

**MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
HELD MAY 31, 2006 (via teleconference)**

I. OPENING BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

John Aho, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

2. Roll call

Commission Members John Aho, Gary Carver, Rod Combellick, Roger Hansen, Roger Schnell, and Dennis Nottingham were present.

Commission Members Michael Wilkinson, Linda Freed, and Laura Kelly were absent.

Others present: Vickie Butherus, Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS); Henry Springer, Executive Director, and Darryl Jordan, Knik Arm Bridge & Toll Authority.

3. Agenda was approved without changes.

4. Approval of April 11 Minutes

Commission member Carver MOVED, seconded by Commission member Combellick, to approve the Minutes without changes. The motion passed by voice vote.

II. BRIEFINGS

- Henry Springer spoke to the Commission regarding the Knik Arm Bridge project. He wanted to inform stakeholders and groups that may be interested in the project so that there would be no surprises along the way. They are close to having a draft environmental impact statement completed. He believes everything has been done in a prudent way to satisfy the seismic-safety concerns of the industry, agencies, and the public. According to Mr. Springer the Knik Arm Bridge & Toll Authority is considered an entity of the state, but for practical purposes it is a corporation under the auspices of state government, attached administratively to DOT&PF. Mr. Springer indicated that he wasn't sure how much interest the Commission would have in the project or what the Commission might envision as their role, but he would like to keep the Commission informed about the project to make sure potential seismic-safety concerns are addressed early in the project.
- The Commission members all agreed that they would like to have a presentation at the June meeting. Commission member Combellick reiterated that the authority of the Seismic commission with regard to these matters was advisory only. The Commission doesn't have any specific review or oversight authority. The Commission certainly could get involved on an advisory basis, which the Commission will consider after the formal presentation at the next meeting.
- Commission member Hansen gave a report on Alaska seismic activity. The Alaska Earthquake Information Center (AEIC) is planning to put in a new seismic station at Castle Rocks in Denali National Park. Commission member Nottingham requested that Commission member Hansen present a briefing on the various magnitude scales currently in use at a future meeting.
- Commission member Combellick reported on House Bill 83 passing the legislature and the Governor's upcoming signing of the bill. Once the bill is delivered to the Governor's office it must be signed within 15 days. The Commission owes a big thank you to Melanie Lesh, DNR's Legislative Liaison for all that she did to keep the bill

moving. Susan Fischetti, Director of Boards & Commissions, may be able to coordinate the signing at the next ASHSC meeting.

- Commission member Combellick reported on the status of the current members. Everyone who wants to stay on the Commission should write a letter to the Boards and Commissions office indicating their desire to stay on the Commission. There is a provision for some members to hold 4-year terms, some to hold 3-year terms, and some to hold 2-year terms; that will be decided by the Governor's office, but they will act according to members' preferences to the extent possible. There is also a need for the Governor to appoint two more members from local government as a result of HB 83. Members should encourage qualified persons to apply. There is an application available on the Boards and Commission's website.
- Scott Simmons of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is scheduled for a presentation regarding the State Hazard Mitigation Plan at the next Commission meeting.
- USGS is continuing their work on updating the ground failure susceptibility map of Anchorage; in the future we should have more information on that.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Commission members all agreed that the Seismic Hazards Safety Commission's report to the Governor and Legislature was an excellent report, very professionally done. DNR Commissioner Mike Menge complimented the Commission on that report.
2. Chairman Aho would like to see the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) website linked from the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission website. Commission member Nottingham would like to see the Tsunami Society website linked also.
3. Verbal reports:
 - a. Chapman Conference on Active Tectonics and Seismic Potential of Alaska- Commission members Combellick, Hansen, and Carver all thought that it was an excellent conference, small, but very focused. It brought together three areas that often do not have such an opportunity to interact: geologists, seismologists, and geodesists. They may ask Jeff Freymueller of UAF to give the final summary presentation that was given at the conference at one of the Commission meetings.
 - b. Western States Seismic Policy Conference (WSSPC) Commission member Hansen indicated that the Commission's comments on the proposed seismic policy recommendation were well received. The Alaska delegation helped to rewrite the policy recommendation following the meeting. Next year's meeting will be in Reno.
 - c. Tsunami Society Symposium – Commission member Nottingham reported that it was probably the best tsunami conference he has ever been to. His daughter will write three or four articles on it with him. There were three straight days of hard-hitting, versatile presentations on tsunami topics, way beyond what these conferences usually are. Attendees represented many countries, including those impacted by the Sumatra earthquake and tsunami. The conference included discussions of so-called mega-tsunamis resulting from possible large submarine landslides, such as in the Canary Islands. Researchers have concluded that the resulting shallow-water, high-amplitude waves dissipate very quickly before

propagating long distances. Consequently, the hazard to the east coast of the U.S. is far less than has been portrayed in the public media. The deep subduction-zone generated waves are the dangerous ones. Dr. Zygmunt Kowalik from UAF was recognized at the conference as a world leader in tsunami wave modeling. He presented the Sumatra earthquake and modeled the resulting tsunami propagating world-wide using 2 million data points. The Commission may want to consider inviting him to make a presentation at a future meeting.

- d. San Francisco 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference– Chairman Aho reported that it was the largest conference he had ever been involved in. There was considerable focus on earthquake hazards and emergency services.
- 4 List of Future Goals.
 - To be addressed at the next meeting will be the five main issues identified in report.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- Board of Director’s meeting of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.
- National Tsunami Hazards Mitigation Program implementation plan, June 7 (teleconference)

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chairman Aho will send thank you letters to all of the people who sent in resolutions in support of HB 83, to the legislative sponsors, and a special letter to Melanie Lesh.
2. Next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting in Anchorage. It will be June 16 at 10 a.m.
3. Terms of current members were discussed earlier.
4. New commission appointments – if members know of qualified person they should ask them to apply.
5. Anchorage Earthquake Scenario – to be considered in the future should be a formal, published earthquake scenario for Anchorage. The EERI website has a document called Guidelines for Developing an Earthquake Scenario. Take a look at the document and we can discuss it at the next meeting.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Budget
Budget report was emailed to all members. \$3,174.00 remains of the authorized \$10,000 for FY06 as of 4/24/06.
2. Public Comments
None.
3. Next meeting will be in Anchorage, June 16 at 10 a.m..

VIII. COMMISSION MEMBER GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Commission member Carver suggested reviewing what they have been doing in Kodiak in regard to the seismic safety of schools. The consultants that were selected and

funded to do the work have finished their job. They have determined that four of their schools have serious seismic-safety issues. It has been a very good learning experience and it would be worth sharing with the Commission at a future meeting.

2. Commission member Combellick spoke with DNR Commissioner Mike Menge. Commissioner Menge is very much aware of what the Commission is doing. He feels it would be a good idea for the Commission to consider a statewide review of school seismic safety as was done in Kodiak.
3. Commission member Carver is in the process of identifying somebody from the State Dept. of Education to come to one of our future meetings to discuss school seismic safety.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

1. Commission member Nottingham MOVED, seconded by Commission member Hansen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.