

Draft Minutes of the
NTHMP PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING
NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory
Seattle, Washington
15 March 2007

Kickoff / Admin

Pick up documents on table including NOAA standards and criteria for evaluation of tsunami numerical models OAR PMEL-135.

NTHMP Voting Structure

- 5 Pacific States (1 vote each)
- PR – 1 vote
- USVI – 1 vote
- Eastern states – 1 vote (based on NWS eastern region AOR)
- Gulf states – 1 vote (based on NWS southern region AOR)
- Pacific territories commonwealths -1 vote (based on NWS PR AOR – Guam; American Samoa; CNMI)
- FEMA-USGS-NOAA-NSF -2 votes each.

Federal total – 8 ; State total – 10 = 18 total NTHMP votes

Tie vote goes to chair

Written proxy from a non-attending member must verify voting preference

Reports from Modeling and Mitigation sub-committees.

Modeling (Hanson), 14 March

Copies of draft minutes available for pick up on table. Send corrections, edits to Hanson.

Discussed creation of Checklist on how to proceed with mapping.

Transition from TIME center to NGDC operations discussed.

Mitigation and Outreach Subcommittee Meeting, 14 March. (Chris J-T)

Minutes distributed.

There was Tsunami Ready Program Discussion; State Priorities; 5 year Review of NTHMP.

Vertical evacuation shelter guidance project closing on Phase II – near final draft under review in CA. Then draft sent to all NTHMP to finalize by October. Phase III is User guidance for local officials in evacuation planning efforts. Phase III funds still encumbered.

FEMA will likely be more engaged in the future with tsunamis due to PL 109-424. Looking for a FEMA Headquarters champion. FEMA reorganizing under DHS.

Overview of Public Law PL 109-424: Tsunami Warning and Education Act
(Rhoades)

PL authorizes NOAA to utilize up to \$25M of its 2008 Appropriation to carry out the Act.

NOAA’s FY08 President’s Budget (PB) is \$23.1 M for the Strengthening Program (2005 infrastructure, DART, tide stations, SIFT modeling, expansion to east coast)

\$2.9 M for the Local Forecasts and Warnings program (enhance Tsunami Warning Centers).

\$26M Total

Eddie Bernard provided a detailed, line by line review of the PL, including showing a 20 minute debate on the floor of the US House with the Chair of the Science committee (Boelhart R-NY).

Funding will be determined by NOAA’s appropriation bill amounts and language.

Overall budget structure reference PL

PL has four components

- 65% A. Tsunami Forecast # Warning Program – NWS
- NLT 27% B. NTHMP
- NLT 8% C. Tsunami Research Program – OAR
- D. Global Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Network (ITIC)

		A	B	C
FY08	25M	16.25	6.75	2.00
FY09	26 M	16.90	7.02	2.06
Fy10	27M	17.55	7.29	2.16
Fy11	28M.	18.20	7.56	2.24
Fy12	29M	18.85	7.83	2.32

Tsunami Ready under A. Guidance provided under B.

There is a current FY08 President's Budget for PL.

In FY05 about \$55M spent by Federal Agencies for Tsunami Risk Reduction. NOAA 48%; USGS 31%. Does not include state contribution estimated about \$10M.

PL Program Component on use of NTHMP

5.(c) inundation models.

(Gonzalez) Real test of model is the robustness of model. How does the model operate in real time without tweaking.

(Rhoades) Organize approaches according to public law

SDR Implementation (Rhoades)

Tying into PL 109-424

Working Groups, Strategic Focus (macro level)

Recommendation is to redistribute draft for review.

NTHMP Web Site

New site in development

Solicit NTHMP input into the development

GAO recommendation for NOAA to develop a Strategic Plan for its Tsunami Efforts.

Currently in Draft Form

Tied to PL 109-424

Mission: NOAA's tsunami forecasts and to promote community resilience

Next steps

Finalize Draft (Internal Review)

Submit review to NTHMP

Final Strategic Plan by July 2007

NOAA/NTHMP Contract Renewal (5 year contract with 1 year renewals)

Submitting one umbrella contract for all NTHMP Non-Federal Partners to NOAA for Approval

Should be out to states within a month.

On track to be awarded before the current contract expires this June.

Next meeting in October. Proposals due Sept. 1, 2007 that add up to \$275,000 for Pacific States.

\$6.2 million available for 28 states.

Add ons can sweep up extra monies.

NOAA can give no cost extensions. States must invoice.

At October meeting, as in the past, have a core. Do not yet have an appropriation bill , only authorization bill. If continuing resolutions, must have projects on the table to fund in October.

Monthly financial reports will transition to quarterly reports.

Tsunami Ready Program (separate from contract)

WA: Can you take burden off regions and state, and insert into one NOAA contract and transfer to states to expedite. Currently regions coordinates with states. Rhoades will discuss with NOAA Regional Directors and internal fiscal discussions.

(Lorens) First year of Tsunami Ready, lack of guidelines and rules in expending funds. Intent was to target communities trying to become Tsunami Ready.

About \$700,000 in Tsunami Ready program.

Normally spent on signage, etc. WA has had to use core funds because did not know Tsunami Ready funds available. States must be advised how to budget properly.

LaDouce: Pay your self back. AK: Installing sirens with seed funds from Tsunami Ready, communities “buy in” and responsible for O & M.

Discussion

Core state items plus individual line items from states.

States partner with WCM’s on budgeting for coastal communities.

Difficult but can try to write in Tsunami Ready into NTHMP contract

Although Hawaii is declared Tsunami Ready, some communities do not have signage.

Must find most efficient mechanism to distribute funds for communities.

LaDouce provided \$35 million to US House and Senate subcommittees. Senate used \$35 million, but house did not. Must highlight shortfall needs.

Multi-state pilot projects are above \$275,000. Funds are reimbursable. Up front funds. NOAA transfer funds to respective regions to states. Multi-state funds have no vehicle to give funding directly to states, must be a mod to the contract.

States may want to put position papers on voting mechanism based on hazard assessment (i.e. Apportionment of funds). Must also face realities that some eastern states may want more funds. Other mechanism is Congressional appropriation process.

Risk assessment (population exposure to hazard, etc.) has not been done, but can propel eastern states high.

Where do we go from here now that NTHMP activities are budgeted for 26% of the new Tsunami Program under the new law?

FY08 Budget Formulation

(Priest) Need layered budget of top priorities. Ball park figures divided by number of votes. Budget targets. Develop “Strawman” budget; develop generalized targets.

(Priest) Proposal: \$6.75 M NTHMP Budget. Divide by 10 state votes, after taking out federal agency budgets.

(Vicky) Look at state requirements for the next 5 years. State requirements can exceed \$6.75M

(Seattle MIC) Priority “wish list” can be constrained knowing budget in advance.

(Crawford) Need to know budget constraints in formulating priorities in dealing with some economically poor coastal communities.

(LaDouce) I have “fenced funds” Target \$530,000 per vote. \$275,000 + increments.

(Priest) That is reasonable.

Tsuinfo \$55M

Multi-State \$ 300,000 Multi-lingual project.

(Bernard) Should focus on major requirements rather than now “cutting up the pie” and discuss specific minutia projects. It is a different game than in 1997.

(Rhoades) What major requirements need to be accomplished, which can be contained within a 5 year plan. Take advantage of PL as a great opportunity.

(Priest) Have thought through requirements and already have SDR guidance document and budget figures.

Define the Pacific Region tsunami threatened community mapping priority process. How are states supposed to work with NGDC?

ISSUE: State coordination issues with NGDC for providing NTHMP / State priority list.

NGDC replaced TIME center due to evolving NOAA needs after 2004 Sumatra. NGDC produces products. NGDC can train states.

NGDC has NOAA priority (TWC’s forecast relevant to modeling/mapping input) list on their NGDC web site.

ACTION: NGDC wants state input on priorities, placed in an ARC IMS format.

Mapping and Modeling sub-committee can function as a mechanism for coordination by providing state priority lists.

Bernard reviewed 15 November Kuril Islands EQ/Tsunami relevant to forecasts, modeling/mapping.

- Detection: Tsunameters (DARTs) and tide gauges. 26 deployed.
- Pre-computed Data base (MOST)
- Inundation forecast model (SDM – MOST)

Experimental, real time forecast for 15 Nov.

PMEL scientist responded by supplying experimental forecasts for 12 harbors in 5 Pac states to both TWC’s.

Energy refocused itself towards Cape Mendocino, CA. Crescent City was going to be a problem.

WC/ATWC had this information.

PMEL provided nested models of specific tide gauge locations.

In general, amplitude model was good @ Hilo for PTWC. Overestimated the third wave.

Forecast vs. Observation were generally close for 15 Nov. forecasts. Nawiliwili, Kauai tide gauge was influenced by presence of cruise ship.

NOAA sets standards for inundation models per PL.

Japan also uses pre-computed models to issue public warnings/advisories coastal evacuations displayed on maps on NHK television.

LaDouce: Customers looking for consistency in forecasting.

IDEA: Consider placing tsunami models in NWS forecast offices at the local level. PC with UNIX operation. Running one model on a workstation is OK.

Consider boundary conditions for later interpretation.

TWC can currently generate energy propagation map. In January 2007, TWC ingesting DART data. By Dec 2007, full capability to run high resolution models.

NTHMP Charter

(Hanson) NTHMP Mapping and Modeling (M & M) sub-committee currently has no charter since Gonzales retired. Hanson was asked to Chair in November 2005.

(LaDouce) Represents M & M for Pacific Region.

(Rhoades) Sees Pac M & M as NTHMP sub-committee by involving PR and eastern/gulf states.

(Bernard) Mitigation sub-committee needs should drive M & M charter.

(Yanagi) ITIC will provide international tsunami framework for sub-committee charters/terms of reference.

(LaDouce) Create NTHMP sub-committees and designate chairs as “message carriers” for NTHMP. Currently have three NTHMP sub-committees on Warning, Mapping, Mitigation.

ACTION: Jeff to take NTHMP charter draft creation for action. Will solicit input from three sub-committee chairs.

ITIC will provide example IOC charters.

(Rhoades) Maybe we just need one charter for NTHMP.

(Vicky/Eddie) Take language of PL into NTHMP charter. Spell out members on each sub-committee. Meetings are open to everyone.

Humboldt Concerns

(Troy Humboldt WCM) Would like to see needs addressed. Are you representing needs of constituents? There are methods to arrive at consensus that this NTHMP could use. For example, a critical field issue was Oregon's issue on siren protocol solution. Only spent a few minutes on this field issue instead of coming to a resolution.

(Lorens) Agree with Troy to provide unbiased facilitator.

(Johnston) Disagree with use of facilitator. I am a tsunami survivor, also in the trenches. Factors that hold back progress (i.e. tourism). Believe that a distant tsunami, no one should lose their lives. NTHMP has done tremendous work.

(Vicky) Past NTHMP has been successful, but "landscape" is changing. More states now involved. PL passed. WCM's in the field are still waiting for solutions to longstanding field problems.

(Crawford) Sirens not an issue in Washington. Use voice to avoid FEMA regulations. Use EAS as primary comms; NOAA weather radio is higher priority.

(Johnston) Siren protocols worked form bottom up from counties.

(Simmons) This is an example of lack of communication between state and WCM's. But state already know the needs of its community. Budget has already been a limiting factor. States are sovereign; Feds can't tell states what to do.

(Priest) Darienzo authored NTHMP multi-state study recommended steady tone for siren warning.

NTHMP Chair

(Wilson) John Jones not engaged as much as Eddie / Jeff. Green not here. Rhoades has to pick up slack. States felt they don't have a chair that they can contact (Jones and Green). Since 2005, NTHMP been going through growing pains and in a drifting course. Have a NTHMP State co-chair. Jones represents NOAA, not the states, and not well engaged. Jones not the appropriate person for day to day operations.

(Vicky) Acknowledge NOAA leadership problems. Jones doesn't have time to answer the phone to assist states. Will take this back. Structural problems exist that must be fixed. Opinion is not to focus only on Jones, perhaps a state co-chair (coordinator).

Action: Will check if Jones will continue as NTHMP Chair and for how long.

(LaDouce) Do you want to contact me?

(Wilson) Logistic problems based in Hawaii.

(NGDC) Disappointed at the structure of meetings over the past day. M & M issues now have to be resolved by email.

(Hanson/Walsh/Crawford/Priest/Wilson) First Pac regional meeting. This was not structured as well as past NTHMP meetings. First Pac meeting of 5 states in 2 years. State – Federal protocols. Starting to tumble now due to new landscape. Jones doesn't have the tsunami passion of chair compared to Eddie Bernard. Need to have Pac state co-chair. LaDouce has the background and can get technical guidance from Bernard. Could have travel funds set aside for state co-chair. Would like to see co-chair represent states interest. Perhaps a rotating state co-chair. John Jones not meeting state's needs and engagement. Rhoades and Green have limited ability to make authority decisions. Need to empower a regional coordinator.

(Vicky) Idea: Not a formal state co-chair; designate an interim spokesperson for the states.

(Hanson) Need formal state co-chair.

(LaDouce): I am willing to serve as Pacific Regional Chair. Can also have a state co-chair.

RECOMMENDATION: Proceed to propose to establish a National state co-chair to NTHMP. Wilson will coordinate.

AGREED: LaDouce will serve as interim Pac Regional coordinator. No objections from Pac Region.

AGREED: Wilson will serve as interim state co-chair for Pac Regional.

AGREED: Structure each NTHMP sub-committee with Federal and State co-chair.

NOMINATIONS: Titov and Barry as co-chair for Mapping sub-committee (Priest / Hanson)

RECOMMENDATION: Establish and advertise position for NTHMP chair (NWS).

(Rhoades): Regional coordinators are a good idea, that can contact new states.

(LaDouce) Historically, Hagemeyer & Bernard agreed to be co-chairs. Once NWS took over NTHMP, NWS (LaDouce) took over as chair.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) How to handle tribes as sovereign nations within the program. (Rhoades)
- 2) NTHMP Chair - John Jones issue (Jeff and Vicky)
- 3) Formulation of NTHMP Draft Charter (LaDouce, Rhoades). Input from IOC (Yanagi). Participants: Scott, Jeanne, Jay. Include PL language and sub-committees with co-chairs. 1st draft due June 1st.
- 4) NGDC wants state input on priorities, placed in an ARC IMS format.

NOAA Summary of Tsunami Recommendations (Product Suite):

(Vicky) Would like feedback on Report

WA had concerns on Recommendation #20. WC/ATWC messages. Don't want NWS field offices calling a warning without state input. It is a state decision vs. a NWS decision. Wants pre-decisional input. Chat room must include FEMA and state Me's. State calls evacuation and issue their own messages.

(Priest) If it is going to kill someone, issue a warning. Models are not precise.

(LaDouce) TWC's issue a warning if wave height > 1 meter. Messages must highlight current danger.

(Vicky) NWS conference calls will be better coordinated through its field offices.

Next meeting in late October on Oahu at a hotel to be announced.