



I. OPENING BUSINESS

9:00 a.m.

- Call to Order (Robert Scher, Chairperson); Roll call: Commission members John Aho, Gary Carver, Bud Cassidy, Mark Delozier, Ann Gravier, Laura Kelly, David Miller, Robert “Buzz” Scher and Mike West were present. Commissioners Rich Koehler and Robin McSharry were excused. Administrative Assistant April Woolery was present.
- Introductions-Guests: Division Operations Manager Steve Masterman of the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.
- Add items: Old Business: Added further agenda procedure discussion.
- Ethics: no conflicts of interest with the agenda items, or other Ethics Act disclosures were reported.
- Commission Membership: All membership positions are full through June 30, 2014.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- Review and approval of previous meeting minutes: The May 30, 2013 minutes approved with corrections. For further discussion: action items list must be attached if the list is referred to in the minutes. The July 11, 2013 minutes were also approved with changes. Chairman Scher will make corrections and forward to April Woolery.
- Review of action items list: see attached
- Legislative Sunset Review-Chairman Scher: The auditors are finishing up their information gathering and will put together preliminary findings. They will review these with Commission members Scher, Aho and Koehler, after which they will prepare a management letter to which commission members shall respond. The preliminary report will follow in September or October.
- Add item – agenda discussion-Commissioner Delozier: He would like the agenda to be structured in a more formal way to more closely match the agendas of other, similar commissions. Chairman Scher will research this and the Commission will discuss updating the agenda structure at the next meeting.

III. COMMISSION UPDATES

9:25 a.m.

- Recent Seismic Activity of Interest-West: July, 2013 had relatively low seismic activity in Alaska. There were four magnitude 5 events in the Aleutians. There were two magnitude 4-plus events located in ANWR as well. Events in that area are not common.
- Health of the Alaska Seismic Networks-West: Network health is good: it is about 85 to 90% operational and data are flowing in. Commissioner West shared a map of the new seismic stations that have been placed around the proposed Susitna/Watana dam site with the cooperation of the Alaska Energy Authority. Commissioner Carver asked if any paleoseismic work had been

done for the site. Chairman Scher suggested that he follow up with Eric Cannon at Golder Associates to find out if such work has been done.

- Anchorage Strong Motion Seismic Network Work Group: Commissioner West made several calls to follow up on fieldwork being done at some strong motion sites. John Power of the AVO has been working with Utpal Dutta of UAA to facilitate retrieval of information from the IRIS site.
- Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission (MOA/GAC) Activity Update-Scher: The Anchorage Assembly introduced municipal ordinances that will remove the city building safety department from the building construction plan review and approval process for single and two-family residences. The GAC submitted a resolution opposing the ordinance, however, the ordinance passed.
- 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Local Planning Committee-Aho: The call for abstracts closed August 15<sup>th</sup> with 1300 submittals. About 600 finalists have been selected to give oral presentations. There will also be posters and interactive presentations. So far sponsorship activity is disappointing, but the local planning committee continues to work on this issue. Steve Masterman reported that DGGs will be a sponsor, and other sponsorship suggestions were offered.
- USGS “A Practical Guide to Earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest” [online training course] <http://training.usgs.gov/TEL/Gomberg/player.html> - Scher: This link is for a training course. Chairman Scher’s rating: the first module is worth your time; the second not so much.
- TWEA Reauthorization – West/Gravier: The Tsunami Warning and Education Act needs to be reauthorized by congress in order to continue. Commissioner West reports that, according to Senator Begich’s office, congress is not able to reauthorize the act at this time. Begich’s staff will draft legislation and put it in place with the goal of working toward the reauthorization at a later date. ASHSC is welcomed as a supporter of TWEA. Commissioner Aho made a motion that Commissioners West and Scher prepare a letter of support for the reauthorization of TWEA. Commissioner Cassidy seconded: all in favor.
- ASCE Tsunami Loads & Effects Subcommittee Meeting – West: Much of this meeting was closed to the public, but two people from Commissioner West’s office attended part of the meeting by invitation. There is a push in the tsunami community to calculate and produce engineering standards that are based on probabilistic tsunami hazards. This had not traditionally been done in the tsunami program, although it closely models the current approach to earthquake hazards. This approach is successful in places like California where there is a fixed set of known earthquake sources around the world. However, in Alaska there are many local tsunami hazards. The biggest threat to Seward, for example, is not a tsunami from Japan but a tsunami from an offshore Alaska event, or a landslide within Resurrection Bay. Alaskan sources do not fit well in the new model as it is difficult to put statistically accurate return times on a series of different sources that threaten a particular community. The application of this probabilistic approach is being debated by the tsunami community as places like Alaska, which may not be well-served by the new system, are having to adopt it to keep up with national and international

standards. Discussion followed. Commissioner Kelly pointed out that the Coast Guard plans development in Dutch Harbor, and she would like to ensure that tsunami hazards are taken into account. Commissioners Carver and Koehler have done paleotsunami field research in the Aleutians, not far from Dutch Harbor. The record is very clear: large tsunamis have occurred repeatedly there. The field crew found tsunami evidence more than a kilometer inland at elevations greater than 20 meters, so tsunami impacts are relevant to any development in the Aleutians, including Dutch Harbor. Some of Commissioner West's staff at the AEIC are currently working on tsunami hazard assessment for Unalaska/Dutch harbor. The report should be out within a year. Commissioner West will forward the hazard model spreadsheet to commission members.

IV. MEETINGS/SEMINARS OF INTEREST 9:50 a.m.

- DHS&EM Fall Preparedness Conf; October 8-10, 2013; Anchorage
- GSA 125th Anniversary Annual Meeting; October 27-30, 2013; Denver
- PEER NGA-West2 Technical Seminar Series; Early November 2013; Long Beach (8<sup>th</sup>), Salt Lake City (7<sup>th</sup>), San Francisco (15<sup>th</sup>), Seattle (14<sup>th</sup>)
- DHS&EM Tsunami Operations Workshop; November (exact dates TBA), Kodiak
- AGU Fall Meeting, December 9-13, 2013; San Francisco, CA
- Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference; April 23-24, 2014; Tacoma
- SSA Annual Meeting; April 30-May 2, 2014; Anchorage
- 10th National Conference on Earthquake Engineering/EERI Annual Meeting/NEES Quake Summit; July 21-25, 2014; Anchorage

V. COMMITTEE PROJECTS/REPORTS 10:15 a.m.

- Schools – Kelly:
  - Rapid Visual Screening of Schools Pilot Program: Commissioner Gravier reported that Commissioner Kelly put in a great deal of work on a NERHP grant application for a program to do Rapid visual Screening (RVS) of Alaska schools. Unfortunately, the funding for that grant did not come through this year. Commissioner Gravier spoke with Tamra Biasco at FEMA Region X, who requested that the application be forwarded to her for consideration. While she waits for a response from FEMA, Commissioner Gravier is investigating a funding opportunity through the federal Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM). Applications for that grant are due October 18<sup>th</sup>. PDM grants must have 25% matching funds. If the ASHSC agrees and can officially state that they do not have the money for this, Commissioner Gravier will ask if DHS&EM is willing to fund the match. Federal disaster funds for the September 2011 western Alaska coastal storms will be available soon, and if no other funding comes through Commissioner Gravier will forward the application to potentially use some of these funds. This is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the funds are designated DR-4094, and the submission deadline for that would be in January 2014. Chairman Scher expressed concern that the initial application for the NEHRP grant was not as stringent as the PDM and

disaster relief grants, and that it might not be possible to put together a scope of work in time for the PDM's deadline. Commissioner Kelly agreed that it is very difficult to secure and manage PDM money. The Kodiak Borough received PDM money for their big school mitigation project, and they hired consultants to ensure that the money was administered correctly. This grant might be beyond what the ASHSC is able to handle.

Commissioner Gravier will review the grant and its requirements. She noted that the DHS&EM, as sub-applicant to the grant, would probably be in charge of managing the grant, so that would not fall to the commission. Chairman Scher is willing to help in the application process.

- Earthquake Scenario – Carver:
  - Kodiak Earthquake Planning Scenarios Report: Thank you to Commissioner West for resolving the Shake map issues. The versions he provided were exactly what was needed for the scenario. Chairman Scher's comments on the report were useful as well. The report is still in progress as Commissioner Carver will be in the field for the next several weeks, after which he will be able to complete the report. Chairman Scher added that Tamra Biasco of FEMA let him know that FEMA has finished all of the HAZUS runs and that she was hoping to have the draft to the commission for review soon, possibly before the October ASHSC meeting. She particularly wants review of the characterizations of the three example scenarios in the report. Commissioner Carver will follow up on this.
- Insurance – McSharry: Excused, no report.
- Hazards Identification – Koehler: Excused, no report.
- Education, Outreach & Partnering – Scher
  - Seismic Knowledge Requirements for PEs: Chairman Scher continues to work on getting support for the upgrades in certification with the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.
- Response & Recovery – Gravier: Nothing to add to prior statements except that she will continue to work on previous action items and will prepare a report for the next meeting.
- Chair – Scher
  - 28th Legislature, 2nd Session (Requests to Esther Tempel): Chairman Scher is drafting a list of issues that are of interest to the Commission so that Ms. Tempel can let him know if there will be committee hearings or legislation regarding these issues. Commission members were asked to provide input on specific projects of this type: specific items such as the Susitna/Watana Hydroelectric Project, KABATA, Pebble Mine, etc.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

11:05 a.m.

- Public Comments: None
- Commission Comments: Commissioner Kelly is being relocated from Kodiak to Juneau as part of her job with the Coast Guard. She will continue to work with staff at Base Kodiak and will update the commission with her new contact information once she has that.

- Alaska Earthquake Alliance Website: The Commission was contacted by Peter Haeussler of the USGS who was working on putting together this website. The site is now operational: <http://alaskaquakealliance.org/> . Commissioners Koehler and West provided feedback on the early version of the site. Commissioner Gravier has forwarded the link to her division leadership with the request that they consider membership. DGGGS, AEIC and the USGS are members of the alliance. Commissioner Kelly was able to get approval for the Coast Guard logo to appear on the site. Commissioner West feels that the site is a good way to engage the public.
- Potential Future Briefings: No new additions at this time. Chairman Scher will add ASCE Tsunami Loads and Effects subcommittee briefing.

## VI. CLOSING BUSINESS

11:25 a.m.

- Critical Deadlines: Committee chairs should start their reports on accomplishments and goals for the annual report.
- Administrative Matters
  - Budget Report: The budget is now \$9,777.
  - FY 2014-2015 Budget: Steve Masterman pointed out that DGGGS is in the process of working out the FY-15 budget. An increment request was added for an additional \$15,000 dollars to the ASHSC budget, making \$25,000 total for FY-15. The fiscal environment is tough this year, so nothing will be known until the budget goes through the process. Chairman Scher asked how far in advance the commission needs to submit a budget request to DGGGS. Steve Masterman replied that the deadlines vary from year to year. This year it was August 15, 2013. The end of July should be early enough to be included in the next fiscal year's budget request.
  - ASHSC Website: Change requests can be made during a meeting. The Commission chair would include these under New Business for the purpose of discussion and action.
- Review New Action Items: All should review the Alaska Earthquake Alliance Website and give feedback, and give input on potential grant sources to Commissioners Gravier and Kelly. Commissioner West to continue checking on the upgrades to the Anchorage Strong Motion Network.
- Next Meeting (face-to-face): early October, 2013. Chairman Scher will determine which dates work best for Commission members.

## VII. ADJORNMENT

11:40 a.m.

- Commissioner Aho moved, Commissioner Carver seconded to adjourn. All in favor: meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

## **ACTION ITEMS LIST** (*Updated 7/19/2013*)

### **MONTHLY ON-GOING ITEMS**

- Mark your calendar for the **August 22, 2013 Teleconference** meeting - **All**
  - Post the meeting schedule on the State's 'Public Notices' website, and schedule Atwood Building conference room(s) – **Woolery**
  - Submit travel reimbursement forms to Woolery two weeks before meeting – **All**
  - Prepare public service announcement at least one week before 'face-to-face' meetings - **Scher**
  - Prepare meeting agenda and post on ASHSC website at least one week before meeting - **Scher/Woolery**
  - Notify chair if not available to participate in the meeting - **All**
  - Prepare a brief report of the committee's activities, if the chair will not be available to participate in the meeting - **Standing Committee Chairs**
- Prepare and circulate draft minutes (May 30 & 11 July meetings) – **Scher & Woolery**; review for discussion at next scheduled meeting - **All**
- Update membership contact roster and list of acronyms - **Scher**
- Post on ASHSC website approved meeting minutes, completed white papers and project reports, presentations, ASHSC annual reports, etc. – **Woolery**

### **MARCH 7, 2013 MEETING**

- b. Draft letter to the State's congressional delegation supporting reauthorization of a National Tsunami Hazards Mitigation Program [*on hold; waiting for bill to be submitted*] – **West & Scher**
- g. Prepare a memo to Esther Temple identifying types of legislation and committee hearings of possible interest to the Commission; and soliciting recommendations of legislators potentially supportive of the Commission's interests [*in-progress*] – **Scher**

### **APRIL 24-25, 2013 MEETING**

- i. Review ASHSC's *Charter* (dated January 2010); send comments to Aho [*in-progress*] - **All**
- j. Review ASHSC's *Rules of Procedures* (dated 01/11/2007); send comments to Scher [*in-progress*] - **All**
- k. Provide members a copy of the Anchorage School District's recently completed seismic assessment report for Mears Middle School & Muldoon Elementary (NEHRP grant) [*in-progress; draft report circulated, waiting for Final version*]– **Gravier**
- n. Provide members a list of the seismic retrofit projects completed in Alaska since 2007 using NEHRP/FEMA grants [*in-progress*] – **Gravier**

- o. Look into if and/or how the MOA's *Seismically Induced Ground-Failure Susceptibility* maps affect residential and business insurance rates in Anchorage [*in-progress*] - **McSharry**
- r. Circulate recent legislation pertaining to mutual aid for first responders [*for possible relevance to PR 2011-4*] – **Gravier**
- w. Circulate report by the State of Washington pertaining to the Cascadia Earthquake scenario [*at least the portion discussing effects on Alaska*] – **Gravier**

### **MAY 30, 2013 MEETING**

- a. Contact Tom O'Rourke about presenting his lecture (*The New Normal for Natural Disasters*) in Anchorage during the 10 NCEE – **Aho**

### **JULY 11, 2013 MEETING**

- a. Email copy of Utah OFR-384 to commissioners – **Koehler**
- b. Review 'purpose' and 'mission' statements in the ASHSC Charter versus AS44.37.065 – **Scher & Aho**
- c. Distribute FEMA's "Fact Sheet – Alaska Catastrophic Event, Critical Infrastructure" document prepared for FEMA's planned 2014 scenario earthquake response exercise – **Scher**
- d. Investigate increasing the size of documents that can be emailed via the commission's list server - **Woolery**

### **LONG-TERM ACTIVE PROJECTS (IN-PROGRESS)**

#### **ASHSC's Post Damaging Earthquake Response Plan - Response & Recovery Committee (Gravier)**

- Review the draft framework plan for the Commission's post-damaging earthquake response plan by Gravier & West; send comments to Gravier [*May 30 meeting*] – **All**

#### **Kodiak Scenario Earthquake Project – Earthquake Scenario Committee (Carver)**

- Review Carver's preliminary draft Kodiak Earthquake Scenarios report [*in-progress*] – **Earthquake Scenario Committee**

#### **Seismic Sources in Alaska White Paper - Hazards Identification Committee (Koehler)**

#### **Value of Strong Motion Instrumentation White Paper - Education, Outreach & Partnering Committee (Scher)**

#### **Alaska Rapid Visual Screening of Schools Pilot Program – Schools Committee (Kelly)**

- Review draft Alaska Schools RVS Pilot Program grant application and provide comments to Kelly [*July 11 meeting*] – **All**
- Contact State Department of Law, Opinions, Appeals, & Ethics Section for advice about the Commission serving as a steering/project management committee for the Alaska RVS of schools pilot program [*May 30 meeting*] – **Scher**