



I. OPENING BUSINESS 9:00 a.m.

- Call to Order (John Aho, Chairperson); Roll call: Commission members John Aho, Bud Cassidy, Laura Kelly, Rich Koehler, Mark Roberts, Robert "Buzz" Scher and Gayle White were present. Gary Carver, Daniel Mahalak and David Miller were excused. Roger Hansen was absent.
- Introductions-Guests: Sam Kito of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (ADEED) and April Woolery of the State Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) were present for all of the meeting. Michael Griffin, P.E. of CCS Group, Inc., joined the teleconference at 10:30 am.
- Review and Approval of Minutes for the June 20 and 21, 2011 meeting: The minutes were approved with amendments. The August 4 minutes will be reviewed at the November meeting.

II. BRIEFINGS I 9:05 a.m.

- Recent Seismic Activity of Interest-Hansen: Absent, no report.
- Health of the Alaska Seismic Networks-Hansen: Absent, no report.
- ShakeMap Update-Hansen: Absent, no report.
- Sitka Tsunami Operations Workshop-Roberts and Koehler: The workshop went very well. Commissioner Miller attended as well. There were 25 communities represented, as well as federal agencies including the Coast Guard, TSA, and the National Park Service. Commissioner Koehler reported that he and a Gabriel Wolken, another DGGS geologist, both attended and gave a talk on local tsunamis. These are tsunamis caused by nearby earthquakes and associated lateral spread, submarine landslides, and/or subaerial landslides. They affect only a limited geographical area but can be devastating in the areas they affect. They were also able to do some field work: calibration for tsunami inundation modeling that the Alaska Earthquake Information Center (AEIC) is producing. Commissioner Roberts added that there will be another workshop in November of next year in Seward for the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Valdez and Cordova. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) plans to do these workshops once a year, revisiting impacted regions once every three years.
- AEG Annual Meeting-Koehler: Commissioner Koehler was able to participate in some field trips and learn more about the geology local to the Anchorage area. Three of the symposia dealt with seismic hazards: one on dam analysis and remediation, one on volcanic and seismic hazards, and one on engineering geologic characterization and hazards for oil and gas pipelines. The last symposium was particularly relevant to work that Commissioner Koehler is doing for DGGS.
- Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission (MOA/GAC) Activity Update-Scher: The MOA/GAC has been offered the opportunity to act in an advisory capacity during the interview process as the Municipality of Anchorage selected an engineering firm to perform an independent review of

the open cell sheet pile design concept used at the new port facility. CH2MHill has been awarded the contract to perform the review, which is currently in process. The initial findings of their review will be released next spring, 2012.

III. OLD BUSINESS

9:25 a.m.

- Action Items: Commission members should check the Action Items List for ongoing projects. Suggestions for presenters at face-to-face meetings are encouraged. Commissioner Kelly will continue to work on scheduling Mary Lou Zoback to speak, and Commissioner Koehler suggested Rob Witter, who was recently hired by the USGS in Anchorage. Committee chairs should work on writing one or two pages on their accomplishments for the annual report. Chairman Aho will need these by the next meeting. Commission members should also forward policy recommendation ideas. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) may do a Post-Disaster Damage Assessment (PDDA) course in Fairbanks, December 6 and 7, 2011. If commission members are interested in attending this course, they should contact Commissioner Roberts. Chairman Aho will work on the ASHSC report to WSSPC, due October 15. Commissioner Koehler will look into setting up an ASHSC Facebook account.
- NIMS Online Training: Ongoing. Commission members who have not taken this should try to do so. Interested Commission members should contact Commissioner Roberts.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST

9:35 a.m.

- Rapid Visual Screening, October 20-21, 2011, Fairbanks
- ASHSC Meeting, November 29-30, 2011, Anchorage
- Annual AGU Meeting, December 5-9, 2011, San Francisco, CA
- Post-Disaster Damage Assessment Training, December 6-7, 2011, Anchorage
- EERI Annual Meeting in conjunction with the National Earthquake Conference, April 10-14, 2012, Memphis, TN
- WSSPC Meeting, April 10-14, 2012, Memphis, TN
- SSA 2012 Annual Meeting, April 17-19, 2012, San Diego, CA
- 15th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, September 24-28, 2012, Lisbon, Portugal
- Tsunami Operations Workshop, November, 2012, Seward, AK
- 10th U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, 2014 - Anchorage

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES

9:40 a.m.

- Legislative Trip To be scheduled
- Kodiak Response Scenario Ongoing
- Annual Report to WSSPC Chairman Aho will get a one-page summary to WSSPC by October 14.
- ASHSC 2011 Annual Report Committee Chairs should get one to two-page summary turned in. All members should forward policy recommendation ideas.

- ASHSC Strategic Plan Chairman Aho plans to have a draft completed by the 15th. Commission members will discuss the plan at the November meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

9:50 a.m.

- Recognition: Nothing new at this time.
- Future Briefings
 - Alaska Municipal League Risk Control-Dewalt
 - Seismic Risk Mitigation in schools-Mary Lou Zoback
 - MOA Emergency Operations Center Tour
 - Rob Witter, USGS
 - Utilities Risk Mitigation Approaches
 - DOT Seismic
 - DOT inventory of bridges: photo inventory of types and weaknesses
 - Gas Pipeline potential investors: TransCanada, Denali and Enstar all have projects going related to the planned gas pipeline
 - Warning and Coordination Meteorologists from NOAA
 - Alaska Rail Road bridge upgrade
 - Deputy Fire Marshal and Plan Review Bureau Supervisor, regarding the structural aspects of plan reviews
 - Briefing on Creation of Legislation-DNR Legislative Liaison
 - Other suggestions should be forwarded to Chairman Aho

VII. REPORTS

9:55 a.m.

- Chairperson
 - In order to conform to the findings of the Legislative Audit, the Commission will focus on getting meeting notices posted with proper lead time and develop a strategic plan. Members must notify the chairman if they will not be able to attend meetings.
 - Ethics Report: The third quarter report has been turned in. There were no conflicts of interests to report.

Committee Reports

- Insurance-White: Joanne Bennett of the Alaska Division of Insurance and Commissioner White have developed a rough draft of a brochure about earthquake insurance in Alaska. If Commission members have photographs that can be used in the brochure, please forward these to Commissioner White.
- Earthquake Scenario-Carver: As Commissioner Carver was excused, Commissioner Roberts reported that the scenario project for the Kodiak Island Borough is moving ahead. There will be a teleconference on October 13 to discuss the project. Commissioner Roberts will send the teleconference number to any interested Commission members. The main focus will be making sure that data collection is on target and that seismic source issues are dealt with. To that end, several ASHSC members will be lending their expertise. The Kodiak Island Borough is working with FEMA, DHS&EM, and ASHSC on this scenario.

- Hazards Identification-Koehler: Work on two white papers, one titled “Effects of Pacific Northwest Earthquakes on Alaska,” and one focusing on seismic sources, is ongoing. Commissioner Koehler pointed out that the various sections of the Cascadia paper will need to be made more concise. Overall, the papers are coming together well.
- Response and Recovery-Roberts: Commissioner Roberts stated that there have been three tsunami warnings this past summer. Tsunamis continue to be an issue for Alaska, and we should be aware of their dangers.
- Education & Outreach-Aho: EERI is working on the 2014 National Conference on Earthquake Engineering that will be held in Anchorage. Chairman Aho and Commissioner Carver are working to arrange for Lloyd Cluff to give a lecture on his work in Anchorage.
- Partnership-Aho: Nothing new to report at this time. He continues to attend the monthly Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP) meetings. Copies of the ASHSC Annual Report make a good outreach tool at the meetings.
- Schools-Kelly: Commissioner Scher asked if the Commission can draft legislation proposals; specifically, a proposal on how schools should be prioritized and screened for seismic hazard mitigation. Chairman Aho replied that the Commission has done this in the past, and that any proposals made should be in finished form, ready to give to a legislator. Commissioner Kelly has example legislation from other states that might be helpful. Commissioner Scher suggested that the Schools Committee put together a cost estimate to do rapid visual screening and forward it to the Legislature. Sam Kito felt that providing such information would be useful in supporting any proposal to fund initial screening of schools to determine whether and how they should be retrofitted. Mr. Kito pointed out that school districts in Alaska can now request seismic upgrades as part of regular funding requests. Some school districts used this option last year. The information for this year is not yet available. The Schools Committee will discuss putting together a cost estimate at the November meeting. The discussion with Michael Griffin is recorded below, under the General Discussion heading.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

10:25 a.m.

- Budget Report-Woolery: With the start of the new fiscal year, the ASHSC budget is currently \$9,903.00.
- ASHSC Web Site Update Status-Woolery: The website is mostly up to date. The most recent meeting minutes will need to be corrected and posted in final form.
- Next Meeting Date: Meeting in Anchorage, November 29-30, 2011.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

10:30 a.m.

Public: Michael Griffin joined the teleconference at 10:30 am. Mr. Griffin is a structural engineer with 30 years of experience. He currently works for CCS Group, Inc. in Missouri. He also conducts structural and non-structural mitigation training for FEMA. Mr. Griffin is currently on the Missouri Seismic

Safety Commission's Committee for Education (K-12) as well as serving on the EERI committee to organize their annual meeting in Memphis, TN, April 10-14, 2012. He has heard about the ASHSC's efforts to encourage legislation to provide for seismic safety improvements for schools in Alaska. Mr. Griffin is interested in learning more about the ASHSC's work in this area. He hopes that the Commission's work will be applicable to Missouri's school districts. Sam Kito explained that, working with the ASHSC, the ADEED has set up a program to allow school districts to include seismic hazard mitigation costs in their requests for construction or maintenance projects. This is a voluntary project and is not legislated. However, the ADEED and the ASHSC are working to develop a program that can be supported by legislation. A key component of this effort is making sure that information is disseminated to those who need it. Mr. Kito pointed out that in the state of Alaska, most of the funding for school facilities comes from the state. This allows the state the option to place requirements on school districts as regards their facilities. Commissioner Roberts reported that the DHS&EM has acquired grant funding to screen one or two schools in the Anchorage area. Mr. Griffin is advising on this process, which will be a pilot program to show the school district how to proceed with this type of screening. Commissioner Roberts will give a briefing on their progress at the November ASHSC meeting.

Mr. Griffin asked if Commissioner Roberts was familiar with the state of Oregon's efforts to get all of their essential facilities (police, fire, schools, community buildings), screened. Commissioner Roberts replied that Yumei Wang of Oregon's Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) gave a presentation on this during a previous Commission meeting (September 29, 2010), but the Commission would be glad to learn more. Mr. Griffin commented that there will be a town hall meeting of the EERI Education committee at their annual meeting in Memphis. The city of Memphis has significant school seismic safety issues, and the committee wants to engage the community in a discussion about how to address those issues. Chairman Aho and Mr. Griffin agreed that proper building design is important, and that it is also critical to inspect structures to ensure that they are built to the design standard. Without enforcement, a contractor may cut corners and compromise building safety. Mr. Kito stated that there is a danger of this occurring in Alaska, as there is no designated statewide building official. Areas that are not covered by local municipalities may not have the oversight to prevent these problems.

Mr. Griffin commended the Commission and ADEED as being "ahead of the curve" in seismic safety issues.

- Commission members: Commissioner Kelly and others thanked Mr. Griffin for his participation.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

11:00 a.m.

- Commissioner Kelly moved, and Commissioner Koehler seconded to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.