

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- February 13, 2015  
Held at Oregon State Office Building, Portland, Oregon

1. Call to order – NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 8:32am PT.

2. Roll call – Rocky Lopes

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove\*, Tsunami Program Manager, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK  
Ms. Marie Eblé\*, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA  
Dr. Rocky Lopes\*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA  
Mr. Paul Whitmore, NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynwood, WA

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA  
Dr. Nate Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Erv Petty, Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK  
Dr. Dmitry Nicolisky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Ms. Jacinta Brown, American Samoa Dept. of Homeland Security, Pago Pago, AS (Guest)  
Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore, NWS WSO American Samoa, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA  
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mr. Juan Camacho, CNMI Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Saipan, MP

East Coast States

Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Guam

Ms. Pilar Carbullido, Guam Department of Homeland Security, Agana Heights, Guam  
Mr. Chip Guard, NWS Forecast Office, Barrigada, Guam

Gulf Coast States

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

Hawaii

Dr. Kwok Fai Cheung, University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI  
Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii State Civil Defense, Honolulu, HI

Oregon

Dr. Jonathan Allen\*, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Portland, OR (Guest)  
Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Newport, OR  
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR

Puerto Rico

Mr. Wilfredo Ramos, Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency, San Juan, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Mr. Elton Lewis, USVI Territorial Emergency Management Agency, St. Thomas, VI  
Mr. Roy Watlington, USVI Science Representative

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management, Camp Murray, WA  
Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

\*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest

3. Recognition of departing CC members who are ending their service during 2015.

Chair Devaris recognized George Priest, Erv Petty, and General Elton Lewis during the Annual Meeting with certificates of appreciation, and also during the Coordinating Committee. She expressed her sincere thanks for their service to the NTHMP and more broadly for their service in the interest of public safety. She indicated that we maintain such an important partnership, and are honored to have worked with each of these Coordinating Committee members.

4. Recognition and welcome of Elinor Lutu-McMoore as the Science Representative for American Samoa, replacing Mase Akapo

Chair Devaris welcomed Elinor to the Coordinating Committee. Elinor expressed her thanks and appreciation to be at this meeting.

5. NTHMP Landslide Workshop

Jim Kirby presented about this workshop concept at the MMS meeting and also during the grant session during the Annual Meeting. Different Landslide modeling is being used by different scientists. There is no available comparison or comparable data sets available for the individual landslide models. It would be important for the group to do that comparison of data sets together in a workshop setting. This workshop fits within the MMS notion that all models used by MMS products should be benchmarked. There is concern that some of the modeling is producing overly conservative outputs.

Dr. Kirby and MMS Co-Chairs will organize a work group over the next six months to determine the range of tests to be conducted. He will organize the workshop to be held in the summer of 2016.

Tim Walsh asked how the MMS benchmarking workshop this time compared with the workshop in Galveston. Juan Horrillo said that we didn't have any comparisons or benchmarking there. The results were different.

John Schelling asked if these were only undersea landslides or were other landslides being examined. Kirby responded that they would consider the applicability of subaerial landslides during their preparation for the workshop.

Vasily Titov asked that since there was a series of NSF workshops, if we want to benchmark our tools, we should have an outside organization conduct benchmarking. There would be less potential for a conflict of interest. Kirby responded that he does not disagree with that. However, proposing something to NSF is iffy and he is unsure if they would do it. NTHMP has a precedent for doing model benchmarking

independently. He will consider trying to recruit an outside person to organize the workshop. This will not duplicate any efforts from previous NSF workshops.

Vasily Titov stated that a workshop such as this is best organized from the outside.

Aimee Devaris said that it begs the issue of funding. If funded by NTHMP grant, then the NTHMP effectively becomes the organizer.

Rick Wilson suggested that Kirby add to the grant request to explore the idea of bringing someone in from the outside to run the workshop.

Paul Whitmore stated that the new Strategic Plan calls for funding for any new MMS projects to be approved through the MES. Aimee Devaris asked how that could be accomplished. Whitmore stated the grant review committee could coordinate with the MES co-chairs for this type of request.

6. Confirm frequency and schedule of NTHMP CC meetings for 2015 between now and the next Annual Meeting.

The NTHMP usually meets on the third Tuesday during odd months at 3:00pm Eastern Time. After discussion, the members of the Coordinating Committee affirmed the same meeting dates and time. For 2015, the CC will meet March 17, May 19, July 21, September 22, and November 17.

Summer meeting: The CC affirmed that both the MMS and MES in-person "summer meetings" be held at the same location for 2-1/2 days MES sequential with half-day overlap with MMS. The MES leadership wants to keep the meeting sequential without breaking in the middle for a full day meeting with the MMS. Remember – per terms of how the NTHMP operates, the MES informs the MMS of its mapping and modeling needs.

Wilson: From the MMS perspective – okay for ½ day together, then one day of MMS meeting following. 1.5 days, 0.5 day, 1 day.

Schelling: MES uses that as an opportunity to review the strategic plan.

Richards: agreed with Schelling. Key to success is working through the strategic plan. Appreciates being educated by the MMS to build the support.

Wood: within MES, there is interest to get guidelines on evacuation modeling and also to understand population demographics in tsunami hazard zones. So when they get results, they know what it means so they can interpret it for the public.

Devaris: meet in same location and subcommittee Co-chairs will work out details. Request to stay away from August.

Rizzo: center of USA is a consideration for meeting location.

Meeting location suggestions: IRC in Honolulu; NGDC in Boulder; San Diego; Menlo Park, CA; Washington State University in Vancouver, WA

Timing: earlier in the year is better. July is better than September.

Lopes conducted an informal poll among the Coordinating Committee members about the best week for the meeting. July 13 – 17 had fewest conflicts, with July 20-24 being next best. The week closest to Independence day (July 6 – 10) had the most conflicts.

Chair Devaris asked Rocky Lopes to prepare cost estimates for each meeting location, to coordinate with potential host sites on availability of free meeting space, and to present her and Mike Angove with the results for them to determine the meeting location. The location and meeting dates will be announced on or before the next Coordinating Committee meeting of March 17.

7. Updates from each NTHMP Subcommittee and confirmation of Co-Chair votes as necessary

a. Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee – Wilson, Gately

We had a good workshop on Monday and Tuesday, February 9-10. The MMS is making progress on tasks. Need an update from MES on their priorities to ensure alignment.

The MMS had a vote to change state Co-Chair representative since Rick Wilson's term was up. Dmitry Nicolsky of the University of Alaska was elected to serve as the state Co-Chair for the next two years. Aimee Devaris as Chair confirmed the decision and congratulated Dmitry.

b. Mitigation & Education Subcommittee – Biasco, Kong, Miller

Kevin Miller reported that the MES will have a conference call during the summer to check the progress of priorities and accomplishments. The MES will

The MES will review the final version of the proposed TsunamiReady Guidelines.

The National Tsunami Education and Outreach Plan developed by Christa Rabenold was reviewed and progress noted.

The MES has no leadership changes.

c. Warning Coordination Subcommittee – McCreery, Rizzo, Whitmore

Althea Rizzo gave the report and stated that nothing special other than routine business occurred at the WCS meeting.

Paul Whitmore reported that social science recommendations for tsunami warning messages were adopted. Announced that graphical products are making headway. The Tsunami Program is funding PMEL to develop a private graphical interface for emergency management.

Althea Rizzo said that “Local Area Emergency” (LAE) messages for tsunami advisories is still being worked on.

8. NTHMP Rules of Procedure required annual meeting business:

a. Review the Strategic Plan measures and milestones to ensure progress is on track.

George Priest: need some performance measures to be reported out for NOAA management. For example: how many evacuation maps produced for coastal communities. Baseline poll for awareness is needed. Set aside small amount of FY15 funding to create baseline poll to track awareness through use of an academic group. Consider engaging Chris Gregg for this work.

Chair Devaris described that Univ. of Michigan does this evaluation for the NWS in general about its products and services. They developed set of three index questions with subquestions that they always ask no matter what that represent the basis for customer satisfaction. Something like that could be done for Preparedness to develop a preparedness index.

Wood: at the summer meeting, convene some people who do this type of work to discuss it. It is possible to do with representative sampling. Top four people to figure out what NTHMP could afford. Have a scoping meeting.

Angove: We should work with NOAA Legislative Affairs to determine metrics.

Lopes: I did this type of measurement for over a decade when I was at the Red Cross. We should coordinate with FEMA’s Family and Community Preparedness polling on ready.gov that they do regularly and asks similar questions. Results may not be what you want to see – this metric’s needle doesn’t move but a few points both up and down every year.

Devaris: reviewed some content in the strategic plan and attach metrics to them. E.g., number of drills, exercises, and walk-outs.

Schelling: The MES developed a baseline survey in 2010; there were problems with the survey instrument and the results were skewed. Data were not useful.

Wood: I surveyed all coastal communities in coastal OR & WA in 2001. That baseline is available.

Wilson: does this fall under MES?

Biasco: when results from the 2010 baseline survey were presented, that's when MES discovered errors in methodology.

Angove: really likes the idea of a "Preparedness Index."

Wood: there is a "Community Preparedness Index."

Wilson: This type of study should be an outside entity.

Priest: We should scope it this year.

Lopes: will do a scoping cost estimate for management and provide it to Devaris and Angove for consideration to reserve a block of funds from NTHMP grant funding.

Richards: don't stray too far away from MES so it doesn't become another bean counting exercise to please "Washington."

b. WCS has two tasks that cannot be tracked.

1. Annually increase local warning dissemination capabilities by 10% based on the baseline established in 2012.
2. Annually increase local warning capabilities by 10% based on the baseline established by 2011.

c. Devaris: pointed out that the strategic plan calls for a review of the NTHMP every 5 years. It is due.

Schelling: we're still digesting what NAS has told us. It may be premature to do that now.

Devaris: is 5 years too aggressive?

Schelling: we just got the NOAA response to the NAS report results. We should work through all of those before asking for more.

Wilson: we should wait until 2017 to evaluate.

Guard: when do we update the strategic plan?

Lopes: usually the subcommittees review their respective parts and make recommendations for the next plan in 2016, then work group appointed to pull it together and assemble a recommended draft plan for presentation at annual meeting of 2017, adopt.

Devaris: if TWERA passes, Congress will require reporting.

Whitmore: external review of NTHMP is in the strategic plan scheduled for 2017.

## 9. NTHMP Recognition -- public relations/public affairs

Lopes opened by describing that the NOAA press event and related print materials that were about the Indian Ocean Tsunami ten years later were released on December 8. Little mention, specifically, about the NTHMP was included. That's because it is the job of an agency's public affairs function to represent its agency, not an allied organization. When this happened, some members of the Coordinating Committee were displeased. They wrote their own press release about "Tsunami Preparedness in the United States" and asked the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) to issue it. The WSSPC release was posted/released on 23 December. Available tracking data indicated that the release was not reprinted anywhere.

Wilson: NTHMP is \$6M under the budget. We are financially a part of NOAA's tsunami program. So therefore, NTHMP should receive attention from NOAA since it is such a significant part of the budget.

Lopes: NOAA Public Affairs doesn't rank its priorities based on budget. Their focus is on what is a compelling story for the news media.

Schelling: FEMA Region 10 public affairs led an effort to promote earthquake and tsunami safety around the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cascadia. It worked well and was measurable. This is an example of how it can be done.

Devaris: in over 20 years working for NOAA, and having spent several years as a WCM – there is a culture within public affairs that it is very reactive (about weather and about a major event.) This is a cultural thing that we have to overcome.

Schelling: a model to test out using FEMA Region 10 example. Since we have a media guide from NOAA, we should use it.

Richards: we are not tapping into our respective public relations people. We owe it to ourselves to tap our internal resources for help. Suggest that we bring together our Public Affairs people from NTHMP partners.

Angove: I should have related the Sumatra subduction zone to Cascadia to bring the story home.

Wood: USGS has the same situation. Months of planning goes into what appears to be reactive. USGS prepares well-crafted responses in advance to be ready to respond. There needs to be a workshop on how to craft a consistent message and how to get it out.

Wilson: There should be an opportunity to have a small group of people to work on messaging and communication for NTHMP to examine synergies with media.

Walsh: affirmed that the State of Washington put out press releases that talked only about what they did and didn't mention NOAA. (It works both ways.)

Schelling: take an action to develop a messaging calendar.

Priest: suggested two years ago to create a network of our respective Public Relations staff as a standing subcommittee.

Devaris: we can easily build a calendar. We need to develop the messages and get help with press releases. We are in an interesting year where things will happen that may provide opportunities for attention and focus. Getting that library ready to go when we need it would be important.

Guard: use NWS WCMS who have relationships with local media.

Wilson: [changed per amendment at 3/17/15 NTHMP CC meeting. Italicized content added] What action do we take now? *Is the formation of a small work group possible? This work group could help coordinate NTHMP-related media outreach as well as help Mike Angove and the NOAA Tsunami Program with NTHMP messaging in Washington and with NOAA.*

Biasco: MES will discuss and think on how to move forward.

## 10. Old Business

None.

## 11. New Business



- a. Whitmore: since the NWS is not doing a national tsunami preparedness week, should the NTHMP designate one?

Wilson: it helps for state proclamations to have a national one to hook onto.

Woods: research shows that these recognitions work best around anniversaries of events related to their own experience.

Devaris: should NTHMP declare March 22 – 28, 2015 as Tsunami Preparedness Week?

Whitmore: moved ... Petty: second. Vote: Unanimous consent

- b. Miller: California is working on earthquake early warning. Kate Long would like to present about it during the next CC meeting in March.

Schelling: key message – what to do if there is an earthquake early warning? Do you evacuate?

Devaris: will hear about it during the next CC meeting and then WCS follow up about it after the presentation. Bigger presentation for the WCS later.

Priest: we have to come back to frame it for differences between distant and near-field tsunamis.

- c. Wilson: NOAA's Tsunami Research Advisory Council has interesting topics. It would be helpful to have a state representative on the TRAC for input on results and testbeds.

Angove: this is a research to operations program – will make the priority science needs available.

Devaris: confirmed that this meeting is composed of all Federal Government employees. We can't have a state serve as a representative on the TRAC because it breaks the Federal Advisory Committee Act. There cannot be a formal relationship of states with TRAC.

Angove: will share ideas from TRAC with NTHMP.

Wilson: [changed per amendment at 3/17/15 NTHMP CC meeting] ~~wants to review and comment~~ *"Wilson: If membership or attendance in the TRAC is not viable, then would appreciate the opportunity to at least review and comment on existing and planned test-bed projects, and work with the Warning Centers/Tsunami Program to develop, recommend, and possibly conduct future test-bed projects."*

Jonathan Allan: (guest/Oregon) – can TRAC update NTHMP?

Devaris: Mike Angove will exchange information.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Devaris at 10:23am PT.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes  
NTHMP Administrator