

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

2. Roll Call: (*voting member in italics*)

Alaska

Mr. Dan Belanger, Alaska DHS/Emergency Management, Anchorage, AK

American Samoa

No representatives

California

*Ms. Yvette LaDuke*³, California Office of Emer. Services, Valencia, CA

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. Brien Nicholas, CNMI Department of Homeland Security, Saipan, MP

*Mr. Chip Guard*¹, National Weather Service, WFO Guam, Barraguda, GU

East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Boston, MA

Guam

Mr. Leo Espia, Guam Homeland Security/Emergency Management, Agana Heights GU

*Mr. Chip Guard*¹, National Weather Service, WFO Guam, Barraguda, GU

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. Jon Allan, Oregon Dept. of Minerals and Geology, Newport, OR

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management Agency, Salem, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, Univ. of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Mayagüez, PR

*Ms. Gisela Rosario*², Puerto Rico Emergency Management, San Juan, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

No representatives

Washington

Mr. Maximilian Dixon, Washington Emergency Mgmt Division, Camp Murray, WA

*Mr. Daniel Eungard*³, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

*Ms. Kelly Yemm*³, Washington Emergency Mgmt Division, Camp Murray, WA

NOAA

Dr. Grant Cooper, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, UT

*Ms. Marie Eblé*⁴, NOAA/Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA

*Dr. Rocky Lopes*⁵, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD

*Ms. Christa Rabenold*⁴, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD

Ms. Christa von Hillebrandt, NOAA/NWS CTWP, Mayagüez, PR

FEMA

No representatives

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA

24 present, 9 state votes (min 7); 3 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement NOT met.

¹ Coord. Comm member, NOAA employee, non-voting

² Guest, one-time, non-voting

³ Alternate for primary CC member (guest)

⁴ Regular guest, non-voting status

⁵ Ex-officio, non-voting member

3. Opening remarks by Chair

Dr. Cooper welcomed Joel Figueroa who was appointed to serve as the Emergency Management representative for Puerto Rico in place of Wilfredo Ramos who left last Fall. Mr. Figueroa was not at the meeting; we look forward to welcoming him in person at the summer meeting.

4. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of March 20, 2018.

<https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/documents/NTHMPCC20180320Minutes.pdf>

Dr. Cooper called for approval of the March 20, 2018 minutes. They were approved by acclamation.

5. NTHMP Website <https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/>

Rocky Lopes said that access to the NTHMP website was unavailable for two weeks due to an internal-to-the-NWS situation where they thought the site was not in use any more. Access has been restored. The site is completely updated now. We encourage regular visitors to the site so that no one will think that the site is abandoned.

6. Annual Work Plan Progress

a. [Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee](#)

Marie Eblé: The Meteotsunami project on the MMS work plan will be updated during the summer meeting. We will provide outcomes of the first Powell Center meeting held in Fort Collins in April. Guidelines for inundation are in process.

Rick Wilson: Sources database collected info from states/territories are now in a single spreadsheet. The MMS will discuss how to move forward with the database at the summer meeting.

b. [Mitigation & Education Subcommittee](#)

Kevin Miller: the MES had a phone meeting April 17 and follow-on discussions.

- *TsuInfo Alert* – there is more activity and contributions to the newsletter than before. We are trying to assess readership.
- Tsunamizone.org – registrations for California and the Caribbean increased last year over the previous year by 50%.
- The MES will discuss exercise development and coordination with NTWC and using tsunamizone.org during the summer meeting.

- Work has been going on individually by California and Puerto Rico on Maritime Guidance and mitigation and recovery chapters.
- Workshop on maritime approaches by California to engage a broad spectrum of partners are planned, and Washington has conducted one.
- TsunamiReady Tier II will be discussed at the summer meeting with special guest, Troy Nicolini.
- Community Rating System fact sheets developed by Christa Rabenold have been submitted to FEMA.
- The MES will discuss the social science project approved for funding in Washington's FY18 NOAA/NWS grant which will be awarded September 1, 2018.

c. [Warning Coordination Subcommittee](#)

Neither the NTWC or the PTWC were represented on this call. Dan Belanger reported that he had no update because the WCS has not been meeting. There is uncertainty on who will be representing the NTWC for the WCS Co-Chair position.

7. Regular Subcommittee Meetings – conference calls scheduled

- MES: June **21**, August 21, October 16, December 18 (Note: date change to June 21 instead of June 19)
- MMS: (none scheduled)
- WCS: (none scheduled)
- Island Caucus: (none scheduled)

Questions: what are the issues that MMS, WCS, and Island Caucus can't meet by phone and chart progress on the Annual Work Plans? Is there a different approach we should consider? Shall we only rely on two in-person meetings? What happens if Federal agency funding issues restrict participation of all partners at in-person meetings?

Maximilian Dixon: what are the goals for the subcommittees? What would we like to accomplish through these subcommittee meetings?

Rocky Lopes: the primary goal for periodic subcommittee meetings is to discuss items on the respective Annual Work Plans and enhance collaboration among members.

Marie Eblé: Dmitry and I have thought about different times for teleconferences. We don't want to hold teleconferences just to hold them, but to have a purpose. There is confusion or lack of clarity on the goals.

MMS has had subgroup meeting about Powell Center project, but not for the whole subcommittee.

It would be a good idea to have these teleconferences regularly, but not just to fulfill a schedule.

Chip Guard: The grant process is conducive to bilateral cooperation and lots of work is going on, but there is a need a process to document that.

Kevin Richards: not many options for meetings of the Island Caucus considering distance and time zones for meetings (as much as 15 hours between the CNMI/Guam and the Caribbean). We have it as good as it gets. We are using opportunities to communicate in smaller groups.

Kevin Miller: in the past, we had smaller work groups with a purpose. Goal of MES calls is for smaller work groups to report out.

Marie Eblé: there is a value to have calls to update annual work plans. Most activities won't begin until after grant period of performance begins.

If any member has a need for a meeting – ask for one from the Co-Chairs.

Consensus: Rocky Lopes – meet when there is a need, but not necessarily periodically. Subcommittees need to figure out methods to update respective Annual Work Plans and foster collaboration among members.

Chip Guard: is there any benefit of keeping track of bilateral meetings?

Rocky Lopes: while it's nice to know when bilateral meetings are held, what's more interesting are the outcomes. What resulted? Is producing meeting notes worth the extra effort or is that a busy-work exercise? Generally, when there are bilateral meetings, they are documented in the progress on meeting grant tasks. Those activities are documented on grant semi-annual narrative reports.

Grant Cooper: summary—the group feels that regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings are not required, but should be held when needed. Measurement on progress of accomplishments on Annual Work Plans needs to be done in some way.

8. NOAA/NWS Tsunami Activities Grants

a. Rocky Lopes congratulated everyone on submitting their FY18 grant applications by the May 31 due-date. Lewis Kozlosky is working on the back-end supporting documentation that must be matched with the applications, then will submit all grant applications to NOAA Grants Management by mid-June, which is well in advance of the cut-off deadline of July 11. Since NOAA Grants Management reviews hundreds of grant applications and works on a “first-in, first-out” basis, getting grant packages in early should help with award notices going out earlier as well.

b. One-year grants

Rocky Lopes described why the NWS returned to grant performance periods being for one year instead of two—

- The primary reason why a two-year performance period was instituted was to allow for slippage of one or two tasks for understandable reasons, such as weather-caused delays in Alaska or extremely slow action on contracting (bids and contract awards by grantee’s finance departments). Instead, the history has shown that over half of the grants slipped multiple tasks into Year Two.
- These grants were one-year grants with a two-year performance period to allow for slippage on one or two tasks and avoid the necessity of preparing a no-cost extension request. That was always hard to explain and understand.
- Many grantees were carrying out grant performance into year two without asking permission of the Program Office, which is like a voluntary no-cost extension. Doing that could deconflict potential oversubscription of hours which is prohibited by Department of Commerce Grants Policy.
- There was a general lack of reporting and documentation on tasks that may have had schedule slip because that reporting is voluntary.
- Several grantees got “dinged” in their FY18 grant application reviews for performance not meeting promised deliverable schedules in Project Narratives. Nine of 12 grantees received lower performance ratings due to this ongoing slippage.
- Some grantees have had to apply different indirect costs rates—as many as three changes—because the indirect rates changed annually and on a different cycle from grant periods of performance. There are some grantees who have found this process exceptionally difficult to manage because the grant period is so long.

The announcement of this change back to one-year grants was made in time to adjust grant applications submitted for the FY18 grant round. Lopes thanked everyone for cooperating on that, even though they didn't like it.

Lopes said that the restriction on requesting a no-cost extension has been lifted for FY18 grants (and beyond.) So you still can conduct work over a longer period. You just have to submit a no-cost extension request. That request provides the documentation required to ensure consistency with tasks in a Project Narrative, and also ensures no oversubscription of hours for grant-funded personnel.

Comments from Coordinating Committee members:

Althea Rizzo: This will impact ability to do more complicated planning for projects. The intent for two-year grant performance period because they wanted two-year grants. Some projects like the Oregon tsunami conference cannot be executed in one year. I am very disappointed. Other agencies offer multiyear grant performance periods, but now NOAA is not doing that. Jon Allan: confirmed what Althea said. There are challenges to developing intergovernment agreements that can take two years to complete. Numerical modeling takes a long time.

Maximilian Dixon: when there is staff turnover in an agency, task work goes on hold until the position is filled, so tasks cannot be completed in one year.

Kevin Richards: one year is difficult. Curious why we didn't go with a two-year grant? Everyone is right – projects will be smaller and quicker. It takes 2 – 3 months to get going once a grant award is received.

Kevin Miller: contracting is complex and takes a long time. Some subrecipients require more information than ever before to execute contracts.

Daniel Eungard: Some tsunami modeling is very complex and takes a long time. It also takes time to build modeling layers. There is a limited NCEI DEM production capacity.

Rocky Lopes: thanked everyone for their input. He explained that as long as there is a request in the President's Budget to discontinue the grants every year, there is a thought that the grants remain in a tenuous position year over year, and that's why a one-year grant limit is required. While there is a history in 2008 when funds were flush to enable four-year grants, the flush-funding situation has long passed.

Althea Rizzo: TWEA expired and we now have TWERA (*Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2017*). This new legislation should provide grant stability.

Grant Cooper: TWERA provides an *authorization* of the grants, but is not an *appropriation*.

Rocky Lopes: An authorization gives *permission* for an agency to provide funding to states & territories for tsunami activities if Congress passes a budget appropriation with that purpose included. Further, TWEA (*Tsunami Warning and Education Act of 2007*) did not expire. It was not repealed by TWERA. The only thing that expired in TWEA were the funding authorizations. But the legislation itself was not sunsetted.

9. Status of Summer MES & MMS Meetings

Rocky Lopes said that all he was expecting to register to attend either the MES or the MMS meeting had registered. The attendees list on the website is up to date. (As of the date of these Minutes, there are 36 people shown on the meeting attendees list.)

Marie Eblé said that the MMS agenda is “coming soon.” She is working on a draft with Dmitry Nicolsky.

Grant Cooper asked if we will have it by the end of the week?

Marie said that depending on Dmitry’s schedule, it could be as early as tonight.

[Note from Rocky Lopes: a draft MMS meeting agenda was received the night of June 5. However, it impacts the MES agenda. The Co-Chairs of the subcommittees will work out the conflicts. Once that is done, then an MMS agenda can be released.]

Kevin Miller and Rick Wilson recently visited the building where the meetings will be held and provided an overview.

Kevin Miller: you’ll be pleased with the meeting space. It is spacious and comfortable. There is a large central room that we can configure any way we like. The second meeting room has a window. There are walkable places for lunch. The building has a new feel.

Rocky Lopes: note an adjustment in the meeting times. Kevin informed us recently that we can't meet before 9:00am nor stay later than 5:00pm. This change to the schedule appears on the website:

<https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2018mesmms/index.html>

Marie Eblé: Is there surge space available for after-meeting sidebar discussions and follow-up collaborations?

Rocky Lopes: We don't have meeting rooms available in the hotel. Not sure about use of open space.

Rick Wilson: I will drop by the hotel and check to see if there are meeting spaces available and report back.

Rocky Lopes: thank you to Rick also for agreeing to scope out venues for a group dinner on Wednesday night.

10. Status of "Mitigation & Recovery" recommendations for the Coordinating Committee

Tamra Biasco was not present, so there was no report. This item was deferred to the in-person meeting of the Coordinating Committee on July 25.

11. Old Business

There was no old business.

12. New Business

Christa Rabenold: if you haven't already been made aware, the NTHMP Fact Sheet has been updated based on the new NTHMP Strategic Plan. See it here:

https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/about_program.html

Rocky Lopes: late-breaking announcement – Daniel Hahn, the emergency management representative for the Gulf Coast – has accepted a new job, and had to step down from the NTHMP. The designated Gulf Coast emergency management alternate, Brad Baker, will step up to serve as the primary Gulf Coast emergency management partner.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:58pm EDT.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held during the summer meetings in Sacramento, July 25, at 4:00pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time). Call-in information will be provided for members who cannot be present at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator