

**WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Telephone Conference Call
June 2, 2009**

MINUTES

Present on Call:

Tom Brocher, U.S. Geological Survey

Johanna Fenton, FEMA

James Goltz, (for Matthew Bettenhausen), California Emergency Management Agency

Larry Hultengren, FEMA

David King (for John Madden), Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Amy Lewis, WSSPC

Vicki McConnell, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Ken Murphy, Oregon Emergency Management

John Parrish, California Geological Survey

Patti Sutch, WSSPC

Bob Swenson, Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys

Call to Order – John Parrish

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. and all present on the call introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes – John Parrish

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2009 Board of Directors meeting (Vicki McConnell).

SECOND: Ken Murphy.

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

Review of Annual Business Meeting minutes of February 11, 2009 – John Parrish

The Board accepted the draft minutes as written and the minutes will be posted on the WSSPC website for members to review.

FEMA Report – Johanna Fenton

The state earthquake assistance funding will be coming to the WSSPC states, and the point of contact will be the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO).

John Parrish asked if earthquake scenarios are included as eligible projects? The response was that scenarios can be included in planning and preparedness activities.

FEMA Report – Larry Hultengren

The paperwork is complete for the next WSSPC cooperative agreement at a funding level of \$200,000. This year the grant application will be on a new system – the grants management system of the Department of Justice. The grant may start late (after August 1).

NEHRP Reauthorization hearings will be held June 11 by the House Science Committee. Jack Hayes will be testifying among others to be determined.

Vicki McConnell has been contacted by her legislative officials about the reauthorization and suggested that WSSPC write a letter giving background in support of retaining the earthquake focus of NEHRP. Vicki will forward the staffer's information to Patti.

NIST (on behalf of NEHRP) requested a National Academy of Science study for national earthquake resilience. A briefing was held in early May.

The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) is embarking on a Disneyland version of their EPCOT Center exhibit for hurricanes that will be a fun and educational exhibit about earthquakes.

An International Building Code change increasing school Occupancy Category from III to IV was submitted by Ron Lynn and Mike Mahoney to be considered for the 2012 codes. This would make schools able to serve as emergency shelters after an earthquake.

QuakeSmart has a new subcontractor and a forum in southern California this year.

Larry Hultengren and Johanna Fenton signed off.

Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch

The current FEMA Grant 2008 expenses to date are on track for the July 31 end.

The 2009 USGS Grant is completely reimbursed and the final report submitted.

WSSPC expenses for the same time period as the FEMA grant show that for the period August 1, 2008 through May 20, 2009, and with the acquisition of a new computer system for the office, there is an approximate net to WSSPC of \$20K. This is due primarily to the proceeds from the National Earthquake Conference.

The financial statements from the past WSSPC fiscal year are not completed yet but will be sent to the Board when they are received from the accountant.

Patti presented the Board with the proposed FEMA budget and associated work plan for the next year, which included a revised WSSPC budget for the same time period. After discussion and questions, Vicki McConnell made the following motion:

MOTION: To approve the proposed FEMA budget and work plan as presented.

SECOND: Jim Goltz.

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

U.S. Geological Survey Report – Tom Brocher

The Earthquake Hazards Program cuts from the previous administration were restored. The 2010 budget augments the 2009 budget. The impact of the stimulus package was announced by Ken Salazar in April.

Earthquake networks received a \$29.4 Million increase, a significant portion of its budget of \$50 Million, to upgrade existing equipment used for the Global Seismic Network (GSN) (the money will be matched by NSF), ANSS, strong-motion, and deformation monitoring. GSN is the primary network to monitor tsunamigenic earthquakes. Competitive Requests for Proposals for the regional seismic networks will be out soon.

Thirty new NetQuake installations, largely in the Bay area, have been made.

Planning for the New Madrid earthquake scenario continues in 8 states and 4 FEMA regions and includes planning for establishing clearinghouses.

USGS is supporting drop, cover and hold drills. In Washington September 16, they are working on ground motions for 12 different scenario earthquakes for K-12 schools. In California October 15, the ShakeOut drill is planned.

The equipment upgrades on the southern San Andreas fault will provide more capability of earthquake early warning. Jim Goltz added that a stimulus team was formed by the Governor of California on early warning for earthquakes, and a network enhancement proposal will include early warning.

NSF is providing funding to enhance the seismic network in Washington, Oregon, and California for ocean-bottom seismometers and onshore broadband stations.

Additional updates are included in Brocher's written report included with the Board materials.

Comments on Draft 2010 Policy Recommendation 10-3:

Staffing multiple post-earthquake technical clearinghouses in the event of a large multi-state earthquake could be an issue for the USGS. A virtual (Internet-based) clearinghouse would solve that. (Cascadia states have an agreement to coordinate with the USGS for one clearinghouse rather than one for each state.)

The trigger for the establishment of a clearinghouse could be intensities rather than magnitudes, or use PAGER values, but in rural areas that is a concern.

The suggestion that NEHRP agencies will step in and take the lead for clearinghouses is also a concern to the USGS.

Tom Brocher signed off.

2010 Draft Policy Recommendations Summary

Comments received from members on the 10 draft policy recommendations were considered and Board responses and comments were collated. These will be attached to the policy recommendations and re-posted on the WSSPC website and returned to the committees.

John Parrish was called out to an emergency meeting and Ken Murphy, WSSPC Vice President, took over leadership of the rest of the meeting.

The NEMA Mitigation White Paper was finalized and Patti will send it out to the Board members for approval and a vote on WSSPC endorsement.

The WSSPC Strategic Plan update will be a major focus of the next Board meeting. The Board wants a track changes version to be circulated and comments submitted before the meeting, with reminders.

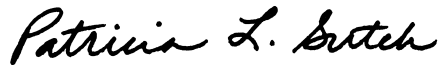
Ken Murphy called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Jim Goltz

SECOND: Vicki McConnell

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia L. Sutch
WSSPC Secretary