

Summary Report of the Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Steering Group Meeting

**October 7-8 1998
Anchorage, Alaska**

Attendees Steering Group

Eddie Bernard - NOAA

Frank González - NOAA

Richard Hagemeyer - NOAA

Richard Hutcheon - NOAA

Chris Jonientz-Trisler - FEMA

Gary Brown - State of Alaska

Roger Hansen - State of Alaska

Richard Eisner - State of California

Lori Dengler - State of California

Brian Yanagi - State of Hawaii

Augustine Furumoto - State of Hawaii

Donald Hull - State of Oregon

Mark Darienzo - State of Oregon

George Crawford - State of Washington

Timothy Walsh - State of Washington

Tsunami Public Affairs Working Group Members

Delores Clark - NOAA/NWS

Ann Thomason - NOAA/PMEL

Dane Konop - NOAA/OAR/PA

Tom Mullins - State of California

David Oppenheimer - USGS

Ruth Barritt - NOAA/NWS

Marilu Trainor - NOAA/NWS

Angie Karel - State of Oregon

Robert Kamphaus - NOAA

Overview

Eddie Bernard gave a review of the action items from the last meeting, a report on the budget status, a report on the Papua New Guinea tsunami, and a report on other new developments.

Review of action items from the previous meeting:

The National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program brochure has been made and copies have been sent to all agencies. The brochure was made into a pdf file and placed on our web site. CLOSED

Eddie Bernard reported that the *Eos* overview article has been printed and black and white and color copies of the article to were sent to all Steering Group members. The article was also chosen for *Earth and Space*. CLOSED

Eddie Bernard reported that we have obtained the rights to the 10 minutes of tsunami footage from NHK for the video. CLOSED.

The cataloging of the library at the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) is in progress and that work is continuing on the Historical Tsunami Database for the U.S. Pacific Coast. ONGOING ACTION: Mike Blackford

The real-time tsunami detector data page is being modified to include the latitude and longitudes as suggested at the last meeting. The page will be in operation soon using data from the functioning buoy at 50N, 145N. CLOSED

Brian Yanagi to prepared and forwarded a draft letter for Steering Group members to use to prepare letters of support for FY 99 budget. Letters were prepared and sent from Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. CLOSED

Roger Hansen reported he received the letters of support for funding for his joint mapping proposal. The proposal was successful and Alaska was able to expand its list of communities for inundation mapping from 3 to 12 with these funds. CLOSED

Enhanced web page presentation of the mitigation subcommittee reports is still in the discussion stage. Chris Jonientz-Trisler will provide suggestions to the site webmaster. ONGOING ACTION: Chris Jonientz-Trisler.

Lori Dengler completed the Implementation Plan and it is in the process of being published as a PMEL Technical Report. CLOSED

Mark Darienzo reported that the group of volunteers forming the Local Warning Subcommittee (Mark Darienzo, Chair; Augustine Furumoto, Eddie Bernard, Chris Jonientz-Trisler, and Michael Blackford) have not met to develop a plan of action. DOGAMI and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management will develop a statement of work that will be reviewed by the subcommittee and the Steering Group. A private contractor will be hired to gather data and develop a document for everyone's use based on the statement of work. The subcommittee will present a progress report at the next Steering Group meeting in April 1999.

ACTION: Mark Darienzo/Local Warning Subcommittee

Gus Furumoto presented his research into Japan's nationally coordinated disaster mitigation and emergency management program. CLOSED

FY 99 Budget Status

Currently we are operating at level funding under a Continuing Resolution through October 9. The Tsunami Program is included in the Senate version of the appropriations bill at \$2.3 million but no funds have been included in the House version of the bill. The Senate has named its conference committee members and the House has just named their conference committee members today. A list of the members' names and addresses of both committees was prepared and distributed to each Steering Group member.

All Steering Group Members requested more timely updates on the status of the various portions of the national Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program between meetings.

ACTION: ALL Steering Group Members

Papua New Guinea (PNG) Aftermath

There is still much confusion on the exact cause of the PNG tsunami, however, it now appears that this was a slump enhanced tsunami. The educational message from this disaster is that "it can happen here and we need to deal with the problem now."

Media interest generated by the PNG tsunami was quite significant. The Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Public Affairs Working Group (PAWG) did an excellent job of answering inquiries as well as setting up a media briefing at the Press Club in Washington D.C. One deficiency noted during this media blitz the need for a background video (b-roll). Items needed for this b-roll are high quality photos of historic damage, Pacific-wide models (animations), and information showing the Pacific states' tsunami risk. These items are needed immediately, the hindrance being funding.

ACTION: Prepare background video - NOAA with submissions from ALL Steering Group Members.

Another deficiency was lack of tsunami fact sheets for press kits. These should include historic tsunami information (not just for the Pacific), general background information, information on where tsunamis could occur and what impacts they might have, and information on preparedness (specifically tailored to each individual state/area).

ACTION: Press Kits - PAWG with materials submitted from ALL Steering Group Members.

Two new NOAA Background Sheets on tsunamis were presented and these will be updated and also added to the NOAA Public Affairs Web Site.

ACTION: Update of the NOAA Background Sheets and addition to NOAA Public Affairs web site - Dane Konop

Other Tsunami Issues

Jim Lander's Tsunami Forecast for the Next 100 Years article is to appear in *Time* magazine this month. There were some parts of the article that the Steering Group took issue with and it was decided that Eddie Bernard should contact the Editor of *Time* magazine to clarify these issues.

ACTION: Eddie Bernard to contact the Editor of *Time* magazine.

Because of the history of tsunamis in the Caribbean, there have been some recent activities of interest to the NTHMP. George Maul (Florida Institute of Technology) has written two letters to The President and the National Weather Service concerning the need for a tsunami warning center in the Caribbean. In addition, scientists at the University of Puerto Rico have acquired a tsunami inundation model to develop scenario studies for seismically active areas of Puerto Rico. By way of a letter from the Director, NWS, NOAA agreed there is a tsunami hazard in the Caribbean. NOAA stated that it has a long-term goal of establishing a warning center in the Caribbean. The NTHMP will make every attempt to share the knowledge and the technology that has been developed as a result of past efforts.

Effective Disaster Warning - GOAL: To warn. A summary of this report was given emphasizing that effective disaster warnings need private corporations' investment in warning systems.

Okushiri Workshop Report - the Japanese are using wave tanks and they have made them available to U.S. scientists. Our modeling scientists are available to the Japanese.

Develop State/NOAA Coordination and Technical Support

Richard Hagemeyer reported that the EMWIN procedure for disseminating small earthquake information from University of Washington to Gray's Harbor, Washington, has been tested and is in operation. Mr. Hagemeyer reminded everyone that NOAA makes the earthquake information available through EMWIN but the responsibility for the information belongs to the USGS. Richard Hagemeyer gave a demonstration of the beta version of the new tsunami database that has been compiled from all known sources by the Computing Center in Novosibirsk, Russia. Mr. Hagemeyer asked for a show of hands of Steering Group members who would like to preview the beta version.

ACTION: Richard Hagemeyer to send a copy of the beta version of the tsunami data base to each Steering Group member for preview and comment. Comments should be made to Mr. Hagemeyer within one month of receipt of the data base disk.

Deploy Tsunami Detection Buoys

Eddie Bernard reported on the status of the tsunami detection buoy program. Four systems have been built. Plans for FY 99 deployments were discussed. Duplicate systems on each buoy as well as 2 buoys in each location are planned for redundancy. Costs for the components of each buoy are going down because the Navy is interested in purchasing large numbers of this equipment. Assuming availability of \$683,300, we plan to deploy a buoy in Monterey Bay, California, for a 60-day test (possibly keeping it there for 1 year). We plan to deploy 4 systems-2 in Alaska and 2 off the West Coast of the U.S. and recover and redeploy the system not currently working, for a total of 6 buoys by the end of the year.

Produce Inundation Maps

LTJG Robert Kamphaus gave a report on inundation mapping for Oregon, Alaska, California, and Washington . All of the originally identified community inundation mapping for Oregon should be completed by spring 1999.

Dr. Frank González led a discussion of FY 99 TIME Plans and budget allocations. After lively discussion, it was agreed that this year's inundation mapping funds will be distributed as follows: \$100K to Hawaii and \$100K for Oregon/Washington. Assuming level funding, it was agreed that out-year funds will be distributed as follows: year 2000 - \$66.7K to Alaska, California and Hawaii;; years 2001 and thereafter - \$40K to each of the five states. The modeler's position is still vacant after extended recruiting efforts for this position.

Develop Hazard Mitigation Programs

Chris Jonientz-Trisler presented the mitigation report. Each state gave a brief report on their activities. States submitted their FY 99 budgets and lists of projects and products funded from FY 98. The FY 99 budget was divided by allocating \$48.8 K to each state and \$150 K to the multi-state projects. The format of the Annual Mitigation Subcommittee Report was determined. It is attractive, explains the program, and shows successes. Its uses would be interested communities and Congressional members/staffers. The matrix will be incorporated into the annual report as well as descriptions of the multi-state projects with color photographs and graphics. The report would be approximately 30 pages in length. The goal is to highlight projects per state and how they are tied to the Mitigation Strategic Plan. Costs associated with successes are needed for the successes pages. The FY 98 report is scheduled to go to the printers in December.

Lori Dengler completed the [Mitigation Subcommittee Strategic Implementation Plan](#) and it is in the process of being published as a PMEL Special Report.

Mark Darienzo reported that the group of volunteers forming the Local Warning Subcommittee (Mark Darienzo, Chair; Augustine Furumoto, Eddie Bernard, Chris Jonientz-Trisler, and Michael Blackford) have not met to develop a plan of action. DOGAMI and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management will develop a statement of work that will be reviewed by the subcommittee and the Steering Group. A private contractor will be hired to gather data and develop a document for everyone's use based on the statement of work. The subcommittee will present a progress report at the next Steering Group meeting in April 1999.

ACTION: Mark Darienzo/Local Warning Subcommittee

Dr. Furumoto traveled to Japan and researched how the Japanese authorities disseminate tsunami warnings. He gave a comprehensive report on Japan's nationally coordinated disaster mitigation and emergency management program and described in depth the two basic ways a tsunami warning is transmitted to the people: 1) through government channels and 2) directly by broadcasts over radio and television. He provided a written report to the members of the group (report is available from Dr. Furumoto).

Improve Seismic Networks

David Oppenheimer discussed his written report on the Consolidated Reporting of Earthquakes and Tsunamis . He reported that the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center has been integrated with the Earthworm Core Tsunami System that enables them to access all seismic data via the Earthworm front end.

Outreach Activities and Products Discussion

Don Hull presented a report on the many outreach activities in Oregon and on the various tsunami hazard mitigation products they have produced. Oregon has purchased copies of "The Wave" for educational purposes in the K-3 schools. Leading Edge Entertainment is producing a video entitled "Tsunami - Surviving the Killer Wave" that was funded by a grant from NEHRP. Angie Karel wrote the script for the video and over 1000 minutes of footage were collected in the production of the video. Some of the footage collected for the video appeared on the television program "Inside Edition." The video will be modified for use in educating the general public at state parks and for use by insurance companies. DOGAMI has worked to further implement state legislation to require training and evacuation drills in K-8 schools. There will be a Tsunami/Earthquake Workshop with a field trip to the TIME Center in Newport, OR, on November 7-8.

Public Affairs Working Group Report

Delores Clark presented the Public Affairs Working Group (PAWG) Report. All states have been active in outreach activities. See the PAWG Report for details.

There was a lengthy discussion of a media project for PAWG to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the 1964 Alaska earthquake and tsunami. The Steering Group approved the ideas presented and agreed to work to obtain funding for a video and press kits.

ACTION: Richard Hagemeyer and Eddie Bernard agreed to work on obtaining funds. Eddie offered the use of the PMEL digital video camera and some of our Audio-visual Specialist's time to do some filming. Editing and production could be done in NOAA's video shop.

PAWG will take the lead in coordinating all aspects of the video and the media event

All Steering Group members are to supply photos, video footage, and other information that they possess.

Discussion of Funding for FY 2000

It was discussed and agreed that we should maintain the status quo of our program and not request any increases in the FY 2000 budget. It was also agreed that we would not expand beyond our present Pacific emphasis at least in FY 2000; perhaps in later outyears if we continue to be funded.

Determination of Next Meeting Dates and Locations

It was agreed to hold two meetings in FY 1999: April 26-29, in Eureka, California, and October 4-8, in Newport, Oregon. It was also agreed to add one-half to one full day to the Steering Group meeting.

Vote on Chairperson

Dr. Bernard has served as Chairperson of the Steering Group for 2 years. He asked the Steering Group to vote on whether or not he should continue as chairperson. A motion for nominations for a new chairperson was put forward. No new candidates for chairperson were nominated and a motion to re-elect Eddie Bernard as chairperson was put forward, seconded, and passed.

Tour of the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC/ATWC)

At the invitation of Tom Sokolowski, Director, WC/ATWC, the group was given an overview of the

operations of the center followed by a tour of the WC/ATWC facilities.