



State of Utah

UTAH SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

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UTAH SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

January 23, 1997

State Office Building, Room 1112

Minutes

Members Present:

Lee Allison
Walter Arabasz
James Bailey
Lorayne Frank
Barry Smith
Suzanne Winters

Director, Utah Geological Survey
Director, University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Director, Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management
Western Mountain Region American Institute of Architects
Science Advisor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Members Not Present:

D. Douglas Bodrero
Ken Bullock
James Golden
William E. Juszcak
Sen. Craig Peterson
Randall G. Updike
Russ Wilder
Chair, Les Youd

Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Assistant Chief Structural Engineer, Department of Transportation
Division of Facilities Construction and Management
Utah State Senate
U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Professor, BYU Civil Engineering Department

CEM Staff Present:

Bob Carey
Brenda Edwards
John Rokich

EPICENTER Program Manager, Natural Hazards Section
Office Technician, Natural Hazards Section
Natural Hazards Section Chief

UGS Staff Present:

Gary Christenson
Janine Jarva

Applied Geology Manager, Utah Geological Survey
Senior Geological Technician, Utah Geological Survey

Others Present

Ann Becker
Carl Eriksson
Pat Lewis

Chair of the Education and Awareness Standing Committee
Structural Engineer and Building Official, Salt Lake County
Chair of the Emergency Management Standing Committee



Call to Order

Lorayne Frank, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Les Youd was unable to attend due to the winter road conditions.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

News

NSF Engineering Center Proposal - Gary Christenson reported that the proposal was received by NSF and is being evaluated. One phase of the evaluation will likely be a site visit. If there is to be a site visit, Suzanne Winters requests a copy of the proposal.

Release of the 1996 Progress Report

Les reviewed the USSC progress report and approved it. The report was distributed to the USSC in the packet mailed out prior to the meeting. The staff will use the mailing list created for the survey questionnaire for distribution of the report.

CEM Retrofit Publication

The "*The Utah Guide for the Seismic Improvement of Unreinforced Masonry Dwellings*" (URM) has been published. One thousand copies were produced and a charge of \$7.25 per copy will be assessed to recoup printing costs. A question regarding the benefits of the publication to contractors, builders, and architectural and engineering firms was presented. Discussion ensued concerning printing the publication information in letters and newsletters.

Discussion ensued regarding the group/committee who would write the letter regarding the URM, and the organizer of the mailing lists. Lorayne requested that all the mailing lists be forwarded to Bob Carey or Brenda Edwards at CEM for compilation and verification of duplicates.

A workshop sponsored by the USSC directed towards contractors, builders, architects, and engineers was suggested to inform them on the importance and implementation of the procedures in the URM guide.

A brief discussion included: the reality of contractors adding visible vs. hidden costs in buildings, and increasing the understanding of the importance of seismic engineering in buildings.

USGS NEHRP Planning Meeting

Walter reported that there were seven workshops between Nov. 8 and Jan. 31. Walter and Lee attended separate workshops. The purpose of the workshops was "to gain information and views from a broad range of disciplines in the earthquake loss reduction community" for the

drafting of a five year plan 1997-2002. The NEHRP program was reviewed by the National Science and Technology Council, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). As a result a National Earthquake loss reduction Program (NEP) was created to enhance the NEHRP program.

Insufficient coordination and implementation of research results and the creation of partnerships with local, state and federal government are goals NEP prepared in a strategy document that recommends changes that affect various federal agencies, including the USGS. Robert Volland, head of NEP said, " 'things have to be strategically based, priority ranked, and problem focused.' " The five year plan for USGS will have a three pronged effort: 1) creation of products for earthquake loss reduction, i.e. national hazard maps and products for urban areas at high risk, 2) earthquake information, and 3) earthquake research.

Due to the balanced budget atmosphere in Washington, there may be additional demands on NEHRP programs for increased performance and results for fewer dollars.

The seismic networks workshop recommended a two tier funding report from the USGS, including realistic projections of expenses to meet the goals of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

Broad support was expressed for expanding engineering seismology or the seismic engineering realm as it relates to saving lives. In the competing realms of science, earthquake engineering, and emergency management, a level of sufficiency in all three arenas is needed. Walter said, "in my mind this really comes down to the need for a systems approach. If one spends money, one has to look at the various benefits, however measured or analyzed, to determine to what extent there should be a shift in spending of monies..." e.g. collecting strong ground motion information.

Walter suggested there may be missed opportunities for joint proposals. A meeting to consider potential coordination was suggested. The meeting would include representatives from UGS, Seismograph Stations, CEM and the chairs of the standing committees. The next deadline for USGS/NEHRP proposals will be in early April.

Lee Allison reported on his meeting in St. Louis. The central U.S. is a high priority for the USGS. Utah was grouped with states such as Florida, New Hampshire, and South Carolina, etc. which have lower priority for funding. This group presented a recommendation to the USGS requesting their presence in each state with earthquake hazards. USGS has recognized their error in leaving Utah entirely after its 5-year program and stated that type of action will not be repeated.

Discussion ensued on leadership in the USGS due to its being restructured. It was expressed that the USGS, FEMA, and the NEP directions will be important in the national programs.

Discussion ensued on the USGS direction, leadership and personnel changes due to the RIF.

"State Seismic Safety Commissions" Conference in L.A.

Walter Arabasz referred to an article written by Bob Carey in the latest edition of the "Fault Line Forum" which gives an overview of the conference. Much of the conference amounted to a sharing of frustration among the seismic safety advisory boards from many states. California has had the greatest success.

The California Commission has had a funding mechanism and a strong legislative advocate (Sen. Alquist) that has furthered the mission of that Commission. Alternates for the legislative members of the California Commission are appointed/assigned to assist in maintaining continuity. The California Commission also has a full time legislative liaison to promote bills throughout the state.

A lunch speaker at the LA conference was Harvey Reiland, Insurance Institute for Property Loss Reduction (IIPLR). The IIPLR and FEMA have independently conducted surveys on citizen issues. The most important message from the focus groups are: "1) don't use the word mitigation; 2) I won't do anything without an incentive, unless; 3) my child at school tells me we have to do it; 4) television is the most effective way to reach me, and 5) I have to be reminded often."

Mitigation and loss reduction were considered to be negative words. Personal safety and community protection were better alternatives. Insurance agencies are taking a proactive role in public outreach, community land use, new building construction, and retrofit projects. One step being considered to motivate actions that will reduce losses from natural hazards is the idea of seal of approval properties. These would qualify for premium deductibles, incentives from financial institutions (e.g. loan benefits, points, down payments, home equity improvement loans), utility fee reductions, property tax assessment waivers, and sales tax waivers for mitigation materials. The idea is to create a climate to make it less affordable to not take mitigative action. The insurance industry plans to begin with the areas of great life risk, for example by promoting a non-structural retrofit of non-profit day care centers throughout the nation. Mr. Reiland suggested that state boards can help by (1) making a commitment to be partners, (2) refraining from using the word mitigation, (3) developing standard school curricula relating to natural hazards, and (4) working to get incentives for protective measures.

Discussion began on the involvement of the insurance agencies in Utah. Pat Lewis, of State Farm and the chair of the Emergency Management Standing Committee, stated it is to their benefit to become more involved to mitigate damages, hence the increased involvement of State Farm.

Walter reported on the HAZUS program sponsored by FEMA. The program requires accurate information on hazards, lifelines etc., to produce an accurate result.

Bob Carey stated the HAZUS program will be compared to the ATC-36 program which Salt Lake County is using. A database of Utah-specific information is being sought from lifelines, public works, etc.

As points of information, Blockbuster Video in Puerto Rico distributes earthquake safety videos free of charge, and Nevada has translated an earthquake pamphlet into Spanish.

Various strategies to accomplish the USSC mission outside of the legislative process were discussed. Also discussed was setting the stage for a safer earthquake environment in future generations including an earthquake education program for children. The 1996 USSC conference targeted business and local government, citizens, and professional communities. The USSC Progress Report demonstrates the earthquake preparedness activity that is taking place in business, professional associations, and local government, etc. The accomplishments of the USSC were also mentioned.

Lorayne commented that ties with WSSPC and seismic safety commissions would strengthen both organizations and increase the flow of information.

1997 Legislative Activities

Sen. Peterson commented in the previous USSC meeting on other legislative methods to achieve action for the Commission, but has not been reached for further comment.

Suzanne explained the numbering of the bills presented to the legislature this session. The Senate President and the Speaker of the House requested that legislators limit the number of bills to three, and prioritize those bills. 1-188 are the high priority bills for the House, and 1-99 are the high priority bills for the Senate.

Building Code Amendment

Carl Eriksson reported that in a conversation with Sen. Peterson he stated he would see that the Building Code Amendment, SB-135, is placed on the agenda.

1997 Action Plan

Reports From Committees

Engineering and Architecture Standing Committee: Due to health concerns, Earl Eppich has resigned as chair of the Committee. The new elected chair is Ron Dunn, a consulting structural engineer.

The passage of SB-135 which addresses the licensure of plans examiners and building officials is the focus for this year. The bill is in the form of an amendment to the Uniform Building Standards Act. Carl met with the League of Cities and Towns who may support the bill if the requirement of

the agency establishing a dedicated fund for enforcing the building code be removed. The purpose of the requirement is to ensure the funds are being used for building code enforcement. SB-135 does not reach the USSC objective "3.1", but it is a step toward achievement of that objective.

Education and Awareness Committee elected a new chair, Ann Becker. The 1997 conference chair will be Joni Whitear of State Farm. The day long conference will be in conjunction with the "It's Our Fault" week, and is scheduled for Sept. 9, 1997. The registration fee will be \$50.00. The conference targets business, construction, and non-profit organizations. The focus is workplace and business preparedness issues, in the format of breakout sessions. The location has not been determined. Ideas for levels of awards were presented and a suggestion was made to name the winners of the awards on "Proclamation Day," then formally make the presentation at the conference.

A suggestion concerning the direction of the 1997 USSC conference is to target businesses and contractors to discuss the importance of simple solutions to having a safe workplace and home.

The Committee discussed: 1) broadening their membership to include the PTA, League of Women Voters, and business organizations, 2) creation of a free earthquake safety/preparedness video (funded by donations) to distribute through the PTA, etc., 3) use of the mailing list developed from the conference, i.e., mailing a list of publications available, and legislative news. A publications list by interest groups will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

A brief discussion ensued on "Leonardo on Wheels", and the availability of earthquake information for children. Deedee O'Brien was given as a referral for distribution items.

A suggestion of assistance to the LDS church in education and awareness beyond 72 hour kits in women and children's organizations was made. Issues important to women and children will be targeted through the PTA.

Emergency Management Standing Committee - Pat Lewis stated the program entitled "Movers and Shakers" is available without cost to elementary educators through State Farm Insurance Company. A brief report on the 1996 goals was given. The goals of CERT training and home and business preparedness will continue in 1997. A coordinated effort with community, chambers of commerce and business leaders will be made to address the impact of a major earthquake on transportation and business resumption. An extension of CERT training to include management of volunteer resources will also be addressed.

Ann Becker was congratulated on the success of the 1996 conference. Pat offered the staff and resources of State Farm to assist with the 1997 conference.

Geoscience Standing Committee - The committee chair is still vacant. Five committee members have been on the Seismic Advisory Committee to UDOT for the I-15 reconstruction project. An outline detailing the needs in the geoscience field would be beneficial for proposal coordination.

Intergovernmental Relations - A committee will be formed and active by the next meeting.

1998 Bill to Revise USSC Membership

Discussion ensued concerning participation of USSC members and assignments of designees to attend the meetings. Contacts by the staff have met with no response. USSC members contacting absent members with inquiries regarding reasons for their lack of interest were suggested. A bill would restructure the narrowly defined membership allowing more flexibility in assigning representatives to the USSC. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting

FEMA Funding

FEMA funding to the USSC for staff support was discussed. The process requires a request for funding, and information on the project and funds donated by the requesting state showing the commitment to the project. Possible funding programs are one-time funding or continual funding with a cost share. Lorayne requested a proposal be drafted for the February national conference.

Letter to Legislators

The USSC progress report will be given to the legislators and will include a one page bullet item letter summary of the report.

1996 Conference Committee Recommendations

Recommendations for the next conference are: 1) begin planning earlier, 2) improve corporate sponsorship, 3) increase publicity, mail announcement earlier, 4) target similar audience, 5) build on last year's conference, don't repeat scenario, 6) hold multiple breakout sessions, 7) make sessions available for participants to attend more than two sessions, 8) provide specific training, and 9) provide question and answer time with attendees.

Other Items

Sen. Peterson and Rep. Knudson have been re-appointed to the USSC.

Gary reported that USGS has received strong motion instruments from California which will be used in a research project. An array will be set up in the Salt Lake Valley on various soils and rocks which will give site-response data.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is set for April 29, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. in the State Office Building Room 1112.