

## JULY 23, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

### OPENING BUSINESS

- Commissioner Scher (Chair) called meeting to order at 9 am. April Woolery (Staff, DGGGS) took attendance: Commissioners Aho, Kelly, Koehler, Scher and West present; Carver, Cassidy and Gravier excused; and Owen was absent. One guest, Steve Masterman (Director, DGGGS)
- Kelly moved to approve agenda, Aho seconded motion; two items added (November workshop under New Business; FEMA/Hazus projects in Alaska under Briefings); motion approved with additions (unanimous).
- Upon inquiry from Scher, no commissioners expressed conflicts with any of the items on the agenda, or any items covered in the State Ethics Act.
- At present the commission consists of nine members (the Insurance Representative position is still vacant; and there is now one Local Government Representative position vacant - Mark Delozier, who's term expired on 06/30/2015, requested not to be reappointed). Additionally, the terms of three commissioners expired on 06/30/2015 (Aho, Owen and West). Scher has communicated with Lindy Irwin (Boards & Commissions) who said they have received applications to fill the two vacancies; and that Aho, Owen and West, are still recognized members, they have all reapplied, and that their reappointments are in process.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Kelly moved to approve draft minutes from the May 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Aho seconded motion; minor edits discussed; motion passed, with edits (unanimous).
- Efforts to update and re-adopt PRs 2011-1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 still progressing. No updated PR is yet ready for Commission review and approval at this time.
- West moved to approve draft (by Gravier) 'Alaska addition to WSSPC PR 15-2 (*Developing Earthquake Risk-Reduction Strategies*)', Aho seconded motion; discussion to shorten; Koehler and West agreed to edit draft; Scher will circulate final draft for Commission approval via email.
- Trillium Earthquake Forecasting Research Project in Alaska Schools: The Commission's letter (06/04/2015) to Commissioner Hanley (ADEED) caused much reaction: Scher summarized a telephone conversation with Commissioner Hanley, and email communications with Robert Boyle (Supt Ketchikan School District) and Dr. Bawden (NASA); West summarized a telephone conversation with Stewart McDonald (Supt Kodiak School District); and Masterman summarized calls to the DNR Commissioners office. West also summarized two new web sites linked to Trillium's program which list Alaska schools as "partners" in a "global earthquake forecast system". The meeting participants agreed that the issues appear to be related to misunderstandings, but that the primary purpose of the letter is still accurate and appropriate. Per recommendations from Kelly and Masterman, Scher agreed to draft a second letter to Commissioner Hanley.

### COMMITTEE PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Schools** – The final report for the MSBSD RVS project was sent to MSBSD, ADEED, and the chairs of each the Alaska Senate and House Education committees. Kelly reported that BBFM has started work on the Commission's RVS project for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (under a FEMA grant administered by EERI). Kelly and Gravier are also working on

applying for a FEMA grant to fund another RVS project in 2016, possibly for the Fairbanks-North Star Borough School District.

- **Earthquake Scenario** – no report
- **Hazards Identification** – Koehler reported he has taken a position with the University of Nevada-Reno and will be leaving DGGS at the end of July, and therefore will be resigning from the Commission [*as such the DNR position on the Commission will be vacant*]. Koehler will complete his white paper on the seismic sources of Alaska. The meeting participants were unanimous in their disappointment of Koehler's news, but happy for his future.
- **Response & Recovery** – no report
- **Insurance** – no report
- **Education, Outreach & Partnering** – in Chair's report
- **Chair's Report** – Scher summarized: the Commission's six letters sent since the May meeting, including two to the ADEED regarding implementation of PRs 2015-01 and 2015-02; a presentation to the SHMAC about the Commission's current activities; an email from Richard Jones (Executive Administrator, Board of AELS) saying the AELS voted-down their proposed new regulations for a structural engineer licensure [*the Commission provided written comments on 01/12/2015*]; and communications with Ron Wilde (MOA Building Safety) about the MOA's plans for a FEMA Hazus assessment of the earthquake risk in the Anchorage bowl area.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Public Comments - none
- Scher requested the members review the Commission's current "Rules & Procedures" for revision (e.g. role of DNR's staff member; time frame for re-evaluating policy recommendations, etc.).
- Potential New Policy Recommendations – Scher will draft a new PR, recommending the Municipality of Anchorage conduct an earthquake scenario study.
- No new potential 'future briefings' were added to the Commission's list (last updated 08/14/2014).
- West announced an upcoming two-day workshop at Fairbanks, in mid-November, focused on coordination and vulnerabilities during the next major earthquake in Alaska. The point of the workshop would be to bring together the UAF/AEC, DGGS, DHS&EM, USGS and the Commission, as well as other interested organizations to broaden and develop new partnerships coalesced around a few priorities. Funding for the workshop from FEMA (through WSSPC) has been approved. West requested (i) a member of the Commission to help on organizing committee; (ii) help from the commissioners to contact 'other' organizations to participate; and (iii) the Commission try to hold a face-to-face meeting in Fairbanks at that time, so that all the members can attend. Aho volunteered for item (i), and Scher committed the commission to items (ii & iii), subject to further discussion at our next meeting.

## BRIEFINGS

- West stated that the AEC is starting to see direct and substantial benefits of the NSF Earthscope Array project, particularly in regards to identifying more and better constraining earthquakes in western and northern Alaska.

- DGGS – [provided under Hazards Identification Committee report]
- DHS&EM – no report
- Scher reported the MOA GAC is still working with the Planning Department on draft land use regulations pertaining to the types of structural systems and occupancies in the downtown area.
- Other State Seismic Commissions – no report
- Kelly described the benefits of FEMA’s [draft] Kodiak Hazus report to the USCG following a recent earthquake near Kodiak, and the interest that type of study generated within the USCG for their other bases in Alaska and along the west coast. Kelly also summarized FEMA’s current schedule for completing ‘Risk MAP’ studies in Alaska (which include Hazus assessments).
- Upcoming conferences and meetings of possible interest to the commissioners include:
  - 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)
  - 2016 EERI Annual Meeting; 5-8 April 2016; San Francisco  
<http://www.eeri.org/>

#### CLOSING BUSINESS

- Reviewed the action items list: items “a, b, d, e, f, i, k and m” introduced at the May meeting were completed, all others are on-going; four new items added [*the updated list, minus the above completed items, is attached*].
- Woolery reported FY15 budget closed-out, and \$8,297 remaining in the FY16 budget (not including the cost of the July meeting). Masterman stated that the Commission needs to submit our FY17 budget request by the end of August 2015.
- Woolery reported that a link to WSSPC has been added to the ASHSC website. Woolery will inquire into the possibility of a ‘members only’ portal in the ASHSC website (e.g. for archiving Commission letters or work products not intended for public release).
- Next teleconference meeting will be scheduled in late August or early September.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.