

**WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
California Geological Survey
801 K Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814
January 15, 2008
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Present: * denotes WSSPC Board member or proxy

*Rick Allis, Utah Geological Survey
*Jim Goltz, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
*John Madden, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
*Vince Matthews, Colorado Geological Survey
*John Parrish, California Geological Survey
Woody Savage, U.S. Geological Survey
*Paul Spengler, Lewis & Clark County Emergency Management
Patti Sutch, WSSPC
*Jay Wilson, Oregon Emergency Management

Call to Order and Introductions – Rick Allis

All present introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes of October 3, 2007 – Rick Allis

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Board meeting October 3, 2007 (Paul Spengler).

SECOND: Vince Matthews

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Review of Annual Business Meeting Minutes – Rick Allis

MOTION: To accept the Annual Business Meeting minutes of October 3, 2007 and post them on the WSSPC website (Paul Spengler).

SECOND: John Parrish

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

Rick Allis followed up on several items from the minutes:

- The International Code Council invited WSSPC to join them in a future meeting. Rick suggested we could invite them to join us at one of our future meetings.
- Awards winners could be integrated into future conference programs with a short presentation.
- Should the ByLaws include agency names? Patti will report back in April.

FEMA Report – Larry Hultengren on speakerphone

Those present in Sacramento introduced themselves to Larry.

1. Budget support to WSSPC – For FY 08, FEMA is working on the same level of funding support for WSSPC (\$200K). For FY 09, FEMA headquarters budget has been cut 30% from \$9M to \$6M.
2. The NEHRP Strategic Plan is ready to go to the Interagency Coordinating Committee and is close to being released.
3. The NEHRP annual report especially features input from Alaska on their PDM grant.
4. Meetings at the National Earthquake Conference: Monday April 21 - FEMA Headquarters, Tuesday April 22 - State Earthquake Program Managers, Wednesday April 23 - NEHRP Coordinating Working Group breakfast.
5. Safe America Foundation (*safeamerica.org*) outreach campaign – FEMA and DHS management has bought into this partnership. Public service announcements include actions to be safer in earthquake country.
6. Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) in FY 09 – FEMA submitted a special request for EMPG funding in FY'09 budget. They are optimistic it will remain in the budget and want to get it dedicated for the states. Before 2003 funds were committed at \$1M but it was cut. FEMA is trying to get visibility for the state earthquake programs at the Preparedness Directorate.
7. Community Codes Administration Grant Program is a bill proposed by ICC to assist building departments for building code enforcement. A wind insurance proposal is also included. The bill picked up a few influential sponsors.
8. National Earthquake Training Assistance Program (NETAP) is sponsoring a pilot training program for contractors for 1-2 bedroom homes in Fremont, California. The program goal is to set priorities for strengthening code enforcement.
9. USGS-FEMA Demonstration Project – Washington Emergency Management Division input ShakeMap into HAZUS in real time, but had a few problems with hardware and software. Utah is also working on a scenario.

Rick Allis clarified that the 30% cut to FEMA was in FY 08 funds within the agency (item 1).

Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch

The 2006 FEMA Cooperative Agreement and the 2007 USGS Grant were closed and the 2007 FEMA Cooperative Agreement was billed from August 2007 through the end of the WSSPC fiscal year.

The WSSPC conference held jointly with the International Code Council was a financial success, giving WSSPC a net profit of about \$27,000. This was due to support for the

conference from two FEMA Cooperative Agreements and the USGS grant. The conference had 123 registrants, including 19 ICC members attending just the field trip. The Education session had over 150 participants, 62 from ICC.

The accountant completed the end of year review and financial statement. The successful conference contributed to the increase in WSSPC's net assets for the year.

Approval of Amended Minutes - Board

MOTION: To approve the amended minutes of June 5, 2007 (Paul Spengler)

SECOND: Vince Matthews.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Affiliate Member Benefits – Patti Sutch

WSSPC Budget is based upon annual Affiliate membership income of \$3000 which pays the costs of meals not covered by FEMA or USGS grants. Each year WSSPC provides a benefit of reduced or complementary registration to the WSSPC annual conference. In 2008 we have the national conference instead. The Board approved giving a \$150 rebate this year to all Affiliate members who pay full registration to the National Earthquake Conference.

BREAK

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Report – Woody Savage

This meeting was Woody Savage's last one as USGS liaison to WSSPC. Tom Brocher is the new liaison.

Highlights of USGS Report –
Budget –

- \$2M appropriations increase for Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project (MHDP)
- Approved Budget is 3.4% higher than last year and more than was in President's budget, and contains a pay raise of 3.5%.

MHDP – The earthquake scenario on the southern San Andreas fault, including other hazards happening coincidentally, will be released in the Spring. It will form the basis of the FEMA/OES Golden Guardian exercise in November. USGS is also participating in the Dare to Prepare Campaign.

Rob Wesson retired and Peter Haeuessler is the new Regional Coordinator for the Earthquake Hazards Program in Alaska.

USGS is supporting earthquake early warning algorithm testing. WSSPC may want to evaluate the applicability of this from a policy standpoint.

The Hayward Earthquake Alliance, led by Tom Brocher, is planning activities to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the 1868 earthquake on the Hayward fault.

Urban hazards maps were unveiled in Seattle in the summer and are being put to many uses, including proposing the development of scenario maps and prioritizing retrofits and design, and as a pathway for hazards information to be incorporated into the codes.

A new version of an earthquake model for the state of California has been prepared by the USGS, California Geological Survey and Southern California Earthquake Center that forecasts the likelihood of earthquake ruptures for the whole state.

National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council recommendations led to an international workshop on episodic tremor and slip February 24 in British Columbia.

The requirement for seismic instrumentation of buildings was removed from the codes and The Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observation Systems (COSMOS) will be testifying on behalf of reinstating the original language.

Draft Policy Recommendation 08-1 (on Tsunamis) was reviewed by Walter Mooney at the USGS and he had no changes.

National Earthquake Conference – Patti Sutch

The program is updated frequently and posted on the conference website at www.earthquakeconference.org. We have not heard back from our proposal to share 30% of the profits, if any, with CREW. Patti will follow up again.

The Awards in Excellence will be announced within the next week, with a deadline for nominations February 29. WSSPC will also be calling for nominations for the Lifetime Achievement award. The selection committee for the awards will include the directors of the earthquake consortia and EERI with the WSSPC Board. The selection of the Lifetime Achievement award will remain with the WSSPC Board.

LUNCH

Board of Directors Nominations for 2008-2009 – Rick Allis

Vince Matthews, John Madden are willing to continue for another two-year term. Rick Allis will not continue. Rick will seek another geological survey director candidate for the April ballot and inform the Executive Director.

2008 Draft Policy Recommendations – Board

John Parrish shared an email from Vicki McConnell asking for a joint letter to be written to NOAA expressing dismay over the cuts the states in the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program are taking. California's Tsunami Program took a \$50K cut; Oregon took a 20% annual cut. Twenty seven percent (27%) of tsunami funds are now going to 29 states, rather than the 5 high hazard Pacific coastal states.

The Board discussed the four draft policy recommendations* and the comments received by the members in the comment period. Policy Recommendation 08-1 is needed to accompany and support letters that the coastal states wish to write to NOAA (see above).

Therefore, the Executive Committee approved the policy recommendation until the members could give final approval in April.

**PR 08-1 Improving Tsunami Warning, Preparedness, and Mitigation Procedures for Distant and Local Sources was renamed Improving Tsunami Public Education, Mitigation, and Warning Procedures for Distant and Local Sources*
PR 08-2 Active Fault Definition for the Basin and Range Province
PR 08-3 Real-Time Earthquake Monitoring Networks
PR 08-4 Identification and Mitigation of Unreinforced Masonry Structures

After reviewing and editing, the Board asked Patti to post the policy recommendations on the website for another round of comments. Vince Matthews requested previous versions of PR 08-2 to review the fault definitions.

BREAK

Future Board Meetings – Board

Monday April 21, 2008, 5-6 pm

At the National Earthquake Conference, The Westin Hotel, Seattle, Washington
WSSPC Committee meetings 3-5 pm

Tuesday and Wednesday August 12-13, 2008

Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City

January 13, 2009, Sacramento, possibly at OES headquarters

California OES is involved with The Great Southern California Shakeout
November 12-14, 2008 and the Golden Guardian Exercise November 13.

The 2009 WSSPC Conference could possibly be in conjunction with Seismological Society of America which is meeting in Monterey in April 2009. Patti was asked to look into the possibility of a joint meeting and report back to the Board.

Executive Director Evaluation Plan – April Board meeting

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Vince Matthews)

SECOND: Paul Spengler

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Sutch
WSSPC Secretary