

Chair: Barrett Salisbury, barrett.salisbury@alaska.gov

Admin: Joshua Hyde, DGGS

1. Opening Business

13:00

- Call to Order (Chair)

- Roll Call (Admin)
 - Present – S.Bass, T.Bergey, B.Fisher, N.Murray, N.Ruppert, B.Salisbury, S.Strait, L. Kelly
 - Not Present –
 - Excused – D.Neuffer
 - Guests
 - Dr. Elena Suleimani, UAF Geophysical Institute
 - James Benzschawel, AK DHS&EM
 - Logan Stolpe, AK DHS&EM
 - Drielle Welch, Municipality of Anchorage, Office of Emergency Management

- Reminder to Identify self before speaking.

- Ethics Act – <http://www.law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics/EthicsInfoBC.html>
 - Nothing to report.

- Approval of Agenda – B.Fisher motions to approve no changes, T.Bergey seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed.

- Approval of previous meetings minutes - N.Ruppert motions to approve, T.Bergey seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed.

- Budget
 - FY22 budget retains full funding. Welcomes suggestion for usage of budget.
 - S.Strait suggests education/outreach materials for UAF like we've done for UAA.
 - N.Ruppert proposes expenditure for in-person meeting during the spring. B.Fisher and B.Salisbury supports. Suggests Fairbanks as in-person meeting location.

- Public Comment
 - Time offered, No Public Comments.

- Dr. Elena Suleimani Briefing, Tsunami Hazard Modeling for Anchorage
 - Dr. Elena Suleimani begins The National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program briefing regarding the modeling of potential tsunami hazards for Upper Cook Inlet.
 - Explains how the organization gathers Tsunami mitigation efforts and data based on community needs.
 - Explains how Geophysical Institute creates the rupture model with the Okada algorithm, along with the coseismic model, the tsunami wave field, and how using this data, can create a runup model for the local communities affected.

- Worst case scenario due to these models is not the 1964 earthquake in rupture and magnitude. Recent studies comparing the Alaska and Tohoku subduction zones propose that the Alaskan rupture might have a large slip at shallow depths, similar to that in the Mw 9.0 Tohoku (2011 Japan) earthquake, based on several similarities between the two margins.
- Due to these studies, all hypothetical studies with a shallow slip on the megathrust are being considered.
- End of brief, discussion:
 - Final report draft to be submitted to DGGs August 2022 for publication.
 - S.Strait questions scenarios of low tide or high tide. Dr.Suleimani responds that High tide is the standard setting for testing models.
 - B.Fisher gives thanks and reiterates the importance of reports relating to the tsunami hazard, stresses the importance of being prepared to disseminate the information once the reports are complete, and being able to assist communities to prepare for these possibilities.
 - S.Strait requests the study of how a possible tsunami effects other communities within the Cook Inlet. Dr. Suleimani informs that second round of reports on other studies will be submitted in the next year regarding those communities, with multiple completed models already underway.
 - Dr. Suleimani finishes briefing, departs meeting.

New Business

- B.Salisbury suggests a motion to be made to move from interim chair to chair for 2022.
 - S.Bass motions that B.Salisbury assumes the full roll of Chair for the Commission, N.Ruppert seconds. motion approved unanimously.
 - B. Salisbury has now assumed the Chair for the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission.
- New Chair B.Salisbury suggests the Commission elect a new vice-chair. N.Ruppert steps forward.
 - Barrett makes a motion for Natalia Ruppert to become the vice-chair. B.Fisher seconds. Approved unanimously.
 - Natalia Ruppert is now the Vice Chair for the Commission.
- FEMA Region X drafted a community development block grant in response to the 2018 earthquake. The draft includes
 - Voluntary buy-out programs for structures in flood and seismic hazard zones 4 and 5
 - home repair program to support eligible homes
 - development of a construction trades program, along with code enforcement and compliance in support for low to moderate income areas
 - \$750,000 to integrate Anchorage's hazard mitigation plan into the land use plan.
- 2018 Cook Inlet Anniversary
 - S.Strait drafted a summary of report made by EERI. Intention to use this information to begin placarding unsafe buildings, carrots for individuals to retrofit their buildings to

- improve safety.
 - Newspaper article suggested for more public awareness of seismic activity, along with building code adoption and enforcement. Public education and engaging stakeholders in Anchorage to understand the major hurdles to coding and enforcement.
 - Policy recommendation for 1) retrofits, or 2) State Fire Marshal and local building officials enforcing and enacting codes.
 - Ruppert agrees, suggests better naming on the 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake, use “2018 Anchorage Earthquake” moving forward.
 - Drielle Welch recommends Anita Baker from the DCCED to speak on the CDBG_DR Grant via chat in meeting.
 - L.Kelly suggests better adoption and enforcement on building codes for wind/weather/earthquakes, relates to the recent 2022 Mat-Su wind damage to infrastructure, due to lack of code and construction preparedness.
 - N.Ruppert suggests better education for response teams during emergencies.
 - State of Alaska penalized in FEMA BRIC review processes due to no universal building code, noted difficulty in meeting with building officials to create a code.
 - Sub-Commission to follow-up on these matters with members: N.Ruppert, B.Salisbury, B.Fisher, and S.Strait.
- ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER by S.STRAIT - Must be submitted by April. Commission to review and submit suggestions via e-mail.
 - UAF BUTROVITCH FACILITY RETROFIT
 - Houses multiple agencies data and computing infrastructure, including AEC, DGGs, Geospatial Information Office, and EMS all host data and imagery within.
 - Butrovitch building constructed with steel-moment frame building prior to the North Ridge Earthquake, before awareness of the shortcomings of this type of construction.
 - BRIC proposal denied for \$12m retrofit. Representative of UAF requests support, B.Salisbury to reply with a letter of support, due to importance of structure to the State of Alaska.
 - B.Fisher investigating grants and funds to assist the retrofit, notes the BRIC program is difficult to utilize for the state of Alaska, also notes denied requests do not receive any feedback from the FEMA BRIC program in order to increase the likelihood of being accepted. Lack of statewide building codes severely hinders the access to this program, in addition.
 - N.Ruppert stresses the importance of the Butrovitch building to the entire state’s infrastructure.
 - ARCTIC CLIMATE AND EARTHQUAKES
 - Dr. Ghayoomi requested letters of support to approve funding, B.Salisbury, B.Fisher representing AK DHS&EM, and N.Murray from D.O.T. have responded in support.
 - In exchange, ACE will align their interests with state priorities. Specific request to DHS&EM from A.C.E. for a training camp in the Copper River Valley, B.Fisher suggests a better location for a better training outcome.
 - D.O.T.’s agreement is to lend equipment to A.C.E. to receive seismic data for the Tok

Cutoff area.

- Port of Alaska also sent a letter of support, per S.Strait.

Old Business

- PRESS RELEASE THROUGH DNR
 - B.Salisbury comments on the developed process for press releases regarding lengthy timeline and editing processes. Overall exposure over expectations, despite small discrepancies regarding credit to DHS&EM.
- UAA SEISMIC DEMONSTRATION PROJECT UPDATE
 - No updates received so far from UAA/Dr.Hamil. **S.Sterling to follow-up and send update within the month.**
- BACKBURNER/AGING PROJECT REVIEW
 - ASCE 7 Tsunami Modeling Discrepancies
 - Issue started within the Commission and the ASCE over a decade ago.
 - Major inconsistencies within the modeling results around Alaska.
 - Extensive length of time since last assessed by the Commission, to be reassessed. **B.Salisbury will pursue**
 - S.Strait notes that the State Fire Marshal intends to move forward to adopt the 2018 IBC, stressing importance to correct inconsistencies.
- POST EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TASKFORCE
 - Tabled for DHS&EM NETAP Briefing Below.

Briefings

- ALASKA EARTHQUAKE CENTER
 - Completed Analysis of Earthquake Catalog for 2021.
 - Nearly 50,000 earthquakes this year.
 - Largest Earthquake was on July 29th, Magnitude 8.2, Chignik Earthquake, southwest of Kodiak Island.
 - Preparing for field season, gathering data for equipment maintenance and field network.
- DGGS
 - Undergoing transition, new director, new administrative team. Waiting on permit applications to dig, BLM has up to 12 or more month application process, fieldwork potentially paused due to this process.
 - Prince William Sound/Barry Arm Tsunami risk moving along. 2022 field season has begun. Severe wind and snow cause for equipment re-adjustment. USGS increasing

efforts to assist equipment management.

- DHS&EM
 - FEMA update on damages and repairs regarding the 2018 earthquake for the state to meet a new cost-share adjustment. Upgrade from 75-25 to 90-10 percent due to expenditures. Process underway to file for upgrade via the Governor's office.
 - Building Resilient Infrastructure for Communities Grant has replaced the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. Second year the BRIC program has been out, unsuccessful so far to utilize this grant due to previously mentioned issues. Lack of feedback from FEMA.
 - Application for 2021 funding submitted, five different projects listed. One for state planning, two projects with the Anchorage school district for design study on seismic safety and improvements on Goldenview middle school and also at Betty Davis East highschool, along with an \$8.7m seismic retrofit request for the Butrovitch building from UAF.
 - Regional efforts being made for FEMA Region X clearinghouse for post-disaster earthquake seismic building inspections. Tabletop exercise to be broadcasted on February 14th, through Idaho resources.
 - NETAP training courses for Alaska have been approved. 4 classes in all, 3 in AK, 1 shared with another state in the "Course sharing zone" online. Classes are P767, P154, ATC -20, E74, P2055. No dates set yet for these courses.
 - FY22 NEHRP grant application approaching. Closed the FY19 grant in previous months. Seismic Evaluation Study for Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau is currently the only project on the docket for the grant application. Potential for the 2018 EERI Anchorage earthquake report to apply to the NEHRP application.
 - NEHRP grant does not fund structural infrastructure construction, is intended to fund seismic safety evaluations, along with outreach opportunities. E.G. the 2018 Anchorage Earthquake Anniversary. Due late spring. Total grant award to be \$68,000. Period of performance changing over to 18 months.
 - Copper Center Workshop to cover Tectonic Activity and Seismicity, Seismic Performance in response of Infrastructure, Climate change and permafrost mechanics, along with disaster cycle and community preparedness training.
 - Two tsunami operation workshops coming up in Anchorage, one for the Aleutian Island communities at the hotel Captain Cook, March 15th – 17th, and March 29th-31st for the Bristol Bay communities, at the Atwood Building.
 - NTHNP grant project underway, pre-application to be submitted next month.
 - Tsunami Awareness Week submitted to Governor's office via NOAA, March 20th to March 26th are the days requested. Meeting scheduled for last week of February to develop press release and media campaign.

- Anchorage Municipality Drielle Welch working with Anita Baker on the CDBGDR grant, with focus on the integration of the Hazard Mitigation plan into the comprehensive plan and land use plan. Block grant approved for the Kenai, Anchorage, and Mat-Su Boroughs. \$23m to be used in Anchorage. The comment period on the amendment is still open.

Closing

- Reiterate the need and desire for in-person meetings. IF COVID allows.
- Vacant commission seats – local government representative in a seismically active region, S.Sterling recommended John Thornley to boards and commissions, approval process in underway.
- Insurance industry representative – Still searching for a candidate to fill seat. Commission is taking suggestions.
 - Lori Wingheyer, Director of the Division of Insurance suggested by B.Fisher as possible lead. **B.Salisbury will pursue**
- Commission to reassemble in April, date to be set at a future time. No Closing comments.