

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- March 18, 2014

1. Call to order -- Aimee Devaris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02pm ET

2. Roll call

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NTHMP Chair & Director, NWS Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Marie Eble, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Dr. Laura Kong, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Dr. Rocky Lopes, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Mr. Mike Angove, Tsunami Program Manager, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Mr. Lewis Kozloski, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Ms. Christa Von Hillebrandt-Andrade, NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Mayaguez, PR
Mr. Paul Whitmore, Director, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco and Mr. Mike Mahoney tried to join the call but technological problem prevented.

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Woods, USGS Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Erv Petty, Alaska Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, Alaska Earthquake Information Center

American Samoa

No representative

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands

No representative

East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto – attempted but was unable to join.

Guam

Ms. Pilar Carbidullo, Guam Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt.

Gulf Coast States

Ms. Amy Godsey, State of Florida Emergency Management
Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston

Hawaii

Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii State Civil Defense

Oregon

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management
Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez – attempted but was unable to join.

U.S. Virgin Islands

No representative

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

3. NTHMP CC Membership/appointments – updates

- a. [WELCOME] NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris officially welcomed new member Pilar Carbullido as the EM representative from Guam.
- b. [INFO] The Governments of American Samoa and the CNMI have not responded to a request to appoint members of the Coordinating Committee (yet.)

4. [ACTION] NTHMP Summer Meeting

Location suggestions: Aimee Devaris suggested that we use a Government space and rotate around to different locations. One suggestion was Boulder, CO at NGDC. Paul Whitmore suggested that PMEL is okay. Kevin Richards suggested that Washington or West Coast is preferable because meeting locations are closer to the airport than the distance from the Denver airport to Boulder. Concerned that the Best Western close to NGDC may not have enough space.

Marie Eble will help with PMEL. Tim Walsh suggested Portland space at the University and at DOGAMI. White Stag Room – Univ. of Oregon, but don't know if it is free.

Lopes will contact NTHMP colleagues to explore feasibility of space and report back to the CC to affirm a location.

Dates: After discussion, the week of August 18 – 22 seemed to be the best option.

MMS and MES co-chairs will set agendas and work with Rocky to distribute.

5. [INFO] FY14 NTHMP Grants – Devaris, Angove, Lopes

Aimee Devaris announced that she approved FY14 NTHMP grant recommendations on March 17 as submitted to her by the grant review panel. She thanked the Grant Review Panel team for their hard work and thorough review.

Rocky Lopes provided a logistical update about next steps. Grantees will need to formally apply in response to an RFA that will be posted on grants.gov. Lopes will contact each grantee directly to inform what was approved and how to apply. Notifications will go out by the end of the week (March 21.)

Kevin Miller asked when the formal on-line submissions were due. Lopes answered by the end of April. A firm date will be announced in the transmittal/approval email.

6. Old Business follow-up

a. [DISCUSSION] NOAA Response to NAS Report.

There were no comments from members of the Coordinating Committee. Aimee Devaris invited comments via email to her (Aimee.Devaris@noaa.gov) if anyone has any.

Mike Angove mentioned that he and Rocky Lopes appeared before the NAS Ocean Studies Board on March 13. Rick Wilson requested a brief report about that meeting. Angove agreed to provide.

b. [DISCUSSION] Binning of Annual NTHMP Framework.

Laura Kong stated that the MES is preparing a report of accomplishments, and will discuss it at the MES meeting planned for 9 April. Rick Wilson also stated that a similar report could be produced by the MMS.

Aimee Devaris will contact Rizzo, Richards, Schelling, and Wilson to discuss binning process after reports from subcommittees are prepared.

c. [INFO] Successes of NTHMP documentation.

Mike Angove announced that this summer, a grad student intern from the Japanese Meteorological Agency will be serving at NWS HQ. His main task will be to develop a report to document NTHMP successes and determine as best possible a "return on investment" for NTHMP grants.

Rick Wilson offered to help prepare a high-level list of NTHMP accomplishments to be available sooner than later. Aimee Devaris said that we should look for ways to showcase community resilience.

Laura Kong requested a list of documents being requested and come up with a strategy on helping to tell the story better. Angove thanked her for the suggestion.

Kevin Richards asked if the intern will have access to all of the semiannual grant reports. Rocky Lopes said that yes, those reports will be provided to him.

[INFO] NTHMP Rules of Procedure update

Rocky Lopes announced that he had marked up a copy of the Rules of Procedure with notes about potentially outdated sections and sent them to the appointed task team of Rizzo, Titov, Walsh, and Wilson. Lopes is working to establish a mutually-convenient time for the task team to meet by phone.

7. [INFO] TsunamiReady Program

Rocky Lopes stated that he expected the final report from Dr. Chris Gregg's work to be delivered by March 15, but has not received it yet. He has followed up with Dr. Gregg about the status. Lopes assured the Coordinating Committee members that they will be included in efforts to share the report, its recommendations, and involve the NTHMP and all tsunami stakeholders in the process of reviewing TsunamiReady Guidelines based on that report.

8. New business

Aimee Devaris discussed what she could about the FY15 President's budget where it says that funding for NTHMP grants were recommended to be discontinued. There is not much more that she can say publicly, but she has contacted a number of people to discuss the situation.

Rick Wilson stated that the budget cut is \$6M, and it seems to be more of a cut than what NTHMP has received before. Does this also mean cuts to warning centers or other tsunami program activities? Mike Angove replied that the only change request in the President's Budget request is in the NTHMP line. Aimee Devaris stated that because the FY14 tsunami budget is higher than the FY13, the amount of the cut appears to be higher. Angove confirmed that the cut includes TsunamiReady as much as it is supported through NTHMP grants, but that NWS support to its regions and local offices will remain about the same for WCM support, signage, and the like.

Dmitry Nicolsky asked how inundation mapping projects that are being funded through NTHMP grants would be funded if NTHMP is zeroed out. Mike Angove responded to say that states would have to pick up this cost if that work is to continue.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris at 4:05pm ET.

Note: some people attempted to join the call but encountered a "capacity" problem which prevented access. Mike Angove is following up with NWS HQ staff about this matter. We will ensure that it does not happen again.

Faithfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Program Administrator