

**WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL
2006 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Westin St. Francis Hotel
San Francisco, California**

**MINUTES
April 17, 2006**

Present:

***WSSPC Member**

+Proxy for WSSPC Member

*+Rick Allis, Utah Geological Survey
Doug Bausch, DHS/FEMA
++Susan Bilek, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
+Bob Carey, Utah Office of Emergency Services
+Dave Cassel, Oregon Emergency Management
+Rod Combellick, Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
+George Crawford (not present at roll call for establishing quorum), Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division
+Craig dePolo, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
*Roger Hansen, Alaska Seismic Safety Hazards Commission
++Dave Jackson, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
+Jeanne Branch Johnston, Hawaii State Civil Defense
Ed Laatsch, DHS/FEMA
*Dave Liebersbach, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
William Lund, Utah Geological Survey
*Thomas E. Manning, Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission
*++Vince Matthews, Colorado Geological Survey
*Vicki McConnell, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries
*Dan McGowan, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division
*+John Parrish, California Geological Survey
*Jon Price, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Michael Reichle, California Geological Survey
*Ian Robertson, Hawaii State Earthquake Advisory Committee
Woody Savage, USGS
R. Scott Simmons, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Patti Sutch, WSSPC
Anita Vollmer, DHS/FEMA
Jay Wilson, Oregon Emergency Management

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions – Rick Allis

All present introduced themselves.

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum – Patti Sutch

Twenty-three out of 36 WSSPC members were present, establishing a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Rick Allis

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 12 and 14, 2005 (Rod Combellick).

SECOND: Jon Price

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch

A re-allocation of the FEMA budget categories, allowing for delegate travel to the San Francisco meeting and \$10,000 towards the Earthquake Program Managers meeting in Salt Lake City in June, was approved by the WSSPC Board and would be submitted to FEMA for their approval. Because there is no WSSPC conference in 2006, WSSPC will need to use its own money for certain expenses not covered by the FEMA grant. Dave Liebersbach re-emphasized that the Board is comfortable with spending up to an estimated \$30K of WSSPC money this year.

Six State Seismic Safety Councils and Commissions – Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon and Utah – have accepted the invitation to join. Nevada will consider the invitation at their next meeting. Patti welcomed representatives from all of the attending commissions.

The 2007 WSSPC Annual Conference is planned to be held jointly with the International Code Council (ICC) in Reno, Nevada. John Henry and Dominic Sims of the ICC will make a presentation on codes to the WSSPC members following this meeting.

A 2008 National Earthquake Conference is in the beginning planning stages with the other consortia. CREW is taking the lead and the preferred venue is Seattle.

Earthquake Program Managers Meeting – Bob Carey

The WSSPC Board approved \$5000 for meeting costs and \$5000 for travel reimbursements for the June 25-28, 2006 meeting in Salt Lake City.

USGS Coalition & Congressional Hazards Caucus Workgroup – Rick Allis

WSSPC signed on to support the Coalition support of the USGS FFY '07 budget.

WSSPC Board of Directors Nominations and Elections – Rick Allis

Board Chair Rick Allis asked for additional nominations for Board members - there were none. Rick Allis expressed concern about the emergency manager side and their ability to participate in WSSPC. He suggested WSSPC may need to change its Bylaws to include Earthquake Program Managers as Board members or Seismic Safety Council or Commission representatives as the At-Large member.

Proposed Policy Recommendation 06-1 – Discussion

Vicki McConnell agreed with the broadening of the policy from community level mitigation to include the states. Scott Simmons commented that comprehensive mitigation planning comes from the community level. Rick Allis said the policy recommendation goes to the heart of what WSSPC stands for.

Questions were raised about the wording of the Assessment section. Roger Hansen stressed the importance of using the word “risk”. Rod Combellick and Dan McGowan suggested changes be made to the Assessment paragraph.

MOTION: To adopt Policy Recommendation 06-1 with a rewrite of the Assessment section and to resubmit it to the WSSPC Board and Executive Director for final approval (Dave Liebersbach).

SECOND: Rod Combellick.

DISCUSSION:

Vicki McConnell clarified that the word “risk” would be added to “earthquake mitigation policies” and/or “plans”.

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

Scott Simmons, Rod Combellick, and Dan McGowan volunteered to edit the Assessment section.

DHS/FEMA Report – Doug Bausch

1. Pre-disaster mitigation (PDM-C) grants totaling \$50 Million are available this year (a reduced amount). Western states were successful in getting funding for earthquake programs and planning and assessment activities. PDM grant money is a line item in the FEMA budget.

Jon Price stressed the importance of knowing what the President’s request is.

Dave Liebersbach noted that the new organizational structure of the Preparedness Directorate includes mitigation, and asked if preparedness money was available. Ed Laatsch replied that even though grant money went to preparedness, it should be available for earthquake mitigation.

Vicki McConnell asked if PDM would be moved into FEMA’s Preparedness Directorate. Ed replied that is not being discussed.

2. WSSPC funding has been increased to \$200K for next year (2006).

3. A report of the Multihazard Mitigation Council of NIBS has concluded that there is a 4:1 Benefit/Cost ratio to mitigation projects and processes. Earthquakes scored higher than other hazards on processes versus projects. Earthquake education scored well.

The report is available online at

http://www.nibs.org/MMC/MitigationSavingsReport/natural_hazard_mitigation_saves.htm.

4. FEMA regions are active in catastrophic planning processes and identifying vulnerabilities.

5. The earthquake clearinghouse concept was borrowed for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and was especially good for GIS. Lessons learned will be helpful for the states. The link

from the clearinghouse to mitigation funding will come from the FCO – thus there is a need to educate the FCOs.

Jay Wilson asked if there was a representative at the program level in FEMA for tsunami issues. Ed Laatsch replied that he and Mike Mahoney at headquarters have the desire to deal with tsunami issues.

Dave Liebersbach remarked that the tsunami program is vested in NOAA, not FEMA. Scott Simmons added that NOAA is a warning agency and is not adept at outreach and education.

Tom Manning said that FEMA was not represented after the Indian Ocean tsunami. At a state level, Oregon's siren warning systems are not consistent with the other states.

Jeanne Johnston commented that TsunamiReady communities are not eligible for the tsunami funds in Hawaii.

USGS Report – Woody Savage

1. ANSS – NEIC began 24/7 operations January 1.
2. USGS Earthquake Hazards Program has a refurbished website and links to WSSPC.
3. Briefing of Congressional Hazards Caucus, Multihazard Mitigation Council report, and the National Academy of Sciences study are also linked on the website.
4. The National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC) has been formed again and will coordinate with CEPEC. James Dieterich, University of California, Riverside, is Chair. The Council, which is conducting its initial meeting May 4-5 in Menlo Park, California, will advise the director of the USGS on earthquake prediction, forecasting and hazard assessment.
5. A NEHRP forum will follow the WSSPC meeting, led by Jack Hayes, the new NEHRP Director from NIST.
6. The USGS Multi-Hazards Initiative is in the President's budget for \$1.5M. Lucy Jones heads up the project and has held 3 stakeholder meetings. A southern San Andreas fault scenario is being used in cooperation with SCEC.
7. A USGS tsunami workshop in Menlo Park will be held this week.

Election of Board of Directors – Rick Allis

Rick announced that David Liebersbach, Vince Matthews, and he were re-elected to serve Board terms until 2008.

WSSPC Committee Reports – Basin & Range Province Committee – Bill Lund

Policy Recommendation 04-5 was an outgrowth of the WSSPC co-sponsored Seismic Hazards Summit II and recommended the formation of the Basin and Range Province Earthquake Working Group (BRPEWG). The Summit identified six seismic hazard policies that have bearing on the Basin and Range Province and National Seismic Hazards Mapping program.

BRPEWG coordinated with the USGS and 27 Subject Matter Experts in Salt Lake City for a 3-day workshop in March. Results were 20 consensus recommendations and 17 long-term recommendations for the USGS. A draft document was forwarded to WSSPC Board members, and will be posted on the WSSPC website. The report will be presented to the USGS as a WSSPC initiative.

Woody Savage commended the report as a positive model for approaching state- and regional-level hazards and establishing a benchmark as a way to work on broad regional earthquake issues.

Engineering and Building Codes Committee – Terri Garside for Ron Lynn

Proposed Policy Recommendation 05-4 that did not pass is being re-worked with Barry Welliver.

Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Committee – George Crawford

British Columbia has been invited to attend the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. WSSPC can play a major role in the new program. A five-governor letter needs California's governor to sign. \$10 Million is available.

FEMA HQ Report – Ed Laatsch

The Mitigation Division has re-organized. Deborah Ingram is now Ed's boss and she reports to David Maurstad.

Performance measurement and performance-based programs are the focus of FEMA headquarters, with an increasing priority on putting measures in place. Strategic communication of risk will be emphasized.

New Business – Rick Allis

The USGS publication *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country* has a section containing thoughtful recommendations before, during, and after an earthquake.

Lloyd Cluff will be stepping down as Chair of the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC).

Adjournment – Rick Allis

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Dave Liebersbach).

SECOND: Vince Mathews.

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Sutch
WSSPC Secretary