

WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL
Stanford Terrace Inn
Palo Alto, CA 94306
December 15, 2004

MINUTES

Present: * Board member
*Rick Allis
Andrea Brown
Michael Burns
*Rich Eisner, proxy for Henry Renteria
*Dave Liebersbach
Woody Savage
Patti Sutch
*Ron Teissere
Stephen Weiser, Ex-Officio
*Jay Wilson, Proxy for Ken Murphy

Call to order and introduction – Ron Teissere

Ron Teissere called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Approval of Minutes of Board meetings – Board

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 17-18, 2004 (Dave Liebersbach).

SECOND: Rick Allis

VOTE: Unanimously approved

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 26, 2004 (Rick Allis)

SECOND: Dave Liebersbach

VOTE: Unanimously approved

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 30, 2004 (Dave Liebersbach).

SECOND: Rick Allis

VOTE: Unanimously approved

Review of Minutes - Board

The draft minutes of the Annual Business Meeting September 30, 2004 were presented for review before posting on the WSSPC website. In addition, the minutes of the Basin & Range Committee meeting were presented for Board review. There were no changes to either of the minutes.

Recognition of Craig dePolo – Board

Patti suggested the Board acknowledge Craig dePolo for his seven years as Chair of the Basin & Range Province Committee.

Action Item: Patti will draft a letter of thanks that Ron will sign on behalf of the Board.

(Woody Savage joined the meeting.)

FEMA Report – Elizabeth Lemersal, Anita Vollmer, and Jeff Lusk

On a telephone conference call, Anita Vollmer reported that HR 2608 passed, and therefore NIST is now the lead NEHRP agency. FEMA's role is basically the same.

(Rich Eisner joined the meeting.)

NIST wants money to carry out their leadership activities; they've asked for more than FEMA has ever used for this purpose. At the Interagency Coordinating Agency meeting Elizabeth attended, Steve Caufman reported they want 5 Senior Executive level leaders for 5 division subgroups: Mitigation, Earthquake Science, Earthquake Engineering, Social Science, and Planning & Budget.

FEMA's responsibilities as defined in Title 1 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004:

1. Work with model building standards and code organizations.
2. Promote better building practices.
3. Operate grants and assistance to develop State mitigation/response plans.
4. Support earthquake education programs.
5. Assist NIST in preparing and disseminating guidance on building codes, standards, and practices, including performance-based design.
6. Coordinate and execute the National Response Plan.
7. Develop approaches to combine earthquake hazards reduction with other hazards.

These items could be fed into the consortia work plans.

Action Item: Patti will forward the above list to the Board members.

Other items discussed:

The entire DHS FY '05 budget is combined into one pot of money – salaries, projects and discretionary funds.

Jeff reported that the San Simeon earthquake report should be ready for the 1-year anniversary.

Anita attended the CUSEC Board meeting Nov 30 and Dec 1 and noted they wanted to have a joint consortia meeting in March.

Action Item: Jim Wilkinson will coordinate with Patti and Anita to set a date.

Anita noted that the biennial report is lead agency responsibility. FEMA will continue to provide support for this activity.

Ron asked who the top people at NIST are and who handles their budget. Elizabeth replied that NIST is organized into labs. Dr. James Hill is in charge, Shyam Sunder is Acting Deputy. At the program level is Steve Caufman. James St. Pierre is Caufman's

supervisor. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation most likely oversees their budget.

Rick Allis asked if there was unfinished business from the National Conference that should be addressed at the 2005 WSSPC annual conference. Elizabeth suggested the Board talk to Michael Burns. What should the consortia do with what we learned at the conference? Elizabeth wants to discuss this with the consortia in January.

Jeff suggested leveraging business relationships formed at the National Conference and marketing the 2005 conference to key business people and business groups such as IAEM and BCPS.

Ron asked to be informed of opportunities for WSSPC to meet NIST at meetings. He suggested inviting one committee member to the March meeting in DC as a way to get NIST to attend.

March Board Meeting Dates - Board

March 24 and 25 work best for most people, but March 17-18 is also possible.

Action Item: Patti will poll the Board for the best fit dates to meet in D.C. and coordinate with FEMA.

(Stephen Weiser arrived. Elizabeth, Anita, and Jeff concluded the conference call.)

Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch

Patti passed out copies of the *Board Team Handbook* for all of the Board members.

Already discussed was the FEMA list of responsibilities to consider in preparing the WSSPC Work Plan and budget for FEMA. The 2005 FEMA Work Plan and budget are due by the end of January. The Biennial report was prepared and sent to FEMA.

Joint consortia conference calls as a follow-on to the National Conference will continue on at least a quarterly basis. A telephone conference call is set for December 20. The overall consortia level of funding has dropped this year. The annual conference is a key item for WSSPC to maintain in order to produce operating revenues to cover the shortfall.

Newsletter production has fallen behind due to the National Conference, but we will resume our schedule in the next quarter.

The NEHRP coalition has included WSSPC on its email list, so that we now receive announcements of their meetings.

An agreement to translate *Earthquake Insurance: Public Policy Perspectives from the Western United States Earthquake Insurance Summit* into Chinese was drafted by Patti, approved by Ron, and sent to the Chinese for their signature.

The Board has asked that the WSSPC annual conference in 2006 be held in conjunction with the EERI/SSA/OES conference (1906 100th anniversary). Patti approached Susan Tubbesing about WSSPC co-sponsorship, and she will send an agreement out to us in the new year. A National Earthquake Conference in 2008 is a target of the consortia.

WSSPC White Paper – Patti Sutch

A draft color version of the white paper prepared from comments at the September Board meeting stimulated discussion and the following comments:

- The message is lost. What are the accomplishments?
- Have a few main points – too much detail. Text should be forceful and focused.
- Make summary bold.
- Enlarge pictures, reduce number by half, include people.
- Bring major activities up front.
- See an activity or product related to WSSPC – conference, newsletter, awards photos, pictures from exhibitors, tsunami evacuation route signs.
- Target it towards business.
- Show a map of western U.S. states; photos that connect to the text.

Action Item: Patti will send it to FEMA and ask them to comment, and prepare a revised version.

BREAK 10:15 to 10:30 a.m.

National Earthquake Conference Report – Patti Sutch

1. Financial report – Nearly \$50,000 remains to be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement on the National Earthquake Conference '04 FY grant.

2. Marketing and Registration Report - Andrea Brown

Andrea was Marketing Chair for the National Earthquake Conference and handled the registration using a software program that allowed online secure registrations. She recommended charging a “change fee” in future registrations. She also prepared the Program Guide for printing, and served as webmaster for the conference website.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Patti and Andrea for the conference (applause).

Seismic Board Report–Rick Allis

The purpose of the workshop was to improve communications between boards and commissions. A report of the meeting is posted on the WSSPC website. However, links to individual state boards are broken.

Action Item: Fix website links to state seismic boards.

USGS Report – Woody Savage

Woody Savage presented a USGS report which is provided as an attachment to these minutes.

LUNCH (11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.)

Policy Recommendations – Board

The Board reviewed the policy recommendations from 3 years ago and made the following recommendations:

PR 02-1: Send to Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Committee (George Crawford). Change language to “maintain” instead of “improve”. Funding was cut drastically.

PR 02-2: Refer to Engineering, Construction & Building Codes Committee (Ron Lynn)

PR 02-3: Refer to Basin & Range Committee (Bill Lund)

PR 02-4: Send it to Basin & Range Province Committee and Engineering, Construction & Building Codes Committee.

PR 02-5: Ask Board members and Woody Savage of USGS to weigh in and discuss it further at the March meeting.

Action Item: Patti will communicate this to the Committees and Board members.

Executive Session – Ron Teissere

Ron asked to move the Executive Session to today from 4:30 to 5:30. There were no objections.

NEC Conference Insights – Michael Burns

Michael Burns summarized lessons learned from the conference. Most importantly, the discussion period should be structured ahead of time and there needs to be more time available for questions and discussion. Other conclusions were presented in a handout.

Woody Savage acknowledged Michael’s contribution as conference facilitator.

Ideas for Consideration – Ron Teissere

Ron initiated a conversation about the role of the consortia and the need to diversify WSSPC’s funding sources. He suggested inviting Congressional staff, CUSEC, NESEC, CREW, and others to participate in a workshop-type conference to develop a model of a national consortia. WSSPC’s funding situation may become more dire in 12 to 18 months.

Woody Savage presented the USGS perspective. While the Earthquake Program in the USGS is a national program – the process to address those hazards occurs at a local or regional level.

Suggestions for national consortia roles included preparing the NEHRP strategic plan and developing guidance and initiatives for the FY ’07 USGS Hazards Initiative. The federation should incorporate the regional aspects as well as the national issues.

Dave Liebersbach presented an alternative view. He felt that making a truly national group isn’t possible – DHS doesn’t want to see another national group. The National Governors Association would also have to approve it. There was not even an existing forum for national homeland security directors, until Dave put together a consortium meeting for them with the assistance of \$400K from Secretary Ridge.

2005 Annual Conference Ideas – Board

1. Encourage other consortia to participate and tie up loose ends from NEC.
2. Coordinate with IAEM (city and county emergency managers) and NEMA.
3. Allow time for state seismic boards to meet.
4. Hold a State Earthquake Program Managers meeting.
5. Address turning policy into practice at the conference.
6. Keep USGS participation on Organizing Committee.
7. Provide time for USGS to meet and interact with customers.
8. Have a hazards maps session that discusses problems.
9. Hold scientific sessions for the geotechnical folks and concurrent sessions for others that leads into a plenary session for all.
10. Have a NEHRP agency panel. What is the vision for NEHRP? Invite Nick Smith to speak, have NIST representative to share their leadership vision.
11. Rural earthquakes workshop
12. ANSS needs assessment
13. Basin & Range Province risk
14. Future of earthquake consortia
15. Business/economic loss issues for rural earthquakes (involve Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER); Consortia for Rural Community Development; Western States Land Commissioners Association)
16. Local elected officials/emergency management issues (ask Beth Armstrong, IAEM Executive Director, to help fund local emergency managers' attendance)
17. Get tribal representation
18. Include the territories
19. Insurance and lifelines issues – smaller businesses might attend (i.e., to hear story of why one gas company installed flexible pipes after learning of earthquake scenario)

4 main themes emerged to be considered:

1. NEHRP/NIST
2. Consortia future
3. Rural earthquakes
4. Basin & Range Province risk

Adjourned at 4:30 for Executive Session.

No results were reported.

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December 16, 2004

MINUTES

Present: * Board member

*Rick Allis

Andrea Brown

*Dave Liebersbach

Patti Sutch

*Ron Teissere

Stephen Weiser, Ex-Officio

*Jay Wilson, Proxy for Ken Murphy

Call to order – Ron Teissere

Ron Teissere called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2005 WSSPC Annual Conference Planning – Board

Ron suggested structuring the annual conference like the mining conference.

Patti raised the issue of venue and conference criteria. Two criteria that need to be met to hold a conference are: 1. The conference needs to make money to cover WSSPC's operating costs, and 2. The venue needs to be easily reached by air to attract people from the east coast who we want to attend the policy sessions. The Pocatello venue does not meet these criteria. Patti suggested we look at Boise instead. The Board agreed to the change of location.

Action Item: Patti will check with the hotel broker to re-investigate Boise's hotel meeting space and dates of availability.

The discussion turned to conference topics:

1. NEHRP – what has it accomplished and where is it going? A session was suggested to discuss “NEHRP for the Coming Decade”.
2. A session on building codes for structural engineers to organize (Rick Allis suggested Barry Welliver for this session)
3. ANSS – building instrumentation

Patti suggested a conference theme of “Bridging Practice to Policy”. Stephen suggested “All Hazards in Rural America”.

The agreed upon schedule:

Monday 9/26 – Afternoon WSSPC meetings

Tuesday 9/27 – All Hazard Technical Workshops, Field trip, open meetings, Ice Breaker

Wednesday 9/28 – Technical sessions, workshops and Banquet

Thursday 9/29 – NEHRP plenary and workshops, Consortia session and workshops,
Awards in Excellence lunch
Exhibitor Fair and Poster session – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. (Poster session to
show how policy recommendations are used by the states.)

2005 Board meetings – Ron Teissere

June 1-2, Salt Lake City, meet at Rick Allis' office, stay at the Holiday Inn opposite.

(Stephen Weiser left)

BREAK

2005 WSSPC Annual Conference Planning, continued – Board

Further discussion was held on the content of the technical sessions. A more detailed
schedule was drafted on the Board by Jay Wilson.

Action Item: Patti will prepare the schedule and distribute it to the Board for further
discussion so that the agenda is completed by March.

1. Rick Allis volunteered Bill Lund for the technical session leader.
2. Idaho Emergency Management (Stephen Weiser) to work with PNWER, Jim Mullen,
and DOT contacts (through Bill Bishop) for lifelines session.
3. CREW to organize business session on impacts on small businesses.
4. Barry Welliver, Ron Lynn, and SHMO to work on land use and building codes.
5. Woody Savage could handle ANSS session.
6. Ed Deal and Dan McGowan, Oregon SHMO or other person in Wyoming, Montana,
Arizona to cover local regulations and land use
7. WSSPC Board to prepare plenaries.
8. NEHRP plenary – panel with USGS, FEMA, and NIST. Carl Cook (FEMA Region X)
and Woody Savage (USGS) to lead 2 following NEHRP workshops.
9. Future of Earthquake Consortia session – what do we need to work on together?

Awards in Excellence announcement will be out in January, deadline for submission will
be late April.

Future WSSPC Annual Conferences – Board

2006 : Meet at 100th Anniversary Conference with EERI/SSA/OES.

2007: Possibly meet in Alaska.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Sutch
WSSPC Secretary
Attachment 1: Woody Savage's USGS Report