

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- July 15, 2014

*NOTE: These minutes were approved by the NTHMP Chair retroactively on August 6, 2014.*

1. Call to order – Mike Angove called the meeting to order at 3:02pm ET on behalf of NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris who could not attend the meeting.

2. Roll call – Rocky Lopes

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove, Tsunami Program Manager, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Kara Gately, 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 (observer), Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD

FEMA

No representatives

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA

Alaska

Mr. Erv Petty, Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks

American Samoa

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa DHS, Pago Pago, AS

California

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

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives (attempted but missed the time zone.)

East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeast States Emergency Consortium

Guam

Ms. Pilar Carbullido, Guam DHS  
Mr. Chip Guard, NWS WSFO, Tiyan, Guam

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston

Hawaii

No representatives

Oregon

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

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

U.S. Virgin Islands

Mr. Roy Watlington, USVI Science Representative

Washington

Mr. George Crawford (observer/non-voting), Washington Emergency Management  
Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management  
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

## 2. [INFO] Status of FY14 NTHMP Grants

Rocky Lopes reported that 13 NTHMP grant applications were submitted and are with NOAA's Grants Management Division and are in process of review. He thanked grant applicants who have responded to questions sent by Lewis Kozlosky, Donald Gooding (NOAA Grants Officer), or himself. Answering these questions in a timely manner keeps the review process flowing.

Two FY14 NTHMP grants have been awarded already: University of Delaware and Texas A&M University. All others remain in process. The grant performance period will be September 1, 2014, through August 31, 2015. Grants can be awarded at any time between now and the beginning of the performance period.

Victor Huerfano raised a question about university officials requiring formal notice of where the grant request is in the system. Rocky Lopes asked Victor to send him an email and he will try to provide an answer. Essentially, the report is that the grant request has been received by NOAA Grants Management Division and is in process of review.

## 4. [INFO] Previous year NTHMP grants – no-cost extensions

Lopes described that no-cost extensions are being frequently requested. 60% of FY13 NTHMP grantees have requested an extension. There is history of a majority of grantees requesting extensions for past NTHMP grants.

There are various reasons why extensions are requested. We ask that when considering submitting a request for a no-cost extension, grantees write an email to Lopes and Kozlosky first, so that we can evaluate it and advise about any issues that may cause a problem. In particular, the Grants Management Division requires an assurance that staff paid by an extended grant will not be oversubscribed. The hours and names of staff time assigned as well as the mathematical computation of percentage of assigned time by month and by task must be provided.

Lopes noted that it is difficult to recommend and establish consistent funding levels while also having to explain the inability of states to use the funds requested and awarded within the period of performance.

There are no pending questions or issues, but this matter is something that we thought the CC should be aware of that Members of Congress, their staffs, as well as NOAA/NWS leadership sometimes ask "how much is enough and how much is too much for the NTHMP to be able to execute?" We really do not know the answers, but these questions continue to be asked in various ways.

Discussion:

Erv Petty: four-year grants were tough to execute appropriately. Staff coming and going makes it difficult to execute as well as deal with technical execution situations.

Mike Angove: a four-year spend plan is indeed tough to execute. Lopes brought up that even a year-to-year grant is tough.

Althea Rizzo: one of the issues is not that we have been given too much money, but we don't have enough time. A 12-month performance period is difficult to execute. Can we look into an 18-month performance period?

Angove: good point. Meeting in the middle may be something to look at.

Rizzo: NEHRP would allow 18 months for a performance period. That extra six months helped to facilitate completion of larger projects. They still provide an annual disbursement, but allow 18 months to complete.

Huerfano: some regulations of how university deals with money will not allow grants for more than one year. However, they may accept a performance period of 18 months.

Lopes thanked everyone for their input to the discussion. Should NTHMP grants return, we should consider a revised performance period. But right now the only official thing we have to go on is the President's FY15 Budget which has zeroed out NTHMP grants. Congress may choose to appropriate differently when it considers and passes a budget for FY15.

## 5. NTHMP Return on NTHMP Grant Investment Project Update

Rocky Lopes provided update on the project being done by Kazuki Ito, an intern who is with the Japanese Meteorological Agency and also a Graduate Student at the University of Michigan working on a Masters of Public Policy.

Ito will be working with us through August 15. He has reviewed all NTHMP grant project narratives, budget narratives, semi-annual reports, as well as SF-424A Grant Budget reports as well as supporting documentation to develop a massive and complex spreadsheet which identifies as best possible what products and outcomes have been funded by NTHMP grants from FY08 through FY12 (and extensions).

Lopes further described that some data is missing, unavailable, or budgets and projects were renegotiated without adequate documentation. We are collecting information based on available "hard data" only, and not interpolating data or results if not available.

The initial quantitative analysis will be completed right before the NTHMP Summer Meeting. A slot on the MES agenda has been scheduled for Lopes to provide initial insights from the quantitative analysis. More information will follow.

George Priest: Will there be a narrative?

Lopes: Yes, I will lead development of a narrative (added note: Rocky will be happy to have any volunteers (hint) who wish to help).

Priest: Emphasize that each of the state's produced products are owned by the states and are designed specifically for their constituents, which helps to sell programs locally. Ownership gets lost in many Federal reports.

## 6. [INFO] NTHMP Summer Meeting – Updates

Agenda: Lopes thanked the Co-Chairs of MES and MMS for jointly developing the agenda and for answering his persistent (and sometimes nagging) questions. The final agenda for the Summer Meeting is on the NTHMP website, here: <http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2014mesmms/index.html>

Also, a complete list of anticipated attendees is available on that web page, too.

Subcommittee reports:

Kevin Miller (MES): we appreciate that the agenda and attendees list is on the website. Agenda highlights: TsunamiReady workshop, review of National Tsunami Education Plan, and a review of high priority objectives from 2017 strategic plan. MES members are asked to prepare a 3-minute update on Tsunami Preparedness Week success stories. Read-ahead materials will also be provided for the maritime session on Wednesday.

Rick Wilson (MMS): agenda highlights – will focus a lot on new mapping issues for East Coast and Gulf Coast states; benchmark workshop discussion; and as we are focusing a lot more on maritime issues, the agenda on Thursday will go into the guidelines on maritime products and working with MES to develop a full guidelines on how to create and use the products.

George Priest: The Oregon maritime brochure for offshore response is on the OR DOGAMI website <http://www.oregongeology.org/tsuclearinghouse/maritime.htm>

Kara Gately: The MMS is monopolizing the agenda with a lot of maritime discussion. Background reading material and a list of desired outcomes will be provided.

Dmitry Nicolski: what cooperation is there from USGS on tsunami sources?

Rick Wilson: it will be covered in the discussion on probabilistic modeling. Eric Geist from USGS will be at the meeting. Stephanie Ross and Nate Wood promote the NTHMP within USGS.

Kara Gately: Please send an email with MMS topics and concerns to her, Rick and cc Rocky. Stephanie Ross: will any sections of the meeting be available electronically?

Rocky Lopes: currently, the TsunamiReady Workshop on Tuesday morning and the Tsunami Messaging Project live webinar on Thursday morning are set up as GoTo Webinars. Please review the agenda and if there are sections of any parts of the meeting that you want to attend electronically, please send an email to me and I'll set it up.

## 7. [INFO] NTHMP Rules of Procedure

Rocky Lopes described procedures for the update process to the NTHMP Rules of Procedure. He thanked the work group that NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris assigned: Althea Rizzo, Vasily Titov, Tim Walsh and Rick Wilson.

A draft revision to the RoPs has been prepared. It took into account that TWEA has expired, so it includes language along the lines of "in the spirit of...". Also, language was added about NTHMP Grants that says, "When Congress appropriates funding for NTHMP grants... (this section will apply)."

(addition to these notes by Lopes): Further, since the NWS budgets specifically for NTHMP activities only by object class (travel, grants) there is not a way to provide a report or engagement on the "NTHMP mitigation budget" since there is no such specific budget.

Lopes sent the draft recommended RoPs to NTHMP Chair Devaris, who said that she would schedule a dedicated meeting of the Coordinating Committee to discuss the RoPs and try to come to agreement on revisions and vote as necessary. This meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Please look for a Word file that has the proposed revisions on this page of the NTHMP website: <http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/organization.html>

## 8. New Business

Erv Petty: asked about reimbursements for NTHMP travel. Can Direct Deposit be made to a state and not to an individual?

Rocky Lopes (checked with informed people on July 16): Federal regulations require direct deposit for travel reimbursements to be made to an individual, not a business

(like a state.) You have to work it out with your state if the state imposes some other regulations that conflict with Federal travel reimbursement requirements.

Chip Guard: how can we provide agenda items?

Lopes advised that the agenda for the NTHMP summer meeting is set, but if you have questions or thoughts about the agenda, to please reach out to the subcommittee Co-Chairs who set the agenda.

If there are items for the NTHMP Annual Meeting agenda, please send them via email to Rocky. We will be setting the annual meeting agenda late this Fall.

Rick Wilson: Whitmore, Devaris, Wilson, and Miller are convening a session at AGU meeting on Tsunami Preparedness. If you have something to present there, please submit an abstract. Abstracts due August 8. More information is here:

<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2014/>

9. Adjourn

Mike Angove thanked Rick Wilson and Kevin Miller for their support during recent TsunamiReady recognition ceremonies in Oceanside and Naval Station Coronado, California.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes  
NTHMP Administrator