

## NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting May 19, 2015

### 1. Welcome and call meeting to order: Chair Aimee Devaris

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm ET.

### 2. Roll Call: Rocky Lopes

#### NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK  
Ms. Marie Eblé\*, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA  
Dr. Laura Kong\*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI  
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky\*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Dr. Rocky Lopes\*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Christa Rabenold\*, Tsunami Program, 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  
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration, Washington, DC

#### 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 and Emergency Management  
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks

#### American Samoa

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

No representatives

#### East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Boston, MA  
Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

#### Guam

No representatives

#### Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX  
Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Corpus Christi, TX

#### Hawaii

No representatives

#### Oregon

Dr. Jon Allan, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Newport, OR  
Ms. Karen Parmelee\*, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR  
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR

#### Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

#### U.S. Virgin Islands

No representatives

#### Washington

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

\*Non-voting participant.

### 3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of March 17, 2015

Paul Whitmore made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Victor Huerfano seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

### 4. Welcome new Coordinating Committee members

Aimee Devaris welcomed three new Coordinating Committee members:

- Ms. Mona Barnes, U.S. Virgin Islands Emergency Management representative who replaces BGen. Elton Lewis.
- Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, Gulf Coast Emergency Management representative, who replaces Amy Godsey.
- Dr. Jon Allan, Oregon Science Representative, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), who replaces George Priest.

### 5. FY15 NTHMP Grants, status

Rocky Lopes stated that the NTHMP Grant Review Panel completed its work and made its recommendations to Aimee Devaris and Mike Angove. They accepted the panel's recommendations after a thorough review.

Angove forwarded the recommendations with the Chair's endorsement to NWS Management. Management approved revised recommendations on May 5. Lopes announced to each grantee what the grant award amounts that were approved to include in a specifically-tailored message sent on May 6.

The formal "Request for Application" period for FY15 NTHMP grants is now open. A response to the RFA is due from each applicant by May 29. Applications submitted by that date will provide the required 90-day review period by the NOAA Acquisitions & Grants Office so that awards can be made by the end of August for a 1 September start date, as planned.

Lewis Kozlosky announced that we have received one application already. Aimee Devaris thanked Marie Eble, Tamra Biasco, & Rocky Lopes for their work on the review panel.

### 6. NTHMP summer meeting update

- MES: Kevin Miller stated that the MES draft agenda is on the website. Meeting begins July 13. Please bring success stories on tsunami preparedness campaigns. This is a working meeting to make progress on some of the elements of the strategic plan, performance metrics, 3-4 common survey questions for evaluating outreach projects, and common media outreach strategies. The MES will begin looking at the next strategic plan.

Kevin also announced that the MES has a phone meeting scheduled May 27.

- MMS: Dmitry Nicolsky said that a conference call with MMS members to finalize agenda for MMS meeting has been held. During the summer MMS meeting, there are plans to discuss the results of the January model benchmarking workshop. The MMS will try to formulate guidelines for maritime mapping & modeling as well. There has been much cooperation between the NTHMP and the U.S. Coast Guard on maritime issues and with the USGS on tsunami sources.

The MMS is preparing for next year's workshop on landslide modeling. The last day of this summer's meeting will be a workshop on the present state of performance metrics.

- Joint meeting: Rocky Lopes said that there were some items of discussion planned during each of the MES and MMS meetings that would interest the other subcommittee members. So, they decided to extend the joint meeting time for those sessions – maritime guidance update and National Tsunami Assessment update by NGDC. The joint meeting will begin on Wednesday July 15 at 10:30am.

The rest of the joint meeting will be work sessions on topics of joint interest. The agenda is on the NTHMP summer meeting web page:

<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2015mesmms/index.html>

- Location and travel logistics update: Kevin Miller scouted out the facility where we will be meeting. He advised that there is no internet in the building, and no phone in the meeting rooms. No cell reception in first floor meeting room. We have to lower our expectations for connectivity. Little Italy is 3-4 blocks away, other restaurants are nearby.

Lopes stated that he is planning a group dinner for Tuesday evening, July 14, likely in Little Italy. The members on this call said it would be nice to go there.

He also said that the Doubletree hotel is very close to being sold out. There is a distinct possibility that the room block at the \$142/night Federal per diem rate will be booked up before the closing date. If you have not made your hotel reservations, do so immediately.

## 7. Meteotsunami Brochure

Christa Rabenold has developed a Meteotsunami Fact Sheet based on research she has done and using information provided to her from a small group with whom she is working. The draft version of this Fact Sheet is out for review, and is due back by the end of May. Christa thanked colleagues for helping with it. Aimee Devaris said that she didn't think that we need to follow an internal NWS review process, but she will look into it to see if it would benefit us. Christa offered her assistance.

8. NTHMP brochure (completed):

Christa Rabenold announced that the NTHMP Fact Sheet has been completed and posted on NTHMP website in HTML as well as two formatted versions (two-pager and trifold.) Rick Wilson and Aimee Devaris thanked Christa for working on it.

9. 2016 Tsunami Preparedness Week (date issue):

Christa Rabenold said that the NTHMP traditionally has been declaring Tsunami Preparedness Week for the last week of March in recognition of the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake and tsunamis. But the exercise in the Caribbean for 2016 is tentatively scheduled for March 16 to avoid conflict with Easter holidays. Easter during 2016 is on March 27.

Paul Whitmore stated that the LANTEX exercise will be March 16 and that the Pacifex exercise will be in June 2016 to leverage with the Cascadia Rising exercise.

Aimee Devaris asked when we need to decide a date. Christa said that we did not have to determine a date right now – we did it as late as during the annual meeting for 2015. However, we can discuss it further during the summer meeting.

10. TWERA status update: Lopes said that the NWS CFO's office received an inquiry from House Appropriations about NTHMP grant funding history. Lopes considered this a routine set of questions and provided answers that were sent back via NWS CFO to the requestor. Lopes also stated that the Congressional Budget Office is preparing its cost analysis of TWERA. The CBO does that for every piece of major legislation.

Otherwise, we have no more news about the status of TWERA before the U.S. Senate.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

Althea Rizzo requested that the NTHMP Rules of Procedure be reviewed again to consider issues related to proxy votes and allowing for NTHMP grants to pay for travel of non-CC members to attend NTHMP meetings.

Aimee Devaris stated that we recently reviewed the RoPs. (Lopes confirmed – the RoPs were updated in September, 2014.) She asked Lopes to explain how both issues are addressed in the current Rules of Procedure:

Lopes said,

- Proxies: Current RoPs state “NTHMP voting members must be physically present at an in-person meeting (on the phone during a teleconference) to vote. Proxies are not allowed.” This is on the bottom of page 5 under “voting procedures.”
- NTHMP Grant Funds usage for travel: there is nothing in the Rules of Procedure regarding restrictions of use of NTHMP grant funds for travel by non-CC members to NTHMP meetings. This restriction has been included in the NTHMP Grant Guidelines since the FY13 grant cycle. This was added for two reasons: a) fairness – so that there is not more representation at an NTHMP meeting by one state than another only due to the availability of travel funding; and b) priority – travel funding to attend meetings was considered to be a lower priority overall than other issues found in the NTHMP Strategic Plan.

John Schelling suggested that a working group should be appointed to recommend changes the RoPs, and perhaps develop a process to appoint alternates to represent Coordinating Committee members.

Lopes offered as the NTHMP Administrator to facilitate the group and prepare recommendations for a future NTHMP CC meeting. Althea Rizzo thought that would be a good idea.

Aimee Devaris called for volunteers. The following people offered to work on this ad-hoc group: Dmitry Nicolsky, Rick Wilson, Tim Walsh, John Schelling, and Althea Rizzo. Rocky will organize meetings as necessary.

Other new business:

Lopes said that he was working on the NTHMP “Return on Investment” report again. He essentially threw out the first version and created a new one, reflecting both past awards and commitments for awards from the period between FY08 and FY15.

The new report features vignettes from each NTHMP member state/territory and addresses how funding has been spent in four direct categories (public warning & notification; community preparedness; hazard assessment & mapping; and sustaining resilience; as well as one support category – NTHMP support (salaries & benefits of personnel hired with grant funds).

Lopes will make a data call to validate some numbers in the new draft of this report.

Wilson advised that he should also look for cooperative agreements from 2004 to 2007, and to look for improvements made when we didn’t get as much funding as what we did when we got more.

Lopes stated that the most frequent question we receive is “what do states and territories do with NTHMP grant funds?”

Jon Allan stated that it would be good to show progress over time. Lopes agreed, but said that the data do not align necessarily year-by-year. Sometimes it takes several years to fully realize an activity.

Aimee Devaris said, "looking at it from an analysis perspective – we need to demonstrate a range or scale of capability."

Lopes will continue working on the next draft of this report. He will send it to the Coordinating Committee approximately by mid-June to provide time for thoughtful review before discussion during the MES meeting this summer.

There was no other new business.

### 13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm by Aimee Devaris.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes  
NTHMP Administrator