

**WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Scrugham Engineering Building Room 401
University of Nevada Reno
Reno, Nevada
June 5, 2007**

MINUTES (AMENDED)

Present were:

Rick Allis, Utah Geological Survey
Dave Cassel, Oregon Emergency Management (proxy for Ken Murphy)
Craig dePolo, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Jim Goltz, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (proxy for Henry Renteria)
Monique Lay, Montana Division of Disaster Services (proxy for Dan McGowan)
John Madden, Alaska Dept of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Vince Matthews, Colorado Geological Survey
John Parrish, California Geological Survey
Jonathan Price, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
Woody Savage, USGS
Patti Sutch, WSSPC

Call to order and introductions - Allis

All present introduced themselves.

Welcome to John Madden – Board

John gave a brief account of his background working in the federal government. The new Alaska governor appointed him in January 2007. In one of his previous positions he helped with the modernization of the Alaska tsunami warning center.

Agenda Review - Allis

The meeting was shortened to one day, extending the meeting time on June 5.

Approval of Minutes of March 8-9, 2007 - Board

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 8-9, 2007 (Vince Matthews).

SECOND: Jim Goltz

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Rick Allis asked Jon Price for a clarification of his statement in the minutes, about the lack of funding opportunities for detailed hazards mapping. The conclusion of the discussion was that WSSPC should develop a position statement so detailed hazards mapping would be more seriously considered as a project that falls within the scope of

mitigation projects that should be funded by FEMA. Jon Price volunteered to write a draft statement for the Board to consider at the Reno conference.

Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch

WSSPC Budget

WSSPC finances from December through April are covered primarily by the FEMA agreement, with the exception of meals and conference printing costs of approximately \$2200 covered by the USGS agreement. At the current time, the \$3000 Affiliate membership income covers those items not covered by the FEMA or USGS grants.

The FEMA cooperative agreement period is from August 1, 2006 through July 31, 2007, but we have not been notified yet by FEMA about our agreement renewal. We have a new Project Officer – Larry Hultengren – who is replacing Anita Vollmer.

FEMA Report – Larry Hultengren (on speakerphone)

The deadline for submitting our documents for the next FEMA cooperative agreement is June 15. Larry will email Patti the information needed to get started.

Recent FEMA Activities in April and May:

- Cathleen Carlisle conducted training for hospital nonstructural seismic mitigation that was well attended.
- NEHRP Advisory Committee – one member asked if FEMA should promote and partner more with the state seismic commissions. Financial support is being considered.
- ASCE published ASCE-41 (old FEMA 356).
- FEMA 547 (Techniques for Seismic Rehabilitation) should be available in hard copy.
- FEMA 626 and FEMA 529 (Duck, Cover and Hold) posters have been translated into other languages.
- The next generation of NEHRP rehabilitation publications- a group is meeting in San Francisco in the fall of 2007.
- FEMA 154 and ATC-20 screening conducted in Washington.
- Doug Bausch gave a report on the statistics of success within the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program.
- Mike Mahoney – next generation NEHRP documents were presented to the public last week to get feedback from communities.

Larry's previous employment was with the overseas State Department where he worked in the earthquake program strengthening their building stock. He is a structural engineer.

Larry was asked if there was an update on the status of ATC 64 (tsunami resistant design); he will check and get back to us.

WSSPC Budget discussion, continued –

The WSSPC budget allocated funds to a full time staff person in the WSSPC office, but we have been unable to hire someone. Therefore, the 2006 FEMA cooperative

agreement has been under-spent. WSSPC should be able to re-allocate funds for other purposes. The Board decided to support travel to the WSSPC conference in September/October, and directed Patti to clarify with FEMA if that is possible.

BREAK

2008 National Earthquake Conference Report – Patti Sutch

Patti reviewed the conference program recently completed by the Program Committee. It will be posted on the www.earthquakeconference.org website by the end of the week.

USGS Report – Woody Savage

The funding for the earthquake program remains static.

PAGER (Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response) is a global alert system used internationally. USAID provided much of the development money as part of US foreign policy for US policymakers to be aware of earthquakes around the world.

2008 Southern California Planning Initiative – Jim Goltz

The southern California planning initiative was initiated by the 1906 earthquake commemoration. It is based on a M7.9 earthquake scenario on the southern San Andreas fault and a subsequent exercise. For the scenario, OES is enhancing the HAZUS database with building data. They have data only for Los Angeles County; they would like the other regional counties to update their building databases. The scenario will be finished in the spring of 2008.

The exercise with FEMA, State, Counties, and the private sector is planned for November 13, 2008. It will be region-wide over five days, representing different earthquake response time frames:

Day 1 - Day of the earthquake

Day 2 - 1 week later

Day 5 - 6 months later.

All of the southern California activities are included in the overarching “Dare to Prepare” campaign. Mark Benthien of the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) developed a power point presentation on the campaign for anyone’s use. “Roots” is being distributed to over a million people. SCEC is conducting a survey of preparedness statewide as an attempt to link to products. The campaign kicked off January 9, 2007.

Report on Utah-Nevada Seismic Commissions Meeting – Rick Allis

Commissions have very different styles but have similar agendas; because of that, cross-pollination of ideas occurred at the meeting. It was helpful that $\frac{3}{4}$ of each commission was present. Jon Price’s minutes were very complete. At the meeting they learned that NEIC at Golden is not 24/7 for ShakeMap. Similar meetings could take place every 2 years—and include the California Commission. Rural disasters may be a future issue.

LUNCH BREAK

Nomination of Board of Directors - Board

MOTION: To nominate the slate of Dan McGowan, John Parrish, Ken Murphy, and Henry Renteria (Vince Matthews).

SECOND: John Madden

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

2007 Annual Conference

Field Trip – Craig dePolo

Craig described the field trip agenda which includes a look at local faulting and geologic history of the Cenozoic basin, a visit to the Washoe County Emergency Operations Center, talks on post-earthquake inspections, and a visit to 3 stops on the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) campus – the shake table where the Bay Bridge was tested, a base-isolated building, and the UNR Seismological Lab. Lunch will be at a stop overlooking the basin. Three busses are reserved.

Awards in Excellence – Rick Allis

The Board voted to give the following Awards in Excellence:

- Hawaii State Civil Defense, Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program, and Hawaii State Earthquake Advisory Committee were selected for the Overall Award in Excellence in Mitigation.
- Lincoln County School District for Outreach to Business/Government, Schools and General Public.
- Utah Geological Survey/Basin & Range Province Committee for Research Efforts.
- Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup for Public-Private Partnerships.
- Pacific Tsunami Museum for Non-Profit Agency Efforts.

BREAK

Policy Recommendations – Board

Comments received on Policy Recommendations 07-1, 07-2, 07-3, 07-4, 07-5, 07-6 were reviewed. Language in the policy recommendations was revised and the changes accepted by the Board to be submitted to the membership to vote on at the Reno meeting. Patti will post them on the WSSPC website for a final viewing.

New Business - Board

Ken Murphy sent an email to the Board asking for input on a proposed FEMA policy on “Seismic Safety - New Construction”. The Board supports public policies that improve safety for the public, but there were questions -- What are “reasonable” costs? Are there unintended consequences of supporting this policy? John Madden will give it to his staff to review and get back to Ken Murphy. He will ask state Public Assistance officers to consider the ramifications of this policy.

Set 2008 Board meetings - Board

Tuesday January 15, 2008, Sacramento

Wednesday April 23, 2008, (only free evening for Board meeting)

Tuesday August 12, Salt Lake City

Closed Session Results – Board

- The Board reviewed the performance of the Executive Director in 2006 and agreed to a 3% raise backdated to January 1, 2007, and a \$2500 bonus.
- The Board will review the Executive Director performance annually early in the calendar year and will consider at that time the appropriateness or not of a merit increase and/or bonus.
- The Board agreed with the change of SIMPLE IRA plan from Vanguard to Charles Schwab.
- The Board allows employees to make catch up contributions to the SIMPLE IRA retirement plan.
- The Board deleted the last paragraph of the Personnel Policy adopted in the minutes of January 9, 2002. The policy as amended now reads:

Regular employees who are scheduled for and actually work at least 1000 hours per year, and have also completed one year of employment, are eligible to participate in WSSPC's defined contribution plan administered by Charles Schwab.

Employee contributions may be made to a SIMPLE IRA account up to the maximum allowed by the IRS for that year. Employees who qualify under IRS rules may make catch up contributions. WSSPC will match an employee's contribution dollar for dollar up to 3% per year.

Adjourn – Rick Allis

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Sutch
Secretary