



# Missouri SAVE Coalition

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

*American Council of Engineering Companies/Missouri \* American Institute of Architects/Missouri  
American Society of Civil Engineers/St. Louis \* Earthquake Engineering Research Institute/New Madrid  
Missouri Society of Professional Engineers \* Structural Engineers Association of Kansas & Missouri  
Society of American Military Engineers/St. Louis \* Missouri Association for Code Enforcement  
Missouri Seismic Safety Commission*

## **SAVE Coalition Board Quarterly Meeting Meeting Minutes March 3, 2023**

**Attendance** – Board members Ben Ross, Mike Griffin, Michael Alberswerth, Thomas Bahr, Kurt Krueger, Alan Napoli, James Sisk, Joe Leahy, Josh VerDught, Dave Weber, Ray Bailey, and Ted Pruess, as well as Jim Wilkinson from CUSEC and Jeff Briggs from SEMA.

### **Minutes Approved**

With a motion from Ben Ross and second from Josh VerDught, the board unanimously approved the minutes from the December 9 meeting.

### **Board Appointments**

Joe Leahy said one of his co-workers is on the ACEC board, so he asked him to check on Michael Alberswerth's status as an ACEC representative, as well as the possibility of filling the other ACEC slot, which is currently vacant.

Leahy added that 2023 is his last year as board chair, as his three-year term is expiring. He'll reach out to a few members individually regarding replacing him.

### **Training Updates**

Jeff Briggs said the 2023 training schedule was set and publicized in January, with good registration response so far. The first class was held last week in St. Louis, with about 40 participants. Classes are coming up next month in Jefferson City and Kansas City. The schedule also includes an on-site leader class in July and a bridge inspection class to be scheduled later in the year.

### **Seismic Safety Commission**

Ray Bailey said the commission held its quarterly meeting last month, during Earthquake Awareness Month. There was discussion of the recent Turkey earthquakes. Jeff Briggs shared a story about a city in Turkey with strong and enforced building codes, with little damage and no injuries. Briggs said he'd share that link with the board. Commission Chair Eric Sandvol is heading to Turkey this month on an NSF grant, and will provide data and pictures on school impacts.

Briggs discussed a pilot project to provide earthquake insurance and mitigation to Poplar Bluff, which has agreed to serve as the pilot city. Working with FEMA, the Missouri Department of Insurance, and several insurance industry representatives, Briggs is part of a group looking to identify funding for a project that would include three components – and awareness campaign to educate citizens on the earthquake risk and lack of insurance, a mitigation project to provide low-cost basic retrofits to homes in the area, and an insurance pool to provide basic coverage.

Briggs added that last month’s meeting was the first for two new commissioners, Dave Hoffman of Missouri S&T and Jim Watkins of the Cape Girardeau Fire Department.

Briggs said the commission is considering issuing an editorial advocating for a statewide building code. Dave Weber said that such a code could pass, but with exemptions for certain buildings in rural areas. Alan Napoli said building code organizations discussed such an effort many years ago, with the state fire marshal’s office taking the lead in rural enforcement, but the effort didn’t get far. Briggs added that, in addition to the safety benefits, a statewide building code could get Missouri access to federal funding that requires such a code in its competitive grading process. Mike Griffin agreed that FEMA is pushing building codes as part of program eligibility.

### **Trimming Membership Rolls**

Joe Leahy said he’d like to wait until later this summer, to allow more people to take this year’s classes, before tackling this issue. At that time, we’ll see who’s active and who has been inactive for a while, and will determine an approach to engage volunteers or remove them from our active listings.

### **Tennessee Building Evaluation Exercise**

Ben Ross said he’s been talking with R.J. Tazelaar, the new chair of Tennessee SAVE. He’s hoping to create a similar structure to Missouri in Tennessee, where the state earthquake program manager is the official liaison. He’s curious about how payment would work, and whether volunteers could get paid for lengthy in-state deployments. In Missouri, payment is possible only for out-of-state deployments. Tazelaar also asked whether it’s OK to take leave from your company and get company pay while deployed as a temporary state employee, or pay yourself if you’re self-employed. The Missouri SAVE statute is silent on this issue. The consensus of the board is that any outside pay is fine, the law only says that the state can’t pay you.

Tazelaar confirmed that Tennessee is planning an exercise for the summer of 2024. Ross said we should help them plan their activity if they ask, and we should send people to participate. He especially encouraged younger members to participate as a learning experience for future leadership.

### **Outreach events**

Ben Ross will attend a SAME national conference in San Antonio in May to present on the SAVE Coalition and its partnership with the National Guard for our Jefferson Barracks exercise. He also hopes to give a similar presentation to the state SAME chapter during its conference in Kansas City. Ross is excited to elevate SAVE's profile nationally, as well as in the Kansas City area.

### **CUSEC Update**

Jim Wilkinson said the departure of Brian Blake left a big hole, including the GIS and IT work he did, such as mapping and app support.

CUSEC has hired an engineer to conduct RVS screenings in six states. Building evaluations should be complete by September. Results will be put into a database of critical infrastructure.

CUSEC is also working with Tennessee to support its upcoming exercise.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 16 at 10 a.m. in Jefferson City.**