

# NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting

November 12, 2019

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

2. Roll Call: Rocky Lopes

## Alaska

*Mr. Dan Belanger*, Alaska DHS/Emergency Management, Anchorage, AK  
*Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky*, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

## American Samoa

*Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore*<sup>1</sup>, American Samoa WSO, Pago Pago, American Samoa  
*Mr. Mageo Meauta*, TEMCO, 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 Northern Mariana Islands

*Mr. Chip Guard*<sup>1</sup> (dual representation with Guam)

## East Coast States

*Mr. Ed Fratto*, Northeast States Earthquake Consortium, Wakefield, MA  
*Dr. Stephan Grilli*, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

## Guam

*Mr. Leo Espia*, Guam Dept. of Homeland Security, Tutuhan, GU  
*Mr. Chip Guard*<sup>1</sup>, NWS Forecast Office, 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

## Oregon

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

## Puerto Rico

*Dr. Victor Huerfano*, Univ. of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Mayagüez, PR  
*Mr. Carlos Irigoyen*, Puerto Rico Emergency Management Bureau, San Juan, PR

## U.S. Virgin Islands

*Ms. Denise Lewis*, Virgin Islands Territorial EMA, St. Croix, VI  
*Mr. Roy Watlington*, Professor Emeritus, St. Thomas, VI

## Washington

*Mr. Daniel Eungard*<sup>3</sup>, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

## NOAA

*Dr. Grant Cooper*, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, UT  
*Ms. Marie Eblé*<sup>4</sup>, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA  
*Dr. James Gridley*<sup>4</sup>, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK  
*Mr. Lewis Kozlosky*<sup>4</sup>, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
*Dr. Rocky Lopes*<sup>5</sup>, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
*Ms. Christa von Hillebrandt*, NOAA/NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Pgm, Mayagüez, PR

## FEMA

*Mr. Mike Mahoney*, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC  
*Ms. Amanda Siok*, FEMA Region X, Lynnwood, WA

## USGS

*Ms. Stephanie Ross*, U.S. Geological Survey, Moffett Field, CA

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28 present, 11 state votes (min 7); 7 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement met.

<sup>1</sup> Coord. Comm member, NOAA employee, non-voting

<sup>2</sup> Guest, one-time, non-voting

<sup>3</sup> Alternate for primary CC member (guest)

<sup>4</sup> Regular guest, non-voting status

<sup>5</sup> Ex-officio, non-voting member

### 3. Approval of Past Minutes

The Chair called for approval of the minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting of October 1, 2019. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

### 4. Chair's Announcements

Grant Cooper announced that he is on detail as the Acting Director of the NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction in College Park, Maryland, for at least the next two months. He still plans to attend the NTHMP Winter Meeting and Program Review.

Dr. Cooper also announced that this is the last meeting that Rocky Lopes will be supporting. His contract will end on December 31, 2019. We will see him at the group dinner at the winter meeting.

### 5. Talking Points, Cumbre Vieja disaster movie

Ed Fratto thanked Rocky for distributing these Talking Points for review in advance of this meeting.

He said that this document is based on something that Rick Wilson wrote and has been subsequently edited by a number of people. It was developed to have something on-hand for emergency managers and others to have available if asked about the likelihood of an East Coast "Megatsunami" that will be depicted in an upcoming movie being produced by National Geographic.

The Talking Points provide explanatory information but does not provide evacuation maps. Ed requested approval of this document by the NTHMP Coordinating Committee. He thinks the facts as presented are reasonable and can be distributed.

Von Hillebrandt: I have a few technical comments/corrections. Refers to the volcano as a rift volcano. Should refer to it as an active volcano. It also says that this situation could result in a series of tsunami waves. Change it to "a tsunami." She also noted a typo: cumbre viejo. (not viego).

These small corrections were accepted by Ed Fratto.

Stephan Grilli added further academic conversation which engendered further dialogue among the members present. This dialogue was not captured for these minutes.

Daniel Eungard suggest that some links be provided on where to get additional information.

Ed Fratto said that he would welcome them.

To manage time and expedite the meeting, Rocky Lopes serve as *defacto* Parliamentarian and described what *Robert's Rules of Order* require: either table the motion, edit it more, obtain review again and vote later; OR vote to accept as is.

Rick Wilson asked when the movie was going to come out.

Stephan Grilli said that he had heard the movie was going to be released at the end of the year. Ed Fratto confirmed.

Considering that the next meeting of the NTHMP CC is scheduled to be held January 31, 2020, after the movie's release, the discussion led to agreement for the Chair to call for a vote to approve the Talking Points as submitted with minor corrections/edits.

The Talking Points were approved by voice unanimously.

## 6. NTHMP Governance documents

### a. *NTHMP Rules of Procedure*

Rocky Lopes said that during the August 23, 2019, meeting of the NTHMP Coordinating Committee, the Chair appointed a task group whose members were Christa von Hillebrandt, Tamra Biasco and Rick Wilson to review the *NTHMP Rules of Procedure* and discuss updates. That group met in September and agreed on proposed revisions.

The updated version reflects changes that the Coordinating Committee agreed on during meetings between the last update in July 2015 to now.

The proposed update to this fundamental governing document was shared in advance with the Coordinating Committee on November 5.

The Chair asked if there were any questions, comments, or edits to the document as presented. There were none.

The Chair called for a vote. The vote to adopt the updated *NTHMP Rules of Procedure* as distributed was unanimous.

### b. *Terms of Reference*

During September and October, Rocky Lopes has been working with the leadership of all NTHMP Subcommittees to update their respective *Terms of Reference*, which are similar to operating rules for these groups.

Further, since *Terms of Reference* had not previously been developed for the Island Caucus and the Mitigation & Recovery Planning Work Group, Rocky

developed initial documents for these groups that the respective Co-Chairs reviewed and edited.

These *Terms of Reference* were shared with respective membership of each of these groups. During that process, some edits were made and the final updated version was provided to the Coordinating Committee on November 5.

The Chair asked if there were questions about any of these documents.

Daniel Eungard noted that the documents are formatted differently and would benefit by having a common format.

Rocky Lopes agreed to do that.

With no further discussion, the Chair called for a vote to adopt—

- i. Mitigation & Education Subcommittee Terms of Reference
- ii. Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee Terms of Reference
- iii. Warning Coordination Subcommittee Terms of Reference
- iv. Island Caucus Terms of Reference
- v. Mitigation & Recovery Planning Work Group Terms of Reference

The Coordinating Committee voted to accept all of these documents as presented by acclamation.

Rocky Lopes thanked everyone for their help on revisions to these governing documents. He noted that he is leaving the governance of the NTHMP in good shape as his final gift to the NTHMP. Several people on the call thanked Rocky for his steadfast wonky support of overall NTHMP governance and operations.

## 7. NOAA/NWS FY20 Tsunami Grants

Rocky Lopes stated that the FY20 grant application documents were released in an email from Mike Angove on October 29, 2019.

Rocky provided these reminders:

- Please use the FY20 versions of these documents, especially the Project Narrative, Budget Spreadsheet(s), and Budget Explanation. Do not use previous versions.
- As Mike Angove stated in the announcement message, Rocky will be available via email only until December 31 to review and consult on any FY20 grant documents you wish to share. Please use his expertise.
- Mike Angove added this note via email: I think we need to highlight that this will be a difficult transition year for us at NWS-H without Rocky. The sort of detailed knowledge and advice he has provided to grantees as they have prepared their proposals and navigated the federal grants process will not be

available to the extent previous. Will be doubly important for grantees to follow procedures, meet deadlines and ask questions early. Also help us help you by ensuring we can easily map your proposals to well established NTHMP priorities, while recognizing constraints. This is not the year to be “creative” in your requests.

Lewis Kozlosky thanked Rocky for his guidance and help.

## 8. NTHMP 2020 Winter Meeting and Program Review

The full meeting schedule is here:

<https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2020wintermeeting/index.html>

Dr. Cooper reminded everyone who intends to apply for a NOAA/NWS Tsunami Activities Grant that they will be expected to meet with him, Mike Angove, and the Federal Grant Review panel in person during the NTHMP Winter Meeting. The schedule of this Program Review is here:

<https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2020wintermeeting/NTHMP2020ProgramReview.pdf>

Rocky Lopes said that the room block at the Portland Doubletree hotel is fully booked.

## 9. Old Business

There was no old business.

## 10. New Business

There was no new business.

Dr. Cooper thanked Rocky for his tireless service to the NTHMP and for his support in staffing him as Chair. Others on the call shared their thoughts and comments as well. Rocky thanked everyone, humbly.

Rocky said that he will travel to Portland on his own dime on January 28 and return home on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>. He looks forward to celebrating his retirement with the NTHMP folks gathered for the Group Dinner on January 29, and with others who may be available casually on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 11. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes  
NTHMP Administrator