



**Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**  
**Teleconference**

- I. OPENING BUSINESS 9:00 a.m.
- Call to Order (Robert Scher, Chairperson); Roll call: Commission members John Aho, Bud Cassidy, Mark Delozier, Ann Gravier, Laura Kelly, Rich Koehler, Robin McSharry, and Robert “Buzz” Scher were present. Gary Carver, Jonathan Owen, and Mike West were excused. April Woolery of the Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) was also present.
  - Introductions/Guests: None.
  - Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Delozier moved to accept the draft agenda for February 12, 2015; Koehler seconded. The agenda was accepted with additions.
  - Ethics Act: No violations to report.
  - Commission Membership: This is Robin McSharry’s last meeting before she must resign her position due to a job transfer. Jonathan Owen is now the Chief of Police in Barrow. He will continue in his position on the Commission.
  - Election of Officers for 2015: Robert Scher was nominated and seconded by Commissioners Aho and Delozier for the position of Chair. All in favor. Rich Koehler was nominated and seconded by Commissioners Kelly and Aho for the position of Vice-Chair. All in favor.
- II. OLD BUSINESS
- Review December 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes and action items: Commissioner Kelly moved, Aho seconded to approve minutes. Minutes accepted with changes. Chair will review and update the action items list for the next meeting.
  - 2014 Annual Report – Koehler: Updates to introduction and figures by Commissioner West, all comments incorporated at this time. Discussion. Rich will make suggested addition and finalize.
  - ASHSC Policy Recommendations:
    - Update PRs 2010-1 and 2010-2: Cassidy will finalize 2010-1 and send it out for comment. Aho has received some comments back for 2010-2. He will incorporate these and work on an action plan for the PR.
    - PRs 2011-1 through 5 – Scher: Scher will forward these to the appropriate standing committees as action items.
  - Added: Commissioner Koehler suggested at the December 2014 meeting to nominate the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) for the Western States Seismic Policy Council’s (WSSPC) Award of Excellence for the 2014 Alaska Shield Exercise. Chairman Scher forwarded

the nomination to WSSPC. He was pleased to report that DHS&EM won the award.

### III. COMMITTEE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Schools – Kelly: Received draft report from BBFM for the Schools RVS Pilot Project. ASHSC members commented and BBFM responded and revised their report. Kelly will ask The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) if there are more funds available to expand the project.
- Earthquake Scenario – Carver: Excused. Scher and Aho will complete the draft of the Kodiak scenario report.
- Hazards Identification – Koehler: Good progress on the Seismic Sources of Alaska paper.
- Response and Recovery – Gravier: Nothing new to report. Chairman Scher asked about FEMA's enhanced mitigation plans. Gravier explained briefly that usually, 15% of funds given by FEMA can be used for mitigation. With an enhanced plan, that amount increases to 20%. There are extra grant management requirements with an enhanced plan. DHS&EM is looking into whether they have the administrative staff to make enhanced plans feasible. Gravier will get more details and follow up at the next meeting.
- Insurance – McSharry: Discussion of talking points regarding homeowners' insurance. ASHSC members will review and work with the Insurance Industry Representative who will fill McSharry's position.
- Education, Outreach and Partnering – Scher: Discussed under Chair's Report.
- Chair's Report – Scher: Discussion of hazard mitigation reports: Scher will contact Gravier for more information. Commissioner Kelly forwarded information on the Alaska Professional Design Council as a partnering resource. Per Commissioner Kelly's suggestion, Scher sent a letter to the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing regarding the policy recommendation to upgrade the licensing requirements for Alaskan engineers. The 2014 fourth quarter ethics report has been filed.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Public Comments: None.
- Added: HB 35: Koehler and Scher gave supporting testimony. The bill passed the house and has yet to pass the Senate.
- America Bridge/Alaska Schools Global Earthquake Forecasting Project – Scher and Cassidy: Discussed under Policy Recommendations.
- Commission's Goals for 2015 – Scher: Members should forward these to Chairman Scher.
- ASHSC Policy Recommendations: Discussion of the America Bridge/Alaska Schools Global Earthquake Forecasting Project. Scher and Koehler spoke separately to Ron Fortunato, the project head. Both agreed that teaching high school students to collect data and use scientific instruments is a good thing. However, they have reservations about the idea that the project can be used to predict earthquakes as it uses experimental, unproven methods. Mr. Fortunato said that he would be willing to talk with the Commission at the next face-to-

face meeting. He told Koehler that he is aware that earthquakes can't be predicted: the project is for research and is not a demonstrated or known science. Koehler and West will work on a possible response/clarification from the Commission.

- Future Briefings – All: Ron Fortunato is a possibility.
- Other: None.

## V. BRIEFINGS

- Alaska Earthquake Center – West: West excused. Koehler reported that the Pribilof Islands had a series of recent events: one magnitude five and several in the M3-4 range.
- MOA GAC Activity – Scher: He forwarded links to the project website and two reports of updated seismic studies:
  - MOA Port Modernization Project:  
<http://www.portofalaska.com/modernization-project.html>
  - Anchorage Port Modernization Project Seismic Ground Response Study:  
[http://www.portofalaska.com/images/documents/Modernization\\_Project/concept\\_plan1214/GroundResponseReport.pdf](http://www.portofalaska.com/images/documents/Modernization_Project/concept_plan1214/GroundResponseReport.pdf)
  - Appendix E: URS Site-Specific Seismic Hazard Analysis and Development of Earthquake Ground Motions for the Anchorage Port Modernization Project, Alaska:  
[http://www.portofalaska.com/images/documents/Modernization\\_Project/concept\\_plan1214/AppendixE-URS-SiteSpecificHazardAnalysisAndDevelopmentOfEarthquakeGroundMotions.pdf](http://www.portofalaska.com/images/documents/Modernization_Project/concept_plan1214/AppendixE-URS-SiteSpecificHazardAnalysisAndDevelopmentOfEarthquakeGroundMotions.pdf)
- Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquakes, M9 Earthquake Scenario; 2013 Update: Link for information only, no discussion.  
[http://crew.org/sites/default/files/cascadia\\_subduction\\_scenario\\_2013.pdf](http://crew.org/sites/default/files/cascadia_subduction_scenario_2013.pdf)

## VI. CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- Tsunami Operations Workshop; 10-12 March 2015, Ketchikan
- EERI 2015 Annual Meeting; 31 March – 3 April 2015; Boston  
<http://2015am.eeri-events.org/>
- DHS&EM Spring Preparedness Conference; 7-10 April 2015, Anchorage
- SSA 2015 Annual Meeting; 21-23 April 2015; Pasadena  
<http://www.seismosoc.org/>
- 2015 WSSPC Annual Meeting; 24 April 2015, Pasadena
- 2015 National Earthquake Program Managers Annual Meeting; 6-8 May 2015; Charleston, SC  
<http://www.wsspc.org/programs-events/eq-program-managers/nepm-2015/>
- 111th GSA Cordilleran Section Annual Meeting; 11-13 May 2015; Anchorage  
<http://www.geosociety.org/Sections/cord/2015mtg/>
- 11th Canadian Conference on Earthquake Engineering; 21-24 July 2015; Victoria, BC

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
February 12, 2015

<http://www.canadianearthquakeconference.ca/>

- 2016 Association of American State Geologists Annual Meeting; June 2016; Fairbanks  
[http://www.stategeologists.org/upcoming\\_meetings.php?id=251](http://www.stategeologists.org/upcoming_meetings.php?id=251)

## VII. CLOSING BUSINESS

- Critical Deadlines:
  - ASHSC 2014 Annual Report – Koehler will send out the final version to Commission members.
  - Legislative Visit – Members decided against it this year.
- Administrative Matters
  - New Legislative Liaison: Courtney Sanborn  
907.465.7430 Courtney.sanborn@alaska.gov
  - Budget Report (FY15) – Woolery: Currently \$6,725
- Next Meeting: Details TBA.

## ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cassidy moved, Delozier seconded, to adjourn. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.