

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- November 19, 2013

1. Call to order -- Aimee Devaris, Chair

2. Roll call

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NTHMP Chair & Director, NWS Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK
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. Charles (Chip) McCreery, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Ewa Beach, HI
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, WA
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC

USGS

No representatives

Alaska

Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, Alaska Earthquake Information Center

California

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

East Coast States

No representatives

Gulf Coast States

Mr. Charles Williams, Alabama Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Hawaii

Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii State Civil Defense

Oregon

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

Pacific Islands

No representatives

Puerto Rico

No representatives

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Renata Christian, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency

Washington

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

3. [DISCUSSION] Tsunami Advisory LAE/EAS issue. Solution to get the Tsunami Advisories to tone the alert radios but not the EAS system.

Althea Rizzo provided an update. For about two years, during tsunami advisories, neither NOAA Weather Radio or the EAS are activated. Advisories lead to actions being required. A small work group has discussed a variety of solutions. This one is best: use a "local area emergency" code which is something that local emergency managers can request their local WFO to issue during an advisory. The Work Group needs to meet to discuss what this would look like to have standardized application up and down the coast. Activates tone alert on WR and can alert EAS if local EAS has been programmed to activate in the event of a local area emergency (LAE).

Whitmore: will you have a final solution by the annual meeting? A: We hope so. The solution we are discussing allows local control of EAS and gives local media outlets the information.

McCreery: are you viewing this as a broader solution that could apply to Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI? A: Yes, this can be adapted locally. It is an understanding between local EM and local WFO/WSO.

Devaris: We will need to coordinate with the national WCM, Chris Maier, and others in the National Weather Service Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services so they can inform all WCMs nationwide to enhance consistency.

4. [DISCUSSION / ACTION] John Schelling: Discussion/review of Tsunami Vertical Evacuation sign standard graphic

John Schelling described that after last meeting, he circulated a recommended sign standard for use in the U.S. Comments were collected, and more options were developed and disseminated for review again. John said that he received more comments than votes for one graphic or another. Additional revised graphics were created and distributed for review on November 18.

There is consensus on changing color of the sign from green to blue, and to show arrows pointing toward building to illustrate that people should run there.

Devaris: Since not all members of the NTHMP CC are in attendance, it may be easier to get a consensus via email. She recommended that members send an email with their top two choices to John & Tamra within the next two weeks.

McCreery: Has this been reviewed by someone with expertise in signs? It may not be so easy to make or interpret. Are we the best or only reviewers for these things? Schelling: the NTHMP suggested to use the existing international standard, but this is a new evacuation strategy being employed in the U.S. A review is possible at the state level.

McCreery: Can we have graphic designer look at it?

Lopes: Suggested that NOAA Graphics can review and social scientists, Chris Gregg and Dennis Mileti can be asked to review them, too. Aimee Devaris thought that was a good idea.

Richards: some of us are already moving forward. Reminder: this ultimately belongs to local governments to meet their sign standards anyway. It goes in our favor that we have an agreed-on national sign. We can always fine tune it graphically. Keep it going so it doesn't fall on the back burner.

Devaris: agrees with Kevin. There will be state variations. Very useful info to bring in – social scientists and graphic designers, so we should engage them.

Two weeks deadline for members to make their choices.

5. [DISCUSSION] Status of Tsunami Hazard Assessment by NGDC

Rick Wilson: worked closely with Paula Dunbar to update the tables and update the hazard assessment. Mike Angove contacted David Applegate to request someone to help with current needs for a re-run of the earthquake searches for Section 3. Wilson said that by the next

NTHMP meeting, we should have enough information or a working draft to facilitate decision-making regarding Pacific island membership.

6. [DISCUSSION] NTHMP Annual Meeting update.

Agenda planning: Devaris asked for volunteers to serve on a work group to prepare the agenda for the meeting. Rick Wilson, Kevin Richards, Paul Whitmore, and Kevin Miller volunteered. Rocky will organize meetings via telephone for this purpose.

Lopes updated the group on logistics.

The meeting will be held January 27 – 31, 2014, at the USGS Western Headquarters in Menlo Park, California. This facility is equidistant between San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and San Jose International Airport (SJC). Oakland Airport is a third, but more distant, option.

Wilson put Lopes into contact with staff at the USGS facility who have reserved meeting space, including rooms for plenary sessions and breakouts for subcommittee meetings.

The NOAA Group Travel request has been submitted to cover travel for 30 people indicated on the "NTHMP Who's Who" roster for having travel expenses covered. The Group Travel request sailed through approval by NWS and is now with NOAA. We hope to have final authorization for travel approved by early to mid-January, barring unforeseen circumstances and holiday delays.

Travel expenses will be paid by NOAA/NWS for CC members, as usual. Guests who are not covered by NOAA for travel will be invited to attend on their own.

Hotel space is challenging. There are six hotels in the Menlo Park/Redwood City area, however, only two of them will honor the GSA per diem hotel rate of \$129/night + tax (January rate for San Mateo County.) Holiday Inn Express minimum was \$169/night, which is not acceptable.

We recommend that you make reservations as soon as you can for one of these properties:

1. Best Western Redwood City
<http://www.bestwesternrwc.com/>
1-800-386-7377

This hotel provides a free breakfast and will honor the GSA rate. The only hitch is that they have a very limited number of rooms that are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

2. Another serviceable hotel in the area is the Pacific Inn at Redwood City.
<http://www.pacificinnrwc.com/Home.html>
650-368-1495

They will provide rooms the NTHMP (use that name) at a rate of \$89/night + tax. The hotel provides free breakfast. It is a middle-of the road, basic hotel.

Rental cars are still not allowable for group travel. We will make arrangements for group transport from the hotels to the USGS each meeting day. You may rent a car if you wish, but we cannot reimburse for that cost.

Kevin Miller will help Rocky with additional logistics.

7. [INFORMATION] FY14 NTHMP Grants

Lopes: We are currently in the open period for FY14 NTHMP Grants. Grant Guidance, budget and project narrative templates, Forward Performance Outlook template, staff time hours calculator, and background documents are available at this link:
<http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/2014grant/>

Lopes emphasized these important points:

- Grants will be for a one-year period of performance from September 1, 2014, to August 31, 2015, and will not be multi-year grants. We do not have confidence in the level of funding that will be available in the out years now that earmarked funding from TWEA and Spectrum has been depleted. However, a Forward Performance Outlook asks requestors to show us a plan for activities to be accomplished with future NTHMP grants for the next three years.
- Grant requestors are asked to submit tasks on a self-prioritized basis. When the Grant Review Panel totals all approved requests, it will compare that total with available grant funding which is still in flux and will not be confirmed until March. If the panel has to recommend cuts, it will use the priorities set by the grant requestors to facilitate that decision. Ultimately, though, all grant amounts and tasks will be reviewed and approved by NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris using recommendations made by the Grant Review Panel.

Priest: It is hard to set priorities relative to one another. Many of these things have a scope that could be greater or lesser. You can either have a big budget or little budget or middle.

Lopes: we knew this would be challenging, but we don't want to change procedures after they have been released. As a reminder, the process is that each requestor submits a preliminary request to NOAA (Rocky Lopes) in early January for an administrative/procedural review, then plan to present the request to the assembled NTHMP membership at the Annual Meeting.

During the annual meeting, we anticipate that grant requestors will identify activities on which to collaborate and optimize funding. This is what Lopes referred to as the "horse-trading" session. We have great faith and confidence in the NTHMP members to collaborate on achieving a vision of what is best for the greater good and consistent with the NTHMP Strategic Plan and its goals & outcomes as well as what requestors can reasonably accomplish.

After the NTHMP Annual Meeting, requestors will have time to refine their requests then officially submit them to NOAA/NWS. The NTHMP Grant Review Panel will begin its work to review all requests and prepare recommendations, consistent with available funding, for NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris and inform Tsunami Program Manager Mike Angove.

Rick Wilson: one of our strengths is the ability to do multi-state and multi-territory proposals. If you see something going on in another state and you want to pursue the same type of task, we can do that. It will achieve conformity and cost savings.

8. [APPOINTMENT] Appointment of FY14 NTHMP Grant Review Panel

Devaris appointed Tamra Biasco, Marie Eble, and Rocky Lopes to serve on the FY14 NTHMP Grant Review Panel.

9. New business

Whitmore: Update on East Coast NTHMP representative – Four states were approached, but none accepted. There is the NESEC consortium of eastern states emergency managers (www.nesec.org), and Paul has approached them about an East Coast NTHMP representative. Paul is expecting to hear back from them soon and will keep us updated.

Whitmore: This week, the two tsunami warning centers are doing a backup test. Be aware that when a small event occurs within one AOR, the other TWC will report it. Richards: when do we expect this? McCreery: any appropriate small event that will occur starting today. A local Hawaii event, for example.

Wilson: has there been discussion on reauthorization of TWEA from Congress? Lopes: not that we are aware of. Devaris: the current discussion in Congress is about dealing with sequestration and the Federal Government budget after January 15, 2014.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:56pm by Chair Aimee Devaris.