

# NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Nov 17, 2020

4:00pm EDT

## 1. Roll Call:

### Alaska

Mr. James Benzschawel, Alaska Division of Emergency Management, Anchorage, AK

### American Samoa

Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore<sup>1</sup>, American Samoa WSO, Pago Pago, American Samoa

### California

Ms. Yvette LaDuke, California Office of Emergency Services, Valencia, CA

### Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

No Representative

### East Coast States

Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Dr. Stephen Grilli, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

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

### Guam

Mr. Leo Espia, Guam Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Agana Heights, GU

### Gulf Coast States

Mr. Brad Baker, Santa Rosa County Florida EMA, Milton, FL

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, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Portland, OR

### Puerto Rico

No Representative

### U.S. Virgin Islands

Roy Watlington, Scientist Emeritus, St. Thomas, VI

Regina Browne, Virgin Islands Territorial EMA, St. Croix, VI

### Washington

Mr. Jacob Witcraft, Washington Emergency Mgmt Division, Camp Murray, WA

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

Mr. Daniel Eungard, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

Ms. Elyssa Tappero, Washington Emergency Mgmt Division, Camp Murray, WA

## NOAA

Dr. Grant Cooper, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, UT  
Mr. Mike Angove<sup>5</sup>, Tsunami Program, NOAA/NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Marie Eblé<sup>1</sup>, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA  
Mr. Ian Sears<sup>5</sup>, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky<sup>4</sup>, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Christa von Hillebrandt, NOAA/NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Pgm, Mayagüez, PR  
Dr. Diego Arcas, NOAA PMEL, Seattle, WA  
Dr. Laura Kong, InternationalTsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI  
Dr. Chip McCreery, PTWC Director, Honolulu, HI  
Dr. James Gridley, NTWC Director, Palmer, AK  
Mr. Dave Snider, NTWC Tsunami Warning Coordinator, Palmer, AK  
Ms. Kelly Stroker, NCEI, Boulder, CO  
Ms. Allie Allen<sup>2</sup>, NOAA/NWS/HQ, Silver Spring, MD

## FEMA

Ms. Amanda Siok, FEMA Region X, Lynnwood, WA

## USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, U.S. Geological Survey, Moffett Field, CA  
Dr. Nate Wood, U.S. Geological Survey, Portland, OR

34 present, 10 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

2. Welcome and call meeting to order: Chair Grant Cooper 4:06

3. [VOTE] Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of Sept 15, 2020.

The NTHMP Chair called for approval of the minutes of the Sept 15, 2020 Coordinating Committee meeting. With no dissention, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

4. [VOTE] Approve nomination for MES state representative Todd Becker co-chair.

The NTHMP Chair called for confirmation of Mr. Todd Becker of California to be state representative co-chair of the MMS. With no dissention, Mr. Becker was confirmed as MMS co-chair.

5. [DISCUSSION] HazSimp update – Sears / Allison Allen

Focus groups were helpful, the public survey was created with input from focus groups.

Over 950 responses from English survey, 400+ Spanish

The three options presented in the survey to replace the term advisory were:

· **Option A: Tsunami Warning for Strong Currents [with Tsunami in Header]**

This option would replace Tsunami Advisory with a Tsunami Warning with text to indicate a tsunami threat of less than 1m that primarily impacts beaches and harbors due to strong currents and unexpected surges.

· **Option B: Harbor and Beach Hazard Warning [without Tsunami in Header]**

This option would replace Tsunami Advisory with a new category of warning (Harbor and Beach Hazard Warning) with “tsunami” referenced in the body of the message rather than in the header to indicate a tsunami threat less than 1m that primarily impacts beaches and harbors due to strong currents and unexpected surges.

· **Option C: Harbor and Beach Tsunami Warning [with Tsunami in Header]**

This option would replace Tsunami Advisory with a new category of warning (Harbor and Beach Tsunami Warning). In this case, “tsunami” is referenced in the header and amplified with text in the main body to indicate a threat less than a tsunami of 1m that primarily impacts beaches and harbors due to strong currents and unexpected surges.

We recommended to the NWS Executive Council that we proceed with this initiative; no decision has been made. Regardless, there is a much work to do in order to implement.

Maximilian Dixon:

What is the process going to look like?

Allie Allen: SPT will be evaluating the best processes, with coordination with NTHMP

Maximillian Dixon

Recommendations -

- Have an exercise using the proposed language
- Coordinate as a body to make sure we’re rolling out updated projects
- Website with training, outreach, products

Jon Allan: tentative timeline?

Allie Allen: no earlier than 2 years

## 6. [DISCUSSION] FY21 Grants Plan

Mike Angove: Trying to make the process less onerous while ensuring we are still providing the level of oversight required to properly administer the grants.

We will hold program reviews as we did in the last 2 years. Ensures everything requested maps into overall program objectives and strategic plan. Opportunity for feedback early on.

Grant Cooper: Serves as an initial check on strategic direction - high level review

Mike Angove: The program review will be held prior to pre-applications.

Ian Sears: I’m presently working on FY 21 Guidance document. - Hope is to have it out by Thanksgiving - but certainly by the first week in December.

In January / February - We’ll be scheduling program reviews with Dr. Cooper, Mike Angove, Lewis Kozlosky, and Ian Sears. We’ll be looking to keep these to 30 minutes or less. I’ll provide the guidance on what we’re looking for. This will serve as the first round of the pre-application process.

Applicants will be able to choose the time slots.

By the end of February - the goal is to have Final pre-applications from grantees.

In March, we will go through the Federal Review Process and ask questions.

In April, we will provide feedback on approved tasks and instructions for the official grant application via Grants.gov.

In May, we will post the RFA on Grants.gov.

After RFA closes, NWS Tsunami Program Office finalizes all applications and hands it over to NOAA Grants Management.

Process will be spelled out in further detail.

## 7. Recent Tsunami Events

Mike Angove: Sand Point - overall things went well. Opened the floor to feedback.

Maximilian Dixon: Kudos on how things went. WA working on internal processes.

Kevin Richards: Hawaii is also working on process improvements.

Yvette LaDuke: California is working on process improvements.

Mike Angove to Kevin Richards: How was the event handled in HI?

Kevin Richards: Some confusion, but not a big event or major issues.

## 8. MES update – MES Co-chair

- [Mes Notes - Sept 29](#)
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Briefing from September 29, 2020.](#)
  - Speaker - [Ana-Marie Jones](#)
- [Social Science Briefing from September 29, 2020.](#)

## 9. MRPWG update – MRPWG Co-chair

Maximilian Dixon: Maritime mitigation guidance being developed

Make into story map / tsu debris guidance workgroup

Mitigation and recovery funding sources being reviewed.

## 10. MMS update– MMS Co – chair

Jonathan Allan: Meeting will be next Tuesday

Metetsunami guidance document being developed with Juan Horrillo.

DEM procedures document being developed

## 11. WCS update - WCS Co - Chair

Yvette LaDuke: next meeting Dec 4th

Will discuss exercises and Hazsimp

## 12. Old Business

## 13. New Business

VITEMA names Ms. Regina Browne as Deputy Director of Planning and Preparedness effective October 13, 2020. Deputy Director Browne started at VITEMA in 2018 and has served in different roles, starting as Hazard Mitigation Planning Specialist territorially, and then the Emergency Planning Coordinator on St. Croix. Ms. Brown was instrumental in the success, approval, and implementation of several plans to include the Hazard Mitigation Plan, The Territorial Emergency Operations Plan and the Distribution Management Plan for the territory. In her role as Emergency Planning Coordinator, she has also led numerous planning and training exercises, to include the first Virtual Tabletop Exercise for the Territory and it was executed at the start of the COVID pandemic. As Emergency Planning Coordinator, Ms. Browne was also instrumental in VITEMA attaining Emergency Management Accreditation.

A St. Croix native, Deputy Director Regina Browne holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences from Kaplan University, a Master of Public Health in Management and Policy from Capella University, and she is also currently pursuing her Doctor of Management degree specializing in Executive Leadership from Colorado Technical University and numerous certifications in Emergency Management.

14. Adjourn 5:15