

**WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
California Geological Survey  
Sacramento, California  
December 5-6, 2006**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2006**

**Present:**

Rick Allis, Utah Geological Survey  
Jim Butchart, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Craig dePolo, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Rich Eisner, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Terri Garside, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Vince Matthews, Colorado Geological Survey  
Dan McGowan, Montana Division of Emergency Services  
John Parrish, California Geological Survey  
Woody Savage, U.S. Geological Survey  
Patti Sutch, WSSPC  
Jay Wilson, Oregon Emergency Management

**Call to Order and Introductions – Rick Allis**

The meeting was called to order and all present introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes – Rick Allis**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 28, 2006 (John Parrish).

SECOND: Vince Matthews.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

**Agenda Review – Rick Allis**

There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

**DHS/FEMA Report – Anita Vollmer on speakerphone**

FEMA is being reorganized under DHS. FEMA will retain its identity and the Preparedness part will return to FEMA, under George Foresman. Director Paulison is developing a vision of the new FEMA that will be implemented March 31 by Deputy Director Coast Guard Admiral Johnson. More resources are needed to implement the new vision; the Earthquake Program may be vulnerable to being "taxed". However, WSSPC will have the same level of funding as this year. FEMA needs to submit work plans right away.

Jeff Lusk is in Hawaii following up on the October earthquake, making recommendations about port facilities, validating HAZUS™, and preparing guidance on single-wall construction homes that were more prone to non-structural damage. No clearinghouse was opened after the quake.

During the 2007 WSSPC-International Code Council (ICC) conference, there will be a lot of training. ICC and FEMA have a joint press release next week for FEMA-232: *The Homebuilder's Guide to Earthquake Design and Construction*, and will provide training for this at the conference.

Mike Mahoney helped with the WSSPC Policy Recommendation 04-4 revisions (Seismic Provisions in the International Building Code).

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Advisory Committee may have a short list of committee members by now. Lawyers are reviewing the backgrounds of potential committee members. John Filson, Ugo Morelli and Jack Hayes are working on the NEHRP strategic plan, with a draft expected by the time of the first interagency meeting in March. Hayes is also finalizing the biennial report.

One NEHRP initiative for increased funding of NEHRP projects in the fiscal year '09 time frame is to increase funding for state activities such as Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) for earthquake activities.

Anita is arranging for the WSSPC Board visit in March.

#### **Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch**

- Two part time employees were hired in November, one is temporary.
- Computer hard drive crashed and was replaced a week ago with no loss of data.
- Tsunami Center on the website remains to be updated, and webpages for member publications will be added.
- Awards in Excellence solicitation will go out in January.
- Affiliate members were billed for 2007.
- 3 Newsletters are in production. We are waiting for several state reports.
- FEMA has been billed for the first quarter expenses (August-October 2006).
- Request for funding from USGS for the annual conference now goes through grants.gov and must be applied for online.
- WSSPC received a letter of agreement for preparing tax returns for the past year and the year just ended at a cost of \$1000 per year from Moore & Baker, LLP. We have not yet received a letter of agreement for preparing an audit. Patti will ask for bids from three Certified Public Accountants.

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

There have been several personnel changes at the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network. A \$400,000 grant from a Seattle-based charitable organization (Murchison grant) through the University of Washington will augment the seismic monitoring infrastructure.

Lucy Jones was instrumental in establishing a multihazard demonstration project in response to the USGS Director's request for new initiatives. There is also a one-year "Dare to Prepare" initiative anchored on the 1857 earthquake sesquicentennial anniversary. Funding is just over \$2M.

EarthScope is installing 400 instruments in a transportable array that moves sequentially across the country from 2004-2014 (reaching Alaska in 2014). The National Science Foundation will keep the sites for the long-term. Strong motion and broadband instruments will be installed together. Some of this equipment will be sold to regional networks to add to their monitoring capabilities.

The Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) is funding a research project for early earthquake warning using the California Integrated Seismic Network. The Pacific Northwest region may be a candidate for implementation.

## **BREAK**

### **2008 National Earthquake Conference – Bob Freitag on speakerphone**

The conference will be held in the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle April 22-26, 2008. The guest room block is split 60% at \$195 and 40% at \$175. Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW) has the contract with Washington State University (WSU) and WSU has the contract with the hotel. CREW, WSSPC, Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council (EPICC) and Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) are hosts.

Patti Sutch and Jim Wilkinson are the Co-Chairs of the Program Committee. Freitag asked groups that work with industry to be on the Program Committee (e.g. Disaster Recovery Institute International and Pearce Global Partners). The deadline for the program development is April 2007. The Steering Committee is chaired by Bob Zimmerman and meets once a month after the twice monthly Program Committee calls.

The program includes meetings for the Earthquake Program Managers and the State Seismic Safety Councils and Commissions, a virtual tsunami workshop with speakers from southeast Asia, and a possible breakout session on the 2012 Olympics. Field trips being planned are a tour of the Seattle Fault, and kayak trips to look at tsunami deposits.

FEMA and USGS are sponsoring the conference with grants of \$25K each. Additional financial support will come from 40 vendors. The conference is planned to be self-sustaining at 300 attendees. WSSPC will share in the profits with the other consortia at a formula to be determined.

WSSPC is still funding the [www.earthquakeconference.org](http://www.earthquakeconference.org) website set up for the 2004 National Earthquake Conference. The website will be updated for 2008 by CREW's webmistress.

One of the conference goals is to facilitate networking. It was suggested that Freitag contact Ron Teissere to set up a sponsorship and/or wine tasting with a Washington state vineyard.

Woody Savage left the meeting.

## LUNCH

### 2007 WSSPC Annual Conference – Craig dePolo

#### Field Trip Ideas

- Overview of Reno's geology, earthquakes, and faults
- Tour of Washoe County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), especially for seismic councils who are new to WSSPC. Rich Eisner volunteered to give an emergency management talk from a state perspective.
- University of Nevada, Reno shake tables, seismological lab, and base-isolated building

Issues for possible discussion: What are the policy issues around why or why not agencies have mitigated non-structural hazards? What does the EOC do after an earthquake or disaster? What does that mean to building officials? How does the Emergency Management Assistance Compact fit into the larger response? How do associations and agencies discourage self deployment after an event? Have post-earthquake technical clearinghouses been set up?

Field trip buses will be arranged by Terri Garside and Craig dePolo and coordinated with Patti Sutch.

#### Technical Program Ideas

Patti Sutch will set up the Monday morning sessions. WSSPC and ICC should jointly invite the Nevada Governor, Reno Mayor, and FEMA Director Paulison for the WSSPC-ICC session from 8-9:30 a.m. WSSPC should ask Jack Hayes (NEHRP), David Maurstad (FEMA) and Mark Myers (USGS) to give 20-minute openings in the 10-11:30 a.m. session followed by a 30-minute discussion of the technical changes to the National Seismic Hazards Maps.

Craig dePolo will set up the technical sessions Monday afternoon and Tuesday. The joint session Monday afternoon may partly conflict with ICC's plans to have group photos starting at 3:00 p.m.

#### PROPOSED AGENDA:

##### Monday afternoon: 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

1. Overview of new National Seismic Hazards Maps (Mark Petersen)
2. Characterize the hazards and risks in the U.S. (David Applegate)
3. Earthquake scenarios and building inventories
4. Using the new national maps

#### BREAK

##### Monday afternoon: 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

5. Realities of building code use (i.e., what is the need for seismic provisions to be included in building codes, what are the seismic provisions being considered) (Ron Lynn)
  6. Implementing the changes (ICC Seismic Provisions Committee)
- Panel discussion – Ron Lynn, moderator.

Tuesday morning: 8 – 11:30 a.m.

1. Effective earthquake risk mitigation
2. Why do we under-prepare? (Robert Mayer)
3. Problems of and solutions for effective risk communication
4. Earthquake risk messages

Panel discussion

Tuesday afternoon: 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

1. Present earthquake scenarios
  - a. California Golden Guardian, 1906
  - b. Salt Lake City
  - c. Cascadia Subduction Zone
2. Performance-based design
3. Realities of FEMA resources after a disaster
4. Emergency management implications – state perspectives

Panel discussion

What are policy recommendations that could result from these discussions and lead to adopted WSSPC policy recommendations in 2008?

Craig dePolo and Terri Garside left.

## **BREAK**

### **Policy Recommendations – Rick Allis**

#### [Policy Recommendation 04-1 & 04-2](#)

Rapid Tsunami Identification and Evacuation Notification

Patti Sutch will send to George Crawford and the Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Committee and ask them to update with seismic monitoring, both strong motion and broadband, and previous comments from the Board.

#### [Policy Recommendation 04-3](#)

Post-Earthquake Technical Clearinghouses

Rick Allis has referred it to Bill Lund and Basin & Range Province Committee.

Revisions were returned from the committee.

#### [Policy Recommendation 04-4](#)

Seismic Provisions in the International Building Code

Rick Allis referred it to the Engineering and Building Codes Committee and revisions were returned from the committee.

#### [Policy Recommendation 04-5](#)

Basin and Range Province Earthquake Working Group(s)

Rick Allis referred it to the Basin & Range Province Committee and comments were returned from the committee.

[Policy Recommendation 04-6](#)

Priorities for Applied Research on Earthquake Hazards

Board opinion is to let it lapse.

[Policy Recommendation 04-7](#)

Supporting Non-technical Explanation of USGS Uncertainty Maps to Accompany Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Maps

Original recommendation was to let this lapse; however, Rick Allis recommended sending this to the Basin & Range Province Committee to compare it with the Basin and Range Province Earthquake Working Group (BRPEWG) recommendations.

**Adjourn Meeting – Board**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting until tomorrow (Vince Matthews).

**SECOND:** John Parrish.

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

**Wednesday December 6, 2006**

**Present:**

Rick Allis, Utah Geological Survey

Jim Butchart, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Vince Matthews, Colorado Geological Survey

Dan McGowan, Montana Division of Emergency Services

John Parrish, California geological Survey

Patti Sutch, WSSPC

Jay Wilson, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

**Call to Order – Rick Allis**

**New Business** – Jay Wilson handed out a brochure on Oregon State Senate Bill 2. The Legislature will need to approve the funding which hinges on a needs assessment. It's an unfunded mandate unless they can get the staff.

**Awards –Patti Sutch**

Patti asked the Board to consider giving Rich Eisner a Lifetime Achievement Award.

**MOTION:** To give Rich Eisner a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2007 Annual Conference (Vince Matthews).

**SECOND:** John Parrish.

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

Patti will write a letter informing him of the award.

**Strategic Plan – Rick Allis**

The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan and changes were made to the document that will be given a final review in March. An addition to the plan is for WSSPC to develop a checklist that defines components of a successful state earthquake program.

**Partnerships – Board**

Currently WSSPC is a nonprofit member of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) at a cost of \$300 per year.

**MOTION:** Remove WSSPC from NEMA membership.

**SECOND:** Vince Matthews.

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Sutch  
WSSPC Secretary