



OSSPAC MINUTES
January 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 PST virtually.

OSSPAC Members Present:

Jeffrey Soulages, Chair	Public member
Tiffany Brown, Vice Chair	Stakeholder: local government
Adam Pushkas	Stakeholder: building owners
Aeron Teverbaugh	State agency: DCBS
Althea Rizzo	State agency: OEM
Bob Houston	State agency: DOGAMI
Bonnie Magura	Stakeholder: schools
Christina LeClerc	State agency: ODOT
Dacia Grayber	Stakeholder: first responder
Ed MacMullan	Stakeholder: banking
Joe Karney	Stakeholder: utilities
Matt Crall	State agency: DLCD
Rep. David Gomberg	Legislative member
Sen. Arnie Roblan	Legislative member
Susan Romanski	Public member
Trent Nagele	Stakeholder: structural engineer
Walter McMonies	Stakeholder: multi-family housing

OSSPAC Members Absent:

Katie Young	Public member
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Invited Speakers:

Amira Streeter	Governor's Office
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Others in Attendance:

Mike Harryman	State Resilience Officer
Jim Austin	Chief of Staff, Rep. David Gomberg
Chris Goldfinger	Oregon State University
Meg Reed	State agency: DLCD
Jeni Hall	Energy Trust of Oregon
Kay Mattson	
Rachel Smith	State agency: DLCD
Steve Robinson	Cascadia Prepared
Willis Homann	Staff, Rep. David Gomberg

1. Administrative Matters

1a. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Jeff Soulages opened the meeting and led introductions.

1b. Review and Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from November 10, 2020 were reviewed. Bonnie Magura had comments, which were incorporated. Trent Nagele moved to accept, seconded by Ed MacMullan and approved by Commission vote.

1c. Events Notification

Jeff Soulages introduced the USGS/NHMP workshop on February 23, 2020 to develop source characterization for Cascadia. If Commission members want to attend, please let Jeff know. Chris Goldfinger added that the National Seismic Map will be addressed in the workshop and encouraged commissioners to attend.

The Annual Meeting of EERI will be virtual this year and held March 23-25, 2021.

Althea Rizzo shared that ShakeAlert public alerting is to begin in Oregon on March 11 to coincide with the 10th Anniversary of the Tohoku event. There will be a series of webinars in February for partner groups.

1d. New Business

None submitted.

1e. Next OSSPAC Meeting

Will be held March 9, 2021, virtually. There will also be two additional "Special Topic" meetings specifically on Legislative bills held on February 9 and April 13, both from 8:00 am to 10:30 am, again both virtual.

2. Reports

2a. OEM

Althea Rizzo reported that OEM was working on a weeklong exercise called Cascadia Rising 2022. The setting was four days after a major Cascadia earthquake and tsunami. OEM has recently added a number of personnel to cover mitigation, recovery and accounting. Althea stressed that it was important for all commissioners to send in their time spreadsheet to allow in-kind matching of the NEHRP Grant.

2b. DLCD

Meg Reed reported that Port Orford and North Bend had completed their Tsunami evacuation plans using the DOGAMI “Beat the Wave” data. The City of Newport has moved into the contracting phase of an evaluation of beach access improvements so people can safely evacuate in case of a major tsunami.

2c. DOGAMI

Bob Houston reported continuing work on Beat the Wave modelling, just finishing Brookings and Gold Beach. He said that Jon Allen would be joining OSSPAC representing DOGAMI. He acknowledged the work and kind words for Deb Schueller who has been assisting OSSPAC with the production of the Tsunami Resilience report.

2d. DCBS

Aeron Teverbaugh reported that not a lot of work has happened pertaining to earthquakes. There were a fair number of bills the agency is tracking in the Legislature pertaining to health insurance. A permanent director, Andrew Stolfi, has been in place since last April. There still is no permanent Director for BCD.

2e. ODOT

Christina LeClerc reported that ODOT has been very busy working on debris removal and clearing logs on the sides of roads after the recent wildfires. They are also getting new address signs for burned properties.

2f. SRO

Mike Harryman reported that the Governor’s office is working with DHS on a transportation assessment focused on resilience. They have identified several resiliency enhancement options including creating “island” communities, focus on importance of airports and looking at maritime and rail infrastructure. This complements Chapter 5 of the ORP. Federal agencies involved include: ODOT, OEM, DOGAMI, FEMA, USDOT, US Army Corp of Engineers, and US Coast Guard.

The Governor has issued a proclamation making Jan 25-31 Cascadia Anniversary week. In response to a question from the Chair, April is Earthquake Preparedness month which is different than this proclamation.

PDX is working on a cost/benefit study to upgrade the south runway to survive the damage from a subduction zone earthquake.

PSU is doing a multi-discipline study and economic assessment on the CEI Hub. In response to question from Susan Romanski, the Western States Petroleum Association is participating in the study. OSSPAC requested to get an update once the study is completed and Mike indicated he would talk with PSU.

2g. Update on the Ship to Shore naval demonstration

Tiffany Brown asked to give a short update on the Ship to Shore exercise completed in 2019. The assessment of the entire coast has been completed and 17 locations have been identified as possible sites to land hovercraft to deliver needed emergency supplies.

3. Review Final Draft of Tsunami Resilience Report

Jeff began the discussion that he had received a few typos by e-mail on Page 14 and 16. Bonnie Magura asked that with the future of DOGAMI unknown, should anything in the report change. After discussion it was decided to leave the report as written. Trent motioned to approve the report with corrections noted and was seconded by Ed MacMullan. Motion carried with abstentions from Agency Reps including DCBS, DLCD, ODOT and OEM.

Mike will have the report printed in small booklets and distributed to all Commissioners. Susan Romanski added that consideration should be given to an external review of future reports as there are no scientists on the Commission.

1f. Changes in Membership

Chair Soulages forgot to cover commission membership changes in Administrative matters. Senator Roblan has retired from the Legislature and has not yet been replaced by Senator Courtney. Mike will check into their progress. Dacia Grayber is a new member of the Legislature and therefore had to leave the Commission as the first responder stakeholder. Mike will help fill this position.

Jeff and Tiffany posed a question to the commission if they were fine leaving Dacia Grayber's and Sen Roblan's names on the Tsunami report. Typically, the list of names on the report reflect when it was published. Aeron preferred to leave them on, and Ed and Bonnie agreed. Will keep the way it is written on the final draft.

4. DOGAMI Department Changes

4a. Presentation – Bob Houston, DOGAMI and Amira Streeter, Governor's Office

Bob Houston explained that the Governor's budget recommended a re-alignment of both the geologic services and oil/gas mining portions of the agency. The LIDAR program would be sunset. Seven staff would transition to DLCD in July of 2022. Eleven staff would transition to DEQ including the mining program. Many of the key grants would be restructured including the NOAA, FEMA and survey mapping program grants.

Amira Streeter added that it was not eliminating the core of DOGAMI but rather making structural changes to make it more resilient. Relying on grant funding has

made staffing a struggle for the geologic division. DOGAMI has made improvements over the past few years but the lower state budget due to COVID required many cuts throughout state government.

4b. Commissioner Discussion

Tiffany asked about extension of work on the coast, in particular engineering studies for coastal hospitals. Amira responded that the cuts are mostly within administrative and junior technical positions and that coastal work will shift to DLCD. Tiffany followed up with whether or not the seismic expertise within DOGAMI was being maintained. Bob responded that they were maintaining subject matter expertise in geology, tsunami inundation, landslide/debris flow, flood and channel migration and geologic hazard and risk analysis. They would be losing seismicity and earthquake subject matter expertise.

Althea Rizzo added that “Oregon was losing” with the proposed restructuring of DOGAMI. Bonnie Magura said that she was incensed and very concerned about the thoughtful work done by DOGAMI and how this would be done under DLCD. Bob said they were developing a fact sheet and would distribute to OSSPAC. Amira added that both DLCD and DOGAMI were in discussions to try to make the transition seamless. Jeff asked if they would keep the DOGAMI name and at this time it appears unclear. The Role of the State Geologist is currently under discussion.

Rep. Gomberg wanted to clarify that the proposed change to DOGAMI was not in consultation with nor driven by the Coastal Caucus. He reviewed the current process that the funding bill would go through (subcommittee on Natural Resources) and stated that a hearing would be scheduled for next week.

Trent Nagele said that this was a “sad day” and that DOGAMI has been a leader in resilience for the state. He knows that this is not a surprise as grants funding has dried up leading to the need for cuts but that their work has not been valued as it should have been. He agrees with Bonnie that once we lose these “giants” in DOGAMI that it will be hard to rebuild afterward. This change would set back resilience 20 years.

Susan Romanski said that the study by DOGAMI on fatalities and injuries due to Cascadia was very important to the work she does at Mercy Corps to prepare the public. They do important work to make the risk we face in Oregon real to the public.

4c. Public Comment

Chris Goldfinger – Has seen DOGAMI and other agencies under persistent attack to de-fund over the past 33 years he has been working. When budgets are tightened, it seems like legislators target nuisance agencies. Once funding is reduced for an agency, it will not come back. Oregon has better earthquake hazard expertise than many countries. Feels it is a short-sighted decision and

Oregon will not be able to keep our leadership. We have a long way to go in resiliency. The public safety of Oregon is very important, and this is a severe mistake.

Steve Robinson – Agrees with Chris Goldfinger and his last three comments.

Kay Mattson – Added that she works in recovery from natural disasters in other countries and a major finding of ineffective response is due to lack of organized planning and preparedness. Agencies cannot speak out on this and it is concerning. This is not the time to go backwards.

After conclusion of public comments, Commission agreed that Tiffany will lead the effort to author a response letter from OSSPAC to the legislature. Bonnie, Susan, and Trent agreed to assist. Jeff suggested being specific and actionable in the letter and to have a draft to the Commission by their February 9th meeting.

5. Review LC1512 Bill and Previous OSSPAC Comments

Trent Nagele discussed that the session is just starting, and nothing has yet happened with the bill now named HB2605. It still supports Recommendation three from the recent Tsunami Resilience report. Language updates were reviewed with the Commission at last meeting. Language was sent to Legislative affairs and response received. Changes were not incorporated but could be with Amendment. Aeron Teverbaugh was concerned that by tying the bill language to ASCE, the agency or legislature would have to go in to update it. There was discussion about powers and delegation. Jim Austin from Rep. Gombert's office said there was still time to make changes to the bill if needed.

6. Upcoming Legislative Session – Look Ahead

Mike Harryman has sent a calendar invite to all Commissioners for his weekly phone-call review of the session bills which might be the most applicable to OSSPAC out of the 1800+ in the session. Senator Manning and Representative Evans are the two producing the most legislation in this area. The Governor's resiliency bill (SB288) is focusing on:

- Strengthening resilience for BIPOC community
- EMAC (emergency management assistance compact) for volunteers
- Expanding the SRO to all-hazards
- Establishing a new URM program - \$50M similar to seismic for schools - in Business Oregon
- Funding the SRGP with \$110M for schools and \$50M for emergency facilities

Mike will send a one-pager of the Governor's resilience bill for the minutes. Jeff asked that commissioners highlight bills that need OSSPAC input.

7. Public Comment

Chris Goldfinger – Wanted to update commission on controversial ASCE annex that State of Washington was adopting the structural modeling but developing their own maps.

Jason Patton – an engineering geologist with the California Geologic Survey but speaking for himself. Stressed it was a terrible idea to eliminate DOGAMI as an independent department and supported full funding for the agency.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM PST.