

1. Welcome and call meeting to order: Chair Aimee Devaris

2. Roll call

NOAA

Dr. Grant Cooper\*, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, AK  
Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK  
Dr. Laura Kong\*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI  
Dr. Rocky Lopes\*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Christa Rabenold\*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Christa VonHillebrandt-Andrade\*, Caribbean Tsunami Wrng Pgm, Mayaguez, PR  
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA  
Mr. Paul Whitmore, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

No representatives

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA  
Dr. Nate Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Dan Belanger\*, AK DHSEM (Guest)  
Ms. Ann Gravier, AK Dept. of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK  
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa DHS, Pago Pago, AS  
Ms. Jacinta Brown\*, American Samoa DHS, Pago Pago, AS (Guest)  
Ms. Elinor Lutu\_McMoore, Weather Service Office, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA  
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives (they tried, but phone connection on their end wouldn't work.)

East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeastern States Emergency Consortium, Boston, MA  
Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Guam

Mr. Chip Guard, NWS Forecast Office, Barrigada, Guam  
Ms. Pilar Carbullido (tried -- called in one hour late due to time change mix-up.)

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX

Hawaii

Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Honolulu, HI

Oregon

Dr. Jon Allen, Oregon Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries, Portland, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, Puerto Rico Seismic Network, Mayaguez, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Kiran Isidore (alternate), USVI Terr. EMA, St. Thomas, VI  
Mr. Roy Wattlington, Professor Emeritus, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Ms. Tabitha Laird\*, Washington EMD, Camp Murray, WA (Guest)  
Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

29 present, 13.5 state votes (min 7); 5 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement was met.

\*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest (8).

2. [VOTE] Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of September 29, 2015

Aimee Devaris called for approval of the minutes of the September 29 Coordinating Committee meeting.

Kevin Richards moved to accept the minutes as presented. Tim Walsh seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

3. [INFO] NTHMP Chair Position

Aimee Devaris introduced Dr. Grant Cooper, the NWS Western Region Director. Per NTHMP Rules of Procedure, the NOAA/National Weather Service Deputy Director Laura Furgione appointed Dr. Cooper as the new NTHMP Chair since Aimee will be leaving the NWS at the end of the month to become the USGS Alaska Region Director.

Dr. Cooper has had an illustrious background and 30-year career with the United States Navy. A full bio is here:

[http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/wrh\\_rd\\_bio.php](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/wrh_rd_bio.php)

Dr. Cooper reports to John Murphy who is the Chief Operating Officer of the National Weather Service. Mr. Murphy is interested in the NTHMP. The AFS (Analyze, Forecast, and Support) Office where the Tsunami Program is within the NWS also reports to him, so his interest in the NTHMP is good for us.

Aimee thanked the group for the privilege of service as NTHMP Chair.

Dr. Cooper thanked Aimee for recommending him for the position. He indicated his interest in working with the NTHMP on how we can improve resilience for tsunamis. He visited California last week and attended a meeting of the Redwood Coast Tsunami Working Group and was impressed with their work. He looks forward to working with us.

[Interruption for surprise – the NTHMP sent a flower arrangement to Aimee to thank her for her service as Chair. General accolades and well-wishes flowed from group greetings.]

#### 4. [INFO/ACTION] Follow-ups from last CC meeting

- a. Update on NTHMP Annual Meeting, subcommittee, and NTHMP/USGS workshop plans

Rocky stated that plans are going well for the upcoming NTHMP meetings in Boulder, Colorado, during the week of February 1 – 5, 2016. So far, 69 people have registered to attend one or more meetings being held during the week.

Meeting schedules, attendee's list, and other information are here:

<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2016annualmeeting/>

Rocky stated that the NOAA Group Travel request, which is a necessary step in the travel process, has been submitted for approval. Until Group Travel is approved, those being provided invitational travel may not make airline arrangements yet. Please standby for instructions and information.

However, you are encouraged to make hotel reservations. Space is limited in the closest hotel and the room block is filling quickly, so if you haven't made a room reservation yet, do so immediately or you may have to stay much further away. Let Rocky know if you need information on the hotel.

Rocky stated that the workgroup appointed by Aimee Devaris to create the agenda for the NTHMP Annual Meeting completed its work, and the agenda has been posted to the NTHMP website. Rocky noted that within days of the agenda being posted, four more people registered to attend the meeting.

Aimee thanked the agenda planning work group: Rocky Lopes, Kevin Miller, Dmitry Nicolsky, Stephanie Ross, Kelly Stroker, Rick Wilson, Nate Wood, and Paul Whitmore.

- b. NTHMP 2015 Annual Report

Rocky said that the NTHMP Coordinating Committee had been interested in having an Annual Report describing activities of NTHMP partners and subcommittees created to recap progress of 2015.

Rocky also described what in recent NTHMP Annual Meetings had become a tedious and lengthy process while giving "partner updates." Further, the NTHMP *TsuInfo Alert* newsletter editor is also requesting information from partners on the year's achievements.

To fulfill all of these needs, Rocky sent an email to NTHMP partners on November 3 explaining the concept of requesting one-pager from each of them as well as from each subcommittee. These one-pagers will compose the annual report. It can be referred to during the partner updates during the Annual Meeting, so the partner updates can be brief exceptional highlights.

The one-pagers should illustrate accomplishments from the partner or subcommittee and should include images. No one wants to read an all-text report. The one-pager is not a report only about activities accomplished with NTHMP grants – you can refer to that, but also include what has helped your agency/state/territory/university assist in “reaching the last mile for tsunami capability” (to quote Mike Angove.)

The one-pagers are due to Rocky by Friday, December 11. If you have questions, please contact him.

Kevin Richards: I like the concept. It sets expectations for presentations and an opportunity to know the requirements at the same time.

Aimee Devaris: I also like the concept and told Rocky that when I saw his email. I encourage all partners to contribute as Rocky requested.

#### 5. [INFO] FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance, Templates, and webinars

Rocky stated that 22 people participated in two identical webinars held Nov. 5 and 9 about the FY16 NTHMP grant process. He explained that the FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance has been released, as well as updated Budget and Project Narrative templates, and other background information, including the PowerPoint presentation used for the webinars. All of that information is available on the NTHMP website, here:

<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/grants/portal.html>

While most of the information in the Grants Guidance is self-explanatory, Rocky emphasized that travel for NTHMP meetings is changing again. Due to a restrictive cap placed upon all Federally-funded travel by a Presidential Executive Order, the NWS cannot support travel for meetings in 2017 to the degree that travel was supported in the past. Therefore, grantees who can do it are requested to include travel costs for Coordinating Committee members to attend the NTHMP Annual and Summer meetings in their grant applications.

For CC members who cannot access grant-supported travel, the NWS HQ still intends to offer invitational travel. Our objective is to reduce the NWS-HQ direct-funded travel, but not eliminate it.

We know this change places a burden on our NTHMP partners, especially for some whose states have very difficult travel restrictions. We will deal with each NTHMP partner on a case-by-case basis.

Chip Guard: how will my travel be handled?

Rocky answered: NOAA will give your NWS region direct-cite funding codes because you're a NOAA Fed; your travel cannot be funded by a NTHMP grant. This applies to those within NOAA for whom we regularly fund travel. (Coordinating Committee members and Subcommittee Co-Chairs.)

Kevin Miller: I appreciate the thorough explanation and found the webinar helpful.

## 6. [DISCUSSION] Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015

Aimee Devaris noted that TWERA 2015 remains with the House of Representatives to which it was returned after passage and amendments of H.R. 34 by the U.S. Senate. Because there is no bill yet, we cannot conduct a review of the bill for this meeting as we had planned to do.

Rocky stated that he accompanied Mike Angove on Friday November 6 to a meeting with five staff of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee. This subcommittee has oversight of FEMA, and the staff had concerns about infringement on FEMA's authority and had some misconceptions that NOAA could or would issue tasks to FEMA or the Coast Guard for a response if a tsunami happened. We assured them that NOAA does not do that (and will not; it's not NOAA's wheelhouse), and the staffers visibly relaxed.

The Subcommittee staff also were very concerned about the potential for non-coordination of tsunami preparedness from earthquake preparedness. We assured them that it's the very same people in each NTHMP partner state/territory who do that, so the actions to coordinate come naturally. They also were very relieved to hear that, and that there is no potential for overlap or duplication of effort.

The final questions were on how FEMA participated with the NTHMP. Along with Mike Mahoney who joined the meeting by phone, we explained that

FEMA has two representatives who serve on the Coordinating Committee, and one of them (Tamra Biasco of FEMA Region 10) is a Co-Chair of the Mitigation & Education Subcommittee and also serves on the NTHMP Federal Grant Review Panel. Also, there has been close coordination on developing engineering guidance (tsunami vertical evacuation) with FEMA's Mitigation Division on which Mike Mahoney serves as a Branch Chief.

The Subcommittee staff wanted to make sure that any coordination with existing state hazard mitigation plans was done, rather than have the NTHMP create some form of duplicate requirement for a separate tsunami mitigation plan. We explained that the NTHMP expects and advocates for coordination with and support of existing state plans and wouldn't think about duplicating such work.

The only concern is that if the House attempts to amend the bill and it gets returned to the Senate, that the bill could die because it is not likely that the Senate will reconsider it again. The emphasis rests with the House subcommittee to release their hold and let it get on the House Consent Calendar for approval.

Marie: question – asked about the report to Congress about immediate earthquake and tsunami response.

Rocky: yes, we saw that. There are a number of Congressional reports in the proposed TWERA that got added, and will increase the burden on writing and responding. It seems as if that specific report requirement was inserted at the last minute in response to a reaction from the July article in the *New Yorker* literary magazine. Since NOAA does not have an immediate tactical emergency response requirement (other than issuing warnings), that the report pretty much is FEMA's responsibility, which they have acknowledged.

## 7. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

## 8. New Business

Kevin Richards: thanked Aimee Devaris for her support and extended his appreciation for her support.

All members echoed the same and thanked Aimee again for her leadership.

Aimee Devaris: this group has such passion for science, stewardship, and public service. The NTHMP is very creative and finds ways to make things happen despite budget uncertainties. You are very collaborative and openly share so much information. (To Grant Cooper): It will blow your mind when you see it. The NTHMP Coordinating Committee is a wonderful example of partnership among Federal, State, Territory, and University partners.

Chip Guard: has an issue for the MMS about safe depth for boats. Aimee directed Chip to the MMS Co-Chairs for discussion/resolution.

## 9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm