



I. OPENING BUSINESS

9:00 a.m.

- Call to Order (John Aho, Chairperson); Roll call: Commission members John Aho, Bud Cassidy, Mark Delozier, Ann Gravier, Laura Kelly, Rich Koehler, Robin McSharry and Robert "Buzz" Scher were present. Commissioner Gary Carver was excused. Commissioner David Miller was absent.
- Commissioner Scher added a discussion of the Anchorage strong motion network under Old Business. Election of officers was added under Administrative Matters.
- Introductions-Guests: Mike West and Natasha Ruppert of the Alaska Earthquake Information center (AEIC) and April Woolery of the State Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) were present.
- Review and Approval of Minutes for the September, 2012 meeting: Minutes were approved with amendments.

II. BRIEFINGS

9:15 a.m.

- Recent Seismic Activity of Interest-Ruppert: There was a magnitude 7.5 event near Sitka on Friday, January 4, 2013. Although a tsunami warning was issued, no damaging waves resulted. The event was detected promptly by the automatic monitoring system, and a new seismic monitor was installed in Port Alexander on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 to provide additional coverage of the area. The largest aftershock was magnitude 5.1, and there have been many of magnitude 4. The AEIC expects three to four months of aftershocks before local seismic activity winds down. The tsunami warning worked and was warranted, even though the wave was too small to cause damage. Commissioner Koehler reported that a DGGS employee with family in Sitka said that there was trouble with traffic congestion preventing people from evacuating in a timely manner. Commissioner Kelly discussed the radio interview with Commission member David Miller that followed the event. Mr. West of the AEIC expressed concern at the tone of some news stories in the print media which seemed to belittle the tsunami warning as a false alarm. He is concerned that if the media make light of these warnings, people may be less likely to heed them. Commissioner Scher suggested sending a letter to the editors of the publications in question, explaining the importance of issuing immediate warnings following a large event. Commissioner Gravier will inquire with her division to see if they wish to respond as well.
- Health of the Alaska Seismic Networks-Ruppert: At this time of year, it is dark and there are heavy snow loads in many areas of the state, so several stations are offline at this time due to power issues. Several stations are offline in Prince William Sound following a large wind storm. She does not have a percentage of how many stations are out at this time. The AEIC expects to be able to get many of the stations back online remotely as spring comes and the solar panels on remote stations are cleared of snow and ice. All five of the seismic stations in Southeast Alaska were working and detected the Sitka

event, although one station had trouble with data gaps. In 2012, there were just over 28,000 events identified in the state of Alaska, a 10% increase over 2011. Five events had a magnitude greater than 6, the largest being a magnitude 6.4 event in the Andreanof Islands on September 26, 2012. The largest mainland event was a magnitude 5.8 event on December 4, 2012, which was felt in Anchorage and vicinity. Chairman Aho asked about the health of the Anchorage network, and Dr. Ruppert said that there are still problems with it, especially with the stations with DSL modems. The AEIC is trying to get the AVO to replace these with better modems, as the AEIC is not authorized to do this. Someone at AVO should speak to ACS about the issue, as ACS is the service provider. Timers could be installed to power cycle the modems daily, which would solve many of the problems.

- Post-Disaster Damage Assessment Training-Gravier: The Post-Disaster Damage Assessment (PDDA) workshop will be rescheduled for the future. Commissioner Gravier sent an e-mail regarding FEMA's webinars on the course. The next one will be held January 30, 2013, from 10:00 to 11:30 am Alaska time. She will re-send the e-mail with information. A Fall Preparedness conference will be held in October, 2013. Exact time and place TBA.
- Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission (MOA/GAC) Activity Update-Scher: For the past few months, the GAC has been focused on the report from CH2MHILL on the results of their study assessing the Anchorage port expansion project's construction issues. The GAC reviewed the study and their comments were submitted to CH2MHILL. The GAC should receive a reply by the end of January. The GAC is also working on adopting the 2012 building code, which should be in place by 2014. The biggest change may be in the ground motion information used in the code. Regarding the port expansion project, Commissioner Kelly pointed out that the City of Kodiak will be rebuilding their number three pier using the same firm as is working on the Anchorage port. She requested that the GAC give input to the local government in Kodiak. She also asked that the pier rebuild and a new \$80 million dollar school building project be added to the Hazards ID Committee's list of projects of interest.
- Building Safety Evaluation Course-Aho: The course was held on December 11 and 12, 2012. It was a success, with 43 students in attendance. A formal request has been put in to do another of these trainings in Fairbanks as there is a high demand for this course. It usually fills up one to two weeks in advance.
- Tsunami Operations Workshop-Gravier, Koehler: There were attendees from all over the coastal areas of Alaska. There were harbor masters in attendance for the first time and they provided good feedback on the training. Commissioner Koehler gave the opening talk at this workshop and it was well-received.
- AGU Meeting: Commissioner Koehler presented a poster on the Castle Mountain Fault at the meeting. This is a major, national meeting held in San Francisco each year. About 20,000 people attended this year.

III. OLD BUSINESS

9:50 a.m.

- Action Items: Commission members should review the list and follow up. Anyone who has not completed the ISC 100 certification should do so by the end of the year. Commissioner Koehler suggested putting white papers, no longer than one or two pages, in the Annual Report. Chairman Aho agreed that these should be included as appendices, and that they should be posted on the web site. Dr. Ruppert sent FEMA the ShakeMap information which they requested. Commissioner Kelly has followed up with Ms. Crutchfield of the Alaska PTA and will also follow up with ADEED.
- Potential New Members: Ann Gravier should receive her acceptance letter soon from the Governor's Office, confirming her as a member of the Commission. Mike West has sent his application letter for membership.
- Discussion of the Anchorage Strong Motion Network: Dr. Utpal Dutta of the UAA School of Engineering had reported that he was not able to access the data from the network. John Aho suggested that Dr. Dutta explain his difficulties in acquiring the data to the USGS. The commission also discussed bringing together a small group of the various agencies that produce and use this data: AEIC, UAA, AVO, the USGS and the ASHSC to work out a solution. Chairman Aho will take the lead on contacting people to form this group. Natasha Ruppert said that the AEIC does send the data to UAA and that it may be a problem with how UAA retrieves it. Dr. West mentioned that although he had not yet been able to speak with Dr. Dutta about this issue, he has discussed it with John Power of the AVO. Dr. West is supportive of further discussion and would like to be involved.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST

10:05 a.m.

- NTHMP Annual Meeting, January 28-30, 2013, Portland, OR
- Seismological Society of America (SSA) Annual Meeting, February 17-19, 2013, Salt Lake City, UT
- WSSPC Annual Meeting, May 2, 2013, Seattle, WA
- SSA Annual Meeting, April 30-May 2, 2014, Anchorage
- 10th U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, July 21-26, 2014, Anchorage

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES

10:20 a.m.

- ASHSC Report to WSSPC January 15, 2013
- Committee Chairs write-ups Most are complete; waiting on two
- 2012 Report to Legislature Final February 1, 2013
- Legislative Trip TBD

VI. NEW BUSINESS

10:30 a.m.

- Future Briefings
 - o Mat-Su Prison Seismic Safety
 - o MOA Emergency Operations Center Tour
 - o Utilities Risk Mitigation Approaches
 - o DOT inventory of bridges: photo inventory of types and weaknesses

- o Gas Pipeline potential investors: TransCanada, Denali and Enstar all have projects going related to the planned gas pipeline
- o Warning and Coordination Meteorologists from NOAA
- o Alaska Rail Road bridge upgrade
- o Tom O'Rourke, Cornell University: The New Normal for Natural Disasters
- o Private Sector Recovery Plans
- o Alaska Shield, Disaster Recovery Framework and Preparedness Conference- Roberta Carney/DHS&EM
- o Other suggestions should be forwarded to Chairman Aho

VII. REPORTS

10:40 a.m.

- Chairperson
 - o Seismic Safety Commissions Outside of Alaska: the chairman reviews minutes of other commissions' meetings to glean ideas (ongoing). He has nothing to report at this time but he will keep monitoring these sites for information.
 - o 10th Conference on Earthquake Engineering: The planning committee meets every Friday morning at the CH2MHILL office. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. Commission members should let Chairman Aho know if they wish to be added to the contact list for the planning committee.
 - o Policy Recommendation White Papers: This has been addressed.
 - o Alaska Attorney General: Chairman Aho has called him twice and as yet received no answer. He will e-mail requesting a response on liability issues related to post earthquake assessments of damaged buildings and infrastructure.
 - o Commissioner Scher added the suggestion that commission members should estimate the hours they put in to commission work to add to the ASHSC annual report.

Committee Reports

- Schools-Kelly: Commissioner Kelly has completed the summary report for the Schools Committee and sent it in. She also finalized a policy recommendation (2010-1) regarding the identification, mitigation and prioritization of seismically vulnerable school buildings. She will ask Janice Crutchfield of the Alaska PTA whether the ASHSC recommendations are being used in the PTA's presentation to the Legislature. Chairman Aho was to speak with the current dean of the UAA School of Engineering to see if undergraduate students can do Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) on buildings, as the University of Oregon has done this very successfully. Since the current interim dean, Orson Smith, may not remain in that position, Chairman Aho will speak with Dr. Zhaohui Yang about this possibility. Sam Kito is no longer with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (ADEED), so Commissioner Kelly will work to develop ties with his replacement, once Sam's position is filled. The new school that will be built in Kodiak will be the largest, most expensive construction project in the island's history. The request for proposals to build

the school includes hiring a firm with the technical expertise to oversee construction and ensure quality control. Commissioner Cassidy reported that the building is being designed as an essential facility and agreed with Commissioner Kelly that it would be worthwhile for the Commission to establish communication with whichever firm is chosen for this work. Commissioner Kelly was glad to see that the Commission's recommendation for such oversight has been acted on by ADEED.

- Insurance-McSharry: The Alaska Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter's Society (CPCU) will hold its annual Insurance Day on May 16 this year at the BP Center in Anchorage. This event is for members of the insurance industry to educate them about pertinent issues. Commissioner McSharry will arrange for a commission member to give a presentation on the commission and its activities as they relate to the insurance industry.
- Earthquake Scenario-Carver: Excused, no report.
- Hazards Identification-Koehler: He has been working on seismic sources of Alaska white paper. He has found that it is a weighty, detailed work that needs to be scaled back in order to remain lean enough to be called a white paper. He will edit it to be more concise and will publish a longer version as a separate report. Publication will likely be through the DGGs website. He will also request a draft of the FEMA report on a Cascadia region earthquake scenario from Tamra Biasco.
- Education & Outreach-Scher: The Anchorage Museum will be hosting an exhibit in 2014 commemorating the 1964 earthquake. Displays will educate the public about earthquake hazards, preparedness, and seismicity in Alaska. Commissioner Scher attends the planning meetings and reported that the December meeting included discussion of other events that will occur around the state to commemorate the 1964 event. The 2014 National Conference on Earthquake Engineering and the SSA Annual Meeting were discussed as these will take place in Anchorage concurrent with the museum exhibit. The Consortium Library in Anchorage will allow access to their archives on the 1964 event in 2014. Some of the information has not been available for many years. The museum's exhibit will be open from spring through the fall of 2014 and will include many public events including a lecture series, films, and family days. Commissioner Scher also discussed plans for the ASHSC website. He will work with the Education and Outreach Committee to determine what kind of information should be available through the site and how that information should be presented, then follow up with April Woolery at the web team at DGGs.
- Response and Recovery-Gravier: Commissioner Gravier is also in the Museum's planning group and plans to participate in a small group effort to continue public education efforts about Alaska's seismic activity and related issues. Peter Haeussler of the USGS is working to organize such a group. The September, 2012 storm that brought flooding and landslides to south central Alaska has been declared a disaster by the federal government, which means that an application period is open for hazard mitigation grant money. Seismic and tsunami mitigation is eligible for this money. She also validated procedures with Mark Roberts, the State Emergency Operations Center

(SEOC) Manager, so that he can call up Commission members following a major seismic event. SEOC staff responded to the M7.5 earthquake that occurred in Sitka on January 5, 2013. There was a tsunami warning associated with the event, and staff were recalled to the SEOC to contact local jurisdictions. Commissioner Gravier will have a report by next month's meeting on how the response played out. She and Irv Petty recently attended the AWR217 Tsunami Awareness course by the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC). They plan to make this training available to emergency managers and trainers within Alaska. Discussion followed regarding what the Commission's role should be following a large event in Alaska. Members agreed that it should be a damaging event and not based solely on magnitude. A written plan will be formulated this year.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11:20 a.m.

- Budget Report-Woolery: The ASHSC budget is currently \$4,814.68.
- ASHSC Web Site Update Status-Woolery: Education committee members will follow up on new web site ideas.
- Added item: Election of Officers. Commissioners Carver and Scher were nominated for Chairman, and members will send their votes by e-mail to Chairman Aho by Monday, January 14. Per suggestion from Commissioner Delozier, this will be deferred until the Chair is elected.
- Next Meeting Date: Teleconference, February 11, 2013.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

11:30 a.m.

- Commissioner Scher moved, and Commissioner Koehler seconded to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.