USSC website, as per Jessica Chappell's presentation. (Completed)