

**MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
HELD JUNE 16, 2006**

I. OPENING BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

John Aho, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Roll call

Commission Members John Aho, Gary Carver, Rod Combellick, Roger Hansen, Michael Wilkinson, Laura Kelly, and Roger Schnell were present.

Commission Member Linda Freed attended via teleconference.

Others present: Vickie Butherus, Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS); Darryl Jordan, Knik Arm Bridge & Toll Authority; Matt Emerson, president of the newly formed Structural Engineers' Association of Alaska; Steve Siegelka, Vice President for the Structural Engineers Association of Alaska. Scott Simmons, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS & EM); Melanie Lesh, DNR Commissioner's office.

Commission Member Dennis Nottingham was absent.

3. Agenda was approved with the addition of Commission Member Combellick discussing the reappointment of members, and new local government positions.

4. Approval of May 31, 2006 Minutes

Commission member Wilkinson MOVED, seconded by Commission member Carver, to approve the Minutes without changes. The motion passed by voice vote.

II. BRIEFINGS

- Darryl Jordan gave a presentation to the Commission on seismic considerations for the Knik Arm Bridge project.
- Scott Simmons of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management gave a presentation regarding the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Chairman Aho presented a 14 minute DVD "The Next Great Quake", based on a hypothetical re-occurrence of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

There was discussion about having someone from the Division of Risk Management give a presentation on what they consider a "critical structure" to be. Some Commission members questioned why the proposed Knik Arm Bridge was not considered a critical structure for seismic design purposes, considering that it would be an important evacuation route from Anchorage in the event of a major earthquake or other natural disaster.

A suggestion was made to have the Knik Arm Bridge & Toll Authority consider seismic instrumentation on the proposed bridge. The Commission would like to have another presentation at each design phase milestone, with emphasis on the overall seismic-design review process.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- Action Item List-Chairman Aho will email an updated list after today's meeting.
- Commission member Hansen gave a presentation on Alaska seismic activity.

- Membership terms. All members except Michael Wilkinson have sent in their letter of intent to remain on the Commission to the Boards and Commissions office. Michael Wilkinson has indicated that he is unable to continue on the Commission. In addition to his insurance-industry seat, there are two new local-government positions to be filled. Several people, in Anchorage, Valdez, and Skagway have said they would send applications.
- Commission member Hansen gave a short summary on the IRIS (Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology) meeting.
- Website links previously mentioned are on the ASHSC website.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- National Earthquake Emergency Management Conference, July, in Salt Lake City
- Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS), Sept 25-28

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Governor Murkowski arrived for the signing of the HB83. Introductions were made. Governor Murkowski reappointed the Commission members: John Aho – 4 year term; Gary Carver – 3 year term; Rodney Combellick – 2 year term; Linda Freed – 3 year term; Roger Hansen – 4 year term; Laura Kelly – 3 year term; Dennis Nottingham – 2 year term; Roger Schnell – 3 year term. The Governor appointed new member Dean Maxwell to the insurance position for a 4 year term. Governor Murkowski thanked Commission member Wilkinson for his participation on the Commission. Two new local government seats will be added. The Bill was signed!
2. Chairman Aho has thank you letters ready to send to all of the people who sent in resolutions in support of HB 83, to the legislative sponsors, and a special letter to DNR Legislative Liaison Melanie Lesh. Commission member Combellick agreed to review the letters prior to Chairman Aho sending them out.
3. New commission appointments – if members know of qualified persons for the local government positions they should ask them to apply.
4. Charter process – to be discussed at a later date.
5. Commission's role - look at tasks in the April 2006 report to the Legislature to see what kind of approach the Commission should take. Next meeting, Chairman Aho will suggest authors. Commission member Combellick suggested looking at two or three hot button public safety issues, such as public schools, and then concentrate on them. Commission member Carver is willing to do a presentation as to what he has learned regarding the seismic-safety review of schools in Kodiak as a starting point.
6. Commission's role in proposal reviews - The consensus of members is that it is OK to recommend certain research areas, but the Commission should avoid writing letters of support for individual proposals. It is up to funding agencies and their review panels to evaluate the proposals, not the Commission. However, individual members are free to endorse proposals on their own.
7. Earthquake scenario – As a recommendation for an Anchorage scenario, Chairman Aho suggests trying to get the Geotechnical Advisory Commission involved, as well as the EERI AK chapter, and get something going on this.

8. Commission member Combellick suggested requesting a CIP through the state budget process for the Commission to conduct special projects like earthquake scenarios. It has to go through the DNR commissioner.
9. Chairman Aho passed around publications for the commission to look at. Some can be viewed online.
10. The Commission would like to budget next year for face-to-face meetings every other month, and teleconference meetings the months between.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Budget

Budget report was emailed to all members prior to the meeting. Some of the June 16 meeting costs were estimated. As of 6/14/06 there is an estimated \$978.71 remaining of the authorized \$10,000 FY06 budget. There was discussion to order the Earthquake Spectra (1906 Earthquake) for all members with the remaining money. It was also discussed to consider reimbursing the City of Kodiak for Commission member Freed's travel expenses for FY06. That would show actual expenses for the year.

FY08 budget process will start in August. If we want to increase the budget of the Commission it would require a request for a general fund increment. We have good basis for an increase with two new seats that will incur travel expenses.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Next meeting will be via teleconference, July 21, 9 a.m..

VIII. COMMISSION MEMBER GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. At the last meeting Laura was in New Orleans at the Society of American Military Engineers conference. Her main impression following hurricane Katrina was "debris, debris, debris." The Corps of Engineers immediately rebuilt 400 miles of levies; not necessarily better, but back to where they were.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

1. Commission member Hansen MOVED, seconded by Commission member Carver, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.