

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING
HELD December 6th, 2007 via teleconference



Final

- I. OPENING BUSINESS 9:00 a.m.
- Call to Order: John Aho, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.
 - Roll call - Commission members John Aho, David Cole, Rod Combellick, Roger Hansen, Robert Hicks, Laura Kelly, and Dean Maxwell were present. Kathy Hosford and Mark Roberts arrived later in the meeting. Gary Carver and Linda Freed were absent. April Woolery, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGs) was also present.
 - Approval of the Agenda: Under Meetings of Interest, the State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Council meeting was added. It takes place December 7, 2007 (tomorrow). Mark Roberts will chair the meeting, and Rod Combellick and Roger Hansen will be attending (conference call).
 - Introductions-Guests: none at this meeting.
 - Review and Approval of Minutes for 09/17-09/19/2007 and 10/25/2007. Minutes of both meetings were approved with amendments.
- II. BREIFINGS 9:30 a.m.
- Alaska Earthquake Activity-Hansen According to the monthly report for November, there were 1,717 events. The largest were magnitude five to six. Near Ft. Yukon and the Canadian border there was a 4.0 event on November 3rd, followed by a 5.0 event on November 29th. This area has seen recent activity over the last year or so. There was a 5.6 event out in the Aleutians on November 22nd along with several magnitude 4 events in the same vicinity. The Sept. 2007 earthquake catalog has been finished and is out on the web for review. The Denali fault continues its activity, as does the Kantishna area. The Denali fault continues to be one of the most active shallow seismic zones in Alaska, with a magnitude 2.5 event happening about every other day.
 - Health of the Alaska Seismic Networks-Hansen It is near the end of the annual USGS funding cycle, so the progress report is due. All 519 seismic stations have been cataloged, and most are doing well. The Divide and Bremner sites near Valdez need attention, however. These two sites will require helicopter access to repair the phone connection, weather permitting. The Valdez marine terminal installation of the pipeline project has been added to the system. The pipeline stations have all been installed from pump Station six through to Valdez. Pump Stations one, four and five are in progress. Pump Station 11 had a power surge that knocked out both sensors. There is interim equipment in place until replacements can be made. Due to faulty installation by Alyeska in the first place, the equipment is frozen in place and no replacement can be made until the weather is warmer. ShakeMap is online, but still password protected until the USGS gives approval of the system. The Anchorage stations are now included in Shakemap but are still in the testing phase. NSMP – National Strong Motion Program, should be added to the acronym list.

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING
HELD December 6th, 2007 via teleconference

- NTHMP 10/30/2007 Meeting-Hansen & Roberts Mark Roberts: the science was very interesting and helpful, but the politics was very frustrating and difficult. NOAA is creating difficulty with the funding.
- Haeussler Presentation Remarks, Aho On November 19, Peter Haeussler gave a presentation for the LEPCA meeting in Wasilla on the Castle Mountain Fault. He gave a basic introduction to seismology in Alaska, then went into specifics of the fault. John Aho made the point that people tend to worry about how close their homes were to the fault when they should be concentrating on how seismically resistant those structures are. It was well attended, about 200-250 people were there. Mark Roberts and John Aho both felt that it would have been good to have information that home and business owned could use to build safe structures or improve existing ones.

III. OLD BUSINESS 9:45 a.m.

- Action Items
 - Kathy Hosford discussed her difficulty with finding the ASHSC web site on internet searches. Rod said that he would discuss search updates with the web designer and asked for a list of search words to include.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST 10:15 a.m.

- State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Council December 7, 2007
- AGU San Francisco December 10-14, 2007 Roger Hansen will attend
- SERC, LEPCA Meeting Juneau January 15-17, 2008
- EERI Annual Meeting New Orleans February 6-9, 2008
- SSA Santa Fe April 16-18, 2008
- National Earthquake Conference Seattle April 22-26, 2008
- SERC, LEPCA Meeting Anchorage May 14-15, 2008; plan to have a face-to-face meeting for ASHSC in conjunction with this.
- 2014 National Earthquake Engineering Conference-Anchorage

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES 10:25 a.m.

- FY09 Budget to Legislature Current
- FY08 Draft Report to Legislature December 1, 2007
- FY08 Final Report to Legislature January 1, 2008

VI. NEW BUSINESS 10:30 a.m.

- ASHSC Deliverable Development To be discussed under Committee reports
- FY08 Budget Update Rod Combellick ASHSC budget increment request for a \$30,000 increase to bring the total budget to \$40,000 was declined by the OMB. Bob Swenson, the Alaska state Geologist, will be discussing the ASHSC budget with DNR Commissioner Tom Irwin. Bob will need one or two high-profile items to discuss which would be implemented by the ASHSC if we had a bigger budget. Rod suggested the schools information that has been provided by the Schools Subcommittee. Laura Kelly pointed out that Alaska has over 350 school buildings that were built prior to 1976-77 and may not meet current building codes.

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING
HELD December 6th, 2007 via teleconference

- Preparation of the Report to the Legislature John Aho is working on the report and plans to include the ASHSC charter and committee legislation as an appendix. Rod is updating the contact information and member information, so members should e-mail any updates to Rod or to April Woolery at DGGS.
- Future Presentations/Briefings John Aho thanked Roger's group in Fairbanks for their support of the September 2007 ASHSC meeting.
 - Anchorage Port Expansion
 - MOA Ground Failure Study
 - FEMA- Robert Forgit
 - Ethics Presentation
 - State Emergency Operations Center Tour and Presentation
 - Dan Saddler-Boards and Commissions
 - Alaska Division of Insurance
 - Scenario Team Briefing
 - WSSPC PowerPoint Presentation

VII. REPORTS

10:45 a.m.

- Chairperson John Aho had nothing to report
- Committee Reports
 - Schools-Kelly Laura would like to include school information in the ASHSC Annual Report. She would also like to provide a copy of the Annual Report (with an explanatory letter) to the people on the contact list compiled by Larry LeDoux in Kodiak. She pointed out that this is a way to inform potential allies of the work done by the commission. Mark Roberts stated that there is grant funding available from FEMA for pre-disaster mitigation/seismic retrofitting of schools. Kodiak is using some of this funding.
 - Insurance-Dean Maxwell Last teleconference was a week prior. They discussed events impacting the insurance industry nationwide. Dean will follow up on Missouri's efforts to look at the availability of earthquake insurance in the vicinity of the New Madrid Fault. The Alaskan insurance industry also faces challenges. He asked, "What would the Alaskan insurance industry tell the Governor today regarding catastrophic losses in Alaska?" Dean points out that, in the event of a catastrophe, people will look to the government to help them, but will the government be able to respond as people expect?
 - Earthquake Scenario-Combellick The Scenario committee has not met since the last ASHSC teleconference. Rod is working on prioritizing a list scenarios in spreadsheet format as well as dividing scenarios into rural and urban categories. Rod is waiting to hear from Craig Weaver about giving a presentation about scenarios used in seismic risk mitigation. John will talk with Dick McCarthy about the possibility of getting funding for an Aleutian scenario that would generate a tsunami that could threaten California's coast.
 - Education & Outreach-Hosford. Kathy is still working on a mission statement for the Education committee. They want to target public information but lack funding and staff to do all they would wish. Kathy

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING
HELD December 6th, 2007 via teleconference

would like to have a teleconference in order to define a good mission statement. December 27 at 9:00 am was set as the time for this meeting.

- Hazards Identification-Carver Gary was excused, no report at this time.
- Response, Recovery-Roberts Mark discussed how he gets calls right after seismic events and how he works with Roger's group in Fairbanks to integrate information to disseminate. In order to make the ASHSC more available in emergencies, Mark suggests setting a threshold (perhaps a magnitude seven or greater quake or a damaging tsunami or an evacuation), and then convening an ASHSC meeting within 12 hours of the event in order to coordinate. The committee could use the opportunity for feedback, education and to push key agenda items. The commission might also provide a brief report to the Governor. John suggests working on this in conjunction with the Post Earthquake Planning and Education Committees. There is also an online document by EERI that gives information on dealing with the media in the event of a natural disaster: John will provide the web-address for this.
- Post Earthquake Planning-Carver Gary was excused, no report at this time.
- Partnership-Aho No report at this time.

VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION 11:15 a.m.

- Public None present
- Commission Members Bob Hicks has a new job, so his contact information will need to be updated. April Woolery will update the ASHSC member list. Mark Roberts mentioned the need for emergency contact information of the members. This will be highlighted on the membership list.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS 11:20 p.m.

- Budget Report-April Woolery Balance remaining is \$6,048.22, including the travel costs for the September meeting.
- ASHSC Web Site Update Status-April Woolery The web site is current, but the minutes from the September meeting will need to be finalized and posted to the web as a final, not draft, version. Rod will send links to the Alaska state statutes to John. Rod also made the point that when PowerPoint presentations are put on the web, they are converted to pdf files, so any special PowerPoint effects are lost. Please keep this in mind when creating presentations in PowerPoint. Links of interest can be added to the web site, but the list on links must be kept to reasonable size: no redundancy.
- Next Meeting Date Thursday, January 31, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference.

X. ADJOURNMENT 11:30 p.m.

Dean Maxwell motioned to adjourn, Dave Cole seconded. All in favor.