

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- May 20, 2014

1. Call to order -- Aimee Devaris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03pm ET.
2. Roll call – Rocky Lopes

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NTHMP Chair & Director, NWS Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK
Mr. Mike Angove, Tsunami Program Manager, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Marie Eble, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Ms. Kara Gately, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Ms. Christa Von Hillebrandt-Andrade, NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Mayaguez, PR
Mr. Paul Whitmore, Director, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynwood, WA

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Woods, USGS Portland, OR

Alaska

No representatives.

American Samoa

Mr. Akapo Akapo, NWSFO, Pago Pago, AS
Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa DHS, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mr. Juan Camacho, CNMI DHS/EM

East Coast States

No representatives

Guam

Mr. Chip Guard, NWS WSFO, Tiyan, Guam

Gulf Coast States

No representatives

Hawaii

No representatives

Oregon

No representatives

Puerto Rico

No representatives

U.S. Virgin Islands

Mr. Roy Wattlington, USVI Emeritus

Washington

Ms. Brynne' Walker (observer/non-voting), Washington Emergency Management
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

3. NTHMP CC Membership/appointments – updates

[WELCOME] NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris officially welcomed new Coordinating Committee members:

* Juan Camacho (technical rep) and Marvin Seman (EM rep) of the CNMI
Marvin and Juan have attended some of our meetings in the past. They are both with the Government of the CNMI.

* Chip Guard (technical rep) for Guam. Chip is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the NWS Forecast Office on Guam and has been a long-standing supporter of the NTHMP.

* Mase Akapo (technical rep) for Samoa. Akapo is the Meteorologist-in-Charge for the NWS Forecast Office on American Samoa. He also has been a long-standing supporter of the NTHMP over the years.

Aimee announced that all positions are filled. She officially welcomed all new members. She thanked them for joining the CC and for their service.

4. [INFO] NTHMP Summer Meeting – Updates Travel – Lopes

Lopes updated everyone about travel. He urged everyone to make hotel and air reservations now. Hotel space at the negotiated rate is limited and is first-come, first-served. He also described that invitational travelers are allowed to request NOAA's travel agency, AdTrav, to book a non-refundable flight on a different carrier if the final cost is advantageous to the Government. But it is not necessary to do that. You can use the Government unrestricted, changeable, fare as long as you use the airline approved through the GSA City Pairs program.

Marie Eble requested a list of attendees.

More information about the summer meeting and a list of attendees is on the NTHMP's website, here:

<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2014mesmms/index.html>

Tamra Biasco reported that the MES Co-Chairs are working on the MES agenda. She will be emailing some selected individuals for input.

Rick Wilson is working with MMS Co-Chair Kara Gately to put together an agenda, and is looking at action items from last meeting.

He discussed two options for the combined workshop for Wednesday.

1. Single-focus workshop on maritime issues or
2. Multihazard workshop covering multiple aspects of preparedness and mitigation like past years.

Wilson asked for input from CC members.

Miller asked for more info. Wilson replied that the Wednesday workshop could be set up like it was for the last two years – full slate of multihazard aspects or a full slate of a narrow, single-focused aspect.

Whitmore suggested to look at a single focus.

Chip Guard asked for discussion on the international Pacific products and training on their application for AS, GU, and CNMI. Whitmore replied that those issues are part of what the Warning Coordination Subcommittee works on, and the WCS will not be meeting at this meeting. Lopes referred Guard to the PTWC and Laura Kong at ITIC for more information.

Stephanie Ross suggested that Eric Geist's work in probabilistic analysis would be good to include, especially for the Gulf Coast and West Coast. Geist will be there representing the USGS.

Biasco asked to coordinate with MMS to avoid having the joint day become too technical. Wilson agreed to hold conference call.

vonHillebrandt reminded everyone of work going on in PR and USVI and requested that experience from these areas be included as well. Wilson agreed.

5. [INFO] FY14 NTHMP Grants – Update / Lopes - Kozlosky

Lewis Kozlosky stated that all applications were received from 13 applicants. He is working behind the scenes to process the grants. He may need to touch base with recipients to resolve questions. Lopes described that many supporting documents must be prepared and uploaded by Kozlosky into the system to prepare a comprehensive "grant package" and that much of this work is tedious and time consuming, but is being done. Mike Angove affirmed that June 11 is the deadline for the program office to submit to the NOAA Grants office.

6. Old Business follow-up

[INFO] NTHMP Rules of Procedure update

Wilson reported that the work group of himself, Rizzo, Walsh, Titov and facilitated by Lopes met three times via conference call to review the RoPs. The edits of the document as agreed by the group are fairly complete.

Highlights of changes:

- Updated membership to reflect CNMI, American Samoa, Guam
- Program Administrator position has been identified already, but its duties were better described.
- Grants and funding language that was already in the RoPs was updated. Information about NTHMP Grants remains in the RoPs, but under the heading, "If Congress appropriates funding for NTHMP Grants...." To cover the situation if funds for NTHMP grants are not appropriated by Congress and the NWS does not have authority to offer them.

- Subcommittee Terms of Reference need to be updated. The Terms of Reference are incorporated in the RoPs. Each subcommittee was asked to make sure that their respective Terms of Reference are up-to-date.
- Fundable mitigation activities section has been updated.

Lopes stated that he is waiting for final feedback on the draft RoPs from work group members. He will then send them to NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris for review and with her direction, send them to the CC members for review and discussion at a future CC meeting.

7. New Business

Christa vohHillebrandt asked for information on WeatherReady Nation Ambassadors Program. Aimee Devaris said that this will be discussed at the WCM meeting in June that Christa will be attending. More information is also on this website: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html>

Roy Wattlington said that the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Croix, St. John and, St. Thomas) and the British Virgin Islands received TsunamiReady® recognition. Wattlington said that he was honored to receive a TsunamiReady® Champion recognition award during the Caribbean EWS meeting last week.

Wilson asked what the status was of TWEA bills?

Mike Angove replied that Senator Begich (AK) introduced it on March 27, 2014. Senators Cantwell (WA) and Schatz (HI) are co-sponsors. We have not heard of any other co-sponsorship in the Senate. We have not observed any movement on the bill.

It was reported that Representative Bonamici (OR) may introduce a companion bill in the House. As of May 21, 2014, it does not appear that such a bill has been introduced.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by NTHMP Chair Devaris at 3:44pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator