Minutes: NTHMP Coordinating Committee

May 17, 2016

1. Call to order: Chair Grant Cooper called the meeting to order at 3:02pm EDST.

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
Dr. Laura Kong*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky*, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa Rabenold*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Ms. Christa VonHillebrandt*, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Mayagüez, PR
Mr. Paul Whitmore, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynnwood, WA
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA HQ, Washington, DC

USGS

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

Alaska

Ms. Ann Gravier (designated Alternate), Alaska DHSEM, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

No representatives

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

Guam

Ms. Pilar Carbullido, Guam HS/EM, Agana Heights, Guam

Gulf Coast States

Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Corpus Christi, TX

Hawaii

Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Honolulu, HI

Oregon

Dr. Jon Allen, Oregon Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries, Portland, OR
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Dept. of Emergency Management, Salem, OR

Puerto Rico

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

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Mona Barnes, USVI Territorial Emergency Mgmt Agency, St. Thomas, VI
Ms. Kieran Isidore* USVI Territorial EMA, St. Thomas, VI (Guest)
Mr. Roy Watlington, Professor Emeritus, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Mr. Maximilian Dixon, Washington EMD, Camp Murray, WA
Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

31 present, 10 state votes (min 7); 6 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement was met.

*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest 8).

The minutes were approved as submitted without exception.


NTHMP Chair Grant Cooper welcomed the Coordinating Committee’s newest member, Maximilian Dixon of the State of Washington Emergency Management Division. Mr. Dixon introduced himself to the group.

5. Update from Mitigation & Education Subcommittee

The following report was given by Kevin Miller, MES Co-Chair:

The MES convened a business meeting via webinar on May 10 during which the following topics presented and discussed:

- an online platform for accessing local maps and evacuation planning and hazard assessment/vulnerability summaries across the states and territories for coordination among members.
- an update on post-tsunami protocols (ITIC, HI, CA)
- an update on outreach and education from Oregon OEM, including Oregon OEM’s Tsunami wayfinding project implemented in four communities and developing a tsunami comic book with Dark Horse Comics scheduled to release in September 2016
- an update from FEMA Region X on the HAZUS tsunami module expected to be integrated with the HAZUS version release approximately second quarter of FY17
- plans to update the Maritime Mapping Guidance.

The MES membership also discussed use of a file-sharing, project management, communications project management tool available online, such as Basecamp. This capability may be supported by FEMA and will be tested in the coming weeks/months.

A core group of volunteers will meet to assist with continuing development of the summer MES Meeting agenda. This meeting will be held July 26-28, 2016 in Lynnwood, WA at FEMA Region IX offices. More information is on the NTHMP website here: [http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2016messummer/index.html](http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2016messummer/index.html)
6. Update from Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee

The following updates were provided by Co-Chairs Dimitry Nicolsky and Marie Eblé:

- the MMS is looking at hosting its Landslide Workshop in Galveston, Texas, in late December or early January. The MMS will determine the dates through a doodle poll.
- No further planning has been done yet on dates and location of an MMS Scientific Exchange Meeting.
- The MMS is still working on maritime safety offshore depth recommendations.

7. Update from Warning Coordination Subcommittee

The following report was provided by Co-Chair Paul Whitmore:

- NTWC/PTWC have started the merge of their respective web sites into one which will provide a unified view of the threat level. Expected completion this summer.
- Due to travel restrictions, the announced TWS training at NTWC planned for August, 2016 has been delayed until Spring 2017 – tentatively the week of April 5, 2017.
- NTWC messages will be modified over the next few months to use upper/lower case text, and all regular grammar. This follows an NWS-wide implementation of new message protocols.
- Wireless Emergency Alert restriction for Southern CA to limit text messages to the coast has been entered into the NWS Requirements system. Completion date unknown at this time.
- Tweb status: Development continues at PMEL using ESRI as a geographic base. Not enough for wider review yet. Target date for completion is Fall 2016.
- Tsunami Seismic Information Statements (EQI) are being merged into Tsunami Information Statements (TIB).

Christa VonHillebrandt asked: what websites are being consolidated?

Whitmore replied: Both NTWC & PTWC websites are being consolidated onto tsunami.gov

8. NTHMP travel reimbursements for NWS-issued invitational travel

Mike Angove stated that it is the traveler’s responsibility to ensure you receive your reimbursement. Also make sure that you submit your travel voucher in a timely manner after completing travel so we can reimburse you.
9. Code change to add ASCE 7 Chapter 6 “Tsunami” into the International Building Code

Mike Mahoney reported that the main consensus building design standard (ASCE 7) added a new chapter on tsunami loads. This project was chaired by Gary Chock with participation from some state NTHMP partners. This chapter passed the ASCE consensus ballot process a few months ago and will be included as Chapter 6 in the next edition, which will be ASCE 7-16.

This new chapter was submitted as a proposed change to the International Code Council (ICC) for addition to the 2018 edition of the International Building Code.

Three weeks ago, the tsunami chapter was recommended for approval at the ICC Code Change Hearings. It will go forward for public review. A final vote will be taken before final ICC membership in Fall, 2016. IBC Appendix M – the former tsunami-related material -- will remain, but a change was also submitted to ICC and recommended for approval so that its focus will be only on tsunami vertical evacuation refuge, with confusing or duplicative content removed.

10. [INFO] FY16 NTHMP Grants status

Rocky Lopes reported that the FY16 NTHMP grant application process remains on track. Final grant applications are due by midnight EDST, Friday, May 20.

New to the grant package this year includes a NEPA checklist where information about compliance with NEPA and historical preservation laws are reviewed. Be sure to include that checklist with the application package when submitted.

Rocky has offered to help grantees with the difficult embedded Excel files in the Budget Narrative if needed. He can explain or fix columns to remove decimals and rounding errors on request.

Rocky reminded grantees that they may adjust or tweak final budget numbers as long as: 1) the final top line amount approved by the NWS is not exceeded; and 2) no new tasks that were not previously reviewed by the Federal Grant Panel are added. You can delete tasks or subtasks; you just can’t add new ones.

As of the date/time of this Coordinating Committee meeting, final applications have been received from American Samoa, Hawaii, and Oregon.

Lewis Kozlosky will evaluate and begin processing the applications, and will download application files for Rocky to review to ensure consistency with approved grant recommendations. Grantees will be notified if there are any discrepancies.

The process moving forward is that the NOAA Grants Management Division will conduct its formal review, including Legal Review. Past experience indicates that the Grants Specialist may have questions. Usually at some point in July or early
August, questions may be sent by Rocky or Lewis to grantees to answer. Please make sure answers are provided in a timely manner so the awards schedule may proceed as planned.

Also, please do not announce projects or funding for an FY16 NTHMP grant publicly until you receive a grant award and you accept it. Premature announcement of a grant can pose serious problems for a grantee and the Tsunami Program office at NOAA/NWS HQ.

Althea Rizzo asked: is assistance available to conduct an environmental assessment?

Rocky Lopes answered: The NOAA/NWS Tsunami Program or the NTHMP grants fund do not have financial resources to support costs for an environmental assessment. Since we cannot fund an environmental assessment, if you think you may have an issue, please discuss it with us and we’ll review on a case-by-case basis.

Mona Barnes asked: Who has applied for an FY16 NTHMP grant already?

Rocky Lopes answered: American Samoa, Hawaii, and Oregon (as of the date/time of this meeting.)

11. Old Business

There was no old business.

12. New Business

Rocky Lopes stated that a 2-page summary on NTHMP tsunami hazard assessment has been drafted by Christa Rabenold at the NWS Tsunami Program Office. She had the draft reviewed carefully by Paula Dunbar of NCEI. Christa will be sending it to NTHMP state/territorial partners for an accuracy check. Please make sure what is stated there is accurate for your state/territory.

There was no other new business.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Grant Cooper at 3:42pm EDST.

Minutes submitted by:
Rocky Lopes, NTHMP Administrator