

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- February 13, 2015
Held at Oregon State Office Building, Portland, Oregon

1. Call to order – NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 8:32am PT.

2. Roll call – Rocky Lopes

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove*, Tsunami Program Manager, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Marie Eblé*, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynwood, WA

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Erv Petty, Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolisky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Ms. Jacinta Brown, American Samoa Dept. of Homeland Security, Pago Pago, AS (Guest)
Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore, NWS WSO American Samoa, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mr. Juan Camacho, CNMI Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Saipan, MP

East Coast States

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

Guam

Ms. Pilar Carbullido, Guam Department of Homeland Security, Agana Heights, Guam
Mr. Chip Guard, NWS Forecast Office, Barrigada, Guam

Gulf Coast States

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

Hawaii

Dr. Kwok Fai Cheung, University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI
Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii State Civil Defense, Honolulu, HI

Oregon

Dr. Jonathan Allen*, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Portland, OR (Guest)
Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Newport, OR
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR

Puerto Rico

Mr. Wilfredo Ramos, Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency, San Juan, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Mr. Elton Lewis, USVI Territorial Emergency Management Agency, St. Thomas, VI
Mr. Roy Watlington, USVI Science Representative

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management, Camp Murray, WA
Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest

3. Recognition of departing CC members who are ending their service during 2015.

Chair Devaris recognized George Priest, Erv Petty, and General Elton Lewis during the Annual Meeting with certificates of appreciation, and also during the Coordinating Committee. She expressed her sincere thanks for their service to the NTHMP and more broadly for their service in the interest of public safety. She indicated that we maintain such an important partnership, and are honored to have worked with each of these Coordinating Committee members.

4. Recognition and welcome of Elinor Lutu-McMoore as the Science Representative for American Samoa, replacing Mase Akapo

Chair Devaris welcomed Elinor to the Coordinating Committee. Elinor expressed her thanks and appreciation to be at this meeting.

5. NTHMP Landslide Workshop

Jim Kirby presented about this workshop concept at the MMS meeting and also during the grant session during the Annual Meeting. Different Landslide modeling is being used by different scientists. There is no available comparison or comparable data sets available for the individual landslide models. It would be important for the group to do that comparison of data sets together in a workshop setting. This workshop fits within the MMS notion that all models used by MMS products should be benchmarked. There is concern that some of the modeling is producing overly conservative outputs.

Dr. Kirby and MMS Co-Chairs will organize a work group over the next six months to determine the range of tests to be conducted. He will organize the workshop to be held in the summer of 2016.

Tim Walsh asked how the MMS benchmarking workshop this time compared with the workshop in Galveston. Juan Horrillo said that we didn't have any comparisons or benchmarking there. The results were different.

John Schelling asked if these were only undersea landslides or were other landslides being examined. Kirby responded that they would consider the applicability of subaerial landslides during their preparation for the workshop.

Vasily Titov asked that since there was a series of NSF workshops, if we want to benchmark our tools, we should have an outside organization conduct benchmarking. There would be less potential for a conflict of interest. Kirby responded that he does not disagree with that. However, proposing something to NSF is iffy and he is unsure if they would do it. NTHMP has a precedent for doing model benchmarking

independently. He will consider trying to recruit an outside person to organize the workshop. This will not duplicate any efforts from previous NSF workshops.

Vasily Titov stated that a workshop such as this is best organized from the outside.

Aimee Devaris said that it begs the issue of funding. If funded by NTHMP grant, then the NTHMP effectively becomes the organizer.

Rick Wilson suggested that Kirby add to the grant request to explore the idea of bringing someone in from the outside to run the workshop.

Paul Whitmore stated that the new Strategic Plan calls for funding for any new MMS projects to be approved through the MES. Aimee Devaris asked how that could be accomplished. Whitmore stated the grant review committee could coordinate with the MES co-chairs for this type of request.

6. Confirm frequency and schedule of NTHMP CC meetings for 2015 between now and the next Annual Meeting.

The NTHMP usually meets on the third Tuesday during odd months at 3:00pm Eastern Time. After discussion, the members of the Coordinating Committee affirmed the same meeting dates and time. For 2015, the CC will meet March 17, May 19, July 21, September 22, and November 17.

Summer meeting: The CC affirmed that both the MMS and MES in-person "summer meetings" be held at the same location for 2-1/2 days MES sequential with half-day overlap with MMS. The MES leadership wants to keep the meeting sequential without breaking in the middle for a full day meeting with the MMS. Remember – per terms of how the NTHMP operates, the MES informs the MMS of its mapping and modeling needs.

Wilson: From the MMS perspective – okay for ½ day together, then one day of MMS meeting following. 1.5 days, 0.5 day, 1 day.

Schelling: MES uses that as an opportunity to review the strategic plan.

Richards: agreed with Schelling. Key to success is working through the strategic plan. Appreciates being educated by the MMS to build the support.

Wood: within MES, there is interest to get guidelines on evacuation modeling and also to understand population demographics in tsunami hazard zones. So when they get results, they know what it means so they can interpret it for the public.

Devaris: meet in same location and subcommittee Co-chairs will work out details. Request to stay away from August.

Rizzo: center of USA is a consideration for meeting location.

Meeting location suggestions: IRC in Honolulu; NGDC in Boulder; San Diego; Menlo Park, CA; Washington State University in Vancouver, WA

Timing: earlier in the year is better. July is better than September.

Lopes conducted an informal poll among the Coordinating Committee members about the best week for the meeting. July 13 – 17 had fewest conflicts, with July 20-24 being next best. The week closest to Independence day (July 6 – 10) had the most conflicts.

Chair Devaris asked Rocky Lopes to prepare cost estimates for each meeting location, to coordinate with potential host sites on availability of free meeting space, and to present her and Mike Angove with the results for them to determine the meeting location. The location and meeting dates will be announced on or before the next Coordinating Committee meeting of March 17.

7. Updates from each NTHMP Subcommittee and confirmation of Co-Chair votes as necessary

a. Mapping & Modeling Subcommittee – Wilson, Gately

We had a good workshop on Monday and Tuesday, February 9-10. The MMS is making progress on tasks. Need an update from MES on their priorities to ensure alignment.

The MMS had a vote to change state Co-Chair representative since Rick Wilson's term was up. Dmitry Nicolsky of the University of Alaska was elected to serve as the state Co-Chair for the next two years. Aimee Devaris as Chair confirmed the decision and congratulated Dmitry.

b. Mitigation & Education Subcommittee – Biasco, Kong, Miller

Kevin Miller reported that the MES will have a conference call during the summer to check the progress of priorities and accomplishments. The MES will

The MES will review the final version of the proposed TsunamiReady Guidelines.

The National Tsunami Education and Outreach Plan developed by Christa Rabenold was reviewed and progress noted.

The MES has no leadership changes.

c. Warning Coordination Subcommittee – McCreery, Rizzo, Whitmore

Althea Rizzo gave the report and stated that nothing special other than routine business occurred at the WCS meeting.

Paul Whitmore reported that social science recommendations for tsunami warning messages were adopted. Announced that graphical products are making headway. The Tsunami Program is funding PMEL to develop a private graphical interface for emergency management.

Althea Rizzo said that “Local Area Emergency” (LAE) messages for tsunami advisories is still being worked on.

8. NTHMP Rules of Procedure required annual meeting business:

a. Review the Strategic Plan measures and milestones to ensure progress is on track.

George Priest: need some performance measures to be reported out for NOAA management. For example: how many evacuation maps produced for coastal communities. Baseline poll for awareness is needed. Set aside small amount of FY15 funding to create baseline poll to track awareness through use of an academic group. Consider engaging Chris Gregg for this work.

Chair Devaris described that Univ. of Michigan does this evaluation for the NWS in general about its products and services. They developed set of three index questions with subquestions that they always ask no matter what that represent the basis for customer satisfaction. Something like that could be done for Preparedness to develop a preparedness index.

Wood: at the summer meeting, convene some people who do this type of work to discuss it. It is possible to do with representative sampling. Top four people to figure out what NTHMP could afford. Have a scoping meeting.

Angove: We should work with NOAA Legislative Affairs to determine metrics.

Lopes: I did this type of measurement for over a decade when I was at the Red Cross. We should coordinate with FEMA’s Family and Community Preparedness polling on ready.gov that they do regularly and asks similar questions. Results may not be what you want to see – this metric’s needle doesn’t move but a few points both up and down every year.

Devaris: reviewed some content in the strategic plan and attach metrics to them. E.g., number of drills, exercises, and walk-outs.

Schelling: The MES developed a baseline survey in 2010; there were problems with the survey instrument and the results were skewed. Data were not useful.

Wood: I surveyed all coastal communities in coastal OR & WA in 2001. That baseline is available.

Wilson: does this fall under MES?

Biasco: when results from the 2010 baseline survey were presented, that's when MES discovered errors in methodology.

Angove: really likes the idea of a "Preparedness Index."

Wood: there is a "Community Preparedness Index."

Wilson: This type of study should be an outside entity.

Priest: We should scope it this year.

Lopes: will do a scoping cost estimate for management and provide it to Devaris and Angove for consideration to reserve a block of funds from NTHMP grant funding.

Richards: don't stray too far away from MES so it doesn't become another bean counting exercise to please "Washington."

b. WCS has two tasks that cannot be tracked.

1. Annually increase local warning dissemination capabilities by 10% based on the baseline established in 2012.
2. Annually increase local warning capabilities by 10% based on the baseline established by 2011.

c. Devaris: pointed out that the strategic plan calls for a review of the NTHMP every 5 years. It is due.

Schelling: we're still digesting what NAS has told us. It may be premature to do that now.

Devaris: is 5 years too aggressive?

Schelling: we just got the NOAA response to the NAS report results. We should work through all of those before asking for more.

Wilson: we should wait until 2017 to evaluate.

Guard: when do we update the strategic plan?

Lopes: usually the subcommittees review their respective parts and make recommendations for the next plan in 2016, then work group appointed to pull it together and assemble a recommended draft plan for presentation at annual meeting of 2017, adopt.

Devaris: if TWERA passes, Congress will require reporting.

Whitmore: external review of NTHMP is in the strategic plan scheduled for 2017.

9. NTHMP Recognition -- public relations/public affairs

Lopes opened by describing that the NOAA press event and related print materials that were about the Indian Ocean Tsunami ten years later were released on December 8. Little mention, specifically, about the NTHMP was included. That's because it is the job of an agency's public affairs function to represent its agency, not an allied organization. When this happened, some members of the Coordinating Committee were displeased. They wrote their own press release about "Tsunami Preparedness in the United States" and asked the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) to issue it. The WSSPC release was posted/released on 23 December. Available tracking data indicated that the release was not reprinted anywhere.

Wilson: NTHMP is \$6M under the budget. We are financially a part of NOAA's tsunami program. So therefore, NTHMP should receive attention from NOAA since it is such a significant part of the budget.

Lopes: NOAA Public Affairs doesn't rank its priorities based on budget. Their focus is on what is a compelling story for the news media.

Schelling: FEMA Region 10 public affairs led an effort to promote earthquake and tsunami safety around the 300th anniversary of Cascadia. It worked well and was measurable. This is an example of how it can be done.

Devaris: in over 20 years working for NOAA, and having spent several years as a WCM – there is a culture within public affairs that it is very reactive (about weather and about a major event.) This is a cultural thing that we have to overcome.

Schelling: a model to test out using FEMA Region 10 example. Since we have a media guide from NOAA, we should use it.

Richards: we are not tapping into our respective public relations people. We owe it to ourselves to tap our internal resources for help. Suggest that we bring together our Public Affairs people from NTHMP partners.

Angove: I should have related the Sumatra subduction zone to Cascadia to bring the story home.

Wood: USGS has the same situation. Months of planning goes into what appears to be reactive. USGS prepares well-crafted responses in advance to be ready to respond. There needs to be a workshop on how to craft a consistent message and how to get it out.

Wilson: There should be an opportunity to have a small group of people to work on messaging and communication for NTHMP to examine synergies with media.

Walsh: affirmed that the State of Washington put out press releases that talked only about what they did and didn't mention NOAA. (It works both ways.)

Schelling: take an action to develop a messaging calendar.

Priest: suggested two years ago to create a network of our respective Public Relations staff as a standing subcommittee.

Devaris: we can easily build a calendar. We need to develop the messages and get help with press releases. We are in an interesting year where things will happen that may provide opportunities for attention and focus. Getting that library ready to go when we need it would be important.

Guard: use NWS WCMs who have relationships with local media.

Wilson: [changed per amendment at 3/17/15 NTHMP CC meeting. Italicized content added] What action do we take now? *Is the formation of a small work group possible? This work group could help coordinate NTHMP-related media outreach as well as help Mike Angove and the NOAA Tsunami Program with NTHMP messaging in Washington and with NOAA.*

Biasco: MES will discuss and think on how to move forward.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

- a. Whitmore: since the NWS is not doing a national tsunami preparedness week, should the NTHMP designate one?

Wilson: it helps for state proclamations to have a national one to hook onto.

Woods: research shows that these recognitions work best around anniversaries of events related to their own experience.

Devaris: should NTHMP declare March 22 – 28, 2015 as Tsunami Preparedness Week?

Whitmore: moved ... Petty: second. Vote: Unanimous consent

- b. Miller: California is working on earthquake early warning. Kate Long would like to present about it during the next CC meeting in March.

Schelling: key message – what to do if there is an earthquake early warning? Do you evacuate?

Devaris: will hear about it during the next CC meeting and then WCS follow up about it after the presentation. Bigger presentation for the WCS later.

Priest: we have to come back to frame it for differences between distant and near-field tsunamis.

- c. Wilson: NOAA's Tsunami Research Advisory Council has interesting topics. It would be helpful to have a state representative on the TRAC for input on results and testbeds.

Angove: this is a research to operations program – will make the priority science needs available.

Devaris: confirmed that this meeting is composed of all Federal Government employees. We can't have a state serve as a representative on the TRAC because it breaks the Federal Advisory Committee Act. There cannot be a formal relationship of states with TRAC.

Angove: will share ideas from TRAC with NTHMP.

Wilson: [changed per amendment at 3/17/15 NTHMP CC meeting] ~~wants to review and comment~~ *"Wilson: If membership or attendance in the TRAC is not viable, then would appreciate the opportunity to at least review and comment on existing and planned test-bed projects, and work with the Warning Centers/Tsunami Program to develop, recommend, and possibly conduct future test-bed projects."*

Jonathan Allan: (guest/Oregon) – can TRAC update NTHMP?

Devaris: Mike Angove will exchange information.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Devaris at 10:23am PT.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- July 15, 2015
Held at California State Office Building, San Diego, California

1. Call to order – NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 3:47pm PT.

2. Roll call

NOAA

Mr. Mike Angove*, Tsunami Program Manager, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Marie Eblé*, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Ms. Kara Gately*, NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK
Dr. Laura Kong*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa Rabenold*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynwood, WA

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Ms. Ann Gravier, Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa Dept. of Homeland Security, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives

East Coast States

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

Guam

Mr. Chip Guard, NWS Forecast Office, Barrigada, Guam

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX
Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, Coastal Bend TX COG, Corpus Christi, TX

Hawaii

Dr. Kwok Fai Cheung, University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI
Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii State Civil Defense, Honolulu, HI

Oregon

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, Puerto Rico Seismic Network, Mayaguez, PR
Mr. Wilfredo Ramos, Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency, San Juan, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Mona Barnes, USVI Territorial Emergency Management Agency, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management, Camp Murray, WA
Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

28 present, 9.5 state votes (min 7); 5 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement was met.

*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest

3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of May 19, 2015

Kevin Richards moved to accept the minutes as presented. Kevin Miller seconded. Approved by unanimous consent.

4. Welcome new Coordinating Committee members

Aimee Devaris welcomed Ms. Ann Gravier, Alaska emergency management representative who has replaced Erv Petty who is retiring effective August 1. Chair Devaris also welcomed Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, the emergency management representative for the Gulf Coast. He has replaced Amy Godsey. Welcomed also was Ms. Mona Barnes, the emergency management representative for the U.S. Virgin Islands. Ms. Barnes is the new Director of VITEMA and has replaced Gen. Elton Lewis.

5. NTHMP Rules of Procedure Update

A. Designation of Alternates

At the request of member Althea Rizzo, Chair Aimee Devaris appointed a work group during the May 19 Coordinating Committee meeting to consider language changes to the Rules of Procedure regarding proxies. Rocky Lopes reported that the work group developed a proposed rules change and voted unanimously to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee.

After discussion and amendments regarding how much advanced notification is needed (especially when it comes to NOAA-sponsored invitational travel), the Coordinating Committee approved adding this wording: (wording in *italics* is new)

Each member organization (i.e., Federal, State, Commonwealth, and Territorial Government) will be responsible for designating their official representatives. *Each Coordinating Committee member officially designated by the member organization may designate one alternate to participate on their behalf in the event they are unable to execute their duties. The Coordinating Committee member shall be responsible for informing the NTHMP Administrator of the alternate's name in advance of the meeting(s) in which the alternate will attend on behalf of the official representative. Invitational travel will only be provided to the officially designated Coordinating Committee member, unless specifically authorized in advance by the NTHMP Administrator. Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and several factors, including available funding.*

A quorum, consisting of a majority of state representatives (minimum of seven state/territory representatives) and a majority of federal agency representatives (minimum of four federal agency representatives), must be satisfied in order to hold a vote on any NTHMP decision. NTHMP voting members must be physically present at an in-person meeting (on the phone during a teleconference *or if teleconference capability is provided for an in-person meeting*) to vote. Proxies are not allowed; *however, an alternate member (as defined in the Membership section of the Rules of Procedure) may attend Coordinating Committee meetings. The state/territory decides who has the vote on behalf of the official representative in their absence*

B. NTHMP Grant Procedures in Rules of Procedure Appendices C and D

Rocky Lopes explained that the Department of Commerce Grant Policy Manual governs all grants by any DOC agency. This includes NTHMP grants.

The DOC Grant Policy Manual states, "no other documents, agreements, memoranda of understanding, or similar governing agreements may include any rules, requirements, or directions for DOC Grants without an express written waiver by the DOC Assistant Secretary for Administration."

What this means is that in order to be in compliance with DOC Grants Policy, all grant-related *governing* or directive language had to be removed from the NTHMP Rules of Procedures and will now be included in the NTHMP Grant Guidance issued each year in advance of the NTHMP Grant Cycle. All of the same information found in the NTHMP Rules of Procedure Appendix C and D will be lifted from the RoPs and imported into the NTHMP Grant Guidance under the purview of the grant provider, the National Weather Service. The NTHMP Coordinating Committee does not vote or govern the Grant Guidance. Aimee Devaris stated that we will endeavor to share the Grant Guidance in advance.

Lopes also stated that the Grant Guidance will be modified for 2016 to allow requests for travel to NTHMP meetings and to conferences. However, travel is a low priority compared with established priorities found in the NTHMP Strategic Plan and subcommittee reports. If funding is available after meeting NTHMP strategic priorities, then funding for travel can be considered.

Tamra Biasco noted that the RoPs had included the requirement that all subcommittee co-chairs serve as the reviewers of NTHMP grant semi-annual reports. With that language being removed from the RoPs, then we have a problem.

Rocky Lopes stated that language regarding review of the semi-annual grant progress reports by Co-Chairs should be included in each subcommittee's Terms of Reference. By so doing, the latest Terms of Reference are automatically included in the Rules of Procedure.

Aimee Devaris assigned each subcommittee to review its Terms of Reference and include the task to review NTHMP semi-annual grant progress reports.

Vote

Kevin Richards moved to accept the NTHMP Rules of Procedure with amendments as noted. Tim Walsh seconded. Vote was unanimous by voting representatives at the meeting.

6. MES Actions from summer meeting

Tamra Biasco announced the following actions taken during the Mitigation and Education Subcommittee meeting:

- The TsunamiReady Fundamental and Tier II Guidelines were approved.
- Kevin Richards and Ann Gravier were appointed to serve on the National TsunamiReady Board.
- The updated final version of the NTHMP Fact Sheet was approved.
- The updated Investment Activities report was discussed. Minor edits and response to a data call on the number of residents in tsunami inundation areas are due to Rocky Lopes July 31.

7. MMS Actions from summer meeting

Kara Gately stated that more collaboration with the USGS is needed by MMS and the tsunami warning centers. MMS proposes to hold a one to two-day workshop with USGS for this purpose, and consider holding it at the same time as the annual meeting. She suggested on behalf of the MMS that we consider holding the annual meeting in Boulder, Colorado because it will be easier to meet with USGS staff based there.

There was a discussion about what was needed as outcomes from this meeting. Chair Aimee Devaris appointed a planning group: Stephanie Ross, Kara Gately, Rick Wilson, and Rocky Lopes.

8. Meteotsunami Brochure

Christa Rabenold showed a two-page fact sheet on meteotsunamis that was suggested by Coordinating Committee member Ed Fratto. She described the process of collaborative development among scientists and NTHMP partners. She requested acceptance to post the document on NTHMP website.

Laura Kong objected. She asked that all subcommittees be given the opportunity to review it.

Chair Aimee Devaris requested that the MES, MMS and WCS review the Meteotsunami Fact Sheet and provide feedback to Christa Rabenold by August 14. Christa will consider whatever comments are provided by that date and then post the fact sheet on the NTHMP website.

9. Update of FEMA P646A *Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis: A Guide for Community Officials* -- Tamra Biasco on behalf of Mike Mahoney

Tamra Biasco stated that the P646A document is outdated. Mike Mahoney indicated that since the science has changed since the East Japan tsunami, the document requires updating. What are next steps to update it?

John Schelling: this is very important and should be updated. Schelling offered to put together a proposal about updating the Guide and bring it to the NTHMP Coordinating Committee for review.

Aimee Devaris: NOAA and NTHMP can prepare a letter of support as long as it does not make a financial commitment.

Biasco: letters of support can be helpful.

Tamra Biasco will lead a collaborative effort on next steps and which document Mahoney is talking about.

10. TWERA status update

Mike Angove said that the bill is still pending before the U.S. Senate. We have no more information.

11. Fiscal Situation for FY16

Mike Angove reported at other times of the summer meeting that the full reorganization of the NWS budget is in effect. This budget reorganization has done away with the individual budget for the tsunami program. Now there is separate funding for tsunami-related activities appropriated to different areas for which the Tsunami Program does not have direct authority: buoy maintenance and seismic data agreements goes to the Observations portfolio; I.T. modernization at TWCs goes to the Central Processing portfolio; research goes to the Science and Technology Integration portfolio; and residual items like the NTHMP goes to the Analyze, Forecast, and Support (AFS) portfolio. There is much less budget leeway available as had been in the past.

12. Ideas for location and dates for 2016 Annual Meeting

Coordinating Committee members suggested the following dates for the annual meeting and potential add-on meetings:

- Priority 1: last week of January (25 – 29, 2016)
- Priority 2: first week of February (1 – 5, 2016)

Potential locations include in priority order:

- a. Boulder or Lakewood, Colorado
- b. Menlo Park, California

- c. San Diego, California
- d. Silver Spring, Maryland
- e. Portland, Oregon

Rocky Lopes will contact potential locations to determine availability of adequate and available free meeting space, hotels that will accept the Federal per diem rate, ground transportation between airport and hotels, proximity between hotels and meeting space (transportation and/or walking distance). He will develop a cost analysis for each location. He will share that with Aimee Devaris and Mike Angove before the September Coordinating Committee meeting for them to make a decision on the dates and location for announcement at the September CC meeting.

13. Old Business

Christa Rabenold asked if the NTHMP Coordinating Committee will declare dates for a Tsunami Preparedness Week for 2016. Chair Aimee Devaris said that due to tight time remaining during this meeting, this discussion and decision will be deferred to the September Coordinating Committee meeting.

14. New Business

Rocky Lopes discussed the revised *NTHMP Grants Investment Activities Report*. The report was discussed at length during the MES meeting on July 13.

Chair Aimee Devaris will write a statement from the Chair that will provide context on the grants as well as the importance that the collaboration among NTHMP partners brings through these investments. She stated that she also has some other edits that she will provide.

Rocky Lopes said that an additional data call to all grant partners will be made to request information on the number of residents who live within tsunami inundation zones. Rocky will include that data as well as any other editorial refinements that he considers appropriate for the report. He hopes to have a final report prepared and available in August, in time for return of Congress after its August recess.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Aimee Devaris at 5:04pm PT.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- March 17, 2015
Via Conference Call

1. Call to order – NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 3:01pm EDST.

2. Roll call

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Marie Eblé*, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Dr. Laura Kong*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, NTHMP Administrator, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa Rabenold*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynwood, WA
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Erv Petty, Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Mr. Vinnie Atofau American Samoa Dept. of Homeland Security, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives

East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeastern Emergency Services Consortium, Boston, MA
Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Guam

No representatives

Gulf Coast States

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

Hawaii

No representatives

Oregon

Dr. George Priest, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Newport, OR

Puerto Rico

No representatives

U.S. Virgin Islands

No representatives

Washington

Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA
Ms. Brynne' Walker*, Washington State Emergency Management, Camp Murray, WA

*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest

3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of February 13, 2015

Call for approval: Aimee Devaris

Rick Wilson offered these changes to the February 13, 2015 minutes:

Addition, page 8: "Wilson: What action do we take now? Is the formation of a small work group possible? This work group could help coordinate NTHMP-related media outreach as well as help Mike Angove and the NOAA Tsunami Program with NTHMP messaging in Washington and with NOAA."

Correction, page 9: "Wilson: If membership or attendance in the TRAC is not viable, then would appreciate the opportunity to at least review and comment on existing and planned test-bed projects, and work with the Warning Centers/Tsunami Program to develop, recommend, and possibly conduct future test-bed projects."

Devaris: called for acceptance. Minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

4. FY15 NTHMP Grants, status

Rocky Lopes stated that the FY15 NTHMP Grants Federal Review Panel were closely reviewing revised Budget and Project Narratives and Forward Performance Outlooks submitted with the second round of grant pre-applications. The panel looks closely at how well the projected tasks align with the NTHMP Strategic Plan, subcommittee priorities, and overall NTHMP priorities, as well as grantee past performance and capacity issues.

Total requests from all pre-applicants exceeded \$6M, even after making some technical adjustments due to math errors or requests for personnel for more than a one-year interval which is not permitted.

Panel members have sent questions to some applicants to request clarifications on some issues and to negotiate where necessary.

The panel intends to follow the announced schedule, and will provide its recommendations to NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris and NOAA Tsunami Program Manager Mike Angove by early April. In turn, they will review the recommendations and make adjustments as they deem necessary. Their grant recommendations then will be sent to NWS management for review and approval.

When NWS management provides the approval, then Lopes will communicate with each applicant to indicate what they may formally apply for via the regular method – by submitting a formal application via grants.gov.

Lopes will communicate with applicants if timing of the application process changes. Many steps in the process are not under the NWS Tsunami Program's control, and

may cause changes. However, we anticipate that the formal application period will be open in May with early June closing so that NTHMP applications will beat the rush of all other NOAA Grants which are entered in a large volume by the overall NOAA grant application deadline in early July.

Lopes added that once grants are submitted on-line, that is when Lewis Kozlosky takes over. Lewis handles the grants when they "go electronic" while Lopes manages the entire pre-application process and overall grants Guidance interpretations.

Lewis Kozlosky reaffirmed that the grant application process will be the same as before.

Petty: If a grantee has not received questions yet, could we expect any?

Lopes: Just because a grantee did not receive a question yet doesn't mean that he/she won't. However, be aware that the Grant Panel may make recommendations for funding that do not include each and every task in a pre-application, and just because the panel does not ask an applicant about it does not mean that a recommendation could be made that does not include all tasks for the total amount requested for each.

Wilson: Were all grantees asked to make budget cuts?

Lopes: Each pre-application is different, and each applicant is different. Most grantees were asked in different ways about potential areas where budgets could be cut where applicable.

Devaris: Having seen how the grant process works within NOAA, I wanted to commend Rocky, Marie, Tamra, and Lewis for getting these grants reviewed and managed on such a demanding schedule.

5. NTHMP summer meeting location and structure: Aimee Devaris and Rocky Lopes

- Meeting location: Lopes looked at potential meeting sites in Boulder, Honolulu, Menlo Park, San Diego, Seattle, and Silver Spring.

Location selection is determined by: 1) free meeting space meeting capacity requirements is available within walking or hotel-provided shuttle distance; 2) that an adequate number of hotel rooms is available at the Government per diem rate; and 3) overall cost based on transportation, housing, and allowable per diem.

The cost for having the meeting in Honolulu was the highest at \$72K. Ground transportation between hotels and the meeting venue is difficult and not free.

Meeting space was not available in Silver Spring.

No hotels in the areas near Boulder or Menlo Park would accept the Federal Government per diem rate applicable for the respective areas. Lopes made contact with dozens of properties and also via national hotel chain sales managers. All said that they honor the Government per diem rate in those locations on a limited basis during non-prime travel months.

That left Seattle and San Diego. Both locations had hotel space that would honor the per diem and free meeting space in a Government building.

However, because the Federal Government per diem rate in Seattle jumped from (last year) \$152 to \$190/night and their tax rate is 3% higher compared with San Diego, it made the overall cost for travel and related expenses for this meeting increase by more than \$3,000 over San Diego. So San Diego is the recommendation.

Kevin Miller stated that he got space in the California State Office Building in downtown San Diego, with one room on the sixth floor and another on the first floor. He said that the building was rather old, but its location is great, right in the heart of downtown San Diego.

Devaris: San Diego is the meeting location. She thanked Lopes and Miller for their work to secure facilities and work out logistics.

- Lopes provided the proposed meeting schedule:
Monday, July 13: MES only (means traveling on Sunday July 12)
Tuesday, July 14: MES and MMS separate
Wednesday, July 15: MES / MMS separate 1/2 day, combined 1/2 day
- MES done at end of day.
Thursday, July 16: MMS only
- MMS done at end of day.

Devaris: Is this meeting schedule what we want to do, including travel on Sunday?

No one raised any concerns or objections to traveling on Sunday.

Lopes: Will communicate more details as we move forward to plan the meeting.

6. Meteotsunami Brochure priority

Ed Fratto stated that the creation of a meteotsunami fact sheet has been included on the National Tsunami Education and Outreach Plan, and appreciates that. However, he was concerned about the priority of when a fact sheet would be done. He raised this issue before when the June 13, 2013, meteotsunami occurred.

A meteotsunami fact sheet is a public awareness companion. There is no start date for this fact sheet in the National Tsunami Education and Outreach Plan. He would like to see a fact sheet completed sometime during calendar year 2015.

Fratto requested the Coordinating Committee support establishment of at least a start date for the fact sheet. It is an electronic document – not a brochure. There is not a printing cost issue; it is a matter of labor.

Devaris: Is this something that should go to the MES for action? Or should it go to NOAA/NWS HQ for action?

Rabenold: We put the National Tsunami Education and Outreach Plan together last year and ranked each item in priority order. The meteotsunami fact sheet is now priority 16 out of 17, but she realizes that the priorities were weighted by the number of votes from participants who do not have a meteotsunami threat. Some activities in the National Tsunami Education and Outreach Plan have been completed. She does not see why we could not get a meteotsunami fact sheet done by the end of 2015. This is a task for me along with subject matter experts.

Christa Rabenold asked Paul Whitmore: When will we be able to talk about forecasting meteotsunamis publicly?

Whitmore: We know enough to put something together.

Rabenold: Can you talk about work being done to forecast them?

Whitmore: yes, somewhat.

Titov: Meteotsunamis are a very active area of research. There are more unknowns than knowns. I do not quite know what we can say. Establishing a short deadline is not reasonable.

Whitmore: We will learn as we go through this about what we want to say and what we can say. It wouldn't hurt to start moving that way.

Fratto: If we can't anticipate setting a completion date, I'd be happy to set a start date.

Rabenold: it would be my lead to create this. Key players would include Whitmore, Titov, Fratto, and Kozlosky.

Kozlosky: Basic meteotsunami information is different from creating a meteotsunami protocol. We want to refine that protocol, engage the NWS Storm Prediction Center and local forecast offices to develop a protocol. A fact sheet is an easier goal.

Rabenold: To what extent is a fact sheet useful? It could leave people begging for more info.

Fratto: When the June 13, 2013, event happened, no one knew what was going on. Talking about a basic fact sheet that explains what it is. What we know about and what causes them – very basic information.

Titov: Let's start looking into it and develop a draft to circulate to NTHMP. Volunteered to review it.

Rabenold: Target having a draft fact sheet available by summer MES meeting and schedule a kick-off call to discuss, then develop a plan and coordinate from there.

Devaris: Keep me in the loop, too, please. There is a process for having fact sheets on the state-of-the-science and a review process. I can help us make sure we follow the model and use a template.

7. NTHMP brochure status

Christa Rabenold stated that a small group of people worked together to develop a two-page (front and back) NTHMP fact sheet so we could have something available in time for Tsunami Preparedness Week and for Congress. All NTHMP subcommittees were represented during the fact sheet development process and the draft includes everyone's comments.

It will be sent for formal approval on March 18, with a tight deadline so it can be made available on or about March 19.

This is version 1 of the fact sheet. Another version may be needed once the NTHMP Return on Investment report comes out.

Rabenold has control over the fact sheet. It can be changed or updated as needed.

Wilson: Thanked Christa for getting this done so quickly.

Rabenold: Thanked all who helped with it.

Devaris: The draft looks great, thanks for your work on this. This will work well with possible companion documents.

8. TWERA status

The House Bill (H.R.34), sponsored by Representative Bonamici of Oregon was passed by the House of Representatives in January and referred to the Senate. Senator

Cantwell of Washington has also submitted S.533, which is a Senate version of the bill. As far as we know, no action by the full Senate on either bill has occurred.

Devaris: We will keep this on our list of business until action is taken.

Wilson: I think it passed one Committee.

Lopes: According to Congress.gov, both bills were discussed by the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. On February 26, the bill was "ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably."

This means that a marked-up version of the bill has passed the Committee (Wilson was correct) and is pending for action by the full Senate.

No copy of the substituted bill is available at the time of this meeting. NWS HQ has been asking for it. We do not know the nature of changes in the substituted bill.

Devaris: If action is taken by the Senate between now and our next meeting, we will communicate with the NTHMP Coordinating Committee as soon as we know anything.

9. Old Business

There was no old business.

10. New Business

- a. Stephanie Ross: She will be attending and presenting at the Seismological Society of America meeting, April 21 – 23, in Pasadena, California. Who else from the NTHMP will be there?

Wilson: I will be there. I am co-convening a session with Lori Dengler about tsunamis.

Lewis Kozlosky also stated that he will be attending.

No one else responded.

Devaris: Do you need anything else or participation in your session?

Ross: Participation in the session would be great. I am glad that Rick Wilson will be there.

- b. Laura Kong: Right before the Seismological Society of America meeting, the US is hosting the 50th PTWS anniversary Tsunami Symposium on April 20 – 21 in

Honolulu. Kevin Miller will be there and will make a presentation on marine preparedness.

164 people have registered to attend the symposium. If anyone has any materials to distribute at the symposium, Laura will be happy to put them out. She is looking forward to Kevin representing NTHMP.

Devaris: When should materials be shipped to you?

Kong: Send them to her before the symposium. (Mailing address is: Laura Kong, International Tsunami Information Center, NOAA Inouye Regional Center, 1845 Wasp Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96818).

Miller: Thanked Laura Kong for the invitation.

11. Adjourn

Devaris: I recognize how everyone is working together in new ways. Thank you for your dedication and your service.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting May 19, 2015

1. Welcome and call meeting to order: Chair Aimee Devaris

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm ET.

2. Roll Call: Rocky Lopes

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Marie Eblé*, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Dr. Laura Kong*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa Rabenold*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynwood, WA
Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration, Washington, DC

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Erv Petty, Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks

American Samoa

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa DHS, Pago Pago, AS
Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore, NWS WSO American Samoa, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives

East Coast States

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

Guam

No representatives

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX
Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Corpus Christi, TX

Hawaii

No representatives

Oregon

Dr. Jon Allan, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Newport, OR
Ms. Karen Parmelee*, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management, Salem, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

U.S. Virgin Islands

No representatives

Washington

Mr. John Schelling, Washington Emergency Management, Camp Murray, WA
Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, Colville, WA

*Non-voting participant.

3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of March 17, 2015

Paul Whitmore made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Victor Huerfano seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

4. Welcome new Coordinating Committee members

Aimee Devaris welcomed three new Coordinating Committee members:

- Ms. Mona Barnes, U.S. Virgin Islands Emergency Management representative who replaces BGen. Elton Lewis.
- Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, Gulf Coast Emergency Management representative, who replaces Amy Godsey.
- Dr. Jon Allan, Oregon Science Representative, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), who replaces George Priest.

5. FY15 NTHMP Grants, status

Rocky Lopes stated that the NTHMP Grant Review Panel completed its work and made its recommendations to Aimee Devaris and Mike Angove. They accepted the panel's recommendations after a thorough review.

Angove forwarded the recommendations with the Chair's endorsement to NWS Management. Management approved revised recommendations on May 5. Lopes announced to each grantee what the grant award amounts that were approved to include in a specifically-tailored message sent on May 6.

The formal "Request for Application" period for FY15 NTHMP grants is now open. A response to the RFA is due from each applicant by May 29. Applications submitted by that date will provide the required 90-day review period by the NOAA Acquisitions & Grants Office so that awards can be made by the end of August for a 1 September start date, as planned.

Lewis Kozlosky announced that we have received one application already. Aimee Devaris thanked Marie Eble, Tamra Biasco, & Rocky Lopes for their work on the review panel.

6. NTHMP summer meeting update

- MES: Kevin Miller stated that the MES draft agenda is on the website. Meeting begins July 13. Please bring success stories on tsunami preparedness campaigns. This is a working meeting to make progress on some of the elements of the strategic plan, performance metrics, 3-4 common survey questions for evaluating outreach projects, and common media outreach strategies. The MES will begin looking at the next strategic plan.

Kevin also announced that the MES has a phone meeting scheduled May 27.

- MMS: Dmitry Nicolsky said that a conference call with MMS members to finalize agenda for MMS meeting has been held. During the summer MMS meeting, there are plans to discuss the results of the January model benchmarking workshop. The MMS will try to formulate guidelines for maritime mapping & modeling as well. There has been much cooperation between the NTHMP and the U.S. Coast Guard on maritime issues and with the USGS on tsunami sources.

The MMS is preparing for next year's workshop on landslide modeling. The last day of this summer's meeting will be a workshop on the present state of performance metrics.

- Joint meeting: Rocky Lopes said that there were some items of discussion planned during each of the MES and MMS meetings that would interest the other subcommittee members. So, they decided to extend the joint meeting time for those sessions – maritime guidance update and National Tsunami Assessment update by NGDC. The joint meeting will begin on Wednesday July 15 at 10:30am.

The rest of the joint meeting will be work sessions on topics of joint interest. The agenda is on the NTHMP summer meeting web page:

<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2015mesmms/index.html>

- Location and travel logistics update: Kevin Miller scouted out the facility where we will be meeting. He advised that there is no internet in the building, and no phone in the meeting rooms. No cell reception in first floor meeting room. We have to lower our expectations for connectivity. Little Italy is 3-4 blocks away, other restaurants are nearby.

Lopes stated that he is planning a group dinner for Tuesday evening, July 14, likely in Little Italy. The members on this call said it would be nice to go there.

He also said that the Doubletree hotel is very close to being sold out. There is a distinct possibility that the room block at the \$142/night Federal per diem rate will be booked up before the closing date. If you have not made your hotel reservations, do so immediately.

7. Meteotsunami Brochure

Christa Rabenold has developed a Meteotsunami Fact Sheet based on research she has done and using information provided to her from a small group with whom she is working. The draft version of this Fact Sheet is out for review, and is due back by the end of May. Christa thanked colleagues for helping with it. Aimee Devaris said that she didn't think that we need to follow an internal NWS review process, but she will look into it to see if it would benefit us. Christa offered her assistance.

8. NTHMP brochure (completed):

Christa Rabenold announced that the NTHMP Fact Sheet has been completed and posted on NTHMP website in HTML as well as two formatted versions (two-pager and trifold.) Rick Wilson and Aimee Devaris thanked Christa for working on it.

9. 2016 Tsunami Preparedness Week (date issue):

Christa Rabenold said that the NTHMP traditionally has been declaring Tsunami Preparedness Week for the last week of March in recognition of the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake and tsunamis. But the exercise in the Caribbean for 2016 is tentatively scheduled for March 16 to avoid conflict with Easter holidays. Easter during 2016 is on March 27.

Paul Whitmore stated that the LANTEX exercise will be March 16 and that the Pacifex exercise will be in June 2016 to leverage with the Cascadia Rising exercise.

Aimee Devaris asked when we need to decide a date. Christa said that we did not have to determine a date right now – we did it as late as during the annual meeting for 2015. However, we can discuss it further during the summer meeting.

10. TWERA status update: Lopes said that the NWS CFO's office received an inquiry from House Appropriations about NTHMP grant funding history. Lopes considered this a routine set of questions and provided answers that were sent back via NWS CFO to the requestor. Lopes also stated that the Congressional Budget Office is preparing its cost analysis of TWERA. The CBO does that for every piece of major legislation.

Otherwise, we have no more news about the status of TWERA before the U.S. Senate.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

Althea Rizzo requested that the NTHMP Rules of Procedure be reviewed again to consider issues related to proxy votes and allowing for NTHMP grants to pay for travel of non-CC members to attend NTHMP meetings.

Aimee Devaris stated that we recently reviewed the RoPs. (Lopes confirmed – the RoPs were updated in September, 2014.) She asked Lopes to explain how both issues are addressed in the current Rules of Procedure:

Lopes said,

- Proxies: Current RoPs state “NTHMP voting members must be physically present at an in-person meeting (on the phone during a teleconference) to vote. Proxies are not allowed.” This is on the bottom of page 5 under “voting procedures.”
- NTHMP Grant Funds usage for travel: there is nothing in the Rules of Procedure regarding restrictions of use of NTHMP grant funds for travel by non-CC members to NTHMP meetings. This restriction has been included in the NTHMP Grant Guidelines since the FY13 grant cycle. This was added for two reasons: a) fairness – so that there is not more representation at an NTHMP meeting by one state than another only due to the availability of travel funding; and b) priority – travel funding to attend meetings was considered to be a lower priority overall than other issues found in the NTHMP Strategic Plan.

John Schelling suggested that a working group should be appointed to recommend changes the RoPs, and perhaps develop a process to appoint alternates to represent Coordinating Committee members.

Lopes offered as the NTHMP Administrator to facilitate the group and prepare recommendations for a future NTHMP CC meeting. Althea Rizzo thought that would be a good idea.

Aimee Devaris called for volunteers. The following people offered to work on this ad-hoc group: Dmitry Nicolsky, Rick Wilson, Tim Walsh, John Schelling, and Althea Rizzo. Rocky will organize meetings as necessary.

Other new business:

Lopes said that he was working on the NTHMP “Return on Investment” report again. He essentially threw out the first version and created a new one, reflecting both past awards and commitments for awards from the period between FY08 and FY15.

The new report features vignettes from each NTHMP member state/territory and addresses how funding has been spent in four direct categories (public warning & notification; community preparedness; hazard assessment & mapping; and sustaining resilience; as well as one support category – NTHMP support (salaries & benefits of personnel hired with grant funds).

Lopes will make a data call to validate some numbers in the new draft of this report.

Wilson advised that he should also look for cooperative agreements from 2004 to 2007, and to look for improvements made when we didn’t get as much funding as what we did when we got more.

Lopes stated that the most frequent question we receive is “what do states and territories do with NTHMP grant funds?”

Jon Allan stated that it would be good to show progress over time. Lopes agreed, but said that the data do not align necessarily year-by-year. Sometimes it takes several years to fully realize an activity.

Aimee Devaris said, "looking at it from an analysis perspective – we need to demonstrate a range or scale of capability."

Lopes will continue working on the next draft of this report. He will send it to the Coordinating Committee approximately by mid-June to provide time for thoughtful review before discussion during the MES meeting this summer.

There was no other new business.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm by Aimee Devaris.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator

1. Welcome and call meeting to order: Chair Aimee Devaris

2. Roll call

NOAA

Dr. Grant Cooper*, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, AK
Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Laura Kong*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa Rabenold*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa VonHillebrandt-Andrade*, Caribbean Tsunami Wrng Pgm, Mayaguez, PR
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

No representatives

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Mr. Dan Belanger*, AK DHSEM (Guest)
Ms. Ann Gravier, AK Dept. of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Mr. Vinnie Atofau, American Samoa DHS, Pago Pago, AS
Ms. Jacinta Brown*, American Samoa DHS, Pago Pago, AS (Guest)
Ms. Elinor Lutu_McMoore, Weather Service Office, Pago Pago, AS

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives (they tried, but phone connection on their end wouldn't work.)

East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeastern States Emergency Consortium, Boston, MA
Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Guam

Mr. Chip Guard, NWS Forecast Office, Barrigada, Guam
Ms. Pilar Carbullido (tried -- called in one hour late due to time change mix-up.)

Gulf Coast States

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

Hawaii

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

Oregon

Dr. Jon Allen, Oregon Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries, Portland, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, Puerto Rico Seismic Network, Mayaguez, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Kiran Isidore (alternate), USVI Terr. EMA, St. Thomas, VI
Mr. Roy Wattlington, Professor Emeritus, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Ms. Tabitha Laird*, Washington EMD, Camp Murray, WA (Guest)
Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

29 present, 13.5 state votes (min 7); 5 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement was met.

*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest (8).

2. [VOTE] Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of September 29, 2015

Aimee Devaris called for approval of the minutes of the September 29 Coordinating Committee meeting.

Kevin Richards moved to accept the minutes as presented. Tim Walsh seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

3. [INFO] NTHMP Chair Position

Aimee Devaris introduced Dr. Grant Cooper, the NWS Western Region Director. Per NTHMP Rules of Procedure, the NOAA/National Weather Service Deputy Director Laura Furgione appointed Dr. Cooper as the new NTHMP Chair since Aimee will be leaving the NWS at the end of the month to become the USGS Alaska Region Director.

Dr. Cooper has had an illustrious background and 30-year career with the United States Navy. A full bio is here:

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/wrh_rd_bio.php

Dr. Cooper reports to John Murphy who is the Chief Operating Officer of the National Weather Service. Mr. Murphy is interested in the NTHMP. The AFS (Analyze, Forecast, and Support) Office where the Tsunami Program is within the NWS also reports to him, so his interest in the NTHMP is good for us.

Aimee thanked the group for the privilege of service as NTHMP Chair.

Dr. Cooper thanked Aimee for recommending him for the position. He indicated his interest in working with the NTHMP on how we can improve resilience for tsunamis. He visited California last week and attended a meeting of the Redwood Coast Tsunami Working Group and was impressed with their work. He looks forward to working with us.

[Interruption for surprise – the NTHMP sent a flower arrangement to Aimee to thank her for her service as Chair. General accolades and well-wishes flowed from group greetings.]

4. [INFO/ACTION] Follow-ups from last CC meeting

- a. Update on NTHMP Annual Meeting, subcommittee, and NTHMP/USGS workshop plans

Rocky stated that plans are going well for the upcoming NTHMP meetings in Boulder, Colorado, during the week of February 1 – 5, 2016. So far, 69 people have registered to attend one or more meetings being held during the week.

Meeting schedules, attendee's list, and other information are here:

<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2016annualmeeting/>

Rocky stated that the NOAA Group Travel request, which is a necessary step in the travel process, has been submitted for approval. Until Group Travel is approved, those being provided invitational travel may not make airline arrangements yet. Please standby for instructions and information.

However, you are encouraged to make hotel reservations. Space is limited in the closest hotel and the room block is filling quickly, so if you haven't made a room reservation yet, do so immediately or you may have to stay much further away. Let Rocky know if you need information on the hotel.

Rocky stated that the workgroup appointed by Aimee Devaris to create the agenda for the NTHMP Annual Meeting completed its work, and the agenda has been posted to the NTHMP website. Rocky noted that within days of the agenda being posted, four more people registered to attend the meeting.

Aimee thanked the agenda planning work group: Rocky Lopes, Kevin Miller, Dmitry Nicolsky, Stephanie Ross, Kelly Stroker, Rick Wilson, Nate Wood, and Paul Whitmore.

- b. NTHMP 2015 Annual Report

Rocky said that the NTHMP Coordinating Committee had been interested in having an Annual Report describing activities of NTHMP partners and subcommittees created to recap progress of 2015.

Rocky also described what in recent NTHMP Annual Meetings had become a tedious and lengthy process while giving "partner updates." Further, the NTHMP *TsuInfo Alert* newsletter editor is also requesting information from partners on the year's achievements.

To fulfill all of these needs, Rocky sent an email to NTHMP partners on November 3 explaining the concept of requesting one-pager from each of them as well as from each subcommittee. These one-pagers will compose the annual report. It can be referred to during the partner updates during the Annual Meeting, so the partner updates can be brief exceptional highlights.

The one-pagers should illustrate accomplishments from the partner or subcommittee and should include images. No one wants to read an all-text report. The one-pager is not a report only about activities accomplished with NTHMP grants – you can refer to that, but also include what has helped your agency/state/territory/university assist in “reaching the last mile for tsunami capability” (to quote Mike Angove.)

The one-pagers are due to Rocky by Friday, December 11. If you have questions, please contact him.

Kevin Richards: I like the concept. It sets expectations for presentations and an opportunity to know the requirements at the same time.

Aimee Devaris: I also like the concept and told Rocky that when I saw his email. I encourage all partners to contribute as Rocky requested.

5. [INFO] FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance, Templates, and webinars

Rocky stated that 22 people participated in two identical webinars held Nov. 5 and 9 about the FY16 NTHMP grant process. He explained that the FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance has been released, as well as updated Budget and Project Narrative templates, and other background information, including the PowerPoint presentation used for the webinars. All of that information is available on the NTHMP website, here:

<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/grants/portal.html>

While most of the information in the Grants Guidance is self-explanatory, Rocky emphasized that travel for NTHMP meetings is changing again. Due to a restrictive cap placed upon all Federally-funded travel by a Presidential Executive Order, the NWS cannot support travel for meetings in 2017 to the degree that travel was supported in the past. Therefore, grantees who can do it are requested to include travel costs for Coordinating Committee members to attend the NTHMP Annual and Summer meetings in their grant applications.

For CC members who cannot access grant-supported travel, the NWS HQ still intends to offer invitational travel. Our objective is to reduce the NWS-HQ direct-funded travel, but not eliminate it.

We know this change places a burden on our NTHMP partners, especially for some whose states have very difficult travel restrictions. We will deal with each NTHMP partner on a case-by-case basis.

Chip Guard: how will my travel be handled?

Rocky answered: NOAA will give your NWS region direct-cite funding codes because you're a NOAA Fed; your travel cannot be funded by a NTHMP grant. This applies to those within NOAA for whom we regularly fund travel. (Coordinating Committee members and Subcommittee Co-Chairs.)

Kevin Miller: I appreciate the thorough explanation and found the webinar helpful.

6. [DISCUSSION] Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015

Aimee Devaris noted that TWERA 2015 remains with the House of Representatives to which it was returned after passage and amendments of H.R. 34 by the U.S. Senate. Because there is no bill yet, we cannot conduct a review of the bill for this meeting as we had planned to do.

Rocky stated that he accompanied Mike Angove on Friday November 6 to a meeting with five staff of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee. This subcommittee has oversight of FEMA, and the staff had concerns about infringement on FEMA's authority and had some misconceptions that NOAA could or would issue tasks to FEMA or the Coast Guard for a response if a tsunami happened. We assured them that NOAA does not do that (and will not; it's not NOAA's wheelhouse), and the staffers visibly relaxed.

The Subcommittee staff also were very concerned about the potential for non-coordination of tsunami preparedness from earthquake preparedness. We assured them that it's the very same people in each NTHMP partner state/territory who do that, so the actions to coordinate come naturally. They also were very relieved to hear that, and that there is no potential for overlap or duplication of effort.

The final questions were on how FEMA participated with the NTHMP. Along with Mike Mahoney who joined the meeting by phone, we explained that

FEMA has two representatives who serve on the Coordinating Committee, and one of them (Tamra Biasco of FEMA Region 10) is a Co-Chair of the Mitigation & Education Subcommittee and also serves on the NTHMP Federal Grant Review Panel. Also, there has been close coordination on developing engineering guidance (tsunami vertical evacuation) with FEMA's Mitigation Division on which Mike Mahoney serves as a Branch Chief.

The Subcommittee staff wanted to make sure that any coordination with existing state hazard mitigation plans was done, rather than have the NTHMP create some form of duplicate requirement for a separate tsunami mitigation plan. We explained that the NTHMP expects and advocates for coordination with and support of existing state plans and wouldn't think about duplicating such work.

The only concern is that if the House attempts to amend the bill and it gets returned to the Senate, that the bill could die because it is not likely that the Senate will reconsider it again. The emphasis rests with the House subcommittee to release their hold and let it get on the House Consent Calendar for approval.

Marie: question – asked about the report to Congress about immediate earthquake and tsunami response.

Rocky: yes, we saw that. There are a number of Congressional reports in the proposed TWERA that got added, and will increase the burden on writing and responding. It seems as if that specific report requirement was inserted at the last minute in response to a reaction from the July article in the *New Yorker* literary magazine. Since NOAA does not have an immediate tactical emergency response requirement (other than issuing warnings), that the report pretty much is FEMA's responsibility, which they have acknowledged.

7. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

8. New Business

Kevin Richards: thanked Aimee Devaris for her support and extended his appreciation for her support.

All members echoed the same and thanked Aimee again for her leadership.

Aimee Devaris: this group has such passion for science, stewardship, and public service. The NTHMP is very creative and finds ways to make things happen despite budget uncertainties. You are very collaborative and openly share so much information. (To Grant Cooper): It will blow your mind when you see it. The NTHMP Coordinating Committee is a wonderful example of partnership among Federal, State, Territory, and University partners.

Chip Guard: has an issue for the MMS about safe depth for boats. Aimee directed Chip to the MMS Co-Chairs for discussion/resolution.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm

NTHMP COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING -- September 29, 2015

Via conference call

1. Call to order – NTHMP Chair Aimee Devaris called the meeting to order at 3:02pm EDT.

2. Roll call

NOAA

Ms. Aimee Devaris, NWS Alaska Region Director, Anchorage, AK
Ms. Kara Gately*, NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK
Dr. Laura Kong*, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Dr. Rocky Lopes*, Tsunami Program Deputy Mgr., NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa Rabenold*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky*, Tsunami Program, NWS HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa VonHillebrandt-Andrade, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Mayaguez, PR
Dr. Vasily Titov, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA
Mr. Paul Whitmore, National Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, AK

FEMA

Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region 10, Lynwood, WA

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, USGS Menlo Park, CA
Dr. Nate Wood, USGS Research Geographer, Portland, OR

Alaska

Ms. Ann Gravier, Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emer. Mgmt, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

Ms. Elinor Lutu_McMoore, Weather Service Office, Pago Pago, AS
(valiant but unsuccessful attempts to join us by Jacinta Brown, AS-DHS)

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives

East Coast States

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

Guam

Ms. Pilar Carbullido, Agana Heights, Guam

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX
Mr. Chayne Sparagowski, Coastal Bend TX COG, Corpus Christi, TX

Hawaii

No representatives

Oregon

Dr. Jon Allen, Oregon Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries, Portland, OR

Puerto Rico

Dr. Victor Huerfano, Puerto Rico Seismic Network, Mayaguez, PR
Mr. Wilfredo Ramos, Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency, San Juan, PR

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Kiran Isidore (alternate), USVI Territorial Emergency Management Agency, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Mr. Tim Walsh, Washington Division of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA

26 present, 14.5 state votes (min 7); 5 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement was met.

*Non-voting; ex-officio or guest

3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of July 15, 2015

Chair Aimee Devaris called for approval. Vasily Titov moved to accept; Paul Whitmore second. The minutes were approved.

4. Follow-ups from last Coordinating Committee meeting

a. Appointments of NTHMP CC Alternates

Rocky Lopes stated that he asked NTHMP CC members to appoint alternates if they wanted to; 4 were appointed as permanent alternates and were added to the NTHMP CC email list. Alternates may be appointed on an ad-hoc basis if one meeting may be missed by notifying Rocky any time in advance.

b. Update from Co-Chairs of each NTHMP Subcommittee on status of update/revisions to Subcommittee Terms of Reference:

i. MES: Kevin Miller reported that MES co-chairs have approved language for update of the Terms of Reference.

ii. MMS: Kara Gately reported that she and Co-Chair Dmitry Nicolski updated the MMS Terms of Reference and are waiting for an MMS meeting at which they will put the changes to a vote.

iii. WCS: Paul Whitmore reported that updates to the Terms of Reference will be provided by the next annual meeting.

c. Meteotsunami Brochure

Christa Rabenold reported that during the Coordinating Committee meeting of July 15, the committee requested that we extend the review of this fact sheet. That was done. With final comments, the fact sheet was completed and posted on the NTHMP website.

d. NTHMP declaration of 2016 Tsunami Preparedness Week

Christa Rabenold stated that the National Weather Service adopted having quarterly campaigns instead of recognition weeks. The NWS does not recognize Tsunami Preparedness Week any more. At the 2015 NTHMP Annual Meeting, the Coordinating Committee declared a Tsunami Preparedness Week. It was recommended that the NTHMP CC do it again. Potential weeks were discussed, and by unanimous decision following the discussion, Tsunami Preparedness Week will be March 27 to April 2, 2016.

e. *NTHMP Investment Activities Report* – status

Following the NTHMP summer meeting, Rocky Lopes received inputs from NTHMP partners to refine the report. Christa Rabenold formatted it using publishing software.

Aimee Devaris reported that the report has come out nicely with additions and changes as a result of the discussions in San Diego. The report was sent for internal review by NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs. They had a few concerns with a couple sentences in it. We will address those concerns to develop a final product that can be shared broadly. We will send it to

you so you will know what changes were made. We are close to finalizing it. Aimee Devaris thanked everyone who contributed to it.

f. Update of FEMA P646A *Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis: A Guide for Community Officials*

Tamra Biasco is working with Mike Mahoney at FEMA HQ to determine what needs to be updated. This item will be discussed at the next NTHMP CC meeting.

5. 2016 NTHMP Annual Meeting

The 2016 NTHMP Annual Meeting and related meetings will be held in Boulder, Colorado at the NOAA Research Center.

See web page: <http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/2016annualmeeting/index.html>

Rocky Lopes emphasized that the NOAA Group Travel list (where names are listed for those to whom the NWS will offer invitational travel) will be submitted on October 1. If your name is not on the list because you haven't registered, then invitational travel will not be offered. He thanked those who have registered already and said that he sent a number of reminders to those who haven't.

Rocky reviewed the meeting plan (shown on the website) and discussed the hotel situation. In order to ensure we have adequate rooms in the closest hotel, you need to make a reservation as quickly as possible using information that Rocky provided.

Question: "what if we made a reservation but did not receive a confirmation?"

Rocky said that confirmations are sent via a manual process. Just call the hotel again to ask for a reservation.

Rocky also thanked a work group that has been developing the agenda for the add-on two-day NTHMP/USGS Workshop. A preliminary agenda is almost ready.

6. Appointment of work groups

a. Working group to develop NTHMP 2015 Annual Report

At previous NTHMP meetings, a strong desire to develop an NTHMP annual report was expressed. The report will highlight activities and accomplishments by the NTHMP as an entity, including its subcommittees. This is different from a grants report that describes accomplishments with grant funds.

Volunteers: Dan Belanger (Alaska, volunteered by Ann Gravier), Rick Wilson, Kara Gately, Dmitry Nicolsky, Elinor Lutu-McMoore, and Kevin Miller. Paul Whitmore suggested Althea Rizzo would do well to represent WCS. Rocky Lopes will facilitate the group and organize meetings about it.

Ann Gravier asked, "When is the due date?"

Aimee Devaris said that ideally it should come out prior to February.

- b. Working group to develop agenda for NTHMP Annual Meeting
Volunteers: Kevin Miller, Paul Whitmore, Stephanie Ross, Dmitry Nicolski, Elinor Lutu-McMoore

Rocky Lopes will organize meetings among these volunteers to develop the agenda. He stated that the sooner we have a meeting agenda, the better we are able to attract additional meeting participants who make a decision on travel based on agenda content.

- c. Working group to develop proposed language on NTHMP clearance process

Rocky Lopes explained that there is confusion about “who clears what?” among products developed BY the NTHMP, FOR the NTHMP by others, or by other agencies. A procedure to explain the review and clearance process is needed. Rocky has developed a draft, but needs input and review from NTHMP members.

Volunteers: Vasily Titov, Jon Allen, Rick Wilson, Tamra Biasco.

Rocky will send more information and organize a meeting if needed.

7. NTHMP Mark (aka “logo”) – Plan to develop replacement

Rocky Lopes described that the current triangular image we are calling the “NTHMP Logo” is not really a logo. A true logo is an image that is immediately recognizable for the brand, such as the Coke logo for Coca-cola.

Rocky asked if any NTHMP members had designers who we could ask to develop a true logo for the NTHMP.

Vasily Titov said that there is a designer at PMEL. He requested guidance and criteria for logo development.

Chayne Sparagowski said that there are some local colleges who have designed logos for his organization, and he may be able to ask them for some help.

Rocky said that he would have guidance developed and send it to anyone who may be able to help with this action.

8. NTWC message update

Paul Whitmore provided an update on WCS actions which have recommended incorporation of social science and complex coast team recommendations into tsunami alert products issued by both NWS Tsunami Warning Centers. Paul is

working on a Service Change Notice that gives a “heads up” to product users that the NWS intends to make changes to the content of some of its products.

The new alert messages will be active at the end of November. Part of the new alert changes include breaking states out by state and Alaska into three segments so it is intuitive who is at risk.

Aimee Devaris asked, “Will this go out for public comment?”

Whitmore: The NTHMP WCS vetted and reviewed messages so there is no more review planned. Notice of change will go out via the Service Change Notice.

9. FY15 Grants and changes to grants reporting (“subaward” issue)

Rocky Lopes explained that effective with FY15 NTHMP grants, that NTHMP partners to the primary grant recipient are considered “subawardees” rather than “contracts” in the Object Class for grants accounting.

The biggest change that affects grantees is that subawardees now have to report on progress and financial spending just like the primary awardees have to do.

Rocky said that for most grantees, this is not anything new because the primary grantees often have that level of detail on progress and spending by their NTHMP partners. The only significant change is the reporting requirement to the Government now extends to the subawardee level.

Rocky and Lewis Kozlosky will schedule a conference call to explain the reporting requirements for grantees.

Ann Gravier asked that the conference call be scheduled sooner than later. Rocky answered that he will try to hold the call by mid-October.

10. FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance

As discussed during the NTHMP Coordinating Committee meeting in July, since NOAA/NWS is the provider of NTHMP Grants, then the Grant Guidance and requirements is written and provided by the NWS, not the NTHMP. At the time, Aimee Devaris offered to have the Grant Guidance shared with NTHMP partners for an early read before it becomes final. While NTHMP members are not asked to formally review the Guidance, any comments or questions are welcome during the early read period.

Rocky said that a draft of the FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance has been written. He needs Mike Angove to review it. Mike has been on travel and leave, so he has not been available. He returns to the office on October 5. Once Mike reviews the FY16 NTHMP Grant Guidance, it will be shared with CC members and formally posted on November 1.

11. TWERA status update

Aimee Devaris said that the TWERA bill has been moving this week in the Senate. According to NOAA Legislative Affairs, "the language you see in the proposed bill has been 'hotlined' and is what the Senate is shopping around [this week]. This is what the Senate staff negotiated with the House staff, and would replace the text of HR 34, (the version 'as reported' by Senate Commerce,) on the Senate floor in a "managers amendment." In other words, if no Senator objects to this compromise language by September 30, they will move it to the Senate floor, and adopt it by Unanimous Consent (UC) later this week.

"It will then be deemed to have passed the Senate, and will go back to the House (since it's no longer the same bill that the House passed when it approved HR 34 in early January). Since this language has been pre-negotiated, it would presumably move quickly (within a week or two) to the House floor under "suspension of the rules." This is how HR 34 passed the House the first time: limited debate; no amendments allowed; 2/3 majority required to pass."

Aimee Devaris continued: We will be closely watching it, but we don't know its status until it passes. All indications are pointing in that direction. Some technical changes were made to the bill based upon NOAA's input.

12. Old Business

There was no old business.

13. New Business

There was no new business. Earlier in the meeting, Ann Gravier from Alaska said that Dan Berlinger was hired in Erv Petty's position. We will see Dan at the NTHMP Annual Meeting.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm EDST. Aimee Devaris thanked those who volunteered for the work groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Lopes
NTHMP Administrator