

Recognizing NTHMP Leadership Transitions

During the NTHMP Annual Meeting held recently in Portland, Oregon, NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris recognized three members of the NTHMP Coordinating Committee who will be retiring or stepping down this year.

George Priest – 17 Years



George Priest serves as the Senior Geologist for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. George was actually not an original member of the NTHMP, much to his chagrin, but he is definitely one of our sage advisors with a great corporate memory.

George officially was nominated as a member of the NTHMP Coordinating Committee in October 1998. George was the person who started what became subcommittees.

We have appreciated George's steadfast and calm advice as the NTHMP has grown and changed over the years. He has provided steady, calm leadership during many transitions and growth periods that the NTHMP went through.

Dr. Vicki McConnell, George Priest, Aimee Devaris

Dr. Vicki McConnell

Although not an official member of the NTHMP, we recognize and thank Dr. Vicki McConnell, Director of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, for her leadership and ongoing support of the NTHMP during her tenure as DOGAMI Director from 1999 through February, 2015. She is leaving DOGAMI to become Executive Director of the Geological Society of America. DOGAMI's chief scientist, Ian Madin, has been named interim head.

Erv Petty -- 12 years



Erv has served at the State of Alaska Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency for many years. He has provided a solid emergency management viewpoint to guide the NTHMP during its growth years.

Professionally, Erv has worked in one of the most challenging physical environments of an NTHMP partner. No other NTHMP state, commonwealth, or territory has the same environmental conditions that Alaska does. While the vast majority of NTHMP members enjoy warm, sandy beaches, Erv has been responsible for preparing remote populations to evacuate during some of the most severe weather conditions. I don't think many of us can fully appreciate the time, travel demands

required to travel in such conditions to the remote island communities of the Aleutian Islands and Yukon territories, all in the name of tsunami preparedness. He has earned all of our utmost respect for building and successfully executing a state-tsunami program as a part of the NTHMP.

General Elton Lewis -- 4 years



BG Elton Lewis, Aimee Devaris

General Lewis has served as the Director of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management agency and has been a member of the NTHMP Coordinating Committee for four years. He serves at the pleasure of the Governor. A new Governor was elected and will be replacing members of the cabinet.

Director Lewis is a man of action and word. When he was first appointed as Director of VITEMA, from the beginning he was fully committed to raising the awareness and the level of preparedness in the USVI and then the Governor declared that he wanted all of the USVI to be recognized as TsunamiReady, he took those orders and doubled the efforts.

Things got done under his leadership. A tsunami response plan was signed, signs went up, evacuation maps were published, carnival floats were built, public announcements were made, evacuation exercises were conducted.

And then came the proud moment, on May 13, 2014 at the Ninth Session of the UNESCO IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group meeting, in front of delegates from 20 countries, he received with the Governor the recognition as the first full US State/Territory in the Atlantic and Gulf to be recognized as TsunamiReady.

The NTHMP will miss the participation and support from these fine individuals. We give a strong salute to them for their commitment to public service.