

1. Call to order: Chair Grant Cooper called the meeting to order at 3:01pm EDST.

2. Roll Call

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove¹, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Mr. Mike Bilder⁵, NWS Government Relations, Silver Spring, MD
Mr. Matt Borgia⁵, NOAA Legislative Affairs, Washington, DC
Dr. Grant Cooper, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, UT
Ms. Marie Eblé², NOAA/Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA
Ms. Kara Gately³, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky³, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes¹, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa Rabenold³, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa VonHillebrandt³, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Mayagüez, PR
Mr. Paul Whitmore, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynnwood, WA
Ms. Gala Gulacsik², FEMA Region 10, Lynnwood, WA
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, FIMA Risk Management Directorate, Washington DC

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Wood, U.S. Geological Survey, Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Dan Belanger, Alaska Dept. of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolosky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Mr. Lancaster Allen⁴, American Samoa HS/EM, Pago Pago, American Samoa
Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa HS/EM, Pago Pago, American Samoa
Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore, American Samoa NWSO, Pago Pago, American Samoa

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. Chip Guard, Guam Forecast Office, Barrigada, Guam

East Coast States

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

Guam

Mr. Leo Espia, Guam Homeland Security, Agana Heights, Guam
Mr. Chip Guard, Guam Forecast Office, Barrigada, Guam

Gulf Coast States

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

Hawaii

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

Oregon

Dr. Jonathan Allan, Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries, Portland, OR
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR

Puerto Rico

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

¹ Ex-Officio, non-voting

² Subcommittee Co-Chair, non-voting

³ Guest, non-voting

⁴ Official Alternate

⁵ Invited Guest

Roll call, continued

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Kieran Isidore⁴, Virgin Islands Territorial Emer. Mgmt. Agency, St. Croix, VI
Ms. Mona Barnes, Virgin Islands Territorial Emer. Mgmt. Agency, St. Croix, VI

Washington

No representatives

36 present, 10 state votes (min 7); 5 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement was met.

3. TWERA Briefing

a. Opening introduction

Dr. Cooper welcomed everyone to the special meeting. He relayed thanks to all who were involved in shaping the *Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2017* (TWERA) and for their patience with the long wait for this legislation to be enacted. Overall, we're pleased to have updated legislation that will guide NOAA tsunami-related and NTHMP activities for years to come.

Mike Angove added that the passage of TWERA has broad reaching implications for the NTHMP, including:

1. Reduces the year-to-year uncertainty for state & territory support we provide through NOAA grants that we have experienced since the funding authorizations in the *Tsunami Warning and Education Act of 2006* (TWEA) expired.
2. Does **not** reflect any fundamental change in how NOAA administers the NTHMP. State/Territory-level mitigation, outreach, and education activities will still continue to be considered and evaluated according to how well they contribute to a holistic National, End-to-End Tsunami Detection, Forecast, Warning and Mitigation Capability.
3. Represents a roughly \$6M cut from current program outlays and provides the lowest Authorization level for NOAA's Tsunami Program since 2008. NOAA may have to make some difficult decisions to figure out what to "give" in order to absorb this significant financial impact.

b. Operationalizing the Legislation

Rocky Lopes referred everyone to the legislation review for the NTHMP section. It is available here:

<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/twera/TWERAAnalysisNTHMP.pdf>

Rocky described that the legislation has a lot of content that NTHMP Subcommittees and the Coordinating Committee has to sort through to figure out how it applies to the NTHMP. When the *Tsunami Warning and Education*

Act of 2006 was enacted, it took the NTHMP about two years to interpret the legislation's intent and form operational direction in foundation documents.

The Foundation Documents created back then include the Charter, Mission and Vision Statement, definition of "mitigation," *NTHMP Strategic Plan*, *NTHMP Rules of Procedures*, and each subcommittee's *Terms of Reference* (by-laws). Subsequently, NTHMP Grant Guidance was developed initially in 2013 and refined annually. The Grant Guidance includes a list of allowable and disallowed grant activities, as well as instructions on developing NTHMP grant applications.

It will not take nearly as long to sort through TWERA as it took during the TWEA years, but it will require months of attention from NTHMP partners to determine TWERA's implications on these foundation and guiding documents.

TWERA couldn't have been enacted at a better time, since we are in the process of developing the *2018-2023 NTHMP Strategic Plan*. The appointed Work Group that will write the Strategic Plan begins meeting on August 4, will continue to meet and work on the document until a draft is provided for review to the Coordinating Committee in November.

Further, the Strategic Plan is *strategic in thought and future direction*. It is not a list of activities, but rather a visionary guide toward what the NTHMP wants to accomplish during its 5-year duration. There is a lot of "vision" for the NTHMP in TWERA.

TWERA also will guide and suggest content for Subcommittee Annual Work Plans. Rocky suggested that each subcommittee develop and present at the Annual Meeting a Work Plan, and then throughout the year, revisit the plan and update accomplishments realized, changed, or redirected. The Warning Coordination Subcommittee has done this quite well for years and serves as a model for others. ([Example here](#)).

Finally – a word of focusing review of TWERA. There are several sections of TWERA that apply to NOAA and its operational entities. NOAA will review those sections and determine how to address legislative requirements. The NTHMP has more than ample content to review and work on in the NTHMP section and should focus its discussions to the NTHMP actionable content.

c. NTHMP Subcommittees and Caucus Action

NTHMP Subcommittees and the Island Caucus should:

1. Schedule time during conference call and in-person meetings to discuss the sections of TWERA that apply to them, and begin interpreting what it means for them.

2. Identify what content items from TWERA would need to be included in a Subcommittee or Caucus Annual Work Plan.
3. Identify what content items from TWERA would need to be included in the *2018-2023 NTHMP Strategic Plan*.
4. Identify grant-allowable activities (also on the [TWERA Legislative Map](#)) that would help the subcommittee or caucus realize its goals and objectives and inform their respective Grant Activities Work Group member of this information.

d. Work Group on NTHMP Grant Allowable Activities

Rocky described that TWERA expanded allowable activities for NTHMP grants. When TWERA was enacted, the NTHMP Coordinating Committee reviewed legislatively-described activities and selected those that best met overall NTHMP goals and strategic plans to be placed on the “allowable list,” and placed some other activities on the “disallowable list.” Some activities were listed as “disallowed” because they could be very costly (thus reducing funds available for all), require a multi-year commitment, were not closely tied to NTHMP strategic goals, or were impossible to accomplish at the state/territory level.

Rocky asked for a Work Group to be formed to meet with him to discuss the grant-related activities identified in TWERA and come up with recommendations for a revised “allowable” and “disallowable” list. These recommendations should be provided to the Coordinating Committee for review prior to the NWS including them in the 2018 NTHMP Grant Guidance.

After discussion and some friendly amendments, it was decided that:

- Each subcommittee will recommend one person from a state or territory to serve on this Work Group;
- The Island Caucus will recommend one state/territory representative as well;
- Rocky will send an email to the Federal Agency NTHMP partners to request one person to serve on the Work Group;
- Rocky will lead the Work Group and serve as another Federal Agency representative.
- Nominees for the Work Group will be provided to Rocky by the subcommittees and Island Caucus by May 17.

e. Review of timeline for recommendations to Coordinating Committee and to inform NTHMP Foundation Documents

1. August 3: Recommendations from subcommittees for topic areas and items to include in the 2018 – 2023 for the Strategic Planning Work Group. (work group meets August 4)
2. May 18 – September 7: NTHMP Grant Activities Work Group Meets.

3. August 4 – November 1: NTHMP Strategic Planning Work Group Meets.
4. September 20: Grant Activities Work Group Report: Recommended “allowable” or “disallowable” activities for NTHMP grants (for Coordinating Committee meeting.)
5. November 10: FY18 NTHMP Grant Guidance released to partners
6. November 15: Draft of *2018-2023 NTHMP Strategic Plan* to Coordinating Committee for review.
7. Annual Meeting 2018: Final approval of *2018-2023 NTHMP Strategic Plan* and updated Rules of Procedure. Subcommittees should also have updated Terms of Reference as needed.

f. Questions and Discussion (Members)

Kevin Miller: what will subcommittees need to do?

Rocky Lopes: (answered during the meeting briefly, but the answer is more clearly stated above in these meeting notes.)

Christa von Hillebrandt: Should we write milestones in the Strategic plan?

Rocky Lopes: the Strategic Plan should be visionary. Milestones should be reflected in a subcommittee’s annual work plan.

Rick Wilson: The legislation calls for stronger collaboration with FEMA and “leveraging Federal investment to maximize Federal funds.” Do you anticipate working at a higher level with NOAA on tsunami work?

Tamra Biasco: Language from the legislation has not been discussed by FEMA since it passed. I will inquire with leadership that reviewed the initial language and get FEMA leadership directive.

Rick Wilson: In the near future, will we have more interaction with FEMA?

Tamra Biasco: sure, we’d like to, but nothing has changed from before.

Kevin Miller: in the TWERA/NTHMP analysis, have we called out differences in allowable activities?

Rocky Lopes: not yet; that is what the Grant Activities Work Group will need to discuss.

g. Summary of Assignments

1. By May 17: Subcommittees and Island Caucus nominate a state/territory member of the Grant Activities Work Group.

2. By May 17: Rocky Lopes will reach out to NTHMP Federal Agency partners to select one more Federal agency representative to serve on the Grant Activities Work Group.
3. By August 3: Subcommittees and Island Caucus to review TWERA sections applicable to the NTHMP and formulate recommendations for content to go into *2018-2023 NTHMP Strategic Plan*.
4. By Annual Meeting: Subcommittees and Island Caucus to review TWERA sections applicable to the NTHMP and formulate recommendations for content to go into respective Subcommittee & Caucus work plans.

4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:47pm EDT.

Next meeting: regular Coordinating Committee meeting May 16, 3pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator