

Meeting Agenda

Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission

Chair: Sterling Strait, sterling.strait@alyeska-pipeline.com 907-632-6543 (text/cell)

Day 1 – May 16

9:13 am

1. Opening Business

- a. Call to Order (*Chair*);
- b. Roll call (*Staff*)
 - Present – E. Athey, D. Gibbs, G. Gladsjo, L. Kelly, N. Ruppert, J. Salisbury, R. Scher, S. Strait, and K. Trimmer;
 - Excused – D. Balanger and M. Devine.
 - Guests – Michael Reemer STARR II/FEMA, Brent Nichols SOA DHD&EM, Ross Noffsinger MOA Building Safety, Stephanie Kruce DOT&PF SWPF, Colleen Gould DOT&PF SWPF, Matt Tanaka DOT&PF, Christopher Hodgkin DOT&PF SWPF, Bryan Fisher SOA DMVA DHS&EM, Wael Hassan University of Alaska Anchorage.
- c. Ethics Act (*Chair*) <http://www.law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics/EthicsInfoBC.html> - Nothing to report.
- d. Approval of the Agenda – Scher moves, Trimmer seconds, all in favor.
- e. Review/Approval of March 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Tabled until Friday, May 17.
- f. Chair Comments – Welcomes Trimmer, round table introductions. Goals for meeting, focus on Strategic Objectives, areas that Commission can help. Chair opens for public comment. Brent Nichols, agencies working with FEMA for mitigation strategy, developed goals & objectives to glean what, specifically happened during the (Nov. 30) event. Discussion. Chair speaks briefly about NEHRP workshop 09/2019.

2. Briefings – November 30th M7.1 Earthquake – Response & Recovery

- a. *Alaska Earthquake Center/DGGS* 9:42 am
 - *Natalia Ruppert AEC & Barrett Salisbury DGGS* – Salisbury presents tectonic overview of Alaska, regional seismic hazard assessments. Notes features, locations, and movement in areas. Compares faults, frequency of quakes, and differences of quakes seen in different fault regions. Shake map and details. Response immediately following Nov. 30 event, time of year, focus on major

highway damage. Q & A and discussion. [See attached for action items.](#)

BREAK

b. Municipality of Anchorage – Building Safety

10:21 am

- *Ross Noffsinger MOA Development Services* – Structures, ground motion, results of not building to code, and quality of construction in Anchorage, Eagle River, and areas north. Detailed damage assessments (of buildings), MOA inspectors observations, process for identifying damage, repairs, tracking repairs, tagging/placards. Noted damage in most Anchorage failures were soil failures, Eagle River failures were more structural, inspectors saw results of (Eagle River) cost cutting during construction, notes importance of third party oversight, permits required, statutes, differences in inspection & tagging for homes/commercial structures. Q. What are the differences in costs building in Anchorage vs. Eagle River? A. None. Concludes with take-aways and changes. [See attached for action items.](#)

Briefings – November 30th M7.1 Earthquake – Response & Recovery

(2. A. continued) Alaska Earthquake Center/DGGS

11:21 am

- *Natalia Rupert AEC & Barrett Salisbury DGGS* – Ruppert presents slides and tie-in with Salisbury presentation, impacts, tectonics, response focus areas (for AEC), media reporting and dissemination of information, misconceptions of earthquake events (prediction). Newspaper article (dated 1940's) shows (misconceptions are) not new phenomenon. Needed changes – social media, agencies to have timely, accurate information, and speak to people about psychological impact/stress. Q & A, discussion. [See attached for action items.](#)

c. Municipality of Anchorage – Geotechnical Advisory Commission

- *Buzz Scher Retired* **tabled until Friday.**

Break for Lunch

11:53 am

3. Afternoon Briefings

a. UAA Engineering

1:00 pm

- *Dr. Wael Hassan Department of Civil Engineering* - Structure and non-structural results following the event. Structural damage - minor (engineered and/or newer), moderate (non-engineered and/or older). Water damage was widespread. Building code background, changes, enforcement. Damage correlation to shaking intensity, distribution, and observations. Photos and details of residential, commercial (including mid & high rise), schools, hospitals, bridges, and lifelines. Recommends that more detailed inspections be carried out on buildings with severe damage. Notes boiler tanks of certain (large size) are not required to have quake restraints, details various buildings and the damage, will recommend code be revised to address the damage caused by

these large boiler tanks. Lifelines (electricity, gas, water, communications, airport . . .) must have the ability to operate during an event. Details suggested changes, including PE licensing to include seismic education at a master level, what will need legislative approvals. Q & A, and discussion. [See attached for action items.](#)

b. AK DOT & PF – Facilities Response

2:00 pm

- *Matt Tanaka* – Introduces additional DOT staff and presents Emergency Response Process. Initial response, facility users secure their buildings, establish C & C (Command & Control) Center, and inspections. Secondary response, inspections with volunteers and facilities staff. Initial response was good, personnel arrived from other areas, command center set up. Communication and deployment was from CC, details on response ops, getting qualified structural personnel assigned to each inspection team, prioritizing inspections, criteria, coordinating agencies and volunteers, and providing instruction for in-use facilities waiting for inspection. Inspection outcomes, initial data and comparisons. Notes a need for better contact information (building owners).
- *Colleen Gould* – Presents “What About Next Time”, information about inspections, Level I, and Level II. Level I inspection doesn’t require a professional, can be done by anyone (checking for obvious structural damage). Level II would be done by trained professionals. Discussion of different levels, criteria, and determination. [See attached for action items.](#)
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BREAK

c. AK DHS&EM – State Emergency Operations Center

3:13 pm

- *Mark Roberts/Brian Fisher* – B. Fisher, details of first 12 hours post event. #1 priority was to generate a tsunami warning, make sure communities receive the warning, problems with people misunderstanding the warning. Official declaration of disaster. Aerial surveys commenced, staff in place fairly quickly, FEMA on site. Able to show regs and planning were in place and worked. Noone was killed or seriously injured. Notes that because of the small number of healthcare facilities in AK, a large number of casualties would overwhelm and trigger need to bring in outside resources.
- Response & Public Information – Borough responses (Kenai, Anchorage, and Mat-Su) were good, but Kenai and Mat-Su could improve the public information side of response. Would like to see more participants in the annual Great Alaska Shake Out. Children do well during events because of drills (schools). Some jurisdictions need better written continuity plans. Drills are needed (continuity of operations, tsunami call down, SEOC). FEMA early recording concept details, agency has adopted. Lists schools open and closed, FEMA involvement. Training needs for state staff contracting in disaster situations. Funding. Private/public relationships worked well during the response,

communications systems did not fail. Notes asphalt providers began production same day and DOT & PF stepped up and helped local agency with repairs. Details FEMA process for monetary assistance. Alaska (persons, local & state officials), and Congressional Delegation requested FEMA change policy in response to Nov. 30 event. Discussion regarding funds, agencies, and the difficulty people are having trying to negotiate the different programs. Q. Chair, is there anything else the Commission could do? Discussion. [See attached for action items.](#)

Adjourn for Day Kelly motions, Gladsjo seconds, all in favor.

4:45 pm

Day 2 – May 17

9:03 am

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order (*Chair*); Roll call,
 - i. Present – K. Trimmer, G. Gladsjo, L. Kelly, N. Ruppert, J. Salisbury, R. Scher, S. Strait;
 - ii. Excused – D. Balanger, D. Gibbs, and M. Devine;
 - iii. not present E. Athey;
 - iv. Guests – Michael Reemer STARR II/FEMA, Brent Nichols SOA DHD&EM.
- b. Chair – March 2019 minutes, comments, discussion. Ruppert moves to approve, Barrett seconds, all in favor.

(2. c. continued from 05/16/19) Municipality of Anchorage – Geotechnical Advisory Commission

- *Buzz Scher* – Background of GAC, and response to Nov. 30 earthquake. Notes issues - misunderstanding of event, data, and misinformation circulating on websites, erroneous reporting, failure to provide data, and seismometer failures. Field observations; slope failures, non (code) compliant foundations and other structural damage, rock falls. Q & A, discussion. [See attached for action items.](#)

Chair thanks Scher for presentation and years serving. Discussion on current and past member's contributions to commission strength, possible new members and agencies.

2. New Business

9:15 am

- a. Roundtable on Briefings – Identify where ASHSC can assist, discussed during presentations and committee reports.
- b. Fall NEHRP Workshop – September 24 – 26 Various agencies & Commission will be involved. Goal is to bring together agencies and share information. Salisbury and others will attend.

3. Committee Reports

11:00 am

- a. School Seismic Safety (*Kelly*) – Discussion of proposed legislation supportive of school safety. Will be interviewing with KTOO (public radio), more information for schools, public and Legislature. Information regarding other states work in ranking at risk buildings, funding, and retro fitting older buildings. Discussion. [See attached for action items.](#)

- b. Alaska Earthquake Center – Adoption of USArray Stations – PR2019-1 (*Ruppert*) – Map of in state array stations, Alaska will take ownership of some, priority to adopt select stations most important to earthquake detection. Currently working with Weather Service on proposal to adopt additional stations. Early warning system. Discussion. [See attached for action items.](#)

- c. Post-Earthquake Damage Assessment Recommendations (*Strait, Belanger*) – Make more people aware of shake map, create post event plans prior to event, early warning system, inspections (prioritized), communication, information for public. Discussion. [See attached for action items.](#)

- d. Building Code Recommendations (*Strait, Devine, Kelly*) – Earthquake insurance, the importance of engineered design, building to code, and inspection. Discussion regarding plan review, inspection, and additional considerations during the building process. [See attached for action items.](#)

Break for Lunch

12:00 pm

4. Old/Unfinished Business

1:00 pm

- a. Update Strategic Plan – see attached.

5. Closing Matters

- a. Next Meeting: July 15th, 2019 – telephonic, 1:30 – 3:00 pm.
- b. Vacant Commission Seats – Discussed after Scher presentation.
- c. Budget – (Salisbury) reports \$3569.67 expended so far, does not include outstanding expenses of \$499.44. Discussion of possible additional expenses.

Adjourn

Salisbury motions, Ruppert seconds, all in favor.

3:34 pm