

Thursday, March 4, 2008  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Teleconference

## MINUTES

- I. OPENING BUSINESS 9:10 a.m.
- Call to Order (John Aho, Chairperson); Present were Commission members John Aho, Gary Carver, David Cole, Rod Combellick, Roger Hansen, Kathy Hosford, Laura Kelly, Dean Maxwell, and Mark Roberts. Commission members Linda Freed and Robert Hicks were excused. Also present were Ervin "Erv" Petty of the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and April Woolery of the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS).
  - Approval of the Agenda, no items to add to the agenda
  - Introductions-Ervin Petty is the Tsunami Program Manager at DHS&EM. He does tsunami hazard mitigation planning as well as leading the Tsunami Ready Program.
  - Review and Approval of Minutes for 01/31/2008: the minutes were completed and distributed late. Commission member Maxwell motioned, Commission member Cole seconded, that the minutes for the January 31, 2008 meeting will be posted to the website as a draft and will be approved at the next meeting. All in favor.
- II. BREIFINGS 9:15 a.m.
- Recent Seismic Activity of Interest-Commission member Hansen: During the week of February 11-17, 2008, there were 381 recorded seismic events in Alaska. The largest of those was a magnitude 4.6 event in the Andreanof Islands. The preliminary catalog lists 1,604 events for the month of January. Of those, three were located north of the Brooks Range. In addition, there is another cluster of events located mostly south and east of Ft. Yukon, the largest of those being 4.0. This area has seen repeated activity over the last few months. The December earthquake catalog has been completed and is in the internal review process. For December, 1,967 events were measured. The largest was a magnitude 7.1 in the Andreanof Islands. The January catalog is on the website and the December catalog will be posted once it has been reviewed. Commission member Roberts commented that DHS&EM has set the community contact threshold at magnitude 6. He was the duty officer over the past weekend, and there was a magnitude 6.2 quake near Adak, so he ran the community contact protocol. There were no incidents to report: "They barely felt it."
  - Health of the Alaska Seismic Networks-Commission member Hansen: Spring means more sun, so solar powered stations are back on line and steady. Overall health of the network is better with the increase in available solar power.

Weak and Strong Motion: Pump stations 1, 4 and 5 still need to have sensors installed; they should be completed in the next few weeks. Anchorage is getting feeds from Menlo Park, and they are negotiating with the stadium and several churches to install real-time feeds in those places. The churches will have to be radio sites, as many churches do not have internet. There is also a plan to get a sensor in the main Geologic Materials Center building in Eagle River.

- ShakeMap Update-Hansen: It is now on line. ShakeMap will calculate ground motions for events of 3.8 or above. They have adjusted it so that if an event gets a revised magnitude of less than 3.8, it will not be deleted. It is in test mode for the Alyeska pipeline.
- ANSS Update-Hansen: Roger Smith met with Bill Leith last week. They discussed how universities in Alaska and the USGS are going to collaborate with ANSS projects. USGS funding was cut again this year, and that will continue to impact ANSS.
- NOAA-States 2006 Act Interpretation Controversy-Hansen: Representative Wu from Oregon has questioned NOAA head Admiral Lautenbacher about why states have less money than ever despite the fact that the 2006 Act designated 27% to the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. Lautenbacher promised to make up the shortfall. Commission Member Roberts added that Congressman Wu's questions were triggered by a letter from five state geologists questioning why the shortfall exists. There will be five state emergency management directors in Washington, D.C. next week (from Alaska, California, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii) who will also be delivering a letter to their congressional delegations to question the shortfall.
- MOA Ground Failure Study-Cole: Nothing to report at this time.
- EERI Meeting Summary-Aho: Meeting theme: Hurricane Katrina-Lessons for Earthquake Risk Reduction. The main focus was preventing a disaster from turning into a catastrophe.
- LEPCA, SERC Discussions-Roberts: If ASHSC does attend joint meetings with these groups, we should avoid repetitive presentations, but focus on keeping them up-to-date with what ASHSC has been doing.
- Tom Irwin Meeting 02/11/2008 Summary-Combellick: On February 11, 2008, ASHSC Chairman John Aho gave a presentation to Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Irwin in the Atwood Building in Anchorage. Commission member Combellick was present along with State Geologist Bob Swenson, Deputy DNR Commissioner Dick LeFebvre, and DNR Large Projects Coordinator Ed Fogels. Chairman Aho gave a very good overview of the Commission, its actions and accomplishments, and outlined some of our high-priority goals. The briefing was very well received. Commissioner Irwin commented that the presentation should be shared with state legislators as well. During the discussion about the presentation, Commission member Carver suggested that the School Committee's list of potentially at-risk schools be supplemented with information on how Kodiak funded the seismic upgrades in their borough. This would provide other school districts an opportunity to see what kind of funding is available for projects of that type.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

9:45 a.m.

- Action Items

- See 01/31/2008 Action Item List. Item number 38: Commission member Roberts suggested waiting until after the next ASHSC meeting to have Commission member Hansen develop a letter to NOAA. That way, we would see NOAA's response to Congressman Wu (OR) and the letters from the state geologists and emergency management directors. Commission member Hansen responded that Alaska is better funded than most states, and we don't want to be seen as complaining about the money. However, if the rest of the states suffer, we suffer with them. His intent in writing a letter would be to encourage the lawmakers who created the law to see that the intent of the law is followed. Commission member Roberts said that he would brief Commission member Hansen with any information that he brings back from his upcoming meetings in Washington, D.C.
- The acronym list will continue to be updated.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST 9:55 a.m.

- Seismological Society of America (SSA) Santa Fe, NM April 16-18, 2008
- National Earthquake Conference Seattle, WA April 22-26, 2008
- WSSPC Business Meeting Seattle, WA April 22, 2008 Commission member Combellick says that per e-mail, the organizers are saying that the WSSPC committees are to have their work completed by the April 22 Business Meeting. WSSPC has reserved rooms on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> for committees to meet and complete their business. Commission member Combellick noted that he would not be arriving until Monday evening and asked if there would be anyone to attend if the WSSPC Tsunami Committee meets earlier. Commission member Roberts said that he and two of his staff members would be there, and that at least one of them would be able to attend if necessary.
- SERC, LEPCA Meeting Anchorage, AK May 14-15, 2008
- South East Conference Juneau, AK March 26-27, 2008 (Commission member Hosford)
- EERI Earthquake Scenario Location TBA September 17-18, 2008
- Alaska Council of School Administrators Anchorage, AK October 2008
- Alaska Association of Secondary Schools Anchorage, AK October 2008
- 2014 National Earthquake Engineering Conference-Anchorage

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES 10:05 a.m.

- FY08 Draft Report March, 2008
- FY08 Final Report to Legislature March, 2008 Chairman Aho is close to completion on this report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS 10:10 a.m.

- FY08 Budget Update-Commission member Combellick reiterated that although the Commission did not get a budget increase this year, our budget was not cut. Next year, the DGGs Director and the Department of Natural Resources Commissioner will support our budget request. We should be prepared to talk to legislators after the Governor's budget

is submitted in mid-December in order to gain support for any budget increases. For example, at the House Natural Resources Finance Subcommittee meeting would be a good opportunity to make a presentation.

- Preparation of the Report to the Legislature-This was covered above, under Critical Deadlines.
- At-Risk Schools Seismic Safety Retrofit, Update-Commission member Roberts reports that he has not yet heard back from Stevens' office about his appropriations request. He notes for future reference that it is not too early for interested parties to apply for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for this year. (The Kodiak School District got some of its seismic retrofit funding from this grant.) They must be submitted by January, 2009.
- Future Presentations/Briefings
  - Anchorage Port Expansion
  - MOA Ground Failure Study
  - FEMA- Forgit
  - Ethics Presentation
  - Emergency Operations Center Tour and Presentation
  - Alaska Division of Insurance
  - Scenario Team Briefing
  - WSSPC PowerPoint Presentation-Commission member Hansen has a copy of this which he should forward to get posted on the ASHSC website.

## VII. REPORTS

10:30 a.m.

- Chairperson
  - Ethics Report: Chairman Aho will be completing this soon. Commission members should provide feedback. Commission member Combellick notes that anything that might be perceived as unethical should be reported.
  - "Design Guide for Improving School Safety in Earthquakes, Floods, and High Winds", FEMA 424, January 2004 Chairman Aho will bring his copy to the next face-to-face meeting. This and the item below can be ordered from FEMA.
  - "Designing for Earthquakes-A Manual for Architects", FEMA 454, December 2006 Probably one of the best basic documents on the subject, according to Chairman Aho. He will bring his copy to the next face-to-face meeting.
  - "Ready or Not?" Sally Rothwell, Anchorage PRESS, February 28, 2008 Discusses the Emergency Operations Center in Anchorage, among other things.
- Committee Reports
  - Insurance-Commission member Maxwell met with Sarah McNair Grove of the Division of Insurance. They discussed possible workshop budget and the need for lead time to arrange travel. He also asked about her following up on passing seismic legislation.
  - Schools-Commission member Kelly: no new action items to report on schools. However, she points out that schools might want to look not just at retrofitting for seismic hazards, but also for energy efficiency. According to information from Rich Seifert, Fairbanks

Cooperative Extension Service, oil prices may reach \$250.00 per barrel within ten years or so. If schools are being retrofitted, it would be cost-effective to include extra insulation and weatherization at the same time.

- Earthquake Scenario-Commission member Combellick: The Earthquake Scenario Committee did not meet since the last ASHSC meeting. However, Commission member Combellick participated in his first teleconference as a member of the steering committee for the Earthquake Scenario Workshop that EERI will hold this fall, September 17 and 18, 2008. It will be held either in Salt Lake City or Denver. There are a limited number of people who will be budgeted to attend, and Commission member Combellick will try to get three people from Alaska funded to go, including someone from the emergency management area (Mark Roberts, perhaps), and at least one other commission member.
- Education & Outreach-Commission member Hosford: The committee had a teleconference on Feb. 8 at 9:00am. Present were Commission members Hosford, Maxwell, and Hicks. They reviewed what areas the committee should be covering and assigned areas of responsibility to committee members. Commission member Hicks volunteered to write the first quarterly report to the legislature. All such reports would be approved first by the ASHSC members first. The committee also felt that there should be an Education and Outreach section in the Commission's annual report to the Governor and legislature. In addition, the committee would like to promote the ASHSC website. They also discussed creation of a directory of experts who can speak about seismic hazards. In addition, the committee talked about model legislation. Commission member Hicks will follow up on researching and reporting on model legislation. They also discussed the relationship between the LEPCs and the Education and Outreach Committee. Commission member Freed is to follow up on LEPCs. Finally, they talked about putting together a media education package for incident response, which will be an ongoing project. Commission member Combellick noted that the DGGs webmaster has upgraded the searchable terms in Google for the ASHSC website. Since instituting the changes, our web hits have tripled.
- Hazards Identification-Commission member Carver: He was unsuccessful at organizing a meeting of the committee, but will continue to work to arrange a meeting.
- Response, Recovery-Commission member Roberts: Chairman Aho and Commission member Roberts will schedule a meeting in the near future.
- Post Earthquake Planning-Commission member Carver: Again, he is working on arranging a meeting for this committee.
- Partnership-Commission member Aho: nothing to report at present.

## VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

10:55 a.m.

- Public: None
- Commission Members: None

- IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS 10:56 a.m.
- Budget Report-April Woolery: the only change since the last meeting is the January teleconference charge of \$153.13. Total expenditures for this fiscal year is \$4,536.70. The balance remaining is \$5,463.30.
  - ASHSC Web Site Update Status-April Woolery: Other than the draft minutes for the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, which are not yet posted, the website is current. There was a mistake in the date listed for the March 4 meeting (it was listed as March 3), which will be corrected.
  - Next Meeting Date: Commission members are to use the “Doodle” website ([www.doodle.ch](http://www.doodle.ch)) to show what dates they are available for the next meeting, which will be a face-to-face in Anchorage.

X. ADJOURNMENT 11:00 p.m.  
Commission member Hosford moved to adjourn, Commission member Maxwell seconded: all in favor. Meeting adjourned 11:00 pm.