



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, Rich Koehler, and Robert “Buzz” Scher were present. Commissioner Robin McSharry was excused, and Commissioner David Miller was absent.
- A discussion of the recent NTHMP meeting in Portland, Oregon was added under Briefings, and lessons learned from the response to the magnitude 7.5 seismic event in Sitka last month was added under New Business.
- Introductions-Guests: Mike West 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 November and December, 2012 meetings: Minutes were approved with corrections.
- Commissioner Scher was announced as the unanimously elected new chair of the ASHSC, and he acknowledged John Aho’s work as chair. The election of the vice-chair followed. Rich Koehler was unanimously elected as vice-chair of the ASHSC.

II. BRIEFINGS 9:15 a.m.

- Recent Seismic Activity of Interest-West: There were nearly 2,500 recorded events in the month of January, 2013. Five events were magnitude 5 or greater. Of those, three were in the aftershock sequence for the Craig (Sitka) event on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Although aftershocks from that event continue, there are now just a couple of recorded aftershocks per day. Commissioner Delozier asked if the Craig event was expected ahead of time and whether it had been forecast. Dr. West reported that this earthquake is exactly what is expected along that area of the Queen Charlotte fault and that there is a history of comparable events there. Just 300 km south of this event, there was a magnitude 7.7 earthquake in the Haida Gwaii region last fall. However, there was nothing to lead anyone to believe that the Craig event would occur at this particular time, no forecast related to it. Dr. West also reported that, following the Craig event, Natasha Ruppert of the AEIC visited the area and did two public workshops to give some perspective and ease concern over the ongoing aftershocks. These were well attended, about 150 to 175 people at each meeting.
- Health of the Alaska Seismic Networks-West: February is a tough time of year for the network, as the stations suffer from cold and lack of solar energy. Their biggest problem is in the Wrangell-St. Elias area: they have two independent points of failure in the area that are causing loss of information. They plan to visit one of the key sites out of McCarthy and do repairs that should bring those sites back online. There are five or six strong motion sites in Anchorage that were not working as of that morning. The system administrator is looking into it and he believes that it will be a simple fix. They are happy that four sites that

were newly installed last year near the proposed Susitna/Watana Dam site are all working through the winter.

- Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission (MOA/GAC) Activity Update-Scher: Their activities in the last few months have all been focused on the port project and the findings of the report from CH2MHILL. The executive summary is still in draft form and can't yet be released. As soon as this becomes available, he or Commissioner Aho will supply copies to Commission members.
- 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Local Planning Committee-Aho: The committee meets on a weekly basis, with the next meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. They focus on fundraising and sponsorship in Alaska and are currently contacting potential sponsors and exhibitors. This conference is held every four years nationally. The EERI Annual Meeting will also be held in Anchorage next summer, in conjunction with the National Conference. It should be a huge event. There is a four day geology field trip that Conference attendees can elect to participate in. Commissioners Carver and Koehler are among those who have been working out the plans for this trip. Glee Anderson of Visit Anchorage (formerly the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau) will attend the EERI meeting tomorrow in Seattle to disseminate information on things to do during the 2014 conference in Anchorage. The local committee welcomes volunteer help and is seeking feature speakers for the session on the 1964 earthquake. Chairman Scher commented that EERI has the announcement and call for papers posted on their website.
- Nonstructural Seismic Mitigation Training Webinar (FEMA E-74)-Gravier: About ten people in her division participated. Her division is working with FEMA to bring a live version of this training to the Alaska preparedness conference this fall. She will let the Commission know when this training is offered again.
- National Tsunami Hazards Mitigation Program meeting, January 28-30, 2013 in Portland, OR-Gravier: The current Tsunami Warning and Education Act expired in September of 2012 and Senator Inouye's staff were working on a reauthorization bill, which has been suspended due to the senator's death last year. The NTHMP group is looking to move this bill through the proper channels to keep tsunami warning programs funded and viable. Mike West, who also attended the meeting, agreed that the two main themes of the meeting were the uncertainty of future funding and that Senator Begich may step in to sponsor the bill and move it forward. Commissioner Scher asked if the commission should send a letter of support to Senator Begich's office for his potential sponsorship of the bill, and Dr. West agreed that it would be appropriate and timely.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

9:50 a.m.

- Action Items: Commission members agreed that the action items list should be separated into long term and short term sections so that ongoing projects such as white papers can go under the long term section. Commissioner Carver still needs to take the ICS 100 course. The Hazards Identification committee is

continuing to work on a white paper. The report to WSSPC is ongoing: nothing new to report at this time. Commissioner Gravier reported that her division has sent their report to WSSPC and she will forward a copy of that report to Commissioner Aho. Regarding item K on the action items list: the framework for the Commission's response following a damaging earthquake, Commissioner Gravier continues to work on this, and she will arrange a teleconference of the Response and Recovery Committee in the next week to discuss this topic. Chairman Scher would like to focus the next face-to-face meeting on this subject as well. Commissioner Aho continues to work on an information packet for new members. He has received summaries for the report for the Annual Report. The letter to the Governor in support of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Earthquake Engineering is on hold pending more information from EERI. Commissioner Kelly has contacted ADEED. Sam Kito's position has not yet been filled but the person she spoke with at the department is interested in keeping up to date on ASHSC activities and will let Commissioner Kelly know once Mr. Kito's replacement has been hired. She will summarize her contact with the State PTA in her committee report. Mike West followed up with Paul Whitmore on press coverage of the Queen Charlotte Islands event. Commissioner Aho is working on forming an instrumentation oversight committee for the Anchorage strong motion network. Chairman Scher forwarded a link from FEMA to a report on potential damage from a Cascadia event. Commissioner Koehler had sent Tamra Biasco of FEMA a link to the Commission's white paper that focuses on impacts to Alaska from such an event.

- Commission Members/Roster: The member list will be updated as information is available. Chairman Scher pointed out that he, Ann Gravier and Rich Koehler will need to send an e-mail or letter to the Boards and Commissions office to be reappointed to their positions, which will expire June 30, 2013. The committee memberships were reviewed. Commissioner Aho asked that discussion of new members be listed as a separate bullet item on the agenda.
- 2012 Annual Report: Members should send comments to Commissioner Aho no later than this Friday.
- Policy Recommendations (Status): this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST

10:05 a.m.

- EERI Annual Meeting, February 12-15, 2013, Seattle, WA
- Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, April 2-4, 2013, Tacoma, WA
- DHS&EM Spring Emergency Preparedness Conference, April 2-4, 2013, Anchorage, AK
- WSSPC Annual Meeting, May 2, 2013, Seattle, WA
- Seismological Society of America (SSA) Annual Meeting, April 17-19, 2013, Salt Lake City, UT
- National Earthquake Program Managers Meeting, April 30-May 2, 2013, Seattle, WA
- DHS&EM Fall Emergency Preparedness Conference, October 8-10, 2013, Anchorage, AK

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
February 11, 2013

- WSSPC Annual Meeting, May 2-3, 2013, Seattle, WA
- SSA Annual Meeting, April 30-May 2, 2014, Anchorage
- 10th U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering/EERI Annual Meeting/NEES Quake Summit, July 21-25, 2014, Anchorage

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES

10:20 a.m.

- ASHSC Report to WSSPC February, 2013
- 2012 Report to Legislature Final February, 2013
- Legislative Trip TBD
- Legislative Sunset Audit Summer/Fall 2013

VI. NEW BUSINESS

10:30 a.m.

- Requests for ASHSC's Endorsement: These are covered under the ASHSC's Rules of Procedure, number seven under the Meetings heading. Commission members should be aware of these guidelines. The Commission discussed clarifying future responses to Commission endorsement requests. Members indicated that such requests should be brought before the Commission, discussed and approved prior to being granted. If there is a short turnaround time on a request, e-mail discussion can suffice.
- Response to recent seismic events: Chairman Scher asked if the Commission should issue a statement on the response to the Craig, AK and Queen Charlotte Islands events. Commissioner Gravier pointed out that any such statement should be based on specific information from the emergency response organizations that were involved with these events.
- Future Briefings
  - Mat-Su Prison Seismic Safety
  - MOA Emergency Operations Center Tour
  - Utilities Risk Mitigation Approaches
  - DOT inventory of bridges: photo inventory of types and weaknesses
  - Gas Pipeline potential investors: TransCanada, Denali and Enstar all have projects going related to the planned gas pipeline
  - Warning and Coordination Meteorologists from NOAA
  - Alaska Rail Road bridge upgrade
  - Tom O'Rourke, Cornell University: The New Normal for Natural Disasters
  - Alaska Shield-Gravier
  - Private Sector Recovery Plans
  - Disaster Recovery Framework-David Andrews/DHS&EM
  - Preparedness Conference- David Andrews/DHS&EM
  - Kodiak School Construction Project: Critical Facilities in Kodiak
  - Commissioner Aho will preview the new Joyner Lecture by Kevin Berryman, Manager of the New Zealand Natural Hazards research Platform, to see if it would be a good candidate for an Alaskan audience. The lecture is titled "The Context and Impacts of the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence of 2010-2011".
  - Other suggestions should be forwarded to Chairman Scher

VII. REPORTS

10:40 a.m.

- Chairperson
  - The House Finance Subcommittee on Natural Resources had a hearing in January, which was attended by Rod Combellick of DGGS and a former ASHSC member. The ASHSC was discussed and Mr. Combellick was able to answer questions about the Commission. There will be a legislative audit of the Commission this summer in preparation for the sunset date next year. The Chairman will let members know once more information becomes available. Chairman Scher is a member of the Alaska Professional Design Council, which includes members from the American Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, military engineers, architects, surveyors, and others who work in similar fields. A group from the council met with several legislators last week to provide input on bills in process. Chairman Scher was interested to see that Sam Kito, who has worked with the ASHSC Schools Committee in his former position with ADEED, is now working as a lobbyist. Chairman Scher would like to ask the DNR Legislative Liaison if it is appropriate for the ASHSC to continue to have a working relationship with Mr. Kito, as he has been very helpful in the past in promoting better seismic safety in Alaskan schools. New ASHSC members should sign the charter so that the signatures are up to date. Peter Haeussler of the USGS is working on an Alaska Earthquake Alliance, modeled after the Bay Area Earthquake Alliance in California. Commissioner Gravier has discussed the alliance with Dr. Haeussler and feels that it is worth developing. The Commission will discuss this further at a future meeting.

Committee Reports

- Schools-Kelly: Commissioner Kelly is working with an ADEED contact as Sam Kito's replacement has not been hired yet. She has been contacted by e-mail by Alaska PTA member Laura Crutchfield and will work on continuing to build ties with that group. Ms. Crutchfield informed Commissioner Kelly that the Alaska PTA has officially added school seismic safety to their legislative agenda this year.
- Insurance-McSharry: Excused, no report.
- Earthquake Scenario-Carver: The Kodiak scenario is in progress: he is waiting on the HAZUS information from FEMA to move forward.
- Hazards Identification-Koehler: He is continuing to work on the Alaska earthquake sources paper. The executive summary will become a white paper once it is complete, and Commissioner Koehler will request comments from Commission members at that time.
- Education & Outreach-Scher: Most topics have been discussed earlier. Chairman Scher sent a follow up letter to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development regarding the letter sent last

December with recommendations to modify the regulations for civil and structural engineer licensing in Alaska. He hopes to hear from them soon.

- Response and Recovery-Gravier: She will add several to-do items from this meeting, particularly the possibility of sending a letter to the Governor and Southeast regional legislators regarding response following seismic events. She will issue a meeting notice to her committee soon.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS 11:15 a.m.

- Budget Report-Woolery: The ASHSC budget is currently \$4,657.00.
- ASHSC Web Site Update Status-Woolery: No big changes at this time. Chairman Scher asked about linking more than just the agenda with the meeting information, but the commissioners agreed that it was best to leave the agenda as the only item linked on the site. Chairman Scher asked that Ms. Woolery find out if he can have an electronic signature that can be attached to e-mails, if there are Commission envelopes for mailings, and if there is a mailing list available for legislators.
- Chairman Scher will contact Commissioner Miller on his absences.
- Next Meeting Date: Teleconference, March 7, 2013
- Next Face-to-Face Meeting: Anchorage, April or May, 2013: TBA

IX. ADJOURNMENT 11:24 a.m.

- Commissioner Carver moved, and Commissioner Koehler seconded to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.