

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- September 29, 2015

Via conference call

1. Call to order – NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 3:02pm EDT.

2. Roll call

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Kara Gately*, NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK
Dr. Laura Kong*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa Rabenold*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa VonHillebrandt-Andrade, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Mayaguez, PR
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, 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

Ms. Ann Gravier, Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Ms. Elinor Lutu_McMoore, Weather Service Office, Pago Pago, AS
(valiant but unsuccessful attempts to join us by Jacinta Brown, AS-DHS)

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

No representatives

East Coast States

Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Guam

Ms. Pilar Carbullido, Agana Heights, Guam

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX
Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, Coastal Bend TX COG, Corpus Christi, TX

Hawaii

No representatives

Oregon

Dr. Jon Allen, Oregon Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries, Portland, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, Puerto Rico Seismic Network, Mayaguez, PR
Mr. Wilfredo Ramos, Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency, San Juan, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Kiran Isidore (alternate), USVI Territorial Emergency Management Agency, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

26 present, 14.5 state votes (min 7); 5 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement was met.

*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest

3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of July 15, 2015
Chair Aimee Devaris called for approval. Vasily Titov moved to accept; Paul Whitmore second. The minutes were approved.
4. Follow-ups from last Coordinating Committee meeting
 - a. Appointments of NTHMP CC Alternates
Rocky Lopes stated that he asked NTHMP CC members to appoint alternates if they wanted to; 4 were appointed as permanent alternates and were added to the NTHMP CC email list. Alternates may be appointed on an ad-hoc basis if one meeting may be missed by notifying Rocky any time in advance.
 - b. Update from Co-Chairs of each NTHMP Subcommittee on status of update/revisions to Subcommittee Terms of Reference:
 - i. MES: Kevin Miller reported that MES co-chairs have approved language for update of the Terms of Reference.
 - ii. MMS: Kara Gately reported that she and Co-Chair Dmitry Nicolski updated the MMS Terms of Reference and are waiting for an MMS meeting at which they will put the changes to a vote.
 - iii. WCS: Paul Whitmore reported that updates to the Terms of Reference will be provided by the next annual meeting.
 - c. Meteotsunami Brochure
Christa Rabenold reported that during the Coordinating Committee meeting of July 15, the committee requested that we extend the review of this fact sheet. That was done. With final comments, the fact sheet was completed and posted on the NTHMP website.
 - d. NTHMP declaration of 2016 Tsunami Preparedness Week
Christa Rabenold stated that the National Weather Service adopted having quarterly campaigns instead of recognition weeks. The NWS does not recognize Tsunami Preparedness Week any more. At the 2015 NTHMP Annual Meeting, the Coordinating Committee declared a Tsunami Preparedness Week. It was recommended that the NTHMP CC do it again. Potential weeks were discussed, and by unanimous decision following the discussion, Tsunami Preparedness Week will be March 27 to April 2, 2016.
 - e. *NTHMP Investment Activities Report* – status
Following the NTHMP summer meeting, Rocky Lopes received inputs from NTHMP partners to refine the report. Christa Rabenold formatted it using publishing software.

Aimee Devaris reported that the report has come out nicely with additions and changes as a result of the discussions in San Diego. The report was sent for internal review by NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs. They had a few concerns with a couple sentences in it. We will address those concerns to develop a final product that can be shared broadly. We will send it to

you so you will know what changes were made. We are close to finalizing it. Aimee Devaris thanked everyone who contributed to it.

f. Update of FEMA P646A *Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis: A Guide for Community Officials*

Tamra Biasco is working with Mike Mahoney at FEMA HQ to determine what needs to be updated. This item will be discussed at the next NTHMP CC meeting.

5. 2016 NTHMP Annual Meeting

The 2016 NTHMP Annual Meeting and related meetings will be held in Boulder, Colorado at the NOAA Research Center.

See web page: <http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2016annualmeeting/index.html>

Rocky Lopes emphasized that the NOAA Group Travel list (where names are listed for those to whom the NWS will offer invitational travel) will be submitted on October 1. If your name is not on the list because you haven't registered, then invitational travel will not be offered. He thanked those who have registered already and said that he sent a number of reminders to those who haven't.

Rocky reviewed the meeting plan (shown on the website) and discussed the hotel situation. In order to ensure we have adequate rooms in the closest hotel, you need to make a reservation as quickly as possible using information that Rocky provided.

Question: "what if we made a reservation but did not receive a confirmation?"

Rocky said that confirmations are sent via a manual process. Just call the hotel again to ask for a reservation.

Rocky also thanked a work group that has been developing the agenda for the add-on two-day NTHMP/USGS Workshop. A preliminary agenda is almost ready.

6. Appointment of work groups

a. Working group to develop NTHMP 2015 Annual Report

At previous NTHMP meetings, a strong desire to develop an NTHMP annual report was expressed. The report will highlight activities and accomplishments by the NTHMP as an entity, including its subcommittees. This is different from a grants report that describes accomplishments with grant funds.

Volunteers: Dan Belanger (Alaska, volunteered by Ann Gravier), Rick Wilson, Kara Gately, Dmitry Nicolsky, Elinor Lutu-McMoore, and Kevin Miller. Paul Whitmore suggested Althea Rizzo would do well to represent WCS. Rocky Lopes will facilitate the group and organize meetings about it.

Ann Gravier asked, "When is the due date?"

Aimee Devaris said that ideally it should come out prior to February.

- b. Working group to develop agenda for NTHMP Annual Meeting
Volunteers: Kevin Miller, Paul Whitmore, Stephanie Ross, Dmitry Nicolski, Elinor Lutu-McMoore

Rocky Lopes will organize meetings among these volunteers to develop the agenda. He stated that the sooner we have a meeting agenda, the better we are able to attract additional meeting participants who make a decision on travel based on agenda content.

- c. Working group to develop proposed language on NTHMP clearance process

Rocky Lopes explained that there is confusion about “who clears what?” among products developed BY the NTHMP, FOR the NTHMP by others, or by other agencies. A procedure to explain the review and clearance process is needed. Rocky has developed a draft, but needs input and review from NTHMP members.

Volunteers: Vasily Titov, Jon Allen, Rick Wilson, Tamra Biasco.

Rocky will send more information and organize a meeting if needed.

7. NTHMP Mark (aka “logo”) – Plan to develop replacement

Rocky Lopes described that the current triangular image we are calling the “NTHMP Logo” is not really a logo. A true logo is an image that is immediately recognizable for the brand, such as the Coke logo for Coca-cola.

Rocky asked if any NTHMP members had designers who we could ask to develop a true logo for the NTHMP.

Vasily Titov said that there is a designer at PMEL. He requested guidance and criteria for logo development.

Chayne Sparagowski said that there are some local colleges who have designed logos for his organization, and he may be able to ask them for some help.

Rocky said that he would have guidance developed and send it to anyone who may be able to help with this action.

8. NTWC message update

Paul Whitmore provided an update on WCS actions which have recommended incorporation of social science and complex coast team recommendations into tsunami alert products issued by both NWS Tsunami Warning Centers. Paul is

working on a Service Change Notice that gives a “heads up” to product users that the NWS intends to make changes to the content of some of its products.

The new alert messages will be active at the end of November. Part of the new alert changes include breaking states out by state and Alaska into three segments so it is intuitive who is at risk.

Aimee Devaris asked, “Will this go out for public comment?”

Whitmore: The NTHMP WCS vetted and reviewed messages so there is no more review planned. Notice of change will go out via the Service Change Notice.

9. FY15 Grants and changes to grants reporting (“subaward” issue)

Rocky Lopes explained that effective with FY15 NTHMP grants, that NTHMP partners to the primary grant recipient are considered “subawardees” rather than “contracts” in the Object Class for grants accounting.

The biggest change that affects grantees is that subawardees now have to report on progress and financial spending just like the primary awardees have to do.

Rocky said that for most grantees, this is not anything new because the primary grantees often have that level of detail on progress and spending by their NTHMP partners. The only significant change is the reporting requirement to the Government now extends to the subawardee level.

Rocky and Lewis Kozlosky will schedule a conference call to explain the reporting requirements for grantees.

Ann Gravier asked that the conference call be scheduled sooner than later. Rocky answered that he will try to hold the call by mid-October.

10. FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance

As discussed during the NTHMP Coordinating Committee meeting in July, since NOAA/NWS is the provider of NTHMP Grants, then the Grant Guidance and requirements is written and provided by the NWS, not the NTHMP. At the time, Aimee Devaris offered to have the Grant Guidance shared with NTHMP partners for an early read before it becomes final. While NTHMP members are not asked to formally review the Guidance, any comments or questions are welcome during the early read period.

Rocky said that a draft of the FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance has been written. He needs Mike Angove to review it. Mike has been on travel and leave, so he has not been available. He returns to the office on October 5. Once Mike reviews the FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance, it will be shared with CC members and formally posted on November 1.

11. TWERA status update

Aimee Devaris said that the TWERA bill has been moving this week in the Senate. According to NOAA Legislative Affairs, "the language you see in the proposed bill has been 'hotlined' and is what the Senate is shopping around [this week]. This is what the Senate staff negotiated with the House staff, and would replace the text of HR 34, (the version 'as reported' by Senate Commerce,) on the Senate floor in a "managers amendment." In other words, if no Senator objects to this compromise language by September 30, they will move it to the Senate floor, and adopt it by Unanimous Consent (UC) later this week.

"It will then be deemed to have passed the Senate, and will go back to the House (since it's no longer the same bill that the House passed when it approved HR 34 in early January). Since this language has been pre-negotiated, it would presumably move quickly (within a week or two) to the House floor under "suspension of the rules." This is how HR 34 passed the House the first time: limited debate; no amendments allowed; 2/3 majority required to pass."

Aimee Devaris continued: We will be closely watching it, but we don't know its status until it passes. All indications are pointing in that direction. Some technical changes were made to the bill based upon NOAA's input.

12. Old Business

There was no old business.

13. New Business

There was no new business. Earlier in the meeting, Ann Gravier from Alaska said that Dan Berlinger was hired in Erv Petty's position. We will see Dan at the NTHMP Annual Meeting.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm EDST. Aimee Devaris thanked those who volunteered for the work groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator