

NTHMP IMPROMPTU COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 20, 2013 Location: Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA

Attendees:

Angove, Mike	NWS HQ (invited)
Biasco, Tamra	FEMA Region 10
Camacho, Juan	CNMI-Saipan
Devaris, Aimee	NWS Alaska Region & NTHMP Chair
Grilli, Stephan	Univ. of RI
Horrillo, Juan	Texas A&M Galveston
Huerfano, Victor	Univ. of PR Mayaguez
Kirby, Jim	Univ. of Delaware
Lopes, Rocky	NWS HQ (invited/note-taker)
Miller, Kevin	CALOES
Nicolsky, Dmitry	Univ. of Alaska-Fairbanks
Petty, Erv	Alaska HSEM
Priest, George	Oregon DOGAMI
Richards, Kevin	Hawaii Civil Defense
Walsh, Tim	Washington GS
Whitmore, Paul	NWS WC/ATWC
Williams, Charles	Alabama EM
Wilson, Rick	Cal GS

Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 4:05pm PT.

Three things to discuss but not make formal decisions today due to short notice and not all CC members being present. These items will be included on the NTHMP CC meeting agenda for September 17 at 3pm ET.

Consider changes to NTHMP Rules of Procedure:

1. Membership of Coordinating Committee. Current NTHMP CC members are from: AK, HI, WA, OR, CA, Gulf of Mexico States, East Coast States, USVI, and PR with 2 members representing 3 Pacific Islands.

Issue being presented is "are we being fair regarding participation by the Pacific Islands?"

Kevin Richards added that he has been serving as the Pacific Caucus leader. By involving them at this level, it will serve two purposes: 1) get them more involved; 2) justice – if we do it for one group of islands (Caribbean) then we should do it for all islands.

Charles said that the NTHMP should support CC participation based on risk. Clearly the Pacific Islands have some tsunami risk.

Stephan Grilli brought up that there is work being done to determine national tsunami risk. Paula Dunbar is doing the number-crunching on the number of tsunami deaths, injuries, and damage. Also tsunami sources are being included for the Assessment. Perhaps should we wait to decide this matter when the National Tsunami Assessment is released (anticipated January, 2014) and its results can be considered?

Aimee: will use the Assessment to drive the decision. This will be brought up for a vote, but not until the Assessment is released and its data can be considered.

2. Subcommittee members – can they observe CC meetings? Are CC meetings to be exclusive?

Tim Walsh: that was past practice, but not for any other reason.

Grilli: consider allowing subcommittee members to observe CC meetings when they occur in person, but not on conference calls.

Biasco: allow subcommittee Co-Chairs who are not CC members to observe CC conference calls. Rick agreed.

Aimee approved: Subcommittee co-chairs who are not CC members will be invited to observe CC conference calls from now on and should be added to email distribution list.

3. Where will location for NTHMP Annual Meeting be?

Let's consider – AMS meeting will be February 2 – 6, 2014. Aimee must attend that meeting, so she would prefer the NTHMP meeting not conflict with it.

We should settle on dates/location at the next CC meeting. Would be a good idea to be at a NOAA (or Federal) facility since group travel approval is so difficult when hotel expenses for meeting rooms must be considered.

Send suggestions to Aimee.

Paul suggested that for grant review process, January would be the best month to meet.

Meeting ended at 4:30pm PT.

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting
July 16, 2013 Via conference call

Attendees:

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove, Tsunami Program Acting Director, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Marie Eble, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes, Tsunami Program Contractor Support, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region X, Lynwood, Washington
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC

USGS

Mr. Craig Weaver, Seattle, Washington

Alaska

Mr. Ervin Petty, Alaska Division of Emergency Management
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, Alaska Earthquake Information Center

California

Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey

East Coast States

No representatives

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University

Hawaii

No representatives (Kevin Richards tried to join but missed us.)

Oregon

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management
Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Pacific Islands

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez

U.S. Virgin Islands

No representatives

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

1. Status – FY13 NTHMP Grants

Mike Angove thanked the partners who applied for submitting initial FY13 NTHMP grant requests on time, for working with NWS Tsunami Program staff throughout the process to make technical corrections, and for submitting their applications through grants.gov by the July 3 deadline. This was quite a success to work through this process on such a compressed schedule. Mike also thanked the Grant Review Panel members – Tamra Biasco, Marie Eble, and Rocky Lopes – for their impartial review and preparation of recommendations for approval by NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris.

Supporting documentation (NEPA Review and Non-Competitive Grant Justification Letter) from the NWS was prepared by Lewis Kozlosky and all official signatures were obtained so these documents could be submitted with each grant package. Tsunami Program reviews, technical requirements validation, and acceptance of all applications into the grant tracking system were also completed on time.

All proposals are now being reviewed by the NOAA Acquisitions and Grants Office (AGO). They conduct a technical and legal review. Barring unforeseen situations, we anticipate the grants as submitted will be approved for work to begin September 1, 2013.

A question was asked about the FY14 Grants – NWS anticipates a “normal” grant application period for FY14, following the schedule adopted by the NTHMP in the Rules of Procedure with a proviso that action (or inaction) by Congress on NOAA’s budget may affect the timing. The amount of grant funding that may be available in FY14 is not clear at this time. The funding will be for a one-year, not multi-year, period. More information will follow when known.

2. Summer MES/MMS

The annual MES/MMS meeting will be held August 19 – 23, 2013, at the PMEL facility in Seattle, Washington.

General agenda: Travel Monday August 19. Tuesday morning plenary – updates and conversations with NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris and Tsunami Program (Acting) Director Mike Angove. Breakout to separate MMS/MES meetings after morning break and for remainder of the day. Combined meeting on Wednesday, August 20, being called a Workshop. Separate MMS/MES meetings again on Thursday. Travel Friday.

Updates as follows:

Rocky: group travel request was approved by the NWS CFO’s office and is pending at the NOAA level for approval. He checks status almost daily, with responses of “no news is good news.” We anticipate approval will be given, we just don’t know when.

Marie: only 7 people so far have made hotel reservations at the Silver Cloud. We reserved 26 rooms in the block. The block will be released on July 19. While rooms remain available, their availability at the rate of \$137/night + tax cannot be guaranteed after 19 July. If you are attending the meeting and haven’t reserved a room, do so now! The hotel shuttle has been reserved – departing the hotel each meeting day at 7:30am, and pickup again at PMEL to return at 5:15pm. This schedule may be changed based on needs of the group. Tim Walsh offered to drive people too. Conference rooms at PMEL are reserved.

Rick: MMS meeting plans – Tuesday – state summaries, review new MMS NTHMP strategic plan goals, discuss overview of MMS/MES Workshop on Wednesday. Thursday: follow-up on Wednesday workshop; set agenda for FY14 on guidance, production and different work. Look at funding requests.

Rick: Wednesday workshop – reviewing status of new MMS projects from invited guests – evacuation model advances, current velocity models, land use planning guidance, mapping & modeling probabilistic analysis, HAZUS development, scenario-based tsunami playbook, national hazard assessment, post-tsunami field team protocols.

Tamra: MES meeting – establish performance metrics for future years. Update strategic plan. Tsunami Preparedness Week, Review of National Tsunami Education Plan, discussion of grant activities that support MES activities and possibilities for collaboration where synergies occur.

3. TsunamiReady Directive 10-704

Mike Angove explained that the NWS Directives that govern its operations that apply to TsunamiReady are being revised. The TsunamiReady content has been removed from the StormReady Directive and a new Directive about TsunamiReady was drafted. That draft had been sent to NWS Regions for internal agency review. Some members of NTHMP may have seen the first draft during the initial, internal review.

Mike will adjudicate differences in review comments and a next draft will be developed. While the NTHMP itself does not govern internal NWS Directives, comments from experienced NTHMP members are welcome. Mike offered to share the next draft, when available some time in August, with NTHMP members.

4. NWS Tsunami Program Strategic Plan

The NWS Tsunami Program Strategic Plan – in draft form since it has not received official top-level clearance just yet – is available on the web, here:

http://www.tsunami.gov/Tsunami_Strategic_Plan.doc

Or go here: <http://www.tsunami.gov> >> lower left side Documents >> Strategic Plan

5. Tsunami Preparedness Week – March 23 – 29, 2014

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Great Alaska Earthquake (March 27, 1964) and resulting tsunamis, a major push will be made jointly by FEMA and NOAA to obtain a Presidential Proclamation of Tsunami Preparedness Week 2014.

Rocky is organizing the national planning efforts for TPW2014 and plans biweekly conference calls with key people who wish to participate in planning activities for TPW2014.

Erv Petty described that many activities are already being planned in Alaska. He looks forward to joining the national planning efforts being organized by Rocky and the NTHMP.

An agenda item for the MES meeting about TPW2014 will foster more discussion, too.

6. Other business

Craig Weaver asked about an item that will be on the agenda for the MMS meeting in August. He will follow up more specifically with Rick Wilson.

Rick Wilson asked about the status of a representative from the National Science Foundation (NSF) on the NTHMP and suggested a greater role for the NSF to participate in the NTHMP. Mike responded that the NSF is focused on basic research and that the NTHMP is not in the position to fund basic research. If we engage them, we may be able to provide a picture of long-term funding needs that NSF

can absorb into its funding picture for the future. NSF doesn't attend any of the meetings and they are hard to engage. Craig Weaver suggested that the NWS try to work directly with NSF representatives in the DC area, and to mention NEHRP as there are many cross-collaborative relationships between NEHRP and NTHMP. We should identify research needs and let them know. NSF can include tsunami research needs in their regular calls for research proposals.

(FYI: The NTHMP Rules of Procedure identify Federal Agency participants on the Coordinating Committee as coming from NOAA/NWS, FEMA, and USGS only.)

Meeting ended at 3:50pm ET.

**NTHMP Coordinating Committee Call Notes
3/19/2013**

Attendees:

NOAA:

Ms. Vickie Nadolski, NTHMP Chair, NWS Western Region Headquarters
Ms. Marie Eble, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory
Mr. Mike Angove, Tsunami Program, NWS Headquarters
Mr. Paul Whitmore, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center

USGS

Dr. Craig Weaver, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

FEMA

Mr. Mark Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC
Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region X, Lynwood, Washington

Alaska

Mr. Ervin Petty, Alaska Division of Emergency Management,
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, Alaska Earthquake Information Center

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Emergency Management Agency
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey

East Coast States

No participants

Gulf Coast States

Mr. Charles Williams, Alabama Emergency Management
Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University

Hawaii

No participants

Oregon

No participants

Pacific Islands

Ms. Lisa Togia, American Samoa Department of Homeland Security

Puerto Rico

No participants

U.S. Virgin Islands

General Elton Lewis, Director, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management
George Lindsay, VITEMA

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

Additional participants:

Mr. Lewis Kozloski, NWS Headquarters, Tsunami Program

Dr. Rocky Lopes, NWS Headquarters, Tsunami Program (Contractor)

1. Mike Angove summarized that a Tsunami Preparedness Week press release is pending. Rocky Lopes added that the web page is on the NTHMP web site, and additional input is welcome.
2. Mike indicated that Legislative Affairs has not provided any additional information regarding the TWEA Reauthorization. John Schelling is working with various partners on related activities.
3. The 3rd quarter budget allocation is still unknown. Potential impacts include a possible Continuing Resolution or even a Government shutdown. Mike added that the *plan* remains to execute a full program budget. Unless appropriated by Congress, however, there are no plans to implement an “off-cycle” grant process. Other activities will be pursued, including COOP tide stations, accelerating funding for the FEMA HAZUS module on tsunami loss estimation, and working with USGS/SAFRR (Science Application for Risk Reduction) Project on tsunami messaging. Rocky elaborated that the messaging effort included pulling together all types of tsunami-related messages from multiple public and private sources and looking into research that supports accuracy of messages to develop a comprehensive, consensus-based message library.
4. It will be highly questionable if funding to sponsor the annual MMS/MES meeting this summer will be available due to the budget situation. Meeting alternatives not involving travel should be explored.
5. Erv Petty referenced a letter from Senator Barbara Mikulski’s office indicating restoration of tsunami funding. Vickie Nadolski pointed out that news of any new allocations should be made available in the next couple days.
6. Lewis Kozlosky indicated the grant progress report reviews are underway, and are being handled in the streamlined process used last fall. Any no-cost extensions need to be submitted 30 days prior to the end of the original grant time frame.
7. TsunamiReady signs are being purchased for distribution to eligible communities.
8. Mike thanked Vickie for serving as NTHMP Chair. Vickie will be retiring on April 2. Members of the Committee also thanked her for her service. Vickie thanked the Committee for all the work they accomplished in the past several years, and expressed confidence that the NTHMP can meet the challenges ahead. She indicated a new Chair will be recommended shortly. Update: The NWS Director has named Ms. Aimee Devaris, Acting Regional Director--National Weather Service Alaska Region, as Vickie’s replacement as NTHMP Chair.
9. NTHMP Coordinating Committee conference calls are to be held bi-monthly. The next call is scheduled for May 21st, 2013, from 3:00-4:00ET.

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting
May 21, 2013 Via conference call

Attendees:

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NTHMP Chair & Director, NWS Alaska Region Headquarters
Mr. Mike Angove, Tsunami Program Acting Director, NWS HQ
Ms. Marie Eble, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory
Dr. Laura Kong, International Tsunami Information Center
Dr. Rocky Lopes, NWS HQ, Contractor Support
Mr. Paul Whitmore, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region X, Lynwood, Washington

USGS

No representatives

Alaska

Mr. Ervin Petty, Alaska Division of Emergency Management,
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, Alaska Earthquake Information Center

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Emergency Management Agency
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey

East Coast States

Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware

Gulf Coast States

Mr. Charles Williams, Alabama Emergency Management
Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University

Hawaii

Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii Civil Defense

Oregon

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management
Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Pacific Islands

No representatives

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez

U.S. Virgin Islands

General Elton Lewis, Director, Virgin Islands Territorial Emer. Mgmt.

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

1. NTHMP Strategic Plan

Jim Kirby provided editorial comments via email which Paul Whitmore said were fine. Paul said that the document has been reviewed by many already and all comments addressed.

Rick Wilson asked about changes to mission and vision statements. Paul said that Aimee proposed those changes and he believes the changes make both of the mission and vision statements more clear.

Paul affirmed that the Strategic Plan Work Group reviewed the changes. John Schelling asked about performance measures and said that the MES may be discussing them and proposing future revisions to that component of the Strategic Plan after the summer MES meeting.

Action: The revised NTHMP Strategic Plan was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Action plan to fill vacant positions on the NTHMP – East Coast, CNMI, Guam, and US Virgin Islands.

East Coast: Paul Whitmore said that he was going to follow up with Maine. Elizabeth Barton who had previously been the primary tsunami contact at Maine Emergency Management has left. Dan O'Brien of NY may be a possibility. (Contact: 518-292-2468; daniel.obrien@semo.state.ny.us).

Laura said that Juaquin Omar of CNMI has been active. So has Guam – confirm their reps are still active. Mike Angove will follow up.

General Lewis nominated William Linzey to represent USVI. Mr. Linzey is the Deputy Director of VITEMA. There was consensus agreement on this appointment.

Rick Wilson asked about USGS representatives. Mike Angove reaffirmed that he will raise this again with David Applegate. Craig Weaver and David Oppenheimer have participated in the past and if they wish to continue, they should. Also ask about someone for MMS.

3. Call for NTHMP grants for sustainment of current FTE this FY

Mike Angove announced \$1.8M has just been made available for grants to state & local partners through the NTHMP, and that he can augment to \$2.5M depending on needs and justification.

John Schelling: appreciates trying to move forward as expedited as possible. John suggested suspending the Review Panel to help expedite the timeframe. Rocky explained that legally, a Review Panel must be empaneled for non-competitive grants.

Rocky Lopes, Marie Eble, and Tamra Biasco will serve as the review panel. States will not be involved to avoid the potential for conflict of interest. The review panel will make a recommendation to the NTHMP Chair for decision.

General Lewis raised a question about the USVI not being involved in the past. He asked for templates with pre-drafted language. Rocky said that this information will be provided via email to all eligible grant recipients and that USVI is welcome and encouraged to submit a grant application.

Tim Walsh suggested that the grant cycle end on July 31, 2014, instead of August 31, 2014. That would make each entry a little less in its respective financial request to try to avoid oversubscription. Victor Huerfano objected because his host university requires a 12-month cycle. Considering that, the Committee agreed to keep the full 12-month cycle for these new grants for September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014.

Action: the request to suspend the grant schedule in the NTHMP Rules of Procedure, Appendix E, and to adopt the proposed schedule sent to the CC via email was approved by unanimous voice vote. (See Attachment 1 to these notes.)

Action: Tamra Biasco, Marie Eble, and Rocky Lopes were approved to serve on the Grant Review Panel approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. COMET tsunami training

Mike Angove described that he met with Dr. Rich Jeffries, the new Director of COMET. He was informed about current tsunami products that COMET offers and was asked about any future tsunami-related training that COMET might do. John Schelling said that this will be discussed during the MES meeting this summer.

5. Meeting of MES/MMS Subcommittees at PMEL August 19 – 23.

Mike Angove announced that “we are as on-track as we can be” for the travel approvals for the MES/MES summer meeting which is scheduled for August 19 – 23, 2013, at the Pacific Marine Environmental Lab in Seattle. Mike thanked Marie Eble for her advance work in making arrangements for the meeting.

General Lewis asked if his new NTHMP nominee, William Linzey, could participate in this meeting. Mike said that he would try to request a substitution on the list already submitted for travel approvals, substituting Mr. Linzey for Paula Dunbar who is unable to travel due to organizational restrictions.

Marie Eble asked for current list of participants so she can work w/security clearances. Rocky Lopes said that he would send the list to her.

6. Other business

General Lewis and William Linzey attended the March 19, 2013, NTHMP Coordinating Committee meeting yet were not listed on the meeting notes as attendees. Rocky Lopes said that he will update the meeting notes to reflect this correction.

Meeting ended at 4:00pm ET.

ATTACHMENT 1: APPROVED NTHMP FY13 GRANT SCHEDULE

NTHMP GRANT TARGET DATES	DAY OF WEEK	DATE
NWS TSUNAMI PROGRAM PROVIDES NOTICE OF AVAILABLE GRANT FUNDS WITH TEMPLATES TO GRANTEES (RFA)	FRIDAY	5/24/2013
GRANTEES SUBMIT NEW AWARD PROPOSALS TO NWS TSUNAMI PROGRAM VIA EMAIL	FRIDAY	6/7/2013
NWS TSUNAMI PROGRAM PROVIDES INITIAL SCREENING OF GRANT PROPOSAL AND COORDINATES ANY CHANGES REQUIRED WITH SUBMITTER	MONDAY	6/10/2013
NWS SENDS GRANT REQUESTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL	TUESDAY	6/11/2013
GRANT REVIEW PANEL PROVIDES FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO NTHMP CHAIR AND NWS ACTING TSUNAMI PROGRAM DIRECTOR	FRIDAY	6/21/2013
NWS TSUNAMI PROGRAM RETURNS GRANT REQUEST TO NTHMP GRANTEE WITH EDITS/CORRECTIONS AND APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO NOAA GRANTS SYSTEM	MONDAY	6/24/2013
NTHMP GRANTEE ENTERS INTO NOAA GRANTS SYSTEM AND SUBMITS/UPLOADS REQUIRED INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS	MONDAY	6/24/2013
DEADLINE FOR GRANTEE GRANT ENTRY INTO NOAA GRANT SYSTEM	THURSDAY	6/27/2013
REVIEW APPROVAL BY NWS TSUNAMI PROGRAM IN NOAA GRANTS SYSTEM BEGINS	FRIDAY	6/28/2013
FINAL APPROVALS IN NOAA GRANTS SYSTEM	WEDNESDAY	7/3/2013
NOAA GRANTS MANAGEMENT BEGINS REVIEW PROCESS, INCLUDING LEGAL REVIEW.	MONDAY	7/8/2013
AWARD START DATE	SUNDAY	9/1/2013
AWARD END DATE	SUNDAY	8/31/2014

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- November 19, 2013

1. Call to order -- Aimee Devaris, Chair

2. Roll call

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NTHMP Chair & Director, NWS Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Marie Eble, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes, Tsunami Program Contractor Support, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Charles (Chip) McCreery, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Ewa Beach, HI
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region X, Lynwood, WA
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC

USGS

No representatives

Alaska

Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, Alaska Earthquake Information Center

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey

East Coast States

No representatives

Gulf Coast States

Mr. Charles Williams, Alabama Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Hawaii

Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii State Civil Defense

Oregon

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management
Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Pacific Islands

No representatives

Puerto Rico

No representatives

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Renata Christian, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

3. [DISCUSSION] Tsunami Advisory LAE/EAS issue. Solution to get the Tsunami Advisories to tone the alert radios but not the EAS system.

Althea Rizzo provided an update. For about two years, during tsunami advisories, neither NOAA Weather Radio or the EAS are activated. Advisories lead to actions being required. A small work group has discussed a variety of solutions. This one is best: use a "local area emergency" code which is something that local emergency managers can request their local WFO to issue during an advisory. The Work Group needs to meet to discuss what this would look like to have standardized application up and down the coast. Activates tone alert on WR and can alert EAS if local EAS has been programmed to activate in the event of a local area emergency (LAE).

Whitmore: will you have a final solution by the annual meeting? A: We hope so. The solution we are discussing allows local control of EAS and gives local media outlets the information.

McCreery: are you viewing this as a broader solution that could apply to Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI? A: Yes, this can be adapted locally. It is an understanding between local EM and local WFO/WSO.

Devaris: We will need to coordinate with the national WCM, Chris Maier, and others in the National Weather Service Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services so they can inform all WCMs nationwide to enhance consistency.

4. [DISCUSSION / ACTION] John Schelling: Discussion/review of Tsunami Vertical Evacuation sign standard graphic

John Schelling described that after last meeting, he circulated a recommended sign standard for use in the U.S. Comments were collected, and more options were developed and disseminated for review again. John said that he received more comments than votes for one graphic or another. Additional revised graphics were created and distributed for review on November 18.

There is consensus on changing color of the sign from green to blue, and to show arrows pointing toward building to illustrate that people should run there.

Devaris: Since not all members of the NTHMP CC are in attendance, it may be easier to get a consensus via email. She recommended that members send an email with their top two choices to John & Tamra within the next two weeks.

McCreery: Has this been reviewed by someone with expertise in signs? It may not be so easy to make or interpret. Are we the best or only reviewers for these things? Schelling: the NTHMP suggested to use the existing international standard, but this is a new evacuation strategy being employed in the U.S. A review is possible at the state level.

McCreery: Can we have graphic designer look at it?

Lopes: Suggested that NOAA Graphics can review and social scientists, Chris Gregg and Dennis Mileti can be asked to review them, too. Aimee Devaris thought that was a good idea.

Richards: some of us are already moving forward. Reminder: this ultimately belongs to local governments to meet their sign standards anyway. It goes in our favor that we have an agreed-on national sign. We can always fine tune it graphically. Keep it going so it doesn't fall on the back burner.

Devaris: agrees with Kevin. There will be state variations. Very useful info to bring in – social scientists and graphic designers, so we should engage them.

Two weeks deadline for members to make their choices.

5. [DISCUSSION] Status of Tsunami Hazard Assessment by NGDC

Rick Wilson: worked closely with Paula Dunbar to update the tables and update the hazard assessment. Mike Angove contacted David Applegate to request someone to help with current needs for a re-run of the earthquake searches for Section 3. Wilson said that by the next

NTHMP meeting, we should have enough information or a working draft to facilitate decision-making regarding Pacific island membership.

6. [DISCUSSION] NTHMP Annual Meeting update.

Agenda planning: Devaris asked for volunteers to serve on a work group to prepare the agenda for the meeting. Rick Wilson, Kevin Richards, Paul Whitmore, and Kevin Miller volunteered. Rocky will organize meetings via telephone for this purpose.

Lopes updated the group on logistics.

The meeting will be held January 27 – 31, 2014, at the USGS Western Headquarters in Menlo Park, California. This facility is equidistant between San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and San Jose International Airport (SJC). Oakland Airport is a third, but more distant, option.

Wilson put Lopes into contact with staff at the USGS facility who have reserved meeting space, including rooms for plenary sessions and breakouts for subcommittee meetings.

The NOAA Group Travel request has been submitted to cover travel for 30 people indicated on the "NTHMP Who's Who" roster for having travel expenses covered. The Group Travel request sailed through approval by NWS and is now with NOAA. We hope to have final authorization for travel approved by early to mid-January, barring unforeseen circumstances and holiday delays.

Travel expenses will be paid by NOAA/NWS for CC members, as usual. Guests who are not covered by NOAA for travel will be invited to attend on their own.

Hotel space is challenging. There are six hotels in the Menlo Park/Redwood City area, however, only two of them will honor the GSA per diem hotel rate of \$129/night + tax (January rate for San Mateo County.) Holiday Inn Express minimum was \$169/night, which is not acceptable.

We recommend that you make reservations as soon as you can for one of these properties:

1. Best Western Redwood City
<http://www.bestwesternrwc.com/>
1-800-386-7377

This hotel provides a free breakfast and will honor the GSA rate. The only hitch is that they have a very limited number of rooms that are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

2. Another serviceable hotel in the area is the Pacific Inn at Redwood City.
<http://www.pacificinnrwc.com/Home.html>
650-368-1495

They will provide rooms the NTHMP (use that name) at a rate of \$89/night + tax. The hotel provides free breakfast. It is a middle-of the road, basic hotel.

Rental cars are still not allowable for group travel. We will make arrangements for group transport from the hotels to the USGS each meeting day. You may rent a car if you wish, but we cannot reimburse for that cost.

Kevin Miller will help Rocky with additional logistics.

7. [INFORMATION] FY14 NTHMP Grants

Lopes: We are currently in the open period for FY14 NTHMP Grants. Grant Guidance, budget and project narrative templates, Forward Performance Outlook template, staff time hours calculator, and background documents are available at this link:
<http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/2014grant/>

Lopes emphasized these important points:

- Grants will be for a one-year period of performance from September 1, 2014, to August 31, 2015, and will not be multi-year grants. We do not have confidence in the level of funding that will be available in the out years now that earmarked funding from TWEA and Spectrum has been depleted. However, a Forward Performance Outlook asks requestors to show us a plan for activities to be accomplished with future NTHMP grants for the next three years.
- Grant requestors are asked to submit tasks on a self-prioritized basis. When the Grant Review Panel totals all approved requests, it will compare that total with available grant funding which is still in flux and will not be confirmed until March. If the panel has to recommend cuts, it will use the priorities set by the grant requestors to facilitate that decision. Ultimately, though, all grant amounts and tasks will be reviewed and approved by NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris using recommendations made by the Grant Review Panel.

Priest: It is hard to set priorities relative to one another. Many of these things have a scope that could be greater or lesser. You can either have a big budget or little budget or middle.

Lopes: we knew this would be challenging, but we don't want to change procedures after they have been released. As a reminder, the process is that each requestor submits a preliminary request to NOAA (Rocky Lopes) in early January for an administrative/procedural review, then plan to present the request to the assembled NTHMP membership at the Annual Meeting.

During the annual meeting, we anticipate that grant requestors will identify activities on which to collaborate and optimize funding. This is what Lopes referred to as the "horse-trading" session. We have great faith and confidence in the NTHMP members to collaborate on achieving a vision of what is best for the greater good and consistent with the NTHMP Strategic Plan and its goals & outcomes as well as what requestors can reasonably accomplish.

After the NTHMP Annual Meeting, requestors will have time to refine their requests then officially submit them to NOAA/NWS. The NTHMP Grant Review Panel will begin its work to review all requests and prepare recommendations, consistent with available funding, for NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris and inform Tsunami Program Manager Mike Angove.

Rick Wilson: one of our strengths is the ability to do multi-state and multi-territory proposals. If you see something going on in another state and you want to pursue the same type of task, we can do that. It will achieve conformity and cost savings.

8. [APPOINTMENT] Appointment of FY14 NTHMP Grant Review Panel

Devaris appointed Tamra Biasco, Marie Eble, and Rocky Lopes to serve on the FY14 NTHMP Grant Review Panel.

9. New business

Whitmore: Update on East Coast NTHMP representative – Four states were approached, but none accepted. There is the NESEC consortium of eastern states emergency managers (www.nesec.org), and Paul has approached them about an East Coast NTHMP representative. Paul is expecting to hear back from them soon and will keep us updated.

Whitmore: This week, the two tsunami warning centers are doing a backup test. Be aware that when a small event occurs within one AOR, the other TWC will report it. Richards: when do we expect this? McCreery: any appropriate small event that will occur starting today. A local Hawaii event, for example.

Wilson: has there been discussion on reauthorization of TWEA from Congress? Lopes: not that we are aware of. Devaris: the current discussion in Congress is about dealing with sequestration and the Federal Government budget after January 15, 2014.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:56pm by Chair Aimee Devaris.

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
September 17, 2013

1. Call to order -- Aimee Devaris, Chair

Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 3:01pm ET and welcomed everyone. She thanked those who attended the NTHMP MMS/MES subcommittee meetings and workshop held in Seattle in August and said that she was happy to meet many of the members face-to-face.

2. Roll call

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove, Tsunami Program Acting Director, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Aimee Devaris, NTHMP Chair & Director, NWS Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Marie Eble, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Dr. Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, PR
Dr. Laura Kong, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes, Tsunami Program Contractor Support, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region X, Lynwood, WA

USGS

No representatives

Alaska

Mr. Ervin Petty, Alaska Division of Emergency Management
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, Alaska Earthquake Information Center

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey

East Coast States

Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware

Gulf Coast States

No representatives

Hawaii

Kevin Richards, Hawaii State Civil Defense

Oregon

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management
Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Pacific Islands

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez

U.S. Virgin Islands

No representatives

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management
Dr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

3. [ACTION] Confirmation of election of Kara Gately as Co-Chair of Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee -- Rick Wilson.

Approved unanimously

4. [ACTION] Discussion/review and approval of Vertical Evacuation signage (see images sent with meeting notice)

John Schelling said that there are no approved vertical evacuation sites in the U.S. yet. The proposed signage is approved by ISO. Adopting that signage would allow us to come into ISO conformance before it becomes an international issue. The proposed signage was discussed at the NTHMP annual meeting in Portland in February, 2013, and at the NTHMP subcommittee meetings in Seattle in August, 2013. Signs can have text with it to reinforce that it is for tsunami area of refuge. The proposed graphics are in alignment with FEMA P-646.

Rick Wilson asked if guidance could go with it. John said yes. Rick suggested that the NTHMP devise a standard four word phrase to go with the guidance, which should be used if funds from NTHMP grants were used to pay for the signage.

Dmitry Nicolsky stated that other tsunami signs are self-explanatory. These proposed signs do not seem to be clear that someone should go up and into a building. John Schelling said that education and training through outreach will be required to help people know what the sign means.

Erv Petty said that the sign could look like someone is running past a building rather than into it.

George Priest said that every tsunami sign in Washington is blue & white. Now this one is in green & white. Could this be a conflict with a state policy that requires using blue & white?

There was some discussion about what it means for the NTHMP to "approve" the signage. Does it mean NTHMP will not provide funding for signs that are different (color, etc.)? Tim Walsh said that since the NTHMP has no regulatory authority, whatever we adopt are recommendations only and that states can do what they want and conform with their own state sign regulations and standards.

Erv Petty has concerns about changing color to green since there are many existing signs that are blue.

Laura Kong explained that international signs were approved in 2008 have an ISO standard that dictates color of green & white. Green & white means "safety." ISO standards are guidance, not required. Half the world has ISO green & white signs and half have blue & white. U.S. can do whatever it wants.

Dmitry Nicolsky: change to figure running toward the building.

Victor Huerfano: currently he sees advice for people taking vertical refuge from tsunami to move four floors or higher. He sees three floors in the proposed signs. What is correct?

Aimee Devaris said that there are two concerns: color and clarity of the symbology in the signs. She suggested that more discussion is needed to determine what it means if the NTHMP approves a sign.

John Schelling said that the MES will take these suggestions, work on them, and bring them back to the CC. He asked for input by September 30 and promised to turn it around quickly for review perhaps by electronic poll.

5. [DISCUSSION] Representatives on NTHMP CC from Pacific Islands.

Aimee Devaris reviewed the discussion we had at the impromptu CC meeting in Seattle in August as not all CC members were in attendance. We will await the results of the tsunami hazard assessment being done by Dunbar/Goldfinger to determine whether we need to broaden the CC membership.

Rick Wilson: said that the new tsunami hazard assessment should be available in January.

Kevin Richards: concurred with Rick Wilson. To make it valid, the assessment results are required.

No action taken – tabled until the tsunami hazard assessment is released and the NTHMP CC has the time to review it and make a decision.

6. [ACTION] Selection of location and dates for the NTHMP Annual Meeting

Looking at January. What about the week of January 20? It is MLK holiday week. Consider start at noon on Tuesday and end noon on Friday so we don't require people to travel on holidays and weekends.

Week of January 27th? No conflicts.

Where? What about Menlo Park, CA, at USGS facility? San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland airports serve the area. Weather is more mild than further north. Meeting there can help to build a deeper partnership with the USGS. Lodging is good nearby, but not within walking distance.

Agreed: Menlo Park, CA, week of January 27.

Aimee Devaris tasked Rocky Lopes to gather information to share with her and Mike Angove for them to make a confirming decision soon, so we can begin the task of requesting group travel approval.

7. [INFORMATION] FY13 Grant Status -- Mike Angove

Mike Angove said that all FY13 grants have been through our process. Lewis Kozlosky said that some of the recipients have not accepted them yet. Some of the grants are still in the

ASAP office (which connects the funding to the awards and provides notification). Notifications for any who have not received notice of award yet should go out shortly.

8. [INFORMATION] NTHMP Grants -- information about future grants and grant cycle --
Mike Angove and Rocky Lopes

Mike Angove said that we have a program spend plan for FY14 that does include NTHMP grants along the lines of what was obligated for FY13. In the most conservative scenario, we should look at a similar top-line for what was requested for FY13 to go into FY14. This is \$2M – not more.

We will not ask for multiyear grants because we don't know if there will be funding consistency year-to-year. We will ask for proposals that have long-term deliverables that build on each other as we look down range.

Rocky Lopes described the schedule in general – call for proposals in November, due at NWS HQ in early January for first technical review. Each requestor will present at the NTHMP annual meeting where collaboration and synergies can be developed. Requestors will then revise proposals as may be necessary and resubmit in February. The NTHMP Grant Review Panel will conduct its review in February/March and provide results to NTHMP Chair by April. The Chair will review the report and approve what each requestor should submit for a grant through the on-line system in May. The period of performance looks like it will be September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015, so it will not overlap with approved FY13 grants and not oversubscribe the P.I.s.

George Priest asked, “should we state priorities for tasks?” Angove: Yes! That will be very helpful.

Rocky is working on grant guidance for FY14 grants which will be distributed with the call for grants in November.

9. New business

a) Rick Wilson asked that the CC confirm a new representative position on the MMS from PMEL. The MMS recommends that Marie Eble be that initial representative.

Rick Wilson explained and endorsed the MMS recommendation. It will benefit from collaborations and cost-savings. This position would be helpful to the MMS. The MMS voted on this; outcome positive. Marie suggested as initial rep – she has been very helpful over time.

Kevin Richards asked if this is an added position to the subcommittee? Wilson: yes.

Request approved by unanimous consent.

b) MMS would like to confirm an ad hoc, non-voting member that will take the lead on the new guidance and workshops we need to plan/hold with regard to tsunami current modeling validation and maritime planning. This first member recommended is Stephan Grilli.

Rick Wilson: described above. Asked for confirmation.

Kevin Richards: why adhoc, not a main member? Rick Wilson said that this position may not be from someone affiliated with a state or federal agency. They can travel to MMS meetings and contribute. Perhaps in the future could be someone outside the NTHMP.

Rick Wilson: call them a non-voting member, but a permanent position at the discretion of the MMS. The CC should approve who will fill the position.

Vasily Titov asked why a permanent membership is required since this only for a task assignment?

Rick Wilson said that the goal is that they can travel to MMS meetings.

Approving this position would require NTHMP to fund travel for this person to attend MMS meetings.

Rick Wilson said that he wants to bring him to the Validation Workshop. In the future may be a different workshop.

Mike Angove: not sure growing the size of the NTHMP fits with the budget.

Kevin Richards: suggested a limited membership for short-term.

Mike Angove: Concern about adding to program's budget for this position to be funded for travel. Perhaps have a grant request come in for funding travel for this person rather than NTHMP.

Aimee Devaris suggested that we lay out the cost and benefits and bring it to a virtual vote. Wants to know if we have grown NTHMP subcommittees and what the costs are.

Rocky Lopes offered to gather that information and share it.

George Priest suggested that we table this to the annual meeting.

Aimee Devaris asked when is a decision required? Rick Wilson: soon.

Aimee Devaris: we will do a cost-benefit analysis and re-visit this matter at a future CC meeting or virtual vote, if required.

Mike Angove did not have time to bring this up, but he wanted the CC members to have a short briefing with information discussed at a recent Intergovernmental Working Group -- Pacific Tsunami Warning System (PTWC) meeting that he, Laura Kong, and a few others attended. He will provide that briefing via email to the CC members.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07pm ET.