

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Conference Call Notes

4/17/12

Vickie summarized that we are striving to have an open exchange with our partners with respect to the program.

Jane indicated there had been a “Tsunami 101” presentation to Sen. Inouye’s office, as well as to Puerto Rico’s Sen. Pierluisis’ office. Jason added that there was a request for drafting assistance on the rewriting of the TWEA. He also indicated that we have received several QFRs related to program activities. Rick Wilson asked for the results, but they are handled through CFO channels.

Jason indicated that Jane Lubchenco was asked if a Caribbean Tsunami Warning Center is needed, and the answer was no. He added that she is on Capitol Hill this week for follow-up.

Jane indicated the budget information that is available was provided to the CC via the “Blue Book” budget document.

There was discussion pertaining to the termination of funding for grants. Jason summarized that even though grants may not be available, NOAA should be able to support the states in other ways. Jane indicated that support could also be provided through the forecast offices and partners.

There was discussion on the possibility of creating some type of promotional group to get the word out on tsunami-related accomplishments. Jason added that we will need to determine the best way to move forward, and that we need to be careful to not violate rules concerning lobbying Congress.

George Priest voiced concern over the perception that NOAA upper management may not understand the accomplishments of the NTHMP. Vickie replied it may not be NOAA that is directly making the cuts, and that we want to keep the partnership going. Jason added we need to maximize the partnership and find ways to make it work.

The spend plan for FY12 is still to be determined, and all programs have to make do until it is approved.

John Schelling expressed concern on the timing of the receipt of funds, and we may need to revise target time-frames in work plans if needed. Jane took an action to determine the process of providing extensions. Jason added that he anticipates a normal grants process in August, however, the FY13 President’s budget will probably be in a continuing resolution.

Paul Whitmore stated that the NTHMP Strategic Plan revision may have to wait until the funding picture is clarified, since it will be difficult to set milestones until then. Rick Wilson suggested that the general milestones may be able to be determined, and they could be refined later. Vickie

indicated perhaps we can prioritize them the best we can. She added that the spend plan may not be ready for a couple of months.

Vickie summarized that this is the most difficult budget situation she has ever seen, but emphasized that the states should understand they have our support, and asked for patience and understanding as we move forward. John Shelling voiced appreciation of the efforts of NWS Tsunami Program personnel.

The next call is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 5th, from 3:00-4:00ET.

NTHMP Call Notes and Action Items

6/13/2012

1. Discussion on status of Grant review and process for funding. Jane noted that if reviews indicate progress has not been made or is insufficient, funding may be reduced or curtailed for those specific Grants. If that is the case, the Grant will be discussed with the Grantee via phone before final funding decision. Grant funding for FY12 will be put into the system by NWS HQ by June 30, 2012.
2. Repository “Lite” – this is the downscaled NTHMP Repository effort due to reduced funding. Contractor (Loren P) will be done at the end of June.
 - a. **ACTION:** Jane/Scott to send out link and spreadsheet for NTHMP review/correction on June 15th... responses due by June 22nd
 - b. **ACTION:** Scott to work with PMEL to post Repository Lite
3. MMS-MES meeting/Hazard Assessment Workshop at the end of July was discussed – all travel info and logistics have been disseminated. The MES group will discuss ways to enhance the NTHMP website at their meeting.
4. Rainer indicated that he may not be able to remain as an East Coast rep – if that is so, John S suggested contacting Elizabeth Barton as a possible replacement
5. NTHMP logo – general consensus was to make the current logo “crisper” and when used on publications, etc... spell out National Tsunami...etc.
 - a. **ACTION:** NWS HQ will get with a graphics person here to look at logo
6. Strategic Plan – per Paul W the draft will be out at the end of July
7. Rules of Procedure (leads: Tamra and Rick): no progress to date. Since much of this involves the Grant process, NWS HQ needs to have a person help with this.
 - a. **ACTION:** Jane to send Tamra point-of-contact at NWS HQ (done)
8. TsunamiReady – there have been some efforts on restructuring the criteria and making the application process easier and more efficient for our partners. Chris Gregg briefed this at the annual NTHMP meeting.
 - a. **ACTION:** Jane to get with Chris G to set up a GoTo meeting to brief ideas to date and answer questions... will also include NWS Regions/CTWP and interested WCMs since this is an NWS program primarily administered and overseen by WCMs
9. Discussion on how to manage NTHMP website in the future and maintain the Repository Lite. Noted that one reason that full repository effort was downscaled was due to on-going maintenance requirements. Options on how to manage this will be discussed in the future once Repository is online.

NEXT CALL:

Wednesday August 8th

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NTHMP Coordinating Committee Call Notes
11/20/2012

1. Mike Angove indicated the Tsunami Program will be supporting the NTHMP Annual Meeting in Portland Oregon, which is scheduled for the last week of January 2013. In order to keep costs down, the original plan was to not hold the subcommittee meetings that week. It was strongly pointed out that the most efficient use of travel and time would be to hold the subcommittee meetings when NTHMP members are in Portland. Mike said the concept of holding the subcommittee meetings that week will be revisited. John Schelling suggested that excerpts from state progress reports could be submitted as read-aheads in order to streamline the subcommittee meetings.
2. Mike summarized the Hawaii Congressional Delegation staff briefing provided last week. Model comparisons on the Queen Charlotte event were discussed as well as the PTWC's performance with the media. Overall the staff was satisfied with the performance of the Tsunami Warning System. ATWC warnings and advisories were also deemed successful. The TWEA reauthorization is expected to be similar in profile to the previous one, and is expected to be introduced to the Senate during the current session.
3. Paul Whitmore indicated some comments have been received for the NTHMP Strategic Plan and have been incorporated. The references to hazard analysis will be qualified with examples. The approach to mapping and modeling should be applied uniformly for new efforts in order to standardize the process. Standardization of land use planning would be most effective since it is still yet to be initiated. George Priest pointed out that it would be beneficial to investigate a multi-state combined approach. Paul will incorporate these concepts into the plan and will coordinate it with the team.
4. Mike reported that Chris Gregg is consolidating comments on the TsunamiReady criteria and will continue coordination of the revision.
5. Lewis Kozlosky said an attempt for a Presidential Proclamation will not be pursued for March 2013 since last year it was not approved above the NWS level. Mike indicated the proclamation will be vigorously pursued for 2014 in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Great Alaska Earthquake. Lewis said even though the Presidential Proclamation will not be pursued for 2013, states are encouraged to initiate and engage in state and local level Tsunami Preparedness Week activities.
6. NTHMP Coordinating Committee conference calls are to be held bi-monthly. The next call is scheduled for January 15th, 2013, from 3:00-4:00ET.

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Call Notes
9/18/2012

1. Jason Tuell introduced Mike Angove as the Acting Tsunami Program Manager. Mike expressed appreciation for all the work being accomplished by the NTHMP.
2. House and Senate marks on the President's budget restored funds for the grant program. The expectation is that grant funding will be maintained in the final budget. Jason Tuell indicated clear grant guidance should be available by next March. Grants are currently funded through next year. Paul Whitmore noted that October is the usual time frame for grant submissions. Jason indicated February may be optimistic, but March/April is the more likely time frame.
3. Rick Wilson summarized the accomplishments of the MES/MMS meeting. Significant information on local events and maritime community preparedness was incorporated into the draft NTHMP Strategic Plan. Model validation criteria and proceedings will be posted on the NTHMP web site. John Schelling indicated the TsunamiReady guidelines are being revised and will be coordinated with the Social Science grant PI. John will follow up with Mike on the recently developed National Education Plan. A spreadsheet that captures Federal, state, and local training efforts has been created.
4. Chris Maier summarized the discussion with the MES Executive Committee on the TsunamiReady guidelines. Input received is being incorporated and will be sent back through the MES. American Samoa will be designated as TsunamiReady later this month. There was discussion that it is sometimes difficult to get communities to fill out the TsunamiReady forms, even though other activities have been completed. Having WCMs fill out the forms may be a solution. In addition, incentives such as reduced FEMA flood insurance rates may help. John Schelling will send information on the National Flood Insurance Program to the Coordinating Committee.
5. Paul Whitmore indicated there was a meeting on the NTHMP Strategic Plan, and changes will be provided to the CC. Rick Wilson said there has been some progress on the NTHMP Rules of Procedure with Tamra Biasco.
6. Vickie Nadolski suggested that the NTHMP annual meeting could be held in Portland, Oregon, since it is a fairly central location and the Doubletree hotel was a good venue with accessible transportation. The last full week in January is the tentative time frame for the meeting. There were no objections to this proposal.
7. Jason Tuell indicated that funding will need to be worked within the Continuing Resolution if in place, but in the spirit of TWEA. Jason indicated that he is reasonably optimistic that funding levels could remain at current levels.
8. It was agreed the NTHMP conference calls can be held bi-monthly. The next call is scheduled for November 20th, 2012, from 3:00-4:00ET.