

Meeting Minutes of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Coordinating Committee

November 5, 2008 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST via Teleconference

Attendees:

NOAA/NWS – Vickie Nadolski, National Weather Service Deputy Assistant Administrator
NOAA/NWS – Jenifer Rhoades, NOAA Tsunami Program Coordinator/NTHMP Program Administrator
NOAA/OAR – Eddie Bernard, Pacific Marine and Environmental Laboratories
NOAA/NWS – Paul Whitmore, Director, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center
AK - Erv Petty – Homeland Security State of AK
AK – Roger Hansen, University of Alaska, Alaska State Seismologist
Pacific Territories/Commonwealths - Ted Untalan, CNMI
CA – Jim Goltz, California Office of Emergency Services
DHS/FEMA – Mike Hornick for Mike Mahoney
HI - Kevin Richards, State of Hawaii
OR - George Priest for Rob Witter, DOGAMI
East Coast States – Robert Ward, Maryland Emergency Management Agency
PR - Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade, Puerto Rico Seismic Network, UPR
WA - Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources
WA – Maillian Uphaus, Washington Emergency Management
Gulf Coast States – Charles Williams, Alabama Emergency Management
NSF – Rick Fragaszy, National Science Foundation

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Minutes

Call to Order and Role Call

Jen Rhoades, NTHMP Program Administrator, provided the agenda for the meeting and conducted role call for meeting attendees.

Definition of Mitigation

Jen Rhoades provided an assessment of the Mitigation Paper developed by FEMA. She described the document as a good comparison between FEMA's definition of mitigation and what is laid out in the Tsunami Warning and Education Act; however, the NTHMP still needed to develop its own definition. She also felt the NTHMP definition should be concise, and recommended the definition included in the draft strategic plan as a starting point for future discussions (Definition from Draft Strategic Plan: 'any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term danger to human life and property from a tsunami.')

Tim Walsh expressed a concern that the definition from mitigation could be too broad and outside of the definition traditionally used in emergency management.

It was also suggested that preparedness and warning services should also be defined.

Kevin Richards thought a broad definition would be fine as an umbrella, and preparedness and warning services could be defined under it.

Vickie Nadolski tasked Jen Rhoades to come up with recommended definitions for mitigation for discussion during the NTHMP-CC meeting on Nov. 20. She asked for two other volunteers from the CC to assist Jen with the task. Kevin Richards and Mike Mahoney agreed to support Jenifer on this task. This group will also develop recommended definitions for preparedness and warning services if they determine they are required.

Paul Whitmore suggested Jen, Kevin, and Mike consider the NTHMP Mission when developing the definition for mitigation.

NTHMP Strategic Plan Update

Jen Rhoades reminded the CC that comments to the Draft Strategic Plan are Due Nov. 12. She said the working group will adjudicate their comments in time for the meeting; the working group is hoping the Strategic Plan will be approved during the NTHMP CC Meeting later this month.

Vickie said she had read the Draft Plan and thought it was an excellent document. She commended the Working Group for a very well thought out plan.

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Annual Meeting

Jen asked the CC if there were any final changes to the Annual Meeting Agenda. She also reminded the Sub-Committees to turn in their agendas by next Monday, November 10th. Members who will be providing briefings need to deliver their briefing slides to her by Nov. 10th as well.

Jen asked the group if they had any questions about the upcoming meeting or agenda.

Mike Mahoney asked if FEMA was required to provide a briefing during the annual meeting since they did not receive funding in FY08. Jen said members who received funding in FY07 and FY08 are required to provide an update on their accomplishments and issues; members who are requesting funds in FY09 are required to provide a briefing highlighting their major tasks, costs, and alignment with NTHMP performance measures and milestones.

Christa von-Hillebrandt asked if there was a list of current Sub-Committee members. Jen said there is and took the action to distribute the membership lists to the CC members. There was some discussion about whether or not the size of the committees is too large. Vickie asked for Sub-Committees to address their membership size during the November 20th meeting.

Jen raised the issue of Sub-Committee Co-Chair rotation. She said the Mapping and Modeling Sub-Committee's State Co-Chair position was up for rotation. Roger Hansen (MMS State Co-Chair) said the issue of their State Co-Chair rotation will be discussed during their Sub-Committee meeting on Nov. 18th.

February NTHMP-CC Budget Meeting

Jen stated the proposed dates for the February Meeting of the NTHMP would not work out for a majority of CC members. She asked the group if the following week would work, and it was agreed it would. The dates for the February Meeting are: February 18 and 19, 2008.

Vickie then asked the group to suggest locations for the meeting. Suggestions were: Seattle, WA, Dallas, TX, Boulder, CO, Florida, and Washington DC. Paul Whitmore asked Jen if holding a Hazards Caucus during the same week could be a possibility. Jen said she would look into it. Members of the group indicated that D.C. would be their choice for a meeting location if a Hazard's Caucus can be arranged.

Jen took the action to look into holding a Hazard's Caucus either February 17th or 20th. If she can arrange it, the meeting will be in the D.C. area. If not, she will make arrangements for one of the recommended locations above.

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Roger Hansen asked if NOAA would have its final budget by the February Meeting. Vickie and Jen both said they expected the organization would still be under a Continuing Resolution at the time of the meeting, but they would know the minimum budget for the NTHMP.

Rob Witter asked if the CR would impact the Spectrum Sale funds. Vickie said no, it would not.

Rob Witter also asked for an update on the status of the Spectrum Sale funds. Vickie said the NWS does not have the funding yet, but that Jen was working hard to identify and resolve issues with receiving the funding. Jen said the FCC still has not released the funds to the NTIA. Vickie said Jen will continue to work this issue and is preparing to update the NTHMP on its status during the Annual Meeting.

Closing Remarks

Vickie Nadolski closed the meeting.