

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2021

3:00pm EST

1. Roll Call:

Alaska

Mr. James Benzschawel, Alaska Division of Emergency Management, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolosky, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore¹, American Samoa WSO, Pago Pago, American Samoa

California

Ms. Yvette LaDuke, California Office of Emergency Services, Valencia, CA
Mr. Todd Becker, California Office of Emergency Services, Eureka, CA
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Mr. TJ DLC. Manglona, CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management, CNMI

East Coast States

Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeast States Earthquake Consortium, Wakefield, MA

Guam

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

Gulf Coast States

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

Hawaii

No Representatives

Oregon

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

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, Univ. of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Mayagüez, PR
Wildaomaris Gonzalez, Puerto Rico Emergency Management, San Juan, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Roy Watlington, Scientist Emeritus, St. Thomas, VI
Regina Browne, Virgin Islands Territorial EMA, St. Croix, VI
Tenisha Riddick, Virgin Islands Territorial EMA, St. Croix, VI

Washington

Ms. Corina Allen, Washington Geological Survey, Olympia, 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 Angove⁵, Tsunami Program, NOAA/NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD

Ms. Marie Eblé¹, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA
Mr. Ian Sears⁵, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky⁴, 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. Chip McCreery, PTWC Director, Honolulu, HI
Dr. James Gridley, NTWC Director, Palmer, AK
Dr. Laura Kong, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Mr. Dave Snider, NTWC Tsunami Warning Coordinator, Palmer, AK
Ms. Kelly Stroker, NCEI, Boulder, CO

FEMA

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

USGS

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

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

¹Coord. Comm member, NOAA employee, non-voting ² Guest, one-time, non-voting
³Alternate for primary CC member (guest) ⁴ Regular guest, non-voting status
⁵Ex-officio, non-voting member

Quorum met

2. Welcome and call meeting to order: Mike Angove / Delegated from Chair, Grant Cooper

Meeting called to order – 3:01pm EST

3. [VOTE] Approval of Coordinating Committee Minutes from Jan 26, 2021.

[Minutes](#) - Call for approval: Grant Cooper - Approved

4. [DISCUSSION] FY21 NTHMP Grants progress. NTHMP Administrator

The Federal Review Panel is in the process of reviewing all of the pre-applications. We're a little behind our self-imposed deadline, but well ahead of NOAA Grants Management deadlines.

The Federal Review Panel may have questions, please make every effort to respond as quickly as possible.

The plan is to have that review done by the end of this week and we'll brief Dr. Cooper shortly thereafter.

From there, we make a recommendation to NWS Leadership.

5. [DISCUSSION] No Cost Extensions - NTHMP Administrator

We recognize these are challenging times. We have a total of 34 open grants right now. We cannot sustain this pace. We ask that you do everything possible to close out all previous year's grants by 31 August 2021 - as continued No Cost Extensions are not guaranteed. We also would like to limit No Cost extensions for FY20 grants - however, if you feel like you will be requesting them, please let us know your intent by April 30. All Award Action Requests must be approved by the NWS Tsunami Program Office in GrantsOnLine by July 30th. All states/territories should have their Award Action Requests in GrantsOnLine by June 15. Lewis and I will need time to review the requests prior to making the request in GrantsOnLine. Please have all requests to me and Lewis by May 14.

Yvette LaDuke: Any discussion of lengthening the grant cycle to two years like what was done before?

A: That was tried a couple years ago, and it did not work out well, so we went back to the 1-year cycle.

6. [DISCUSSION] FY21 in-person meetings. NTHMP Administrator

There will be no in-person NTHMP meetings for FY21.

We are looking to host the Winter meetings in Sacramento - we are still working on the details.

Yvette LaDuke: most hotels are booked, therefore maybe the meeting should be delayed or held in another location.

Grant: AMS is in January. Christa: other meetings are in the second and third week of Feb.

Ian Sears: need to work around all other meetings like Primo. Yvette: could try other cities if in early Jan.

Stephanie Ross: Powell center is Jan 10-14.

We need a location for the summer 2022 meeting - any volunteer hosts?

Yvette LaDuke: Sacramento may work well in the summer. Jon: maybe SLC for summer meeting? Grant Cooper: It can be expensive with limited Gov Rates. Jon will look into Portland for the winter meeting. AK in winter? It's possible. Crescent City is also possible.

7. [DISCUSSION] - NWS Decision on HazSimp - NTHMP Administrator

The NWS will be implementing changes to its hazard messaging headlines no earlier than calendar year 2024. This decision is based on results of extensive social science research with partners and the public, which documented significant confusion with current NWS headline terms. This research indicated that NWS' "Advisory" headlines are responsible for a major portion of the confusion. This is because the Advisory term itself is misunderstood and its meaning is often conflated with that of "Watch." Such confusion can lead to a misunderstanding of forecast severity and certainty with respect to significant weather and water hazards. This, in turn, can adversely impact user preparation for (and response to) these hazards. The major changes are as follows: - All "Advisory" headlines within what is currently the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory system will be discontinued. Most of the current Advisory headlines will be replaced with plain language headlines that clearly articulate the nature of the hazard. However, these messages will still be equipped with computer-readable Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) as they are today. - Exceptions to the transition to plain language will apply to Tsunami and Small Craft Advisories. These Advisories will be elevated to the Warning level due to the life-threatening conditions associated with these hazards. The exact title of the Warning for what is now a Tsunami Advisory is to be determined.

The NWS Tsunami Program will work closely with the WCS/ITIC/CTWP/NTWC/PTWC/NWS Regions to determine the title of the Warning and the Language used.

I will be leading the effort for the NWS Tsunami Program. My goal is to get it right and I will be engaged in the process.

I do not yet know what the process will look like, but once I do, I will be sure to keep you all informed.

Althea Rizzo: will take time for states and territories to educate the public, which will take time. Need to start working with locals sooner than later. Grant: agrees that we need to get the education process started. Maximilian: lots of things will need to be changed, and it will be helpful to have as much info as possible early on. Tsunami is one of two products that will be changed to warnings, possible more lead time, but will need to stay ahead of the effort.

Yvette LaDuke: Will put together a survey to gather input from NTHMP. Chat will be saved from this meeting for ideas.

8. MES update – MES Co-chair

[MES Minutes](#)

9. MRPWG update – MRPWG Co-chair

Little progress:

Many states have been working with Tsu preparedness and Tohoku remembrance.

Were able to submit a task supported by MMS / tsunami debris –

Also see marinedebris.noaa.gov

10. MMS update – MMS Co-chair

[MMS Minutes](#)

11. WCS update – WCS Co-chair

Reviewing protocol and response process

12. Old Business

NONE

13. New Business

MMS - new co-chair Summer Ohlendorf. Vote taken and all approved. Thanks to Marie for filling the position.

Maximilian Dixon: Was not apprised of DART buoy outage for a number of days. Wondering if there's a process for notifying partners.

Dave Snider: Need to make sure info is accurate before sharing, needed to coordinate with HQ. Maximilian Dixon: Would like to see an established communication process for these situations.

Dave shared his email for future coordination, and will ensure the right people are reached.

Chip McCreery: TWCs can still function without DARTs.

James Gridley: Asking operational personnel to provide additional tasks is not optimal, but it should be ok to look into improving the notification process.

Marie Eble: How does DART outages affect states directly?

Maximilian: It might be an issue with distant sources. Would be good to be apprised of potential issues in case there's an event.

14. Adjourn

4:10pm EDT