

NTHMP Final Meeting Notes
November 1, 2006
Silver Spring, MD

Opening Remarks were given by the NTHMP Chair, John Jones (NOAA)

Subcommittee briefs from the previous day's meetings were presented:

Mitigation Sub-Committee – Chris Jonientz-Trisler (FEMA)

- Comments to hazard mitigation report are due Nov 22, 2006
- Funding frustration – more work needs to be done
- Funding should be based on risk and relative maturity of state
- How to draw in new states
 - Would require them to create a 5 year plan
- TsunamiReady Changes
- Re-convening of the Mapping Sub-Committee was discussed

Action Items

- Specific Action Items from the Mitigation Sub-Committee will be included in the minutes of the sub-committee meeting (distributed by the Sub-Committee Chair)

Warning Coordination Sub-Committee - Paul Whitmore (NOAA)

- Reviewed Action Items
- Review panel for scientific criteria
- Follow-up regarding problems with NOAA weather radio coverage
- Review current warning message structure

Action Items

- Specific Action Items from the Warning Coordination Sub-Committee will be included in the minutes of the sub-committee meeting (distributed by the Sub-Committee Chair)

NTHMP SDR and GAO Recommendations - David Green (NOAA)

- SDR calls for actions in nine areas
- The NTHMP program is expanding
- The proposed framework for governance of the NHTMP has not been officially approved
- The GAO report has proposed 6 recommendations for the program
- The NOAA administrator to meet with FEMA and USGS regarding multi-agency requirement for loss estimation software that was identified in the GAO report.

SDR Implementation Plan Actions –Jenifer Rhoades (NOAA)

- Response to SDR Framework Document
- Provided an overview and timeframe for the draft implementation plan
 - Draft for NTHMP Review by end of November 2006
 - Final Plan March 2007

- The states requested a copy of the draft plan as it is currently exists. Jen stated that the plan will be sent out after the conference
- Questions regarding how the individual plans are being incorporated into the overall plan
 - Jen indicated that the more detailed individual plans can be used as guiding documents within NTHMP

Action Item

- Send out draft to NTHMP for review (Rhoades)

Tsunami Data Management Plan - Susan McLean (NOAA)

- Presented an overview of the plan (copies were provided)
- Adding pre-historic tsunami data to a separate National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) database
- Talking to NOAA librarian regarding how to add a bibliographic database
 - 1 librarian salary (cost)
- Question regarding the status of NTHMP website
 - Would like it to have the capability to look at specific areas (meta data)
- Missing model input data
- Questions on real-time access and mirroring for the states

Action Item

- Request that all surveys be sent to the Pacific Region
- How do states contact in NOAA for now and in the future for bathometric and topographic information?
- Is NOAA in touch with Navy Research Lab regarding what they are doing in this area?

NTHMP Assessment - Jenifer Rhoades (NOAA)

- Response to GAO Recommendation for an assessment of NTHMP
- NTHMP Telecom in July determined an external review would be best. Team was formed to come up with review criteria and a list of recommended external reviewers.
- Jen provided an overview of the review criteria
- Looking at holding the review for a period of 3-5 days in March
- Presented a list of potential reviewers

Action Item

- Requested NTHMP provide comments to Jenifer on what was presented at the meeting. Assessment criteria distributed at meeting; Information on the assessment will be sent out to NTHMP and request comments by a specific date. (Rhoades)

Tsunami Research Review Plan - Eddie Bernard (NOAA)

- National Tsunami Research Plan, Draft 10/27/2006 –Copies distributed for review
- Plan will be finalized March 2007
- **Comments on draft due December 31, 2006**
- Strategic Plan for Tsunami research
 - NOAA and USGS make up 80% of federal funds in this area

- Mostly on warning infrastructure
- Report recommendations
 - Enhance and sustain tsunami education
 - Improve warnings
 - Develop effective mitigation tools
 - Understand impacts of tsunamis on coasts
 - Improve characterization of tsunami sources
 - Develop tsunami data acquisition, archival and retrieval system
- **Discussed Action items**
 - What to do next with the report?
 - Do we need to do an annual review?

Additional ideas

- Publish report as a NOAA technical bulletin
- Produce a brief action plan which also identifies who should have lead responsibility
- Develop a research agenda for the national program
- USGS stated that the draft report will be of use to them
- NSF will help direct proposal but not funding

John Jones stated that the federal partners needed to get together and determine what items from the Research Plan should go into the implementation plan.

U.S. Draft Coastal Hazard Assessment - Paula Dunbar (NOAA)

- Joint NOAA (NGDC) and USGS effort to respond to the SDR
- Presented an overview of the report which will be sent out for review.
- **Comments are due on December 4, 2006**
- Went over a table in the report that captured tsunami event runups by state and region, deaths, dollar damage, and total number of runups. Data was from NGDC database for the years 1690 to present.
- There was questions from the group concerning why the report only looked at US deaths in the US Caribbean and not exposure of Americans for the whole of the Caribbean. May need to add a caveat to the report to state that the view/coverage was limited to responding to the SDR

Federal Partner Briefs

NSF:

Global Seismic Network – David Simpson (IRIS)

- Operated by USGS Laboratory in New Mexico and University of California
- Consists of 141 stations around the world that feed data to the warning centers
- Free and open data located on the internet
- The best seismographic machine was made by a Swiss individual who is retiring. Currently there is no replacement identified

Reasons for success

- Accepted Standards

- Open data policy
- Fundamental application
- Long-term and stable applications

National Science Foundation- Rick Fragaszy

- Overview of grant program and how the funds are distributed
- 6.3 million went to tsunami program research in FY05
- other than support for the Tsunami wave basin through NEES, the amount of funding for tsunami research depends on competitiveness of proposals – there is no budget at NSF dedicated only to tsunami research
- All NFS data that is produced through the grants are published and made public
- Very competitive process

U.S. Geological Survey – Bill Leith

- Overview of what they have done to improve the warning system
 - Upgrades to the National Earthquake Information Center
 - Upgraded the software and hardware for Hydra
 - Increased staff 24X7
 - Improved speed and accuracy of earthquake information
 - Release initial data and then updates rather than wait for additional data
 - Upgraded sensor stations
 - Expanded network in the Caribbean
- Mapping of faults and slopes
 - Research grants
- On-line data
- Earthquake notification system now sent to email and wireless devices
- CISN displays
- Working with the state of Washington to visit tribes and giving training on computers and use of CISN

NOAA

David Green

- Risk assessment is where we are heading
- Moving from warnings to forecasting
- Working on rolling up the various plans

Vasily Titov

- Overview of report *The Potential for a Tsunami for Pearl Harbor, HI*

FEMA – Dave Maustad

- Working on mitigation maps and flood maps as part of FEMA's flood insurance program
- Discussed FEMA's joint pilot effort with NOAA and USGS for modernization of flood hazard maps. Distributed copies of the Seaside Oregon Tsunami Pilot study dated August 2006.
- Need to incorporate education in state mitigation plans

- Stated that FEMA's flood insurance program can cover tsunamis
- Stated that all 50 states have approved hazard plans and that roughly 9000 communities have approved plans – the plans are not yet in a database for retrieval

NIST – Jack Hayes

- Presented an overview of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program
- Was reauthorized in October 2004 (PL 180-360) for 2005-2009
- Program oversight includes:
 - Coordination committee (Directors of NOAA, USGS, FEMA and NSF as well as OMB and White House Office of Science Technology and Policy)
 - Advisory committee (11 members all non-federal, 3 yr terms, report to Director of NIST)
- Programs strategic plan is posted on website www.nehrp.gov
- Management plan is being developed
- Working on how to handle a coordinated multi-agency budget
- Have stakeholder conferences
- Required to report to Congress annually
- Conducting a gap analysis for the program

NOAA Public Affairs – Theresa Eisenman

- Presented an overview of NOAA is using the media to educate the public
- Asked how NOAA public affairs could be of assistance to the program and states
- Comments from participants:
 - Would like developed after event media reports
 - Advice/assistance on getting media's attention/coverage of tsunami tests
 - Proactive web presence that would contain immediate updates
 - Provided input regarding b-roll located at the International Tsunami Information Center
 - Help with crafting National Tsunami Hazard Program Message
 - A focus group with national media to help the states get their message out
 - Setting up of a sharing arrangement with the states for media monitoring information

House Science Majority Staffer- Amy Carroll

- H.R. 1674 for \$30 million – 70% warning, 20% NHTMP, 10% Research
- Difference in funding levels between house and senate, was not worked out prior to recess
- Elections will have an impact on budget – maybe a lame duck session- Agencies are under a continuing resolution

NTHMP Meeting Notes November 2, 2006

Jenifer Rhoades re-convened the meeting.

Tsunami Mapping Sub-Committee Re-instatement – George Priest (Oregon/Dogami)

- Last meeting of the group was 3 years ago – no action on items
- **Question for group, “Should the group be re-established?” – Answer was “Yes.”**
 - Goals
 - Scientifically creditable maps
 - Useful maps that are used
 - Virtual community of maps

Action Items

- 5 pacific states and Puerto Rico send summaries of their mapping procedures to George Priest for compilation and distribution
- What would be the objective of group effort?
 - Structure
 - Will NOAA support the group and provide leadership
 - Host web site/blog/forum – information needs to be accessible
 - Technology transfer
 - Funding out of National program
- Alaska will work with NGDC to develop a way to show the data
- Should NTHMP establish minimum review standards for map products?
- Peer review of NTHMP maps?
- Benchmark testing and peer review journal articles
- Send George Priest inundation map review process

Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Voting Structure

- It was put on the floor that NTHMP needed to official determine a new voting structure due to its expansion from a membership of 5 states to 28 states, territories and commonwealths.

Several proposals were discussed:

- Proposal #1
 - USGS – NOAA-FEMA-NSF - 1 vote each
 - Western states, HI, and AK – 3 votes
 - Southern states, PR, and VI – 2 votes
 - Eastern States – 1 vote
- Proposal #2
 - USGS – NOAA-FEMA-NSF - 1 vote each
 - Eastern and southern states – 1 vote
 - PR and VI – 1 vote
 - Western states, HI, and AK – 3 votes

- Proposal #3
 - USGS – NOAA-FEMA-NSF - 1 vote each
 - Western states, HI, and AK – each state has 1 vote
 - PR and VI – 2 votes
 - Eastern States – 1 vote

- Proposal #4
 - Group PR, VI, and Southern states
 - Eastern States
 - Western states, HI, and AK

- Proposal #5
 - CA, OR,WA,AK, HI – 5 votes (1 ea.)
 - PR -1 vote
 - USVI – 1 vote
 - Eastern states – 1 vote (based on NWS eastern region AOR)
 - Gulf states – 1 vote (based on NWS southern region AOR)
 - Pacific territories/commonwealths – 1 vote (based on NWS PR AOR)
 - FEMA-USGS-NOAA-NSF – 2 votes each

Federal total -8 State total -10

Tie vote goes to chair

Written proxy from a non-attending member must verify voting preference

A motion to vote to accept Proposal 5 was put on the floor and seconded. Proposal #5 was unanimously accepted by the group as the new steering committee voting structure.

Proposal Structure

Jenifer Rhoades discussed the current information contained in the proposals. She stated that the current proposals did not reflect the true needs of the states. She asked if NTHMP would like to have a revised proposal structure in place for the next annual meeting.

It was suggested that proposals should include 5-year budgets as well as outcomes, needs/requirements to be used to validate funding requests.

A motion was proposed that Jen (NOAA) develop a structure template for the 5 yr budget plan and will include objectives and performance measures and seconded. The Motion passed.

Proposals

Hawaii – Walt Dudley and Jeanne Johnston

Provided information on the tasks they will accomplish with funding in FY2007.

Discussed a possible multi-state effort to have a Tsunami-POD/Van that could be taken to various locations around the country for tsunami education and outreach efforts.

Oregon expressed interest in collaborating on the effort – to work toward a proposal for next year. Oregon also asked for any other products that others have created so he can use it for their new program.

Oregon – George Priest

Alaska – Scott Simmons

California – Rich Eisner

Puerto Rico – Christa Von-Hillebrandt

USVI – Christa Von-Hillebrandt (rep)

Guam – Leo Espia

Program has more requirements than estimated funding. Discussion on how to help Guam through partnerships without increase expense.

Discussion on bringing states on board at a higher level of readiness. Especially since the Federal partners have gone through the smaller steps.

Discussion on using Homeland Security grants for buying the sirens instead of putting it in the NHTMP budget requests.

Southern States – Paul Whitmore (rep)

CREST – Craig Weaver

Action Item - need to get together before next meeting to discuss Dave Green's effort on USGS Tsunami Warning- another path to get the word out

Question for USGS if there will be a time when CREST will be funded by another source. Answer was NO. It was proposed that Jones bring up USGS overhead costs at the Federal partners directors meetings. Long term NOAA support for technical infrastructure (CREST)

American Samoa – Jeff LaDouce (rep)

Washington State – George Crawford

- Presented an overview of the state's program and the following priorities that were identified by the governor.
 - Evacuation maps
 - Private land access
 - Mitigation workshops
 - Exercises and drills
 - Business project
 - TsunamiReady program
 - Unified response from government
 - Alerts and notifications
- The greatest response to the program has been the local tribes

NOAA – Jen Rhoades

NTHMP Budget Proposal Vote

- Jen stated that the program is using the 2006 funding level of 2.291 million and that the proposal requests exceed that amount. She also discussed the current budget situation at NOAA (Continuing Resolution) and how that will impact when the states receive the FY07 funds (sometime after April 2007).
- John Jones then presided over the discussion about how the program dollars would be dispersed in 2007.
- **A budget allocation was proposed, a motion was given to accept the proposal, seconded, voted on and passed unanimously.**
 - **A copy of the approved budget allocation will be attached to this document.**

Contract Status – Jen Rhoades

Jen mentioned that the current 5-year contract with the original states will expire in June 2007. She will be working on new contracts between each state and NOAA during the fiscal year. The new contract will be for 5 years.

Next Meeting

A motion was proposed to hold only one national meeting each year and to have each NTHMP Region hold a separate meeting during the year (versus two national meetings per year). The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was proposed to hold the next annual meeting in Hawaii during the Week of October 29, 2007. The motion was seconded and passed.

Washington State volunteered to host the meeting in 2008 to coincide with the Earthquake workshop in Seattle during the same time period.

End of Meeting Summary Discussions

- Looking for a robust NTHMP website; NOAA will resolve
- Need to keep meetings more focused on NTHMP items
- Need to keep some of the Feds that left early through the state presentation portion of the meeting
- Mapping Sub-Committee Meeting to be held at Sandy Point. A motion was proposed to have Roger Hansen (UAK) be Chair of the Mapping Sub-Committee. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Need to give feedback to states that had their projects not funded
- George Crawford will take lead on letters for Governors' signature

Meeting was commenced by John Jones.

Attachments

Meeting Attendees
FY 07 Spending Plan