

SPECIAL NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- December 2, 2014

1. Call to order – NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 3:01pm ET.

2. Roll call – Rocky Lopes

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove\*, Tsunami Program Manager, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK  
Ms. Marie Eblé\*, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA  
Dr. Laura Kong\*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI  
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 VonHillebrandt-Andrade\*, NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Mayaguez PR  
Mr. Paul Whitmore, NWS 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 Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Erv Petty, Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK  
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa DHS, Pago Pago, AS  
Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore, NWS WSO American Samoa, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA  
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mr. Juan Camacho, CNMI Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Saipan, MP

East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Boston, MA

Guam

Ms. Pilar Carbullido, Guam Department of Homeland Security, Agana Heights, Guam

Gulf Coast States

No representatives

Hawaii

Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii State Civil Defense, Honolulu, HI

Oregon

Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Newport, OR  
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Mayaguez, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Mr. Elton Lewis, USVI Territorial Emergency Management Agency, St. Thomas, VI  
Mr. Roy Watlington, USVI Science Representative

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management, Camp Murray, WA

\*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest

3. [INFO] Subcommittee update about February subcommittee meeting plans

a. MMS Benchmarking workshop – update -- Rick Wilson

Rick Wilson reported that planning for this workshop is well under way and is being co-led by Dr. Pat Lynette of the University of Southern California. A specific website with information about the benchmark datasets to be discussed and evaluated has been developed:

[http://coastal.usc.edu/currents\\_workshop/index.html](http://coastal.usc.edu/currents_workshop/index.html)

Wilson said that if time permits, each state doing modeling will be asked to determine/discuss the appropriate maritime evacuation depth to lead to a discussion and perhaps a decision during the Annual Meeting.

Rocky Lopes reported that as of 12/2, 38 people were registered to participate in this workshop.

b. MES meeting – update -- Tamra Biasco

Tamra Biasco reported that an agenda for the MES meeting has been developed and posted on the NTHMP annual meeting website. She anticipates an interactive discussion at the meeting.

Rocky Lopes reported that as of 12/2, 32 people were registered to participate in this subcommittee meeting.

c. WCS meeting – update -- Paul Whitmore & Althea Rizzo

Paul Whitmore reported that a draft WCS meeting agenda is on the website. It will be updated before the meeting and reposted when available. Social scientist Jeanette Sutton is not available to attend the meeting, but Chris Gregg will be there.

Rocky Lopes reported that as of 12/2, 27 people were registered to participate in this subcommittee meeting.

George Priest reminded everyone that there is no wifi in the first floor main meeting room. This is the room where the MMS workshop and the Annual Meeting will be held.

Rocky Lopes also announced that as of 12/2, 68 people had registered to participate in the NTHMP Annual Meeting overall – the largest attendance to date.

#### 4. [INFO] Update about Annual Meeting and Group Travel – Rocky Lopes

Aimee Devaris extended her appreciation to Rocky Lopes for getting the NOAA Group Travel request through the system in record time.

Rocky Lopes asked everyone for whom NOAA/NWS Headquarters is paying for travel to make travel plans per the instructions in the email that he sent to you and to return the travel itinerary worksheet to Debbie Greeley ([debra.greeley@noaa.gov](mailto:debra.greeley@noaa.gov)).

Erv Petty asked if it was okay to take some personal time before or after the meeting. Rocky Lopes said yes, that is permissible, as long as the actual dates when you will depart your home and return are indicated on the travel itinerary form that Debbie Greeley is collecting. The entire travel time must be shown on that form. You will be reimbursed for meals & hotel per diem only for the actual dates in which you are involved in NTHMP meetings.

Victor Huerfano asked about an overdue reimbursement for Aurelio Mercado's travel for the NTHMP summer meeting.

Mike Angove acknowledged that NWS management is looking into that specific situation. He reminded everyone: submit vouchers on time. Get confirmation of receipt of the voucher.

When a voucher is submitted, administrative staff at NWS HQ reviews it then submits it for approval within the agency then it is submitted for payment. Sometimes vouchers get held up. You're not done until you get your money. If you don't get reimbursed when you think you should, please contact Rocky Lopes and Debra Greeley so they can follow up.

#### 5. [DISCUSSION] FY15 NTHMP Grants – Rocky Lopes

Updated FY15 NTHMP Grant Guidance, as well as project & budget narrative templates, were released on November 10, and posted here: <http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2015grant/index.html>.

Rocky Lopes held an optional conference call on Monday, December 1, with grantees. Highlights of changes to this round of NTHMP grant guidance include:

- This is a ONE-year grant, with an "up to" two-year performance period. There are some tasks that will take longer than one year to complete. Each requesting entity can choose if it wants to request a one or two year performance period. Some states do not permit a performance period for a one-year grant to exceed 12 months, while other states do. The choice is up to the applicant. This change should avoid having to request no-cost extensions.

- Clarifications were made on what is considered a joint collaboration: for projects that are jointly funded among two or more NTHMP partners. Each applicant should indicate on its project narrative what activity on which collaboration is taking place on a jointly-funded project, and note the task number of the other applicant's project on its project narrative, and vice-versa.
- Personnel and associated fringe/indirect costs should be requested for one year, not two years. The two-year performance period option is only for projects that require implementation time, such as siren installation, conducting workshops, and the like.

Lopes explained that the initial due-date of the first draft of the Project Narrative, Budget Narrative, and Forward Performance Outlook is due to him by January 16, 2015. He will do an administrative review and provide feedback to each submitter before the NTHMP Annual Meeting. These first drafts are not sent to the NOAA Grants Office – they are only for preliminary review so we can have an overall idea of what NTHMP partners will be asking for and to provide opportunities to correct any administrative or technical errors.

On the afternoon of February 12, each NTHMP grant requestor is expected to make a short presentation about what projects are being requested. We will look for opportunities for collaboration and synergy.

By February 27, each grant requester should submit the final project narrative, budget narrative, and forward performance outlook to Rocky Lopes who will assemble the documents to prepare the Federal Grant Review Panel to review them.

The schedule for the entire FY15 Grant process is described in the Grant Guidance. If there are any questions, however minor, please ask Rocky Lopes.

#### 6. [INFO] Update on status of Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2014 – Mike Angove

Mike Angove reported that he and Rocky Lopes met twice (once in August and once in November) with staffers of the Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science committee to brief them on tsunami science and to discuss TWERA.

TWERA House Bill 5309 was passed by the House of Representatives last summer. This bill has not been introduced into the Senate. A slightly different (but preferred) bill sponsored by Senator Begich (S2181) may be considered by the Senate or they may consider the House version. We don't know if the Begich bill will be passed by the Senate during the lame duck session, or if either bill will receive action.

John Schelling: was there language in the House bill that was explicit that there would be another warning center developed?

Mike Angove: there was not language that specified another warning center in the Caribbean, but there were errors on the AORs for Caribbean, so that's where there may be some discussion.

## 7. [INFO] TsunamiReady Guidelines update – Rocky Lopes

Rocky Lopes stated that after many months of open discussion, review, and significant stakeholder participation – including feedback provided during the 3-hour NTHMP TsunamiReady workshop this summer – a final revised set of TsunamiReady Guidelines has been developed. Three interrelated documents are now available for review here: <http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/tr/index.html>

The “fundamental” (formerly referred to as “Tier 1”) Guidelines are now out for official public comment. Further, Rocky is working with NTHMP partners and selected NWS WCMs on a pilot project to examine the practicality of the proposed new TsunamiReady Guidelines and also to develop documentation to describe how a community/county would achieve each Guideline.

The formal public review period will be open through February. More of an update will be provided during the NTHMP Annual Meeting, at which time guidance will be needed on implementation, including “grandfathering” of existing TsunamiReady sites.

## 8. Old Business

None

## 9. New Business

Kevin Richards: recommend appointment of Tamra Biasco, Marie Eble, and Rocky Lopes to the FY15 NTHMP Grant Review Panel. The members of the Coordinating Committee on the call agreed without dissent.

NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris made the appointment.

## 10. Adjourn

Aimee Devaris wished everyone a pleasant and happy holiday season.

The meeting was adjourned 3:47pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes  
NTHMP Administrator