



SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

OPENING BUSINESS

- Commissioner Scher (Chair) called meeting to order at 9:18 am. Commissioners Carver, Kelly, Gravier, Scher and West present; Commissioners Aho and Cassidy were excused. No DGGGS staff or guests.
- Gravier moved to approve agenda, Kelly seconded motion; no changes; motion passed 5-0.
- 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 seven members. Rich Koehler resigned effective 31 July, and Jonathon Owen resigned effective 18 September (retired and therefore can no longer serve as a designated 'local government representative) [*new 'Action Item' {AI} – DGGGS to prepare a certificate of appreciation for Jon*]. Scher was told by Shalome Cederberg (Boards & Commissions) that (i) candidates to fill the Insurance Representative and one of the Local Government Representative vacancies have been forwarded to the Governor for appointment; and (ii) Commissioners Aho and West, whose terms expired on 06/30/2015, have been submitted to the Governor for re-appointment. Scher was informed by Steve Masterman (Director DGGGS) that DeAnne Stevens will submit an application to fill the DNR Representative vacancy. Scher asked the other commissioners to forward names of possible candidates for him to call about filling the last remaining Local Government Representative vacancy.
- Kelly volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair for the remainder of 2015 – vote 5-0 in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

- Carver moved to approve draft minutes from the July 23rd meeting, Kelly seconded motion; two minor edits discussed; motion with edits passed 5-0.
- Kelly moved to adopt Policy Recommendation 2015-3 (Identification and Prioritizing Mitigation of Seismically Vulnerable Public Buildings), Carver seconded motion. This is a re-adoption of PR 2011-3, updated to reflect current references and the commission's current format (including and implementation and assessment plan). Minor edit to the 'conclusions'. Motion with edit passed 5-0. [*AI – Scher to implement*]
- West moved to adopt Policy Recommendation 2015-4 (Develop Contingency Plans to Mitigate the Possible Detrimental Effects of a Great Pacific Northwest Earthquake on Alaska), Carver seconded motion. This is a re-adoption of PR 2011-5, updated to reflect current references and the

commission's current format (including and implementation and assessment plan). Motion passed 5-0. [AI – Scher to implement]

- Updates of PRs 2011-1, 2, & 4 still progressing [AI - Gravier to investigate if/how other states provide civil liability protection for their post-earthquake damage assessment inspectors].
- Commission's "Rules & Procedures": Discussed possible changes to the current version (14 November 2013); (i) update role of DNR-DGGS staff [AI – Scher to request proposed text from DGGS], and (ii) agreed not to change three year time-frame for reviewing adopted policy recommendations.
- West updated status of the upcoming Alaska's Next Big Earthquake Partnering workshop in Fairbanks, 12-13 November: online registration should be available in early October; funding from FEMA available to cover travel for speakers; notable participants so far include Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., WSSPC, USGS, DOT&PF (airports), and a representative from the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW). Stephen Holtkamp (AEC) is organizing the workshop; Aho is on the organizing committee. Aho and Kelly will be two of the scheduled speakers. The commissions were requested to help 'spread the word' about the workshop once the online registration is active. Commissioners agreed to hold our next 'face-to-face' meeting in Fairbanks to coincide with the workshop [see *Closing Business*].
- Update on Trillium Earthquake Forecasting Research Project in Alaska Schools – West and Scher were each contacted by separate residents of Craig in mid-September, who had copies of and wanted to learn more about the Commission's letter to ADEED regarding the Trillium project. Apparently Trillium made a presentation to the Craig school board on 15 September, where they apparently again cited their senior's at Kodiak pickling up a signal several days before an earthquake in Talkeetna. Commissioners discussed possible means (e.g. letters, phone calls, etc.) to continuing voicing our concerns about Trillium continuing to present their educational opportunities to Alaska school districts (which the Commission supports) as an 'earthquake forecasting research project' [AI - Scher to call Supt of Craig School District; and draft letter to ADEED regarding the Commission's duties and working with ADEED].

COMMITTEE PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Schools** – Kelly reported the consultant BBFM is currently working on the Commission's Kenai Peninsula Borough School District project; their draft report should be available in November. Further, she has learned that the Anchorage School District may also be considering a RVS program [AI - Scher and Kelly to follow-up with BBFM & ASD].
- **Earthquake Scenario** – Carver stated the draft Kodiak Scenario report has been updated to include all previously provided comments, and also includes updated figures. Carver intends to get the updated draft report to Scher and former commissioner Rich Koehler (now at the University of Nevada) for checking, and then circulate a final draft for discussion at our November meeting.
- No reports of current activities of the **Hazards Identification, Response & Recovery, Insurance** [committee has been inactive pending appointment an Insurance Representative – see 'opening business' above], or **Education, Outreach & Partnering** committees.
- **Chair's Report** – Scher attended an ATC webinar on 23 September titled "Incremental Seismic Rehabilitation of School Buildings (K-12), presented by Barry Welliver [who has assisted the commission in the past]. The presentation included a number of salient points which the Commission can use in our work pertaining to schools and public buildings.

NEW BUSINESS

- Public Comments - none
- Scher introduced a proposed new policy recommendation titled “Municipality of Anchorage Earthquake Scenario Study” for the Commission’s consideration [*AI - Commissioners review draft for discussion at the November meeting*].
- Scher was contacted by Emily Roland (University of Washington) in early August regarding Kodiak-based outreach opportunities linked to a proposal they are preparing to the NSF for an earthquake research project offshore of the Alaska Peninsula. Cassidy and Carver also subsequently contacted her with additional information. [*AI – Scher to follow-up on status of the project*]
- No new ‘potential’ policy recommendations, ideas for ‘future’ briefings, or other ‘new’ business were introduced.

BRIEFINGS

- **AEC** - West reported he has been actively lobbying for funding that will allow the University to take over many of the Earthscope Array instruments once that project is complete; AEC issued a press release late in September regarding the benefits the state in the short period since the Earthscope Array project has been active in Alaska; the AEC website and server are being updated (mid-October target) to improve problems, including difficultly access the site immediately following an earthquake.
- **DHS&EM** – Gravier reported that Dan Belanger is the new Tsunami Grants Program Manager.
- 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 [*see action items list*].
- There were no reports on other activities at **DGGS**, or from **Other State Seismic Commissions**.
- Upcoming conferences and meetings of possible interest to the commissioners include:
 - ATC-SEI 2nd Conf on Improving Seismic Performance of Existing Buildings and Other Structures; 10-12 Dec 2015; San Francisco <http://atc-sei.org>
 - 2016 Association of American State Geologists Annual Meeting; June 2016; Fairbanks 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 Commission’s running action items list from July meeting (attached): ‘carry-over’ items ‘a, b (partial), d and f’, and items ‘b and c’ introduced at the July meeting were cleared - all other items still open.
- No critical dates identified; No budget report provided by DGGS; No comments on the ASHSC website
- Next meeting will be face-to-face, in Fairbanks on Wednesday 11 November 2015.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

ACTION ITEMS LIST (*From 23 July 2015 Meeting*)

MONTHLY ON-GOING ITEMS

- a. **The next commission meeting (teleconference) – TBD (late August/early September?).**
 - Send additions for agenda to the Chair at least 10 days before the meeting.
 - If you are not able to attend, send the Chair a brief report of the your activities (e.g. action items, projects, committee report, etc.) prior to the meeting - **All**
 - Post the meeting date on the State’s ‘Public Notices’ website, and schedule an Atwood Building conference room – **Staff**. Prepare a public service announcement at least one week before ‘face-to-face’ meetings – **Chair**
 - Finalize travel arrangements with Staff at least two weeks before meeting – **All**
 - Prepare meeting agenda and post on ASHSC website at least one week before meeting - **Chair/Staff**.
- b. Post to ASHSC website all approved minutes, documents and project reports - **Staff**

CARRY-OVER ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Review ‘earthquake insurance’ talking-points - **All** (*circulated by Commissioner McSharry on 10 Feb; on-hold awaiting appointment of the new Insurance Industry member*)
- b. Update the 2011 policy recommendations, per our current format, for re-adoption – **All** (*introduced at the 11-12 May meeting*)
 - Review PR 2011-1 (Development of an Earthquake Research Program) and submit comments to Commissioner Koehler prior to the next meeting
 - Review PR 2011-2 (Earthquake Knowledge Requirements for Alaska Professional Engineering Licensure) and submit comments to Commissioner Scher prior to the next meeting
 - Review PR 2011-3 (Identification and Mitigation Prioritization of Seismically Vulnerable Buildings) and submit comments to Commissioner Aho prior to the next meeting
 - Review PR 2011-4 (Relief from Liability for Qualified and Trained Post-Earthquake Damage Assessment Volunteers) and submit comments to Commissioner Scher prior to the next meeting
 - Review PR 2011-5 (Planning for the Effects of a Great PNW Earthquake on Alaska) and submit comments to Commissioner Carver prior to the next meeting
- c. Contact Gala Gulacsik (FEMA Region 10) regarding our concerns with FEMA’s Nov 2014 Kodiak Hazus report – **Scher** (*Gulacsik on leave until September 2015; introduced at the 11-12 May meeting*)
- d. Contact CREW to inquire about how their Cascadia Earthquake Scenario report is being utilized – **Carver** (*introduced at the 11-12 May meeting*)
- e. Draft a general information brochure about the ASHSC – **Aho** (*introduced at the 11-12 May meeting*)



- f. Modify the Commission's Rules and Procedures, for re-adoption, per the changes agreed to regarding meeting minutes – **Scher**

NEW ACTION ITEMS INTRODUCED AT THE 23 JULY MEETING

- a. Coordinate preparation of formal certificates to Robin McSharry, Mark Delozier and Rich Koehler acknowledging their participation and contributions to the Commission - **Staff**
- b. Edit the Commission's draft input (prepared by Gravier) to WSSPC PR 15-2 (Developing Earthquake Risk-Reduction Strategies) – **Koehler/West**; circulate final version for approval and submit to WSSPC - **Scher**
- c. Draft a letter to Commissioner Hanley (ADEED) following-up our June 4th letter regarding Trillium Learning's earthquake forecasting project in Alaska schools – **Scher**
- d. Check with Boards and Commissions about policies pertaining to archiving correspondence and other internal documents not for public release - **Scher**