



OREGON SEISMIC SAFETY POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (OSSPAC)

Minutes

July 8, 2025

OSSPAC Members Present:

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| Allison Pynch, Chair | Public Member |
| Anne Castleton, Vice Chair | Public Member |
| Jonathan Allan | Department of Geology & Mineral Industries |
| Matt Crall | Department of Land Conservation and Development |
| Tiffany Brown | Local Government Stakeholder |
| Nishant Parulekar | Utilities Stakeholder |
| Elizabeth Safran | Public Member |
| Rep. David Gomberg | Legislative Assembly Representative – House |
| Althea Rizzo | Department of Emergency Management |
| Todd Smith | Department of Consumer & Business Services |
| Carolina Gomez | Multifamily Housing Stakeholder |

OSSPAC Members Absent:

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| Christina LeClerc | Department of Transportation |
| Juan Benevidez | Schools Stakeholder |
| Ty Barker | Building Owner |
| Sen. Dick Anderson | Legislative Assembly Representative – Senate |

Others in Attendance:

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| Seiji Shiratori | OEM |
| Carissa Clarke | OEM |
| Natasha Fox | OEM |
| Kevin White | Member of the Public |
| Svetlana Lazarev | DEQ |
| Rhiannon Bezore | DLCD |
| James Bela | Member of the Public |
| Jay Wilson | Clackamas County |



1. Administrative Matters:

Roll Call & Introductions: Meeting is called to order at 9:02 AM

Review & Approval of March and May minutes: Liz Safran moves to approve the March minutes, Nishant seconds. All approve. No opposition. May Minutes: Nishant moves to approve May Minutes, Althea seconds. All approve. No opposition.

Events Notification: None.

New Business: None.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025

2. Reports:

ODOT: Rep. Gomberg highlighted that the legislature did not pass ODOT funding. The consequences of which include laying off approximately 450 people and eliminating 900 positions, including vacancies in maintenance and safety environment.

OSSPAC relevance: No ODOT projects for resilience after landslides and natural disasters, which will take longer for communities to recover. Gas taxes are a diminishing resource. Road Usage Charge – proposed in the Joint Legislative Committee.

DLCD: Rhiannon Bezore provided an update from DLCD. The Coastal Hazards Working Group has begun meeting.

Matt Crall provided a status update on NHMP, which has been submitted and received preliminary approval from FEMA without revisions. It is now with the Governor's office for signature before going back to FEMA for final approval. DLCD continues to work on a new Risk Assessment Tool for Tribes, Counties, and Cities to look at risks and vulnerability factors. The mapping tool is moving away from census tracts and instead uses a hexagonal grid system.

OEM: Althea Rizzo provided updates on tsunami hazard education initiatives, such as a foundation course for emergency managers and a tsunami debris story map.

DOGAMI: Jonathan Allan provided an update on the ongoing efforts to update tsunami inundation modeling for the coast. Lalo Guerrero provided an update on ongoing activities.

DCBS: Todd Smith shared a brief update, confirming that the new structural code remains on track to take effect in October.

DEQ: Svetlana Lazarev provided an update on the Fuel Tank Seismic Stability Program, risk mitigation plans, and ongoing assessments.

Legislative Assembly: Representative Gomberg asked about the presence throughout the last legislative session. Budget cuts meant investments couldn't be made in the



necessary sectors, mixed with the uncertainty at the federal level and partisan issues, things did not get done, such as the Transportation plan. Many things didn't move forward.

State Resilience Officer: No update.

3. Public Comment:

None.

4. ORP Project – Update *Pyrch, Brown*

Allison Pyrch provided an update on the ORP Project.

Natasha Fox suggested DEMAC (Disability Emergency Management Advisory Council) review to provide a viewpoint from the disability community

Anne Castleton suggested we assign a liaison to facilitate

Tiffany Brown is working on the chapters for information and communication, coastal communities, and business and workforce. She would like someone with more business expertise to take over the business and workforce chapter.

5. OSSPAC Committees – Discussion *Castleton*

Anne Castleton suggests sub-committees to meet in the off months: Education/Messaging, Legislative, ORP.

Legislative: Proactive approach rather than reactive

- Legislative Concepts need to be developed in the summer
- Rep. Gomberg is tasked with providing a timeline of how and when to craft legislative concepts.
- State Agency Representatives can act as Subject Matter Experts

Education:

- Priority: Create a mission statement.
- Education Emergency Managers: Talk to educators who have already invested in emergency management to get curriculum ideas.
- Recommendation development that leads to legislation.

6. Statewide Education and Messaging – Commission Discussion

Rep Gomberg – History of Statewide Education

Representative Gomberg led a group discussion about the state of earthquake preparedness in Oregon and highlighted the lack of consistent funding around statewide seismic education programs.



- 2023 HB 2902 encourages but does not mandate school districts to prepare students for natural disasters.
 - Resistance due to teaching hours: adding new curriculum means taking something out. How do we prepare teachers?
 - OSSPAC could reach out to the Oregon School Boards Association to see their outreach efforts and how we can get more districts involved
 - The Governor is the superintendent of public instruction: OSSPAC could ask Governor Kotek to encourage the Department of Education to provide more support or direction to schools.
 - The Department of Education curriculum is developed. The next step is to formalize and decide how to roll it out.

Althea Rizzo – History of OEM Education and Messaging

- Basic earthquake preparedness outreach has historically been done in a patchwork and ad hoc way, without dedicated funding for geohazards education.
- OEM developed the Be 2 Weeks Ready Program and focused on community engagement and education (EMPG-funded position)
- ShakeAlert: USGS-funded early warning program that uses seismic data to send alerts seconds after an earthquake starts.
 - USGS has dedicated staff for education, providing state agencies with information to share.

Group Discussion on potential OSSPAC actions.

- Education is not embedded in our lifestyle – people need to seek out the information.
- Tiffany suggests we write a report to outline education strategies and gaps.
- Anne suggests a work group to dive into the topic and develop legislative concepts and guidance
- Education is mentioned in several places throughout the ORP – how do we develop it into specific guidelines for earthquake culture?
 - Follow up with recommendations

7. September Meeting Planning – Response and Recovery

Response and Recovery OEM Managers

New OEM ECC Manager/Response Director – Andrew Jahir (formerly FEMA)

Adjourned: Chair Pyrch adjourned the meeting at 11:06 AM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025