

**Western States Seismic Policy Council
Board of Directors' Meeting
Utah Geological Survey
Salt Lake City, Utah
June 1, 2005**

MINUTES

Present:

*Rick Allis
Doug Bausch, FEMA
Roy Breckenridge, Ex-Officio
*Ed Deal
*Dave Liebersbach
*Ken Murphy
Patti Sutch, WSSPC
*Ron Teissere

Absent:

*Tim Manning
*Henry Renteria

* WSSPC Board member

Call to Order and Introductions – Ron Teissere

Ron Teissere called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and everyone present introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes – Board

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting March 17, 2005 (Dave Liebersbach).

SECOND: Ken Murphy

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Joint Consortia Boards meeting March 18, 2005 (Rick Allis).

SECOND: Dave Liebersbach

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch

Financial status of WSSPC is good. The FEMA Grant 2004 has been fully expensed as of May 31 and approximately \$22K remains to be billed. FEMA restored our grant to its historical level of \$160,000 for the grant year starting June 1. The grants process for all of the earthquake consortia went online last week on e-grants. A revised budget will be developed and submitted with the new grant in early June.

The Earthquake Program Managers meeting will be held in Indianapolis August 17-18. All of the consortia are participating in the planning and the intent is to have a meeting each year with the host rotated among the consortia.

Rick Allis said he thought the meeting would dilute attendance at the WSSPC conference the next month. Doug Bausch said that conflicts with other meetings would be a topic for discussion at the Earthquake Program Managers meeting.

Rick said that the WSSPC conference will compete with the emergency managers' meeting, and geoscientists are not interested in attending WSSPC because there are not enough technical presentations.

Dave Liebersbach said that WSSPC fills a different niche and the conferences need to continue because the value of WSSPC is that there is coordination between geologists and emergency managers.

Rick thought we needed to come up with a way to make WSSPC viable; appointing a subcommittee to study the issue won't work. He proposed that WSSPC should link more closely to active seismic safety commissions by offering each one a \$5000 grant from our FEMA Grant to be matched by the commissions. No decision was reached.

Patti suggested adding seismic safety commissions as members to WSSPC. Dave Liebersbach added that the At-Large Member could be a commission member. The Board asked Patti to draft language that could be presented to the membership as a change to the By-Laws.

Rick asked what the final decision was for the Executive Director raise and bonus for 2004. Ron Teissere replied that Ken Murphy, Ed Deal, and Rick Allis were the only Board members who responded to his request for comments, and with Ron's vote they unanimously agreed on Ron's recommendations.

The Program Manager position will remain vacant for the present. Temporary help and subcontracted help will fill the current needs of the website, newsletter, and conference registration. The WSSPC budget as given to FEMA will need to be revised. Patti will prepare a revised budget and submit that to the Board by the end of June.

USGS Report – Patti Sutch for Woody Savage

Because the USGS report had not changed since the March report given by David Applegate, Woody Savage reported just two new brief items. First, the tsunami initiative was signed by President Bush at the end of April. Second, 45 proposals for structural instrumentation under ANSS were received and proposals were expected to be evaluated and grants awarded by the end of July.

2006 Awards in Excellence – Patti Sutch

Patti asked if the Board wished to give awards in 2006 at the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference. The consensus of the Board was to skip the awards in 2006.

FEMA Report – Doug Bausch

Doug reported that FEMA is evaluating the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C) grant program proposals now. The results will be announced in one month. 2003 grants are posted on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdmclist.shtm>.

In 2003, 12% of the PDM-C money went to seismic projects, second largest category after floods; this year 19% went to seismic. Among the western states, Oregon was the most successful in terms of the number of seismic projects that were funded. Doug noted that there is very little transfer between states.

Ron Teissere said that the problem with the grants is that the money goes to construction; rather than to fund projects that determine how to more effectively use what you have.

The newest release of HAZUS came out on the latest GIS platform. Money is provided for an update of FEMA 366 in which earthquakes, hurricanes and floods are planned to be included. However, the flood modeling depends on the Digital Elevation Model, which is not consistent across the country. The report may therefore separate out earthquakes and be published earlier. The HAZUS model is attempting to incorporate the Quaternary fault database.

HAZUS has different levels of usage and was frequently used in an operational way in the 2004 hurricane season. A high-level HAZUS users' training is scheduled for the last week in June at USC in southern California. There are a few seats available, normally costing \$1800, that Doug could get for interested parties for free.

BREAK

Slate of Directors for Election – Ron Teissere

Ron announced his resignation from the Board effective at the end of the Board meeting. Ed Deal will not re-run, Ken Murphy will re-run, and the intentions of Tim Manning and Henry Renteria (At-Large) are unknown. That leaves 2 geoscientist and 2 emergency manager positions that need nominations to serve on the Board.

Geologist members who are interested in participating on the Board will be selected by AASG at their meeting in two weeks, and Rick Allis will follow through with two names.

For the emergency managers, Dave offered to talk to Henry and Tim to ascertain their interest in continuing, and will contact others in NEMA to find emergency manager candidates for the Board.

The Board thought it imperative that West coast states be represented on the Board because they have the highest earthquake risk. They discussed several approaches to take, such as asking each state to nominate someone, or possibly changing the membership to include Director-designates to serve on the Board.

The Board asked Patti to develop strawman language to circulate first amongst the Board with suggested changes to the WSSPC Bylaws.

They asked Doug Bausch if there was concern from FEMA to have non Directors as Board members. Doug replied that Board members should be directors.

Interim Board Chair – Ron Teissere

Rick Allis will serve as Interim Chair, and Interim Vice Chair will be Ken Murphy.

December 2005 Board meeting Date – Board

November 30 and December 1, 2005 were set for the winter Board meeting in Palo Alto.

Policy Recommendations - Board

Of the five 2002 policy recommendations up for renewal, only PR02-1 was revised and submitted to the Board at this meeting. The Board would like PR02-3 (Active Fault Definition for the Basin & Range Province) and PR02-5 (Real-Time Earthquake Monitoring Networks) to be revised by the end of June 2005. The Board can endorse these two by email and then they can be circulated to the membership.

MOTION: To have PR 05-1 go forward to the membership (Rick Allis).

SECOND: Ed Deal

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

One new policy recommendation from 2004 was tabled until this year for re-working. Patti will contact Yumei Wang to see if it is ready to be sent to the membership.

2005 Annual Conference – Patti Sutch and Roy Breckenridge

Patti passed out extra conference brochures for distribution. The annual business meeting and Board meeting were omitted from the brochure. Patti was asked to let the members know the date and time of the meetings.

The issue of the Earthquake Program Managers meeting impacting attendance at the WSSPC conference should be a topic of discussion at the Earthquake Consortia session.

LUNCH BREAK

Awards in Excellence – Patti Sutch

Dave Liebersbach and Ed Deal did not receive their awards packages mailed to them April 29. However, Ken Murphy, Ron Teissere, Rick Allis, and Rich Eisner did review the awards submissions and formed a voting quorum.

The results of the voting:

Overall Excellence in Mitigation and Outreach to Schools

Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division

Outreach to Schools:

Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management

Utah Seismic Safety Commission and Utah Division of Emergency Services

Outreach to Public:
Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
City of Seaside, Oregon

Mitigation:
Nez Perce County, State of Idaho

Research:
Utah Geological Survey

Response Plans/Materials:
Utah Seismic Safety Commission, Geoscience Standing Committee

WSSPC Annual Conference 2005 – Roy Breckenridge

Roy Breckenridge thanked the State geologists for their short order help on the conference. Bill Phillips is organizing the field trip which is balanced between emergency management and geology.

When downsizing the number of conference days, the state reports/poster session was changed from previous discussions. The poster session will consist of highlights of the state reports, and the state reports usually called for in June will be requested in the fall (as in 2004). The poster session will not replace the state reports. Bill Lund will coordinate with Patti to publicize the poster session.

Awards in Excellence displays will be requested and incorporated in the exhibits and poster session.

New Business:

Bank Resolutions – Patti Sutch

New signature cards are needed for the bank with signatures of the new interim Board Chair and Vice Chair. Rick Allis and Ken Murphy both signed signature cards from the bank.

The following bank resolutions must be adopted every time there are new officers:
RESOLVED: That the President, any Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or Treasurer of this Organization are authorized to enter into deposit account and cash management agreements with East-West Bank (“Bank”) and to designate from time to time who may withdraw funds from, and otherwise give instructions regarding this Organization’s account.

RESOLVED: This authorization is in addition to any other authorizations in effect and shall remain in force until the Bank receives written notice of its revocation in the manner specified by the Bank.

MOTION: To adopt the aforementioned resolutions: (Ken Murphy)

SECOND: Dave Liebersbach

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

BREAK

WSSPC Discussion – Board

Ron Teissere said that funding and time are becoming very limited to deal with hazards. States refuse to set earthquakes as a priority. At the same time, the Seattle fault scenario has invigorated a group, and a seismic safety committee may be re-established. However, 2 senior Washington state geologists may be lost.

Ron asked how WSSPC could be more relevant to help? WSSPC policy work is applicable – building codes were adopted in Washington (but not because of WSSPC) – but there is not much of a mechanism to use WSSPC policy recommendations.

Dave Liebersbach said that WSSPC's role was never meant to provide policy. If the emergency managers and geoscientist professionals say it is the way to go, it gives some weight. In Alaska, if it is identified with NEMA, it is easier.

Ron said the strategy for Washington is to re-educate the legislature about hazards. In Washington the seismic safety commission is a subcommittee to the Emergency Management Council which is advisory, has no funding, no staff, and is all voluntary.

Rick Allis asked what if we made a WSSPC policy to create commissions in every state, or structure WSSPC to encourage the formation of a commission and then as it grows bring them to the table.

Ed Deal agreed that WSSPC really needs to include commissions.

Ron said other overlooked groups are the business community and schools (CREW model). Resources, programs, and travel support are all things that could be provided to seismic safety commissions who are members of WSSPC.

AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, UT, CO and GU have commissions or councils.

Rick suggested cutting one Board meeting – the expensive DC meeting – and invite FEMA to our December strategy meeting. How would FEMA receive it? Doug said that in the past FEMA has provided in-kind support, travel support, and conference attendance.

The Board asked Patti to provide some information about what will be in the conference session on the Future of the Earthquake Consortia.

They also asked Patti to send out an email with suggested Bylaws and membership changes and get feedback before the conference.

2006 Board meetings – Board

Three meetings were proposed: April 2006 at 100th Year Anniversary Conference (with FEMA invited to the business meeting), September 2006, and December 2006.

Executive Officer Compensation – Rick Allis

A real employment contract should be created with the salary and bonus spelled out more clearly.

With no more new business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned a day early by outgoing Chair Ron Teissere.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Sutch
WSSPC Secretary