

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Conference Call Notes

4/17/12

Vickie summarized that we are striving to have an open exchange with our partners with respect to the program.

Jane indicated there had been a “Tsunami 101” presentation to Sen. Inouye’s office, as well as to Puerto Rico’s Sen. Pierluisis’ office. Jason added that there was a request for drafting assistance on the rewriting of the TWEA. He also indicated that we have received several QFRs related to program activities. Rick Wilson asked for the results, but they are handled through CFO channels.

Jason indicated that Jane Lubchenco was asked if a Caribbean Tsunami Warning Center is needed, and the answer was no. He added that she is on Capitol Hill this week for follow-up.

Jane indicated the budget information that is available was provided to the CC via the “Blue Book” budget document.

There was discussion pertaining to the termination of funding for grants. Jason summarized that even though grants may not be available, NOAA should be able to support the states in other ways. Jane indicated that support could also be provided through the forecast offices and partners.

There was discussion on the possibility of creating some type of promotional group to get the word out on tsunami-related accomplishments. Jason added that we will need to determine the best way to move forward, and that we need to be careful to not violate rules concerning lobbying Congress.

George Priest voiced concern over the perception that NOAA upper management may not understand the accomplishments of the NTHMP. Vickie replied it may not be NOAA that is directly making the cuts, and that we want to keep the partnership going. Jason added we need to maximize the partnership and find ways to make it work.

The spend plan for FY12 is still to be determined, and all programs have to make do until it is approved.

John Schelling expressed concern on the timing of the receipt of funds, and we may need to revise target time-frames in work plans if needed. Jane took an action to determine the process of providing extensions. Jason added that he anticipates a normal grants process in August, however, the FY13 President’s budget will probably be in a continuing resolution.

Paul Whitmore stated that the NTHMP Strategic Plan revision may have to wait until the funding picture is clarified, since it will be difficult to set milestones until then. Rick Wilson suggested that the general milestones may be able to be determined, and they could be refined later. Vickie

indicated perhaps we can prioritize them the best we can. She added that the spend plan may not be ready for a couple of months.

Vickie summarized that this is the most difficult budget situation she has ever seen, but emphasized that the states should understand they have our support, and asked for patience and understanding as we move forward. John Shelling voiced appreciation of the efforts of NWS Tsunami Program personnel.

The next call is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 5th, from 3:00-4:00ET.