

**MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD OCOTOBER 28, 2005 (Anchorage)**

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order

Rod Combellick, temporary chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. Roll call

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

Administrative Assistant Vickie Butherus, Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys  
(DGGS) was also present.

Audience members and guests included: Susan Fischetti, Governor's Office, Ron Watts, Joint  
Pipeline Monitoring office; Christie Miller, Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic  
Development; Jim Butchart, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management;  
Lloyd Cluff, Pacific Gas & Electric (California); Mark Musial, Chairman of the Municipality  
of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission; Buzz Scher, member of the Anchorage  
Geotechnical Advisory Commission; Peter Haeussler, USGS; Taunnie Boothby, Department of  
Commerce, Community and Economic Development; Tom Kuckertz, Prince William Sound  
Regional Citizens Advisory Committee and Council, and on-teleconference: Representative  
Gabrielle LeDoux; Christine Marasigan, Legislative Aide and Representative David Guttenberg

3. Welcome by the Governor's Office

Susan Fischetti welcomed the Commission members on behalf of the Governor's Office.

4. Welcome by DNR Commissioner Tom Irwin

Rod Combellick welcomed the Commission members on behalf of the Alaska Department of  
Natural Resources

5. Approval of Agenda

Commission member Wilkinson MOVED, seconded by Commission member Nottingham, to  
approve the agenda. The motion passed by voice vote.

6. Introductions

Each Commission member made a brief presentation about their background, their  
organization's activities and their perspective on earthquake risk mitigation.

**II. KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: California Seismic Safety Commission: Successes And Failures**

Lloyd Cluff, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, delivered a slide-illustrated presentation on the history of the California Seismic Safety Commission, using its success and failures to suggest how the Alaska Commission might best accomplish its mission.

**III. BRIEFINGS**

1. Status of House Bill 83  
Combellick provided Commission members with an update on the Status of House Bill 83 that will extend the life of the Commission and amend its responsibilities.
2. Review of Existing Earthquake Hazards Statutes  
Combellick reviewed with Commission members the results of his search of Alaska Statutes relating to earthquakes, seismic events, and tsunamis. Copies of relevant statutes were provided to Commission members.
3. State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and State Hazard Mitigation Plan  
Jim Butchart, DHS&EM provided an overview of the State Emergency Response Commission structure and responsibilities, along with a brief review of the adopted State of Alaska Hazard Mitigation Plan. Additional information, about specifics in the Plan was provided by Taunni.
4. Local government Role: Title 29  
Freed provided a brief overview of Title 29, the enabling legislation for municipalities in the State of Alaska and municipal responsibilities under this Statute. She also provided Commission members with copies of sections of Title 26, which contains the Alaska Disaster Act, which may have some relevancy to the activities of the Commission. Christy Miller, DCCED, provided supplemental information about the state's flood mitigation program.
5. Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission  
Mark Musial provided an overview of the activities of the Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission and made copies available of the organization's charter, as a resource for the Commission.
6. Building Code - Seismic Provisions in Alaska  
Ron Watts gave a presentation on the adoption and enforcement of building codes in the State of Alaska and how they relate to risk mitigation of seismic event impacts.
7. AEIC and Statewide Seismic Instrumentation Program  
Roger Hansen provided the Commission with a status update on the program and continuing efforts to improve the quality and breadth of instrumentation and seismic monitoring.
8. Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC)  
Combellick provided information to Commission members about the WSSPC, which includes representatives of state seismic organizations from all western states.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business, as this was the first meeting of the Commission.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:00 pm and reconvened the meeting at 1:15 pm.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. Elections**

Commission member Freed **MOVED**, seconded by Commission member Carver, to nominate John Aho as chair of the Commission. With no other nominations, the motion passed by voice vote.

Commission member Aho **MOVED**, seconded by Commission member Freed, to nominate Gary Carver as vice-chair. With no other nominations, the motion passed by voice vote.

John Aho, Chairman, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

##### **2. Goals and strategy for SHSC**

- **Goals and Priorities**

Commission members agreed that the priority short-term goal is to educate decision-makers about the value of and the need for the Commission. If House Bill 83 does not pass the legislature this coming session, there will be no Commission after July 1, 2006.

The Commission should be prepared to respond, through the chair, if a seismic event occurs while the Commission is in the current organizational phase. In addition, a press release about the first meeting and responsibilities of the Commission should be released soon, to start the education process. Combellick will take responsibility of drafting a press release for review by Commission members and for release through the Department of Natural Resources.

- **Desired Results for 2006 Legislative Session**

Commission members agreed that the Commission needs to be active and visible and show positive results from the activities of the Commission.

- **Strategy for Support of House Bill 83**

Freed stated that a resolution supporting passage of House Bill 83 had been adopted by the Local Emergency Planning Committee Association (LEPCA) at their tri-ennial meeting in Fairbanks in September. She also indicated that the City of Kodiak and other municipalities around the state were expected to pass supporting resolutions. Other groups interested in the topic should be approached and educated more fully about the value of the Commission.

##### **3. Commission Web site**

A Commission Web site was discussed. It makes sense that DNR/DGGS be responsible for the website as they are the State support staff for the Commission. Combellick will have DGGS staff start to work on something basic that is consistent with state website guidelines. Initial content will likely include: meeting agendas and minutes plus links to other, relevant Web sites.

4. Future meetings

The next meeting of the Alaska Seismic Hazard Safety Commission will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage. A discussion ensued about minutes of meetings. Freed offered to review meeting minutes if the initial draft is prepared by Butherus.

DGGS will take responsibility for ensuring the notice for the next meeting meets State guidelines.

## VI. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Ethics disclosure and reporting

Combellick handed out ethics disclosure packets for all Commission members to read. If members believe there is a potential ethics violation/conflict they must complete a disclosure form and file with John Aho, Chair. Commission members were also provided the website address ([www.law.state.ak.us/doclibrary/ethics.html](http://www.law.state.ak.us/doclibrary/ethics.html)) for the State's ethics video.

2. Budget

The Commission budget is \$10,000 for fiscal year FY06 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006), which represents a small amount of staff time and travel expenses for Commission members. If Commission members can cover their own travel it helps the budget. Unused, budgeted funds do not carryover from year to year. DGGS will track Commission expenses. The State FY07 budget is being developed now, but no change is being requested by DNR for Commission funding. After some discussion, Commission members agreed with DNR's proposed FY07 Commission budget.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. General Discussion

It would mean a lot for this Commission to meet and accomplish several things in the next 6 months.

5. Adjournment

Commission member Carver MOVED, seconded by Commission member Hansen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm