

NTHMP Warning Coordination Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 10, 2015; 1pm-5pm

Portland, OR

Attending co-Chairs: Althea Rizzo, Chip McCreery, and Paul Whitmore

Attendees:

Peter Anderson	Simon Frazier University
Tamra Biasco	FEMA
Jacinta Brown	American Samoa
Pilar Carbullido	Guam
Aimee Devaris	NOAA-NWS-AR
Kathryn Forge	EMBC
Gala Gulacsik	FEMA
Chris Gregg	E. Tennessee State
Laura Kong	NOAA-NWS-ITIC
Elton Lewis	US Virgin Islands
Rocky Lopes	NOAA-NWS-OCWWS
Jeff Lorens	NOAA-NWS-WR
Audra Luscher	NOAA-NOS
Chip McCreery	NOAA-NWS-PTWC
John McDonald	Guam
Kevin Miller	California
Ernesto Morales	NOAA-NWS-SR
Brandee Nishimura	Hawaii
Ann Ogata-Deel	Hawaii
John Parker	MSC- Canada
Erv Petty	Alaska
Christa Rabenold	NOAA-NWS-OCWWS
Wilfredo Ramos	Puerto Rico
Kevin Richards	Hawaii
Althea Rizzo	Oregon
John Schelling	Washington
Bill Schneider	NOAA-NWS-WR
Christa von Hillebrandt	NOAA-CTWP
Brynne Walker	Washington
Roy Watlington	US Virgin Islands
Paul Whitmore	NOAA-NWS-NTWC
Tyree Wilde	NOAA-NWS-WR
Walt Zaleski	NOAA-NWS-SR

- Action Item Review – Whitmore
 - Whitmore reviewed last year's actions. All complete except development of WEA-specific polygons for southern California.
- WCS Strategic Plan tasks – Rizzo
 - Rizzo reviewed progress of WCS strategic plan tasks.
- Products:

- Complex Coast and Social Science TWC message proposed changes
 - Discussion and consideration for approval – Whitmore
 - Subcommittee provided consensus for implementation of both proposed changes: Complex Coast and Social Science recommendations.
 - **Action – Develop Timeline for Implementation**
 - **Action – Provide Support/Fact sheets for WCS members**
 - **Action – Issue SCN and implement**
 - Impact of including new marine zones on EAS – Whitmore
 - NWS WR region reps. indicated that adding marine zones to NTWC products would not cause any issues.
- PTWC International product update – McCreery
 - McCreery updated group on new PTWC international products and new Guam/AS products.
 - New products went live in October, 2014.
- NWR/EAS auto activation – Lorens/Preller
 - Lorens updated group on Western Region efforts to automate EAS activation
 - **Action – Determine feasibility of implementing auto-EAS this year throughout WR.**
 - **Action – Determine feasibility of implementing SPS formatter this year throughout WR.**
 - **Action – NWS SR to investigate whether these products would help SR.**
 - **Action – NWS ER to investigate whether these products would help ER.**
 - **Action – NWS PR to investigate whether these products would help PR.**
 - **Action – NWS AR to investigate whether these products would help AR.**
 - Wilde talked about EAS over-warning due to location of inland cities and technical requirements of EAS.
- WEA Polygons – Lopes
 - Discuss WEA actions
 - Lopes discussed this year’s implementation of WEA for the tsunami program.
 - County-wide activation of WEA thought to be OK for AK, HI, WA, OR, and northern CA.
 - Southern CA counties are concerned about over-warning by using county level WEA activation.
 - **Action – Better define WEA activation zones for southern California**
- BC tsunami preparedness and NTWC Twitter study – Anderson
 - Gave overview of BC preparations for tsunamis and how warnings are transmitted throughout BC.
- EAS Activation for Advisories – Rizzo
 - Althea discussed issues related to EAS activations for Advisories – use LAE for now
 - **Action - Develop pilot procedures for LAE process (EAS Advisory) with state EM and NWS WCMs.**
- NOAA Social Science rec. on initial alert message – Gregg
 - Discussed idea for initial alerts from TWCs
 - Rationale was to make messages shorter based on previous feedback
 - Quick Warning (msg 1) – Fairly short and succinct; for those at greatest threat
 - Quick Advisory (msg 2) – Longer and designed for those further away
 - Full message (msg 3) – Compiles first two; used throughout event
 - Whitmore requested feedback from subcommittee prior to any further actions.
- Exercises and Comms. tests:
 - 2015: CaribeWave/Lantex/Pacifex/International – von Hillebrandt/Whitmore/McCreery
 - 2015: E2E Communication test plans – Petty/Miller/Lorens/others

- Others?
- Plans for 2016 – Whitmore
 - Short discussion of 2015 planned exercises and communication tests. Most to be held in March.
 - **Action - determine dates / scenarios for 2016** (von Hillebrandt mentioned -3/23/16 is Holy Week)
- Review of 2014 tsunami alerts
 - April, 2014 Chile – McCreery
 - McCreery reviewed PTWC response during the April event
 - Hawaii CD requested any possible threat for Hawaii will trigger Watch
 - June, 2014 Alaska – Whitmore
 - Reviewed lessons learned from the June, 2014 tsunami warning in Alaska
 - One lesson learned was that the threat database needed to be expanded to this region
 - Whitmore provided the Cascadia example of the threat data base
 - Petty discussed that use of Nikolski as a break point caused some confusion in the town as to their level of alert.
 - **Action – Adjust break point of Nikolski to a geographic point.**
 - Petty reviewed the post-event survey which was posted for emergency management after the warning. Petty suggested several of the questions were not necessary. Not many emergency managers from the warned area replied to the survey.
- TWC IT Modernization Project update – McCreery
 - Whitmore and McCreery discussed IT updates at the TWCs
 - TOPS project to be implemented this year
 - TWeb under active construction for use by Emergency Management to see forecast graphics during events.
 - **Action – Update WCS on progress of TWeb development throughout year.**
- Meteotsunami Alerts – How to Proceed? – Whitmore
 - Not discussed due to time constraints
- Odds and Ends
 - One of the COMET tsunami modules was updated in 2014
 - **Action – Update remaining COMET tsunami modules in 2015**