



OREGON SEISMIC SAFETY POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (OSSPAC)

Minutes

May 13, 2025

OSSPAC Members Present:

Tiffany Brown, Chair	Local Government Stakeholder
Allison Pynch, Vice Chair	Public Member
Jonathan Allan	Department of Geology & Mineral Industries
Matt Crall	Department of Land Conservation and Development
Christina LeClerc	Department of Transportation
Nishant Parulekar	Utilities Stakeholder
Elizabeth Safran	Public Member
Anne Castleton	Public Member
Juan Benevidez	Schools Stakeholder
Ty Barker	Building Owner

OSSPAC Members Absent:

Sen. Dick Anderson	Legislative Assembly Representative – Senate
Rep. David Gomberg	Legislative Assembly Representative – House
Althea Rizzo	Department of Emergency Management
Todd Smith	Department of Consumer & Business Services
Lesley Ogden	First Responder Stakeholder
Carolina Gomez	Multifamily Housing Stakeholder

Others in Attendance:

Jonna Papaefthimiou	State Resilience Officer
Seiji Shiratori	OEM
Carissa Clarke	OEM
Jay Wilson	Clackamas County
Mike Kortenhof	DEQ
Rhiannon Bezore	DLCD
James Bela	Oregon Earthquake Awareness



1. Administrative Matters:

Roll Call & Introductions: The meeting was called at 9:06 AM

Review & Approval of March minutes: Add minutes to the next agenda for approval.

Events Notification: CLIP Event

New Business: None.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

2. Reports:

ODOT: Christina LeClerc provided an update from ODOT. Federal highway approval – flooding in February and March - \$34 million between ODOT and local agencies is being reimbursed. Working on a funding package with the state legislature.

DLCD: Matt Crall provided an update from DLCD. All Hazards: risk assessment upgrade statewide submitted to FEMA and the state. FEMA has withdrawn guidance on NHMP.

DOGAMI: Jonathan Allen provided an update from DOGAMI.

DEQ: Mike Kortenhof provided an update from DEQ. Facility Assessment Work for seismic mitigation work is progressing – it's a long process focused on geotechnical assessments prior to digging and detail on structural assessment.

State Resilience Officer: Jonna Papaefthimiou provided an update from Governor Kotek's Office. Governor Kotek signed legislation for SRO to cover all hazards instead of only seismic.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Annual OSSPAC Officer Election:

Chair Brown opened the floor for the nomination of Chair: Anne Castleton nominates Allison Pyrch for a 2-year term, Ty Barker seconds. Allison Pyrch, public member, accepts the nomination. No discussion.

Unanimous pass, no opposition.

The floor is open for Vice Chair nominations. Liz Safran nominates Anne Castleton, Public Member. Anne Castleton accepts the nomination. Unanimous pass, no opposition.

5. ORP Project: Oregon Prepared Activity Recap and Next Steps

Alison Pyrch led a discussion about the Oregon Resilience Plan Update Project and the



activity that was done at the Oregon Prepared Conference. The report is a high-level assessment of the state of our infrastructure in the event of a large Cascadia earthquake. Oregon Prepared Community at the conference: open activity to ask for comments on that piece of it. The recommendations are still mostly needed – restructuring and reclarifying.

6. **Creating Earthquake Culture: Infrastructure Discussion**

Alison Pynch led a discussion about creating a culture around earthquake safety awareness.

How can ORP set us up to push forward for the education pieces? Recommendations for earthquake early warning, tsunami evacuation, and vertical structures. How can we recommend education or create an earthquake culture?

Equity on signage – Japan and Mexico examples: in case of fire OR earthquake, don't use the elevator. Informational signage can build a shared awareness over time.

Other than warning signs, how can we spark community memory?

- Markers of 1896 flood height in Portland. Storytelling. Formal and informal context. “You shouldn't scare people” is a real barrier to getting the message out and making people think ahead.
How can we get this sort of messaging into schools? [Cascadia 9 Game](#)
- Neighborhood Preparedness Team: focused on community-based actions instead of relying on government safety nets. Outreach for education pieces – PBEM, CERT
- Community Outreach not in schools: people wanted to focus on tsunami hazards. Students weren't as aware of tsunami hazards. How to target different demographics?
 - New Zealand: hazard language built into standard culture (conferences in NZ started ceremonies with hazard information)
 - Salem schools: Great Shake Out, earthquake drills twice per year, preparedness barrel, stocked water. Publicity on preparedness during events – how can schools be a resource to the community while maintaining a student-first mindset?
- Retrofitting – include signage saying that it's seismically sound
 - Mexico uses an early warning system because they have buildings that are not seismically sound – the US doesn't have a public that is educated on what to do, which impedes the effectiveness of the early warning system. Earthquake drills for more than schools

7. **Legislative Discussion:**

8. **Additional Discussion:**

In-person meeting options.



Adjourned: Chair Pyrch adjourned the meeting at 10:36 AM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 9:00 AM.