

Minutes April 24-25, 2013 Meeting – Anchorage

April 24, 2013 - OPENING BUSINESS

- Scher called meeting to order at 10:35 am. Commission members John Aho, Gary Carver, Bud Cassidy, Mark Delozier, Ann Gravier, Laura Kelly, Rich Koehler, David Miller, Buzz Scher, and Mike West present; Robin McSharry excused – quorum established. April Woolery (DNR-DGGS Staff) not able to attend.
- Guest - Joann Bennett, State Division of Insurance. Ben Anderson, Alaska Dispatch (pm)
- No modifications to agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

- Delozier moved (Aho seconded) to accept draft minutes from the January 10, 2013 meeting: minor edits noted – said minutes approved. No minutes available from February 11 or March 7 meetings.
- Reviewed action items from March 7, 2013 meeting.
- Reviewed and updated commissioner's contact information. Current terms for commissioners Gravier, Koehler, and Scher end June 30, 2013 – all have notified the State Boards & Commissions requesting re-appointment.

COMMISSION UPDATES

- West summarized recent seismic activity in Alaska: about 2,200 located earthquakes in March, including 12 felt events; max M5.7 near Adak; still recording aftershock from December M7.5 Craig earthquake.
- West summarized status of Alaska seismic networks: AEIC preparing for summer field season; no change in DSL communication issues for some instruments; Anchorage network to be discussed later in meeting.
- Scher reviewed recent activities of the MOA GAC: CH2MHILL has completed a conceptual evaluation of five schemes to move the POA expansion project forward – all involve removing the open-cell sheet-pile bulkheads and constructing various pile supported docks – Mayor's Office to select a preferred scheme; working on local amendments for the MOA to adopt the IBC 2012.
- Aho updated the status of EERI and local planning for the 10th NCEE in 2014 (see meetings of interest below); starting to solicit for local sponsors.
- Aho presented two single-day Post-EQ Building Safety Evaluation Training courses for MOA staff (Scher participated), on April 15 and 16.
- Gravier reviewed DHS&EM's Spring Preparedness Conf on April 2-4; and updated the status of FEMA's 'Alaska Shield' training exercise planned in early 2014.
- West attended a meeting of the New Madrid Coordination Committee to discuss interregional coordination between groups interested in earthquake education outreach (on April 19 at the SSA 2013 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City).
- West pointed out that NEHRP expired several years ago, and remains unfunded.

- Kelly summarized the status of ATC's project to update FEMA 154 (rapid visual screening); Kelly and Aho will participate in a program to 'test' the draft new procedures later in April.
- West noted that Senator Begich's office is working on new legislation to reauthorize the expired Tsunami Warning and Education Act (TWEA); the Commission's support of the bill would be appropriate once it goes to committee.

RECESSED FOR LUNCH AT 11:50 A.M. – RECONVENED AT 12:55 P.M.

PROJECT WORK SESSIONS

- **KODIAK EARTHQUAKE PLANNING SCENARIO**
 - Conference call with Tamra Biasco & Kelly Stone, FEMA (in Seattle). Group discussion about FEMA's draft Earthquake Risk Assessment Report for Kodiak: e.g. building inventory & recent structural seismic upgrades; population distribution; day-night occupancy; may request re-running Hazus for the Narrow Cape fault scenario; Kodiak study comparable to Seattle fault scenario in terms of damage loss ratios; study only accounts for damage due to ground shaking, does not consider tsunamis or landslides (i.e. Pillar Mt); FEMA will add debris, refugees, casualties and injuries to next version; FEMA has funding to complete this project; FEMA does not need to discuss background (e.g. physical setting and earthquake scenarios - see below); damage at airport focused on building, not pavements; etc.
 - Discussed Carver's preliminary draft of the overall project report. Carver and West will resolve questions about the ShakeMap for the Narrow Cape fault earthquake scenario.
- **ASHSC POST EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PLAN**
 - Group discussion about the framework for the Commission's action plan following a damaging earthquake (i.e. initial list of topic items compiled by Gravier and West; Commission's statutory powers and duties; immediate v. response and recovery activities; coordination with DHS&EM; information releases; plans by other State seismic commissions; etc.).

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- Nat'l Earthquake Program Managers Mtg, April 30-May 2, 2013, Seattle, WA
- WSSPC Annual Meeting, May 2-3, 2013, Seattle, WA [Koehler will serve as Commission's proxy for any votes]
- Nat'l Earthscope Meeting, May 13-15, 2013, Raleigh, N.C.
- Advanced Seismic Systems Network, National Implementation Committee, June 12-13, 2013, Denver, CO
- DHS&EM Fall Preparedness Conf, October 8-10, 2013, Anchorage, AK
- SSA Annual Meeting, April 30-May 2, 2014, Anchorage, AK
- 10th Nat'l Conf on Earthquake Engineering/EERI Annual Meeting/NEES Quake Summit, July 21-25, 2014, Anchorage, AK

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

- Reviewed draft letter to the Office of the Governor recommending the State's sponsorship of the 10th NCEE – comments accepted and letter approved.
- Reviewed Commission's Charter and Rules of Procedures – consensus of need to update both documents (Aho and Scher to lead that effort).

RECESSED FOR DAY AT 5:00 P.M.

April 25, 2013 - RECONVENE MEETING

- Scher called meeting to order at 8:30 am. Commission members John Aho, Gary Carver, Bud Cassidy, Mark Delozier, Ann Gravier, Laura Kelly, Rich Koehler, David Miller, Buzz Scher, and Mike West present; Robin McSharry excused – quorum established. April Woolery (DNR-DGGS Staff) not able to attend.
- Guest - Joann Bennett, State Division of Insurance (am); Peter Haeussler, USGS (am); Elizabeth Bluemink, DNR (pm)
- Added the EarthScope project to Agenda under New Business - approved.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **SCHOOLS**
 - Kelly (Chair) made contact with Stuart Gerger (ADEED, Sam Kito's replacement); provided information on ADEED's capital projects for last year; continuing to communicate with the State PTA; reviewed recent legislation passed in Utah to fund identification of schools at risk to earthquakes.
 - Group discussion on federally funded projects in Alaska that focused on identifying the seismic risk to schools (i.e. ±14 schools in Kodiak; 2 in Anchorage; 2 starting in MatSu).
 - Carver moved (Aho seconded) the Committee draft a statement of work, and apply for a grant to fund a rapid screening assessment pilot project of a select number of schools – passed unanimously.
 - Aho is pushing for a special session at the 10th NCEE pertaining to schools.
- **INSURANCE**
 - No report from McSharry (Chair)
 - Discussed potential tasks for the Committee: e.g. data on earthquake coverage in Alaska by sector (e.g. residential, business, government, etc.); how does the Anchorage "seismically induced ground-failure map" (adopted into the MOA administrative planning and building codes) affect insurance rates; Peter Haeussler (guest) said the recent Joyner Lecturer's presentation included information on earthquake insurance coverage in cities hit by recent damaging earthquakes.

BREIFINGS

- **ALASKA EARTHQUAKE ALLIANCE**

- Peter Haeussler (USGS) presented his vision to establish a web-based Alaska Earthquake Alliance (using the California “Bay Area Earthquake Alliance” as a model), including purpose, organization, membership, operations etc. While this project would not be sanctioned by USGS, the USGS chief executive for Alaska, Leslie Holland-Bartles, has volunteered to provide some staff support during startup.
- Carver moved (West seconded) the Commission support to join and participate in committee and assist Peter Haeussler to get the project started – passed unanimously.
- **EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS**
 - Gravier briefed the Commission on a recent workshop in Seattle discussing the status of earthquake early warning systems.
 - West suggested that while these systems are still a ways off, Alaska could be a very good location for their use, as the Aleutian megathrust source is far enough away to allow a reasonable 20-30 second warning.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONTINUED

- **EARTHQUAKE SCENARIO**
 - Carver (Chair) - see discussion under Project Work Sessions on April 24th.
- **HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION**
 - Koehler (Chair) briefed Commission on the new DGGs on-line access to the Quaternary fault map, and the USGS’s efforts to link that map into their national fault database; work underway to update the State’s “are you ready for the next earthquake” pamphlet (produced by FEMA, DGGs, USGS, and DHS-EM); continuing work (with West’s assistance) on the Alaska seismic sources paper.

NEW BUSINESS

- **ANCHORAGE STRONG MOTION NETWORK WORK GROUP**
 - West and Aho scheduling a meeting with AVO, USGS, AEIC and UAA to discuss operation, maintenance, and data archiving procedures and issues .
 - As of late March, 12 out of 34 (?) free-field instruments in the Anchorage network were not working!
- **STATE OF ALASKA ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**
 - Koehler lead a group discussion to update the portions of Section 5.6 of the State’s All Hazard Mitigation Plan relevant to the Commission. Koehler will pass the collated comments on to DHS-EM.

RECESSED FOR LUNCH AT 12:15 P.M. – RECONVENED AT 1:15 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- **PRESS RELEASES**
 - Elizabeth Bluemink (DNR) discussed procedures for issuing press releases.
 - We learned DNR-DGGs does not forward our press releases (e.g. for the face-to-face meetings) to the media or the legislature; we need to notify the media

directly of upcoming meetings; and to request specifically when we want a release to go to the legislature. Elizabeth did not know if the Commission can send out press releases on our own, without going through DNR.

- **SEWARD/BEAR CREEK FSA HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**
 - Brief discussion of this report, forwarded by former Commissioner Dan Mahalak; Scher to compile comments.
- **EARTHSCOPE**
 - West briefed Commission about status of the national Earthscope project, which will be deployed in full in Alaska in 2017 and run through 2019. AEIC actively working on strategies to secure funding to purchase the instruments at the end of the project, in-place, to enhance the State's seismic network.
 - Aho moved (Kelly seconded) the Commission be a non-financial sponsor of the 10th NCEE – passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONTINUED

- **EDUCATION, OUTREACH & PARTNERING**
 - Scher (Chair) briefed Commission on an upcoming meeting by the AELS (re: to discuss the Commission's recommendations for changes to the regulations to better assure civil engineers in Alaska have a basic understanding of seismic engineering and the hazard in the state); status of the Committee's draft white paper on value of seismic instrumentation for engineers and facility owners; planned white paper on ShakeMaps.
- **RESPONSE & RECOVERY**
 - Gravier (Chair) – see discussion under Project Work Sessions on April 24th.

CRITICAL DEADLINES

- AELS Meeting (*PR 2011-2*), Fairbanks (May 2-3, 2013)
- Legislative 'Sunset' Audit (Summer 2013)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Allotted one hour for public comment (2-3 p.m.) – none given

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- Discussed the status of the Commission's Policy Recommendations, and ideas to move them forward.
- Added two new topics to the Commission's list of potential future briefings (i.e. review of past seismic retrofit projects; Public Information Officer training).

CLOSING BUSINESS

- Scher recited new action items
- No budget report (Woolery absent)
- **Next Meeting (Teleconference – May 30, 2013; 9-11 a.m.)**
- Carver moved (Koehler seconded) to adjourn the meeting – passed unanimously – meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.