

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
HELD May 30th & 31st, 2007



I. OPENING BUSINESS

1. Call to Order-Chairman Aho called the meeting to order at 10:40 am
2. Roll Call – Commission members John Aho, Gary Carver, Rod Combellick, Linda Freed, Roger Hansen, Robert Hicks, Kathy Hosford, Laura Kelly, Dean Maxwell, and Dennis Nottingham were present for meetings on the 30th and the 31st. Scott Simmons attended the ASHSC meeting on the 31st. Vickie Butherus, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) was also present.
3. Agenda approved with following changes: Completion of committee meetings to be scheduled at the top of the New Business bullet along with the change of the day from Wednesday to Thursday at the top of the agenda.
4. Guests who attended the ASHSC Meeting on May 30th were Robert Swenson, State Geologist and Acting Director of the State of Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, and Steve Estes with the U of A Geophysical Institute. Guests who attended the ASHSC Meeting on the 31st were Nico Bus, Director of Administrative Services (DNR), Pamela Bergmann (Department of the Interior), and David Cole (Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission, MOA GAC),
5. Commission member Freed MOVED seconded by Commission member Maxwell to approve the minutes of April 25th, 2007 with the following changes: Under Briefings bullet 3, first line, “he” should be “the” and “Services” should be “services” (lower case). On page 3 under Natural Hazards Review May 2006 issue, add “special issue on multi-hazards loss estimation and HAZUS.” Approved.

II. BRIEFINGS

1. Commission member Hansen presented the monthly seismicity report. There were 7,073 earthquakes between January and May 20th. A station will be installed on Sitkinak Island in mid June by Steve Estes. Linda Freed volunteered to give Commission member Hansen and Steve Estes additional contacts if needed.
2. Commission member Hansen updated the Commission on the Anchorage free field strong motion array. An effort is being made to get all the Anchorage schools having seismic instrumentation connected into the system. The schools use a different kind of Geometrics unit than the Geophysical Institute uses; a phone jack instead of a milspec plug is used so special cables were made to adapt to their system.
3. Commission member Hansen updated the Commission on the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS), AK Region. Commission member Hansen spoke with Bill Leith, the head of the ANSS program. He clarified that while ANSS has received less funding than last year, they have more expenses but are free to spend some of that money on the Fairbanks network. It is up to local discretion as to what they do or don't do with it.

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
HELD May 30th & 31st, 2007

4. Commission member Hansen explained the purpose and functions of ShakeMap and updated the commission on its ongoing progress. The first prototype in Fairbanks should be installed in the next couple of weeks.
5. Chairman Aho briefed new Commission members on strong-motion instrumentation, including structural, downhole, and free-field, so as to keep everyone current and informed. Chairman Aho stated that the Atwood building was the first to be instrumented under the ANSS structural program and is currently the most advanced monitoring system of any high rise building in the country.
6. Chairman AHO briefed the Commission on the ATC-64 review meeting. Chairman Aho presented a video on potential tsunami evacuation structures to show the Commission what an evacuation structure might look like. The video was provided by Dennis Nottingham.
7. Chairman AHO briefed the Commission on the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) 5-year review Meeting. There were 5 members on the review panel. Presentations, sub committee reports, and closed panel sessions all went very well; it was a productive, well-constructed meeting. There were 13 goals set at the original review. Some goals were completed while others were left open ended. In some cases it was noted that future goals needed to be reachable and measurable. There were discussions on whether communities are actually tsunami ready.
8. Commission member Hansen briefed the commission members on the AGU meeting in Acapulco. There was a special session on high-performance seismic networks. There were presentations ranging from international organizations on monitoring the whole world for nuclear explosions down to a magnitude 3.5 to 4 to the network the Geophysical Institute has where they have 400 stations. It was beneficial in that it allowed Alaska to present its perspective on the kinds of performance issues that we see in running seismic networks.
9. Commission member Freed briefed the Commission on the SERC meeting. She did not attend the last meeting but she does serve on the finance committee. SERC is seeing an ongoing problem with a number of communities being given an annual allocation that must be spent by June 30th. Unfortunately a number of communities had not spent their allocations this fiscal year.

Guest Speaker briefings

1. State Geologist Bob Swenson briefed Commission members on a meeting he had with Commissioner Tom Irwin with whom he spoke specifically about the ASHSC as well as future funding issues. Bob suggested to the Commission that educating the Governor, Commissioner Irwin, and the Legislature by getting reports out far in advance is going to be the key to getting funds. Periodic updates on key issues and topics are the type of issues the Commission needs to continually educate the Governor, Commissioner Irwin, and the legislature about. State Geologist Swenson commented that throughout the year the Commission will never have the full attention of the Governor or the Legislature to focus on ASHSC items this is why it is important to get information and reports out to these government bodies prior to requesting funding for the ASHSC. Commission Member Combellick stated that other than distributing copies of the annual report the ASHSC is lacking in communicating the annual report. Commissioner Irwin receives the ASHSC report along with hundreds of others and does not have time to read each

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
HELD May 30th & 31st, 2007

one. Commissioner member Hansen suggested that the Commission invite Governor Palin to a future meeting. Commission member Hosford expressed concern for the Commission's lacking of resources administratively and monetarily to produce educational materials.

2. Nico Bus spoke to the Commission on funding. Given that this Commission reports to the Department of Natural Resources for budget purposes we would expect a request from this Commission in the August-September time frame and the reason for this is there is a meeting in early September between the Commissioners and the Governor and they set their targets for what their next budget request levels are going to be. Unfortunately we can not treat this Seismic Commission as its own entity so you will be considered part of the Department of Natural Resources request. Specifically what is important is a work plan. It would be helpful to be engaged in education with the Commissioner as well as the Governors office. Explain what is so important about your mission and why.
3. Pamela Bergman of Urban Search and Rescue Committee and the Post Disaster Damage Assessment Task Force: See Presentation on ASHSC website.
4. David Cole (MOA GAC): See Presentation on ASHSC Website

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. The action item list was reviewed.
2. All members signed the ASHSC charter, which will be added to the web site.
3. Certificates of appreciation were signed and sent to Roger Schnell and Michael Wilkinson.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST

1. 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, 10/12-10/17/2007, Beijing, China
2. WSSPC annual Meeting, Reno, NV 9/30-10/3/2007 joint with the International Code Council
3. International Union of Geodesy & Geophysics meeting 07/2007 in Italy
4. SERC meeting in Fairbanks 9/18-9/19/2007
5. FEMA opening area office in Anchorage 07/09/2007
6. ANSS National Steering Committee meeting 6/6-6/7/2007

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES

1. ASHSC Chairman budget discussions 10/07–11/2007
2. FY09 Governor's budget to Legislature 12/15/2007 (ASHSC work plan and budget to DNR by late August/early September)
3. FY08 report to the legislature 1/01/2008
4. 2014 National Earthquake Engineering Conference

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. FY08 Budget approach discussion: Completed under Guest Speaker briefings.
2. Commission member Carver suggested that the Commission have on-hand proposals, a response plan as well as an internal communication plan that is consistent, accurate and reliable for the Legislature, the Governors office, and the press in the event of a big event. Commission member Carver also suggested the Commission have in place a plan

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
HELD May 30th & 31st, 2007

for the first 24 hours, the first month, and a long-term plan prior to a catastrophic event. Commission member Combellick suggested that the Commission set up an immediate communication response guideline for press and people after an event to ensure the Commission is stating the same facts and giving the same answers. Commission member Simmons suggested that the ASHSC develop and manage a clearinghouse so as to control the data that is being collected. After a big event has occurred proposals to the Governor for new legislation can come directly from the clearing house information that is collected. Commission member Hansen suggested that proposals from the Commission be ready to go and on the shelf in case of an event. Commission member Combellick suggested that before the next earthquake procedures for reviewing and monitoring construction designs for seismic codes be looked at. Commission member Simmons suggested that the Commission should recommend not reducing permitting requirements during immediate rebuilding after a disaster. Commission member Hansen said that upon request his office can e-mail all Commission members real-time information on earthquakes greater than 5 within minutes after they occur.

3. Commission member Freed volunteered to draft a format and schedule of events for the upcoming meeting with the SERC and LEPCA.
4. Chairman Aho appointed a new committee, the Post Earthquake Planning Committee. Commission member Carver is the Chairman for this Committee. Commission member Simmons, Hansen, Hicks, Combellick, Kelly as well as Chairman Aho all volunteered or were appointed to this committee.

VII. REPORTS

1. Scheduled reports by Chairman Aho were omitted in the interest of time:
 - Ethics Report
 - Commission Charter
 - Seismic Safety Commission Executive Director
 - Leith Contact
2. Committee Reports presented (see presentations on ASHSC website)
 - Insurance-Dean Maxwell
 - Schools-John-Aho
 - Earthquake Scenario-Rod Combellick
 - Education & Outreach-Kathy Hosford
 - Hazards Identification-Gary Carver
 - Response, Recovery, & Loss Estimation-Scott Simmons
 - HAZUS Task Force (no presentation)
 - Budget and Legislative Issues (no presentation)

VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Public: None

Commission Members:

1. Commission member Freed discussed tsunami evacuation maps for Kodiak relative to the Tsunami Ready program. Currently they are using a large format map for the Kodiak urban area, which is 8 feet long with property lines that have been hand drawn. They have hand drawn the inundation line on the map as well as hand drawn their own

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
HELD May 30th & 31st, 2007

evacuation line but the city of Kodiak hasn't been able to have the map move through the process of printing an official map that could be used and distributed to the people in the city of Kodiak. Chairman Aho expressed the importance of getting the map finalized for distribution to community members.

2. Commission member Combellick led a discussion on budget requests. Commission member Carver asked if there was a project list put together yet for the budget request. Commission member Combellick suggested that the Commission have two budget requests. One is an increment to the general fund budget, which is the ongoing support of the Commission, the travel the administrative costs as well as education and Outreach costs. The Earthquake scenario would be funded separately as a capital project budget request.
3. Chairman Aho suggested that Commission insert its charter inside the next legislative report. Commission member Carver also suggested producing on behalf of the Commission a 1-3 page small pamphlet based on the Commission's report that states we are the Alaska Seismic Safety Commission this is who we are and what we do, etc.. Commission member Simmons volunteered to draft a pamphlet for the Commission to look at and mark up.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Budget: The Commission is estimated to be over budget by \$951.00 for FY07.
2. Public comments- none
3. Next Meeting will be a teleconference July 2nd, 2007, 9:00 am.
4. Commission member Combellick will e-mail out last year's budget request to all members to be used as an example for this years upcoming request.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commission member Hansen MOVED, seconded by Commission member Carver to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm May 31.