



April 5, 2012

I. OPENING BUSINESS

1:00 p.m.

- Call to Order (John Aho, Chairperson); Roll call: Commission members John Aho, Gary Carver, Bud Cassidy, Roger Hansen, Laura Kelly, Rich Koehler, Dan Mahalak, David Miller, Ann Gravier, Robert Scher and Gayle White were present. Ann Gravier will be taking over Mark Roberts' position. April Woolery, Administrative Assistant with the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS), was also present
- The meeting agenda was approved with the following changes: Commissioner Scher added an item under New Business for the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA), and Commissioner Koehler added an item under Old Business for a proposed Seismic Clearing House website.
- Introductions of Guests: Dr. Robert McCoy, the Director of the Geophysical Institute, UAF, was present.
- Review and Approval of Minutes for the February 2nd, 2012 meeting: The minutes were approved with amendments.

II. BRIEFINGS

1:15 p.m.

- Dr. Robert McCoy gave a presentation on space weather. His work, along with that of Philippe Lognonne with the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, has implications for early warning of disruptive electromagnetic storms and possibly an even earlier warning of tsunami danger than the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) buoy system gives.
- Recent Seismic Activity of Interest-Hansen: For January through March, 2012, 6,854 seismic events were recorded in the state of Alaska. There was a magnitude 5.2 event in the Bering Strait Chukchi Sea area.
- Health of the Weak and Strong Motion Networks-Hansen: The Alaska Earthquake Information Center (AEIC) is planning to fix stations that are not working. The BLM has been a good partner in the work of maintaining sites. AEIC employee Natasha Ruppert attended the Real-Time GPS position Data Products and Formats workshop in boulder, CO March 26 through 28, 2012. This workshop covered data use and products of GPS networks in the U.S. The AEIC is working with the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) to maintain and upgrade sites, but there have been some problems. Commissioner Hansen plans to send Bill Leith of the USGS information about these issues in the next couple of weeks. He would like to be able to go back to the AEIC hiring a contractor to maintain stations.
- NTHMP Meeting-Hansen: The USGS had a funding cut, but they are still able to fund local networks.
- MOA/GAC Activity Update-Scher: KABATA has selected three teams to work up a design package for the proposed bridge. They have not yet issued a formal request for proposal. Regarding the port facility, CH2MHill's draft technical review will be available later this month. Commissioner Scher will let ASHSC members know once this is released. Commissioner Carver pointed out that the ASHSC should look at large projects that will be built with public funding in Alaska and give input where

appropriate. These can be added as agenda items, and Commissioner Koehler, chair of the Hazards ID committee, will compile a list of potential projects.

III. OLD BUSINESS

2:40 p.m.

- Action Items: The next face-to-face meeting will be in Anchorage on September 11 and 12, 2012. Members should give input on what they would like to discuss and work on in meetings. Any member who has not completed the online Incident Command System training should do so as soon as possible. Commissioner Scher would like to see more work done on suggested legislation/policy recommendations to the Legislature. Suggestions for future presentations are always welcome. Commissioner Carver pointed out that the commission could pick the top five projects in the state by cost and invite speakers from those projects to present at meetings.
- 2011 Annual Report-Aho: This has been completed and is now available on the web site. Chairman Aho will need a one to two page report from each committee chair to add to the 2012 ASHSC Annual report, which will be due later this year.
- ASHSC Strategic Plan-Aho: Chairman Aho will meet with commission members to work on this.
- Potential New Members, Reappointment Letters: There are seats coming open for Insurance and Local Government, and Chairman Aho and Commissioners Hansen and Miller should send in their reappointment letters.
- Post-Earthquake Clearing House for Alaska-Koehler: California has an earthquake clearinghouse web site (<http://www.eqclearinghouse.org/CA/>) which is managed by a consortium of state, federal and national agencies, including the California Seismic Safety Commission. This web site is used to disseminate information and coordinate research responses to seismic events. Commission members discussed the site. Commissioner Koehler requested that they contribute feedback to the creation of a policy recommendation that a similar site be developed and maintained for Alaska. Commissioner Koehler also gave a presentation on how social media, including blogs, Twitter and Facebook, can be used to disseminate information following a seismic event.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST

3:40 p.m.

- 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
- IRIS Meeting, June 13-15, 2012, Boise, ID
- ASHSC Face-to-Face Meeting, September 11-12, 2012, Anchorage
- 15th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, September 24-28, 2012, Lisbon, Portugal
- Non-Structural Seismic Mitigation and Rapid Visual Screening Training, October 2012, Anchorage
- Tsunami Operations Workshop, November, 2012, Seward, AK
- 10th U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, 2014 - Anchorage

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES

3:50 p.m.

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- ASHSC Report to WSSPC TBD
 - Chairman Aho will ask the WSSPC contact person about this at the April meeting in Memphis.
- ASHSC Strategic Plan TBD
 - Chairman Aho will meet with Commission members to discuss.
- 2012 Report to Legislature Final February 1, 2013
 - Committee chairs will prepare a one to two page summary of goals, activity and accomplishments for the past year.
- Legislative Trip TBD

VI. NEW BUSINESS

4:00 p.m.

- Future briefings:
 - Brainstorm future briefings: Possibilities include the Alaska Energy Authority, which deals with large-scale energy projects and Carl Tape, a new assistant professor at the Geophysical Institute who models earth deformation as a result of seismic events.
 - Mat-Su Prison
 - Seismic Risk Mitigation in schools-Mary Lou Zoback
 - MOA Emergency Operations Center Tour
 - Utilities Risk Mitigation Approaches
 - 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
 - Briefing on Creation of Legislation-DNR Legislative Liaison
 - Other suggestions should be forwarded to Chairman Aho
- KABATA Letter: Commissioner Scher suggested that the commission send a letter to KABATA recommending an independent technical review of the Knik Arm bridge project. He provided a draft copy of the letter for consideration.

VII. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4:20 p.m.

- Earthquake Scenario-Carver: The Kodiak HAZUS run is in progress and a product should be forthcoming in two to three weeks. To complete a scenario, there must be a report to go with the HAZUS run. The committee discussed the scope of a possible report and determined that they should ask FEMA whether they will include a report with the completed HAZUS information.
Commissioners Carver and Koehler recently attended a workshop in Seattle that covered updating the probabilistic seismic maps used to create building codes. Commissioner Carver provided copies of the Cascadia Scenario draft to Craig Weaver of the USGS and to the incoming president of the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup for their input. Carver and Koehler were able to refine some of the fault information for a potential Cascadia event that could affect Alaska. Commissioner Carver asked each committee member to respond with comments on the draft white paper within one week, by April 16, 2012. He especially would like to see feedback on the recommendations in the paper.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED UNTIL 04/06/12 AT 8:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

April 6, 2012

I. OPENING BUSINESS 8:00 a.m.

- Call to Order (John Aho, Chairperson); Roll call: Commission members John Aho, Bud Cassidy, Roger Hansen, Laura Kelly, Rich Koehler, Dan Mahalak, David Miller, Ann Gravier, Robert Scher and Gayle White were present. Gary Carver was excused. April Woolery, Administrative Assistant with the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) was also present.
- The April 6, 2012 agenda was approved with the additions, under reports, of Rod Combellick's presentation on the Legislative audit and reauthorization and Laura Kelly's discussion of Rapid Visual Screening (RVS).
- Guests: Rod Combellick of DGGS, UAA Associate Professor Dr. Zhaohui (Joey) Yang, and Joanne Bennett with the Alaska Division of Insurance.

II. REPORTS 8:15 a.m.

- Chairperson
 - Joint Meeting with the GAC-September 11, 2012: Commissioner Scher agreed that this might be a good idea as long as the agenda is not too full to accommodate it.
 - www.disasterbookstore.com: Chairman Aho shared this site as a good resource.
 - MOA Port Instrumentation Letter: This has now been sent. Chairman Aho will send copies to commission members for their records.
 - Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP): Chairman Aho continues to attend the monthly meetings.
 - WSSPC/EERI Meeting Attendance: Aho and Hansen will attend, as will Rod Combellick of DGGS.
 - Lloyd Cluff Lecture, September 11, 2012: This talk was originally given in London and will cover the evolution of modern geotechnical engineering and research.
 - Joyner Lecture-Jonathan Bray, Berkeley, Exchange of Information at Interface of Earthquake Research and Earthquake Engineering: This will be presented at the EERI meeting. Aho will attend and see if this is a possibility for a future guest lecture here in Anchorage. If commission members know of a good possibility for such lectures, let Chairman Aho know.
- Legislative Audit and Reauthorization of the Commission-Rod Combellick: He gave a summary of his observations of this reauthorization cycle and suggestions for the future. The Legislative Auditors recommended that the ASHSC be extended to 2016, but the Legislature extended the Commission only to 2014. Mr. Combellick recommended completing a strategic plan in order to show progress, stating attainable goals for the committees, and addressing the issues raised by the legislative audit report and completing as many as possible. DNR Legislative Liaison Esther Tempel could be invited to speak about dealing with legislative audits as well.

BREAK 9:00 a.m.

III. COMMITTEE MEETINGS 9:15 a.m.

- Schools-Kelly: She reviewed committee goals in the Annual Report. She has also been part of the user review process for the FEMA 154 Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) program. This program has been redone as a computer program called Rover that will allow information to be handled digitally. Commissioner Kelly was requested to provide input as some Alaskan locations have the unusual situation of high seismic activity and hurricane force winds. RVS is an assessment tool that can be useful in determining the potential safety of buildings before and after a seismic event. Getting buildings screened prior to an event provides a baseline as well as a planning tool to mitigate hazards in vulnerable structures. One Oregon professor of architecture has her undergraduate students perform screening of campus buildings under the guidance of a credentialed engineer. They have created an inventory of all of the buildings on their campus in a low-cost way that also provides real-world experience for the students. Commissioner Scher would like to commission to suggest this method as a possibility for the University of Alaska. Rod Combellick agreed that this would be worth pursuing. He also pointed out that the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (ADEED) should be kept in the loop on this, as their CIP application now specifically addresses seismic issues. Commissioner Scher will try to invite the chair of the state PTA to attend an ASHSC meeting and provide input on school seismic issues. He will also send recommendation ideas to Commissioner Kelly about getting guidance from Sam Kito of ADEED on approaching school districts regarding seismic issues. Chairman Aho would like a one-page summary of the Schools Committee's goals for the strategic plan.

IV. BRIEFING 10:10 a.m.

- UAA Earthquake Engineering Research-Dr. Zhaohui (Joey) Yang: Dr. Yang is an Associate Professor with the UAA Civil Engineering Department. He shared the results of his research into how frozen ground interacts with structural support pilings. His research reflects seasonal differences in ground that freezes and thaws over the course of a year, but it can be applied to permafrost.

V. COMMITTEE MEETINGS (continued) 11:20 a.m.

- Insurance-White: The insurance brochure is complete. Distribution could include a link from the Alaska Board of Insurance website, the Division of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) workshop to be held next week, APIP meetings, and the Public Information Office in the Atwood Building. Commissioner Gravier said that the DMVA can print and disseminate these at their outreach events. Mr. Combellick said that DGGs could also print and distribute these at their Fairbanks office. Chairman Aho asked if members of the Alaska insurance industry have venues where seismic issues could be discussed. Commissioner White said that there is an event called I-Day that would be appropriate for this. Her successor can follow up on the possibility of ASHSC speakers attending the event to present information about seismic hazards in Alaska and ask how the ASHSC could help Alaskan insurers. There is a paper on insurance pros and cons on the action items list. Since the Insurance Committee

brochure covers this information, Commissioner White asked that the paper be removed from the list.

LUNCH 12:00 p.m.

VI. COMMITTEE MEETINGS (continued) 1:00 p.m.

- Hazards Identification-Koehler: The Quaternary Faults and Folds of Alaska database is now complete in draft form. A finished version should be complete soon. This database is searchable, sortable and will be updated as new information becomes available. There is a map as well as the database which contains fault characterizations or attributes. Known faults are distinguished from suspected faults on the map. The database contains the most up-to-date information about recently active Alaskan faults. Part of the work of getting this database ready for on-line publication as paid for by a grant obtained with the help of the ASHSC. Mr. Combellick suggested that the ASHSC recommend to the AEIC that they replace their existing map with the database map, and all commission members were in favor.
- Education and Outreach-Scher: He would like to see news releases added to the front page of the website. He would also like to have a glossary of seismic terms and definitions on the website. He has a draft of this and will work to complete it. Chairman Aho will send a finished acronym list to post on the site, as well. Commissioner Scher reported that there is legislation in place holding building inspectors harmless except in cases of deliberate negligence. However, the statute covers only property damage: loss of use is not addressed. Commissioner Scher will draft a letter to the state Attorney General's Office asking for clarification. He contacted the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors about adding seismic standards to the licensing requirements for professional engineers and architects.
- Response and Recovery-Gravier: Nothing to report as yet. There have been no recent seismic-related disasters.
- Partnering-Aho: Chairman Aho is seeking input on goals for this committee. Commissioner Kelly suggested bringing in someone from the Alaska Professional Design Council as a guest speaker. Chairman Aho will continue to attend the monthly APIP meetings and pursue outreach to groups such as the Alaska PTA and WSSPC. EERI will pay to bring Joyner Lecturers to Anchorage. EERI will also run the 2014 National Earthquake Engineering Conference in Anchorage.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS 4:00 p.m.

- Certificates presented to outgoing members.
- Budget Report-Woolery: The current budget is \$562.05, with most of the expenses for the current meeting accounted for.
- ASHSC Web Site Update Status-Woolery: The web site minutes will be updated soon.
- Next Meeting Date: Teleconference on June 7, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. The next face-to-face meeting will be in Anchorage September 11 and 12, 2012.

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT

4:15 p.m.

Commissioner Koehler moved, and Commissioner Kelly seconded to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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