

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

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

Alaska

Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Mr. *Vinnie Atofau*, American Samoa Dept. of Homeland Security, Pago Pago, American Samoa
 Ms. Jacinta Brown³, American Samoa Dept. of Homeland Security, Pago Pago, American Samoa
 Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore¹, NWS Weather Service Office, Pago Pago, American Samoa

California

Ms. Yvette LaDuke³, 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 Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives

East Coast States

Mr. *Ed Fratto*, Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Boston, MA
 Dr. Stephan Grilli³, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

Guam

Mr. *Leo Espia*, Guam Homeland Security, Hagåtña, GU

Gulf Coast States

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

Hawaii

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

Oregon

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

Puerto Rico

Mr. *Joel Figueroa*, Puerto Rico Emergency Management, San Juan, PR
 Dr. Victor Huerfano, Univ. of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Mayagüez, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Mr. *Roy Watlington*, U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Ms. Corina Forson, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA
 Ms. *Keily Yemm*, Washington Emergency Mgmt Division, Camp Murray, WA

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove⁵, NOAA/NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK
 Dr. *Grant Cooper*, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, UT
 Ms. Marie Eblé⁴, NOAA/Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA
 Dr. Laura Kong⁴, NOAA/NWS International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
 Mr. Lewis Kozlosky⁴, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
 Dr. Rocky Lopes⁵, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
 Dr. Chip McCreery⁴, NOAA/NWS Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Honolulu, HI
 Ms. Christa Rabenold⁴, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
 Ms. *Christa von Hillebrandt*, NOAA/NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Pgm, Mayagüez, PR

FEMA

Ms. *Tamra Biasco*, FEMA Region X, Lynnwood, WA

USGS

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

29 present, 10.5 state votes (min 7); 5 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement 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 announced that Rocky Lopes and Christa Rabenold will have new contracts and will continue to work at the NWS Headquarters and support the NTHMP. He congratulated each of them and said how pleased he was that a new contract was awarded to keep Rocky and Christa working with us.

4. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of July 25, 2018.

Dr. Cooper called for approval of the minutes of July 25. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

5. Updates for the Coordinating Committee

a. August 9 NTWC exercise

Rocky Lopes thanked NTHMP partners for contributing to an exercise held at the NTWC on August 9. Two identical exercises were held that day to provide all staff on different shifts the opportunity to participate. The exercise used the event of January 23 as a framework, and its objectives were to provide a method for NTWC staff to review established procedures and protocols for response. Partners participated in calling the NTWC with a sampling of realistic calls that the NTWC received on January 23.

Mike Angove said that the exercise gave the NTWC a chance to review the geophysical conditions of January 23 and the decision processes. Watch teams for both exercises learned a lot, and the exercise revealed work to be done on coordination side of the watch operation. Mike thanked everyone for calling in.

b. August 21 – 22 data outage affecting tsunami.gov

Rocky Lopes explained that the National Weather Service experienced a data outage on August 21 that lasted through mid-day August 22. It affected tsunami.gov as well as several other NWS web-based properties. Cloud-based failover systems were implemented, but not all systems were restored as quickly as intended. These systems are based at the NWS National Computer Operations (NCO) Center in College Park, Maryland, with backup in Boulder, Colorado. Staff worked all night to fix systems that went off-line. Good thing is that no data was lost; it was just unavailable in real-time. NWS NCO assures that this problem will not occur again.

Victor Huerfano: were tide gauge data involved?

Lopes: Yes

c. National Wireless Emergency Alert Survey – participation reminder

Rocky Lopes described that a national survey on NWS WEA practices was distributed. This survey has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget Paperwork Reduction Act office.

The survey's primary audience is first responders and emergency management officials. It is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NWSWEA>

Lopes worked with NTHMP partners to develop a draft longer tsunami WEA message (up to 360 characters) to use for this survey. Six hazards that the NWS requests WEA activation for are included: dust storms, flash floods, hurricane/typhoon winds, storm surge from hurricanes, tornadoes, and tsunamis.

The survey begins with two questions – 1) what hazard (of these 6) is most common in your area? And 2) what hazard is the most concerning?

Based on the hazard selected for questions 1 and 2, then the draft longer WEA message submitted by the appropriate hazard team is presented for further survey questions. Lopes pointed out that if tsunami is not selected as the hazard for question 1 or 2, then the longer tsunami message we developed will not be presented in that participant's survey. The important thing to have happen if we want the draft longer tsunami WEA message to be tested in the survey is to select tsunami as the "most common" or "most concerning".

The national WEA survey will be open until September 30. The survey period will not be extended.

d. Accelerated schedule for 360-character message finalization

Rocky Lopes learned that the schedule to finalize the longer tsunami message has been accelerated. Survey results will be available by October 15. We will have between October 15 and November 5 to recommend final longer tsunami WEA message(s). Lopes will set up conference call(s) with stakeholders during that time. All NTHMP partners will be invited to participate.

Christa von Hillebrandt: does this include the Spanish version of the messages?

Lopes: Yes. Tsunami took the lead to develop Spanish messages, and now all other hazards will do that as well. When it comes to the message in Spanish, I will schedule an additional conference call just about the Spanish version to make sure what we submit is acceptable by stakeholders across the United States.

e. Status of FY18 NOAA/NWS Tsunami Activities Grants

All grants (12) were offered. As of the time of this call, eight (8) have been accepted. American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Oregon have yet to accept their

grant award. Until all awards are accepted, NWS HQ cannot announce anything more about the grants. Further, grantees may not do any grant-funded work until a grant is accepted. When a grant is accepted, the grantee may make public announcements and engage partners on activities for which grant funding was provided.

- f. NOAA General Counsel advice on announcement of grant opportunity for Tribal Communities (affecting FY19 grant round)

The NOAA General Counsel reviewed the language in the *Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2017* that says, "Technical and financial assistance to coastal States, territories, tribes, and local governments to develop and implement activities"

This means that not only states and territories *with coastlines vulnerable to tsunamis* are eligible for grant funding, but local governments and tribes are as well.

Last year, Guidance on how to address the issue of providing financial assistance to local governments and tribes was developed. That Guidance is here: <https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/grants/LocalGrantsProcedures.pdf>

This Guidance requires that local governments interested in applying for financial assistance must work with their respective state/territory and if they have a worthy project, they become a subaward partner to the state/territory.

However, because Federally-recognized Tribes are sovereign nations, they cannot be required to work through a state or be a subaward partner. They may apply directly to the National Weather Service for a Tsunami Activities Grant following the usual procedures and schedule.

We can *encourage* Tribes to collaborate and work with a state, but we cannot *require* that they do that.

NOAA General Counsel is interested in having a more broad announcement of funding availability be provided to Tribes that have tsunami-vulnerable coastlines. We are still figuring out how to do that. Assistance from states reaching out to Tribes will help. Please discuss this with Rocky Lopes and provide the Guidance linked above.

Kevin Richards: does this affect counties?

Rocky Lopes: A county is a local government. Like you already do, the counties need to work through your agency and become a subaward partner.

Keily Yemm: this may affect the State of Washington.

g. Allowable Grant Activities Work Group

Rocky Lopes explained that last year, the first year of TWERA, the NTHMP formed a Work Group to update the list of allowable and disallowed activities. Now that we've been through the first round of grant applications when this new allowable activities list was in place, we have learned that there are some gaps and adjustments that will need to be made.

Dr. Cooper appointed Leo Espia (for MES), Jon Allan (for MMS), and Dan Belanger (for WCS) to this Work Group this year. They will review and make recommendations for adjustments and share that information with respective subcommittee members.

Results of the Work Group's recommendations for adjustments to the Allowable Grant Activities List will be provided to NOAA/National Weather Service which has final approval authority. The revised list will be included in the *FY19 Grant Guidance*.

6. Subcommittee Restructuring Work Group

Grant Cooper said that the purpose of this Work Group is to develop a paper for the Coordinating Committee to discuss at the annual meeting. The group will look at the work load that the subcommittees are doing and consider options for the future.

The Work Group has been appointed and includes: Tamra Biasco, Leo Espia (endorsed by all territory representatives), Corina Forson (replacing Marie Eblé who could not serve), Kevin Miller, Chayne Sparagowski (endorsed by Gulf Coast and East Coast representatives), and will be facilitated by Rocky Lopes.

Lopes stated that the Work Group will not be making recommendations for changes to the *Rules of Procedure* or other foundation documents at this time – they are only preparing a paper to use as a springboard for discussion at the Coordinating Committee meeting on February 1. There are no prescribed ideas; we just need to figure out what to do about some issues that have been discussed for several years without resolution.

Cooper invited all subcommittee members to send input for the Work Group to review to Rocky.

7. Review request reminder – Draft Harbor Improvement Reports (Wilson) <https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/review/>

Rick Wilson said that a request to NTHMP members to review and provide feedback on Harbor Improvement Reports (e.g. mitigation reports) was sent and comments are requested by Monday September 10. There is a very wide range of how these

reports can be applied and serve as a starting point for maritime guidance regarding mitigation.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. New Business

Grant Cooper asked for a status update on the meeting location for the Annual Meeting.

Rocky Lopes said that he had a very good conversation with Kevin Miller. The California OES grant had funding awarded to cover hosting costs if needed. We are looking at San Diego, and considering a daytime outing to view tsunami beach kiosks.

Lopes is asking various properties in San Diego if they would be willing to offer a block of rooms at the Federal Government hotel per diem rate. If they will, then we can consider meeting there. If not, the fall-back is Portland, Oregon.

Lopes expects to have recommendations by the end of September.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:50pm EDT.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 3:00pm EDT by conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator