

**WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
801 K Street Suite 1200
Sacramento, California
May 12, 2010**

MINUTES

Present were:

Tom Brocher, U.S. Geological Survey liaison to WSSPC
Rod Combellick (for Robert Swenson), Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys
Robert Franzen, FEMA Project Officer
Jim Goltz (for Matthew Bettenhausen), California Emergency Management Agency
Amy Lewis, WSSPC Program Manager
John Madden, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Vicki McConnell (teleconference), Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Peter McDonough, Utah Seismic Safety Commission liaison to WSSPC
Ken Murphy, Oregon Emergency Management
John Parrish, California Geological Survey
Patti Sutch, WSSPC Executive Director

Welcome and Call to Order – John Parrish

John Parrish called the meeting to order and all present introduced themselves.

Adoption of Minutes of November 18, 2009 – John Parrish

Vicki McConnell asked for two changes to be made to clarify the minutes.

MOTION: To adopt the minutes of November 18, 2009 as amended (Ken Murphy).

SECOND: Jim Goltz.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

FEMA Report – Robert Franzen

1. The consortia proposals are on *grants.gov* and June 5th is the deadline for applying.
2. State assistance grants were expanded to 33 states and territories (Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and American Samoa were added); however, the budget remains the same at \$2.3 Million. Each state gets a base amount and states with the highest risk get an additional amount based upon their ranking in the most recent FEMA 366. WSSPC was encouraged to submit input on the process to Mai Tong at FEMA. Patti noted that all of WSSPC members were included in the grants distribution except the Northern Marianas Islands.
3. The Region IX Earthquake Program Manager position is vacant. Claudette Fetterman at FEMA headquarters will work with the affected states in that region on the state assistance grants.
4. The FEMA website is undergoing a 3-phased approach to make it more user friendly.

Executive Director Report – Patti Sutch

Patti reviewed the status of the current FEMA Cooperative Agreement. 73% of the grant has been expended through April 2010, in 75% of the grant period. Challenges to closing the grant will be unknown actual travel expenses incurred in the last month of the grant. WSSPC cash on hand is \$178,346.44 (including unreimbursed April expenses). Expenses not covered by the FEMA grant (e.g. meals) are less than Affiliate member income and interest received to date.

On May 11 Patti successfully applied for a \$10,000 USGS grant on *grants.gov* to cover annual meeting costs of travel and printing. Funding is anticipated to start by June 11.

Patti presented multiple spreadsheets that were used to create the proposed FEMA Grant 2010 budget. The spreadsheets will migrate the financial data from the accounting software to a format required by new federal reporting requirements and the grants application process. It included project milestones, deliverables and monthly expense targets.

According to Robert Franzen, there are 6 task requirements in the FEMA grant application for 2010, all of which must be met by each consortia. Not all of the tasks pertain to what is in our proposed Work Plan, because in the past FEMA considered it to be a cafeteria plan to choose from rather than a mandated list.

Vicki McConnell suggested that the WSSPC Work Plan tasks and budget be re-aligned to these 6 items before submitting it.

Patti pointed out that we did not yet have a definite site and date for the 2011 annual meeting, and if it was held in August 2011 or later it would be outside the time period of the FEMA 2010 grant. The National Earthquake Conference in March 2012 would mean that there would be two conferences in one grant year. Robert Franzen suggested that we could ask for an extension and overlap the grants next year if that occurred.

John Parrish asked if WSSPC could have more FEMA support to allow WSSPC to pay for travel for the Pacific island members to come to our meetings. John Madden thought that even with travel support, it would be difficult for them to leave for an extended period of time to travel for a 1 or 2 day meeting.

Jim Goltz described the Earthquake Early Warning session he is planning for Saturday July 10. Two speakers have confirmed, and two other speakers are being sought, including one speaker from Japan.

BREAK

Executive Director Report, continued

Patti drew attention to the Seismic Councils and Commissions meeting Saturday afternoon July 10, and the Poster session following it. The Natural Hazards Center Annual Workshop starts Sunday morning July 11.

Plans for the 2011 annual meeting hinge upon whether we can hold a joint meeting with CSG-West, and hold a Rural Earthquake Summit with it. Patti has a meeting with CSG-West tomorrow (May 13) to discuss opportunities to combine our meetings.

The 2012 National Earthquake Conference Steering Committee has had several conference calls and has selected a theme and goals for the meeting.

Rod Combellick reminded us of the 50th anniversary of the Good Friday Earthquake in 2014 and suggested a tie in with that conference and EERI.

Amy Lewis updated us about the website statistics with a few handouts. She pointed out the importance of the Tsunami Center for visitors, as most of the top 10 key words contained the word "tsunami". It was suggested to use more robust key words to make the WSSPC website pop up more frequently and lower the bounce rate.

U.S. Geological Survey Report – Tom Brocher

Tom congratulated John Parrish on the 150th anniversary of the California Geological Survey. He mentioned that a Tsunami Source Working Group was formed, led by Steve Kirby and George Plafker, that was looking at the Alaska Good Friday Earthquake and tsunami and its impact on the West Coast.

The rest of Tom's report is contained in his written handout.

LUNCH BREAK

Policy Recommendation Survey – John Parrish

John Parrish encouraged WSSPC members to take an active role in using the policy recommendations from WSSPC. John Madden said, as a member of the Congressionally mandated national Preparedness Task Force, he could bring the recommendations to that group for consideration. The task force will report to Congress in September 2010.

Review of Draft Policy Recommendations – John Parrish

After today's changes are made, policy recommendations will be re-posted on the website. The final comment period closes June 4.

PR 10-1 and 10-2: The Board accepted it after making a few changes.

PR 10-3: Generated some questions and discussion; the Board accepted it as is.

PR 10-4: The Board accepted it with one change.

PR 10-5: The Board accepted it as is.

PR 10-6: Bob Swenson wanted to add background on the Data Preservation Act, and ideally coordinate this with NIST's plans. Rod Combellick volunteered to follow up with Bob.

PR 10-7: The Board removed the lifelines policy recommendation from consideration this year.

PR 10-8: The Board accepted it as is.

PR 10-9: (Was PR 10-10) The Board accepted it after making a few changes.

PR 10-10: (Was PR 10-X) Jim Goltz will make changes and return it to the WSSPC office; the Board accepted it with those requested changes.

BREAK

CREW AND WSSPC JOINT BOARDS MEETING

Present from CREW were: Maiclaire Bolton, Andre LeDuc, Althea Rizzo, Bob Freitag, Maillian Uphaus, Joan Scofield, Tim Walsh, Tamra Biasco, and Kathryn Forge.

CREW President Andre LeDuc opened the discussion with two ideas for increased collaboration between CREW and WSSPC:

1. Issue joint statements of policy recommendations
2. Develop and promote post-disaster recovery planning, especially in coastal areas.

John Parrish described WSSPC as an educational organization that advocates for the adoption of seismic policies.

Andre LeDuc and Bob Freitag described CREW's successes with educational forums, workshops and round tables.

Suggestions for future collaboration include:

1. Having an annual joint meeting between CREW and WSSPC Boards
2. CREW Board endorsement of WSSPC policy recommendations
3. CREW identification of an issue or problem that could be addressed by a WSSPC policy recommendation.
4. More obvious links to each other's websites.

CREW BOARD LEFT

BREAK

WSSPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING RESUMED

Strategic Plan – John Parrish

The Board discussed whether the WSSPC Strategic Plan should be aligned with the six FEMA goals, but decided that they did not and should not match item for item. The Plan was reviewed and revised.

MOTION: To adopt the Strategic Plan as amended (Vicki McConnell).

SECOND: John Madden.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Board Nominations for 2010-2012 Terms – John Parrish

Board terms for Vicki McConnell, John Madden, and Robert Swenson expire December 1, 2010. Vicki, John, and Robert expressed interest in continuing for another term. Ken Murphy announced that he will be leaving his position to go to FEMA Region X as Regional Administrator.

New Business – John Parrish

Board meeting locations in 2010-2011: Sacramento (November 2010), Washington DC (Spring 2011), teleconference call (Summer 2011).

Adjournment – John Parrish

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Vicki McConnell and Ken Murphy).

SECOND: John Madden.

VOTE: Unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sutch
WSSPC Secretary