

Agenda: NTHMP Coordinating Committee February 5, 2016
Location: at NTHMP Annual Meeting, NOAA/NCEI, Boulder, Colorado

1. Welcome and call meeting to order: Chair Grant Cooper
2. Roll call

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove*, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Grant Cooper, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, UT
Ms. Marie Eblé*, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA
Kara Gately*, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK
Dr. Laura Kong*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Charles McCreerey*, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Honolulu, HI
Ms. Christa Rabenold*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynnwood, WA
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Federal Insurance & Mitigation Admin, Washington, DC

USGS

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

Alaska

Mr. Dan Belanger, Alaska DHSEM, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Ms. Elinor Lutu_McMoore*, Weather Service Office, 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

Dr. Stephan Grilli, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

Guam

Mr. Chip Guard*, NWS Forecast Office, Barrigada, Guam
Ms. Pilar Carbullido, Guam HS/EM, Agana Heights, Guam

Gulf Coast States

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

Hawaii

Dr. Kwok Fai Cheung, University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI
Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Honolulu, HI

Oregon

Dr. Jon Allen, Oregon Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries, Portland, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, Puerto Rico Seismic Network, Mayaguez, PR
Mr. Wilfredo Ramos, Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency, San Juan, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Mr. Roy Wattlington, Professor Emeritus, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Ms. Tabitha Laird*, Washington EMD, Camp Murray, WA (Guest)
Mr. John Schelling, Washington EMD, Camp Murray, WA
Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

31 present, 9.5 state votes (min 7); 6 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement was met.
*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest 14).

3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of November 10, 2015. Call for approval: Grant Cooper. Kevin Richards moved to accept the minutes as presented. Tim Walsh seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. Grant Cooper – Welcome and self-introduction

Dr. Cooper introduced himself. He made remarks about observations during annual meeting.

5. Recognition and welcome of Dan Belanger as the Emergency Management Representative for Alaska.

Rocky Lopes and Dmitry Nicolsky introduced Dan Belanger (who arrived after introductions were made.)

6. NTHMP MES & MMS Summer Meetings

Rocky Lopes explained that due to higher than budgeted spending for invitational travel for the NTHMP Annual Meeting, plus having to take a \$7,700 reallocation of available NTHMP travel funds due to restrictions from a Government-wide cap on travel imposed by a Presidential Executive Order, there are insufficient funds to offer invitational travel for separate face-to-face “summer meetings” of both the Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee (MMS) and the Mitigation & Education Subcommittee (MES).

Therefore, with reluctance, plans to offer invitational travel by the NWS to support a MMS “summer meeting” had to be canceled. Plans to offer support for CC members who are members of the MES for an MES summer meeting are still intact. MES will announce their plans for a meeting soon.

Note: NTHMP travel policy has been for NWS to offer invitational travel for only for members of the Coordinating Committee who serve on the MES, MMS, or Warning Coordination Subcommittee (WCS) – not to all members of all subcommittees.

This situation will be better after September 1, 2016, when NTHMP grant funds can be applied to cover travel by grant-supported members of both the MES and MMS for the Annual Meeting and respective summer meetings.

7. Confirm frequency and schedule of NTHMP Coordinating Committee meetings for 2016 between now and the next Annual Meeting.

The members agreed that meeting on the third Tuesday odd number months at 3:00pm Eastern Time would continue.

Therefore, the Coordinating Committee meetings during 2016 will be:

March 22 (rescheduled at Chair's request), May 17, July 19, September 20, and November 15. Date for the face-to-face Coordinating Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting is to be determined.

Dates for these meetings will be posted on the NTHMP website and distributed to Coordinating Committee members.

8. Updates from each NTHMP Subcommittee

a. Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee

Kara Gately reported the USGS workshop held February 1 – 2 was successful. The MMS will be coming up with a list of scientific needs and priorities as a result of this meeting.

The tsunami currents benchmarking workshop results are in final review and will be provided soon.

The Maritime Guidance document is about completed and ready to transfer to the MES for their input in several sections.

Near-shore safe depths guidance is still being worked on.

MMS was planning to have a landslide workshop this summer (as its "summer meeting", but now that the MMS summer meeting had to be canceled (see section 6), this workshop will be treated as an executable task in the FY16 NTHMP grants from eligible partners and labeled as a scientific/technical meeting. Each partner may choose to include a request for funds to travel to this workshop.

MMS requests a three-day summer meeting for next summer. At next year's annual meeting, we will be talking about the strategic plan. Request full one-day joint meeting with MES to talk about strategic planning. (These requests are addressed later in these minutes in section 9c).

Co-Chair: Kara Gately stated that Marie Eblé was nominated as the NOAA Co-Chair for the MMS from January 2016 through January 2018. Paul Whitmore seconded. The Coordinating Committee concurred with unanimous consent.

Rick Wilson thanked Kara Gately for her service as the NOAA Co-Chair for the past two years.

b. Mitigation & Education Subcommittee

Tamra Biasco stated that during a shortened meeting of the MES, they reviewed strategic priorities and updated ongoing tasks. The MES is on track and has achieved most strategic outputs.

The MES is reviewing post-tsunami protocols and implementation.

The MES had a presentation on 2016 Cascadia Earthquake recognition campaign conducted in January. The MES has a work group on social media that collaborated with this campaign.

A strategic plan for tsunami evacuation guidelines is under review. More development is required.

Mike Mahoney announced that the *Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Guidelines* (P-646) can be updated via work through ATC's contract with FEMA. He will keep MES informed on how members may participate and on progress.

Tamra Biasco further stated that when the MES does strategic plan development, the members of the WCS need to be engaged.

Co-Chair: MES nominated Gala Gulacsik of FEMA Region 10 to serve as the FEMA MES Co-Chair. Tim Walsh seconded the nomination. Passed unanimously.

Kevin Richards thanked Tamra Biasco for her many years of service as the MES Co-Chair.

c. Warning Coordination Subcommittee

Paul Whitmore reported that the WCS had a too-short meeting (abbreviated due to snow rescheduling.)

Whitmore announced a change to services provided for PR/VI. Effective March 1, the PTWC will provide coverage for PR/VI instead of the NTWC, and also continue its coverage for the rest of the Caribbean.

Whitmore discussed exercises and communications tests, and described accidental communications tests going live on the internet.

He further announced that by next NTHMP meeting, he anticipates a positive report on implementation of the NWS IT Modernization project (called TOPS).

9. NTHMP Rules of Procedure required annual meeting business:

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

Kevin Miller: MES activities are on track.

Kara Gately: MMS activities are on track and the subcommittee is finalizing things.

Paul Whitmore: the metric "annually increase warning dissemination/reception by 10%" is hard to measure. Recommend reconsidering any vague, non-measurable item like this next time.

Paul Whitmore: The NTHMP lost its method to conduct on-line post-event reviews/surveys. John Schelling said that the Washington state IT department dropped the survey that they once had, and it is not available any more. Paul Whitmore requested if any other state could adopt the survey. Kevin Richards volunteered.

Nicolsky: we need to develop archive locations for inundation modeling. At the moment, these models are archived at the University of Southern California, University of Washington, and Texas A&M University. These locations are not permanent. Rick Wilson offered to discuss modeling archiving needs with NCEI.

- b. External review

Tamra Biasco asked how and when the NTHMP would conduct an external review which according to the current NTHMP Strategic Plan is to be done during 2017.

Tim Walsh stated that an external review was done in 2001 and 2007 and can be found on the NTHMP website. He also stated that an external review was completed in 2010 as a response to a report to Congress from the 2006 Tsunami Warning and Education Act.

Paul Whitmore suggested that the NTHMP should have this review before development of next NTHMP Strategic Plan.

Actions: get recommendations for external reviewers from NTHMP CC members. Discuss within the NWS how their participation (such as travel to next NTHMP Annual Meeting) can be funded. Recommendation is to follow the model used for developing the 2007 external review.

- c. Appointment of an annual meeting work group

The members discussed their vision of what they wanted to accomplish at the NTHMP Annual Meeting. There was general agreement that the Annual Meeting week include:

Monday: separate meeting times for MES, MMS, and WCS as subcommittees.

Tuesday: A collaborative planning meeting between MMS and MES.

Wednesday: Annual Meeting -- Strategic plan development emphasis

Thursday: Annual Meeting – day 2, presentations on topics of interest as determined by work group and approved by Chair.

Friday: NTHMP Grantees meeting (morning) / Coordinating Committee meeting (afternoon.)

Grant Cooper asked for volunteers to serve on a work group to develop a schedule and agenda for the 2017 NTHMP Annual Meeting. Dr. Cooper appointed Kevin Richards, Dmitry Nicolsky, Roy Watlington, Kara Gately, Tim Walsh, Vasily Titov and designated Rocky Lopes to facilitate the group and provide reports.

10. Appoint Strategic Plan Revision Work Group.

Considering the plan describe above (external review then strategic planning during the NTHMP Annual Meeting), Tim Walsh moved/Kevin Richards seconded to defer appointment of this work group until next year. This motion passed with unanimous consent.

11. The United Nations declared November 5 as “World Tsunami Day.” What does that mean for the NTHMP? The United States?

Tim Walsh: what was significance of November 5? Ans: this is a date significant to Japan.

Laura Kong: most countries in the Indian Ocean think about December 24. Other dates are memorialized for other locations. November 5 is important, but it is hard to do both your own recognition day/week/month and Nov. 5 also.

Kevin Richards: Hawaii’s “ticket is full.” We should support it, but not in Hawaii. Referred to ITIC.

Paul Whitmore: our activities center around early March and April. Is the U.N. action important enough to shift our dates?

John Schelling: the November 5 timing is close to shakeout activities that occur in October. Schelling suggested that the NTHMP pass a resolution of support and ask Laura to share it with the U.N.

Laura Kong: Countered by saying that the NTHMP should reflect its support in the 2017 NTHMP annual report, and post it on the tsunami bulletin board.

Rick Wilson: it is a second opportunity. A letter of support would be good to have.

Kara Gately: would be nice by next year that we endorse it. Also have social media done for that day.

Grant Cooper: insert a statement in the NTHMP *TsuInfo Alert* newsletter.

Tim Walsh: put together an NTHMP calendar of tsunami recognition events throughout the world and give it to tsunamizone.org.

Tamra Biasco: The MES has already done this through its social media work group. Kevin Miller stated that tsunamizone.org already has a scrolling list of dates.

Action: an update on what the U.N. will be doing to recognize World Tsunami Day is requested for the next CC meeting (March 22). Christa VonHillebrandt was asked to provide this report.

12. Old Business

There was no old business.

13. New Business

a. Island Caucus

Kevin Richards: in the past we had an island caucus, now all islands are recognized at the same level. Through discussions with peers, we have eliminated opportunity for islands to develop consensus and understanding. Recommend that the NTHMP reconstitute an "island caucus" and include islands in the Caribbean as well as the Pacific.

Roy Watlington expressed support.

Kevin Richards: have two hour time for an Islands Caucus meeting at the NTHMP annual meeting.

Rick Wilson: where does this fit in within NTHMP responsibilities?

Rocky Lopes: separate side-bar meetings by any group of members are non-official and do not impact official NTHMP responsibilities.

Tim Walsh: Pacific islands were clustered due to their capabilities rather than a caucus.

Victor Huerfano: supports the concept. Each island will keep its own independence.

Roy Watlington: the Island Caucus would not have meetings that conflict with other subcommittee or annual meeting times. The members will meet when they're together and have an opportunity to report.

Dmitry Nicolsky: not sure of purpose of a separate caucus for islands. Is there is a need for a caucus of western states, too?

Kevin Miller: would this have a report at the annual meeting?

Elinor Lutu-McMoore: many other states have deep expertise, but island representatives do not.

Kevin Richards: Moved that the NTHMP create an Island Caucus for discussion and meeting during the Annual Meeting time, with a report on their meeting given during the Annual Meeting. Roy Watlington seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.

b. Multihazard mapping

Stephan Grilli described a multihazard mapping project being considered by the National Academy of Sciences. He stated that there is a move for looking at multihazard mapping in the U.S. Different agencies have different maps for different hazards (hurricane, flood, tsunami, etc.) An interagency group may be established to develop these multihazard maps. NTHMP should be aware of this effort.

John Schelling stated that the FEMA Risk Map program is doing this and funding it.

c. Tsunami Coordinator position at USGS

Kevin Miller: Made a motion to request a letter of support from the NTHMP for a Tsunami Coordinator to be appointed at the USGS. Kevin Richards seconded the motion.

Nate Woods: the USGS does not have a Tsunami Program. However, the USGS has a practice of having a coordinator for activities like wildfire for which they don't have a program.

Mike Angove: Who would they coordinate with? NOAA, NTHMP?

Nate Woods: Yes, both.

Rick Wilson: Dr. Applegate at USGS was approached about this matter about five years ago. A finding of the most recent workshop with the USGS is that a USGS Tsunami Coordinator is needed and a good idea.

Mike Angove: there is interest at the USGS to establish a Tsunami Coordinator. A reasonable approach is to advise that the NTHMP & NOAA agree with that.

Grant Cooper: We should assign this to Mike Angove to follow up with Dr. Applegate at USGS.

Grant Cooper: Recommended that the motion be tabled indefinitely until Mike Angove has had contact with Dr. Applegate at the USGS. Kevin Miller accepted the request to table the motion. Kevin Richards seconded. The motion to table was accepted unanimously.

d. Expression of thanks

Grant Cooper: thanked Rocky Lopes for organizing all of the meetings this week. The members also expressed their appreciation.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am PST by NTHMP Chair Grant Cooper.

Approved by Chair Cooper 02/08/2016

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator