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Admin: Theresa Harmon, DGGS

Please e-mail Barrett for video teleconference link

Public call-in line (audio only): (907) 202-7104, Code: 604174302#

1. Opening Business

12:00 noon

- a. Call to Order (*Chair*)
 - i. Roll call (*Admin*) Aaron Baczuk, Thomas Bergey, Bryan Fisher, Liam Knecht, Colin Maynard, Natalia Ruppert, Barrett Salisbury
 - ii. Guests (invited)
 1. Anthony Picasso (DHS&EM)
 2. Hannah Rabinowitz (FEMA Region X)
 3. Elisabeth Nadin (AEC)
- b. Ethics Act (*Chair*) Nothing to report
<http://www.law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics/EthicsInfoBC.html>
- c. Approval of the Agenda; Approved without objection.
- d. Review/Approval of March 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes; Approved without objection.
- e. Budget Update: Still some funds left in the FY24 budget.
- f. Public Comment: Time was given, there were no comments.

2. Old Business

- a. HB-150/SB-197
 - i. [In seismically active Alaska, plans for statewide residential building codes are on shaky ground • Alaska Beacon](#)
 - ii. Given poor outlook for these bills in current second session, what next?

Most of the push back came from rural legislators. L. Knecht suggested it may be a good idea to put the power in homeowners' hands with education and outreach since there are funds for this.

- b. Building Code Adoption & Enforcement & NEHRP ISEA grant
 - i. Subcommittee update—*Fisher/Maynard*
 - ii. Next step? Was draft RFP... do we want to re-focus given the poor support of these bills?

B. Fisher explained that he cancelled the project in last year's grant when applying for FY24. Expressed ASHSC intent to do the baseline study this year, and in the following year there would likely be a project for the NEHRP grant to do additional work. Step one would be a base line comparative analysis. Step two is implementing some of the recommendations from the analysis.

C. Maynard has put together some suggested language for scope of work and evaluation scoring criteria for RFP. They are now closer to getting the subcommittee together to talk about purpose, intent, and some of the history. Once the final copy about NTHMP is signed by directors, B. Fisher will give to B. Salisbury for the Commission to see what is being asked.

- c. Standing invitation to collaborate with the Anchorage Municipality Geotechnical Advisory Committee (GAC)- C. Maynard has it on his calendar to attend the next meeting in person.
- d. FEMA P-366 – Focus on encouraging FEMA to update the P-366 using Alaska's new national seismic model. C. Maynard and B. Fisher will talk with the GEOTECH Advisory Committee to hopefully get more information about the new risk assessment done and the buildings that are unlikely to meet code with the new SS for Anchorage.
- e. Officiating Docs update - will try to complete this summer.

3. New Business

12:30 pm

- a. DISCUSSION: Potential FEMA funds to support EEW education/infrastructure (*Ruppert/Rabinowitz*)
 - i. Welcome guests and introductions.
 - ii. Funding opportunities (*Fisher*)
 1. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - *Is only funded to Alaska for federally declared disasters when there are structures to repair. It offers 15% on top of the cost to repair structures.*
 2. HMGP Post-Fire – *this is to fund wild fire activities*
 3. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – *this is going towards helping communities create local hazard mitigation plans so they can apply for BRIC grants.*

iii. Activity to support EEW planning/implementation (*All*)

N. Ruppert gave a brief overview of the efforts to bring the Earthquake Early Warning system to Alaska. Stating that USGS did a feasibility study and compiled a technical implementation plan for the EEW. Congress now has the report. The cost to become operational will be in the tens of millions of dollars. The program however is already active on the West Coast and will most likely become a reality for Alaska as well.

Hannah Rabinowitz announced that HMGP and BRIC has grants to purchase equipment for an EEW system that is already operational. Although not sure if funds are available to Alaska, what activities will likely be funded, and what the timeline would be. B. Fisher explained that HMGP money only exists after a federally declared disaster. It is available statewide and for whatever disaster they want but there isn't a lot of money, and the need is great. The cost just to apply for the BRIC grants can reach hundreds of thousands of dollars since there must be a benefits cost analysis and environmental reviews (which are outsourced) just to satisfy some of the requirements on the application.

Questions/Comments

Elisabeth Nadin - Is there a chance for funding and what are our chances? – (*Fisher*) EEW would need a Congressionally Directed Appropriation to spend the money on the system. If it were scaled down this would help a great deal. EEW has a bit of sticker shock both for implementation and operation/maintenance. Many grants are being cut right now, DIV of HSEM is lobbying hard to keep some of them, including the NOAA Tsunami mitigation program.

N. Ruppert – The planning proposal, what would it take? (*Fisher*) Div of HSEM has funds for public outreach/education to build statewide support for EEW, this is thru many of the grants they already have. N. Ruppert suggested piggybacking on a Tsunami or Earthquake outreach event that is already happening in a community. If ASHSC can help come up with ideas on; What events to piggyback on? What would the message be? What materials should be created? Can funding be used to help pay for a communications person in the Alaska Earthquake Centers Offices to work specifically on this effort? B. Fisher will have to speak with his grants people and get back to the group with those answers.

Who to focus education of EEW on - congressional leaders, community leaders, tech users and general public. When educating a community B. Salisbury felt it should be useful information, that even if Alaska does not get funding for the EEW system, it will not confuse folks with other warning systems such as Tsunami warning. USGS outlined the private sector groups that need to be included to keep them involved in the EEW conversation.

N. Ruppert and Elisabeth Nadine will brainstorm for the project proposal which will be needed to request funding for outreach.

N. Ruppert said the Alaska Earthquake Center might hear from Congress about the Earthquake Early Warning proposal by next fall or winter 2025. B. Fisher knows people who track these programs and can keep the commission apprised.

4. Briefings

- a. Alaska Earthquake Center (*Ruppert*) - *field season starts in two weeks and the annual meeting of Seismological Society of America in Anchorage.*
- b. AK Div. of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (*Salisbury*)- *Also have field season activities and will be involved in the Anchorage earthquake convention.*
- c. AK Div. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (*Fisher/Picasso*) – *Busy taking care of grants, going into communities to plan emergency operations in case of a disaster and was able to attend the Emergency Management Association meeting in DC.*
- d. Emergency Management City of Valdez (*Baczuk*) – *Building a video tutorial on how to report a landslide and to recognize slope stability.*

5. Closing Matters

- a. Next meeting – May 16, 2024- inviting Hannah Rabinowitz and Elisabeth Nadin
- b. Current roster status -John Thornley a geotechnical engineer to hopefully replace Dan Neuffer in the Public Restricted seat. Also hoping to advertise in the Alaska Municipal League that ASHSC is looking to fill some of the open seats on the commission.
- c. Commission Chair volunteer – Colin Maynard has shown some interest in the potential future role.
- d. Final comments ad hoc – time was given no comments.

-ADJOURN-

1:40pm