

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting
July 16, 2013 Via conference call

Attendees:

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove, Tsunami Program Acting Director, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Marie Eble, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes, Tsunami Program Contractor Support, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region X, Lynwood, Washington
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC

USGS

Mr. Craig Weaver, Seattle, Washington

Alaska

Mr. Ervin Petty, Alaska Division of Emergency Management
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, Alaska Earthquake Information Center

California

Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey

East Coast States

No representatives

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University

Hawaii

No representatives (Kevin Richards tried to join but missed us.)

Oregon

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management
Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Pacific Islands

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez

U.S. Virgin Islands

No representatives

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

1. Status – FY13 NTHMP Grants

Mike Angove thanked the partners who applied for submitting initial FY13 NTHMP grant requests on time, for working with NWS Tsunami Program staff throughout the process to make technical corrections, and for submitting their applications through grants.gov by the July 3 deadline. This was quite a success to work through this process on such a compressed schedule. Mike also thanked the Grant Review Panel members – Tamra Biasco, Marie Eble, and Rocky Lopes – for their impartial review and preparation of recommendations for approval by NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris.

Supporting documentation (NEPA Review and Non-Competitive Grant Justification Letter) from the NWS was prepared by Lewis Kozlosky and all official signatures were obtained so these documents could be submitted with each grant package. Tsunami Program reviews, technical requirements validation, and acceptance of all applications into the grant tracking system were also completed on time.

All proposals are now being reviewed by the NOAA Acquisitions and Grants Office (AGO). They conduct a technical and legal review. Barring unforeseen situations, we anticipate the grants as submitted will be approved for work to begin September 1, 2013.

A question was asked about the FY14 Grants – NWS anticipates a “normal” grant application period for FY14, following the schedule adopted by the NTHMP in the Rules of Procedure with a proviso that action (or inaction) by Congress on NOAA’s budget may affect the timing. The amount of grant funding that may be available in FY14 is not clear at this time. The funding will be for a one-year, not multi-year, period. More information will follow when known.

2. Summer MES/MMS

The annual MES/MMS meeting will be held August 19 – 23, 2013, at the PMEL facility in Seattle, Washington.

General agenda: Travel Monday August 19. Tuesday morning plenary – updates and conversations with NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris and Tsunami Program (Acting) Director Mike Angove. Breakout to separate MMS/MES meetings after morning break and for remainder of the day. Combined meeting on Wednesday, August 20, being called a Workshop. Separate MMS/MES meetings again on Thursday. Travel Friday.

Updates as follows:

Rocky: group travel request was approved by the NWS CFO’s office and is pending at the NOAA level for approval. He checks status almost daily, with responses of “no news is good news.” We anticipate approval will be given, we just don’t know when.

Marie: only 7 people so far have made hotel reservations at the Silver Cloud. We reserved 26 rooms in the block. The block will be released on July 19. While rooms remain available, their availability at the rate of \$137/night + tax cannot be guaranteed after 19 July. If you are attending the meeting and haven’t reserved a room, do so now! The hotel shuttle has been reserved – departing the hotel each meeting day at 7:30am, and pickup again at PMEL to return at 5:15pm. This schedule may be changed based on needs of the group. Tim Walsh offered to drive people too. Conference rooms at PMEL are reserved.

Rick: MMS meeting plans – Tuesday – state summaries, review new MMS NTHMP strategic plan goals, discuss overview of MMS/MES Workshop on Wednesday. Thursday: follow-up on Wednesday workshop; set agenda for FY14 on guidance, production and different work. Look at funding requests.

Rick: Wednesday workshop – reviewing status of new MMS projects from invited guests – evacuation model advances, current velocity models, land use planning guidance, mapping & modeling probabilistic analysis, HAZUS development, scenario-based tsunami playbook, national hazard assessment, post-tsunami field team protocols.

Tamra: MES meeting – establish performance metrics for future years. Update strategic plan. Tsunami Preparedness Week, Review of National Tsunami Education Plan, discussion of grant activities that support MES activities and possibilities for collaboration where synergies occur.

3. TsunamiReady Directive 10-704

Mike Angove explained that the NWS Directives that govern its operations that apply to TsunamiReady are being revised. The TsunamiReady content has been removed from the StormReady Directive and a new Directive about TsunamiReady was drafted. That draft had been sent to NWS Regions for internal agency review. Some members of NTHMP may have seen the first draft during the initial, internal review.

Mike will adjudicate differences in review comments and a next draft will be developed. While the NTHMP itself does not govern internal NWS Directives, comments from experienced NTHMP members are welcome. Mike offered to share the next draft, when available some time in August, with NTHMP members.

4. NWS Tsunami Program Strategic Plan

The NWS Tsunami Program Strategic Plan – in draft form since it has not received official top-level clearance just yet – is available on the web, here:

http://www.tsunami.gov/Tsunami_Strategic_Plan.doc

Or go here: <http://www.tsunami.gov> >> lower left side Documents >> Strategic Plan

5. Tsunami Preparedness Week – March 23 – 29, 2014

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Great Alaska Earthquake (March 27, 1964) and resulting tsunamis, a major push will be made jointly by FEMA and NOAA to obtain a Presidential Proclamation of Tsunami Preparedness Week 2014.

Rocky is organizing the national planning efforts for TPW2014 and plans biweekly conference calls with key people who wish to participate in planning activities for TPW2014.

Erv Petty described that many activities are already being planned in Alaska. He looks forward to joining the national planning efforts being organized by Rocky and the NTHMP.

An agenda item for the MES meeting about TPW2014 will foster more discussion, too.

6. Other business

Craig Weaver asked about an item that will be on the agenda for the MMS meeting in August. He will follow up more specifically with Rick Wilson.

Rick Wilson asked about the status of a representative from the National Science Foundation (NSF) on the NTHMP and suggested a greater role for the NSF to participate in the NTHMP. Mike responded that the NSF is focused on basic research and that the NTHMP is not in the position to fund basic research. If we engage them, we may be able to provide a picture of long-term funding needs that NSF

can absorb into its funding picture for the future. NSF doesn't attend any of the meetings and they are hard to engage. Craig Weaver suggested that the NWS try to work directly with NSF representatives in the DC area, and to mention NEHRP as there are many cross-collaborative relationships between NEHRP and NTHMP. We should identify research needs and let them know. NSF can include tsunami research needs in their regular calls for research proposals.

(FYI: The NTHMP Rules of Procedure identify Federal Agency participants on the Coordinating Committee as coming from NOAA/NWS, FEMA, and USGS only.)

Meeting ended at 3:50pm ET.