

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

9 January 2003 from 10:00am-12:00pm, White House Conference Center, Eisenhower Room

Names of absent members are indicated in italics.

Officers

Helen Wood (NOAA), Chair
John Filson (USGS), Vice-Chair for Science
Margaret Lawless (FEMA), Vice-Chair for Policy

Working Group Chairs

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

Rosalind Helz (USGS), Co-Chair
Steve Ambrose (NASA), Co-Chair

International Working Group

Larry Roeder/Fernando Echavarría (State), Co-Chair

Designated Representatives

CDC

Josephine Malilay

DOD

Earnest Paylor

EPA

Peter Jutro

FEMA

Margaret Lawless

FERC

Dan Mahoney

HUD

John Kennedy

Kevin Sheehan (alternate)

NASA

Steve Ambrose

NIST

Shyam Sunder

Noel Raufaste (alternate)

NOAA

Helen Wood

NRO

Keith Fennell

NSF

Priscilla Nelson

OHS

Bill Jeffrey

OMB

Erin McCartney

Gary Reisner

Jason Freihage

OSTP

Gene Whitney

State

Fernando Echavarría

Larry Roeder

USACE

Michael O'Connor

USCG

Ernesto Montijo

USFS

Sue Conard

US Public Health Office

Eric Noji

USGS

Tim Cohn

Other Attendees

DOT

K. Thirumalai

NASA

Craig Dobson

NIMA

Heidi Smith

NOAA

Chris Lewis (NESDIS/IA)

Darci Glass-Royal (GRS)

Dori Akerman (GRS)

John Gaynor (USWRP)

Levin Lauritson (NESDIS)

Mary Newton (NWS)

Nathalie Valette-Silver

Peter Colohan (GRS)

NSF

Robert O'Connor

USAID

Bob Becker (OFDA)

USGS

Kathleen Gohn

Rosalind Helz

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of Summary from Last Meeting
10:10 Report from the Chair
10:20 Report from the OSTP Liaison
10:30 Working Group: International
10:50 Working Group: Remote Sensing Applications
11:10 Document to Supplement FY04 Budget
11:20 Briefing, NSF in the Spotlight
11:50 Agency Highlights
11:55 Close

Handouts

Agenda
Minutes, December Meeting
Minutes, November Meeting
Minutes, International Working Group Meeting
Minutes, Remote Sensing Applications Working Group
Budget Document Draft v1
NASA Calendar
NSF Materials
Agency presentations on CD-ROM

Call to Order

Chair Helen Wood called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Summary of Discussion

1. Report from the Chair

Helen Wood reported on the December meeting of the Committee for Environment and Natural Resources (CENR), including the CENR's approval of the Subcommittee's name change from the Subcommittee on Natural Disaster Reduction (SNDR) to the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR). She distributed three logo concepts for the new SDR logo, and asked members to respond to the Secretariat with their preferences. She also distributed information about the new SDR web site, and asked members to respond to the Secretariat with any comments on design and content.

The SDR Chair and Vice-Chairs will meet with Kathie Olsen, Associate Director for Science, Office of Science and Technology Policy in two weeks. The meeting will address the Subcommittee plan of action and outputs for FY2003, as well as opportunities in the International and Remote Sensing Application Working Groups.

The next topic of the National Academy of Sciences Natural Disaster Roundtable is the National Earthquake Hazard Research Program (NEHRP): Accomplishments and Challenges (February 20, 2003, The National Academies). NEHRP is a 25-year collaboration between FEMA, USGS, NSF, NIST, and the February Roundtable is a discussion of the work accomplished by the Program. Priscilla Nelson suggested the Subcommittee create a working group to focus on opportunities within NEHRP. Margaret Lawless volunteered a presentation at the next SDR meeting from Craig Wingo, FEMA's point of coordination for NEHRP.

Ms. Wood ended her report with the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Nathalie Valette-Silver (NOAA) honoring her many years of service as SDR Secretariat.

Action

- Secretariat to forward agenda and registration information for the February 20, 2003 Natural Disaster Roundtable celebrating 25 years of the National Earthquake Hazard Research Program (NEHRP): Accomplishments and Challenges. Information also is available on the National Academies web site: http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ndr/NDR_events.html. Scroll to the bottom of the page for the "Seventh Roundtable Forum" and a link to the registration form.
- Secretariat to invite Craig Wingo, FEMA to present information on NEHRP and FEMA's role at the next meeting.
- Secretariat will forward SDR concept logos and instructions for viewing the new SDR web site.

2. Report from the OSTP Liaison

Dr. Whitney reported on the recent changes to the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) committee structure to create four committees: Science; Technology; Environment and Natural Resources; and Homeland Security. Each of the committees has a responsibility for international considerations, as well as issues of sustainability.

Dr. Whitney also outlined a few of the subcommittees, reminding the group that subcommittees are still being created and modified and that a final, accurate list will be distributed when available.

Action

- Secretariat to distribute a complete NSTC committee and subcommittee list when it becomes available.

3. Report from the International Working Group

The report from the International Working Group was postponed due to the absence of co-chair Larry Roeder, Jr. Instead, copies of the latest working group minutes were distributed to the members, along with a copy of a memo drafted by the National Science Foundation representatives to the International Working Group.

There was a brief discussion of the purpose of the International Working Group. Susan Conard suggested the International Working Group focus on international collaboration for science and technology related to disaster reduction. Fernando Echavarria asked about appropriate roles for the Working Group during international disasters. Gene Whitney suggested three opportunities for the International Working Group in the event of international response and recovery operations:

1. Members should look for information and technology that would be of immediate use in the response and recovery process.
2. Member agencies should look for research and development programs that would benefit from the disaster in ways that further the research.
3. The event is an opportunity to inform our long-term goals with respect to research, with the focus on what we will need to know in the future to be prepared for disaster events.

Several members suggested inviting a co-chair from a science agency as a link to the science and research aspect of the Working Group's mission. Priscilla Nelson recommended Larry Weber, National Science Foundation international affairs, for the position of International Working Group co-chair and the members agreed unanimously. She also suggested the International Working Group modify their Charter based on this discussion and return to the next meeting prepared to present it.

Action

- International Working Group to modify the Charter and present it to the February 2003 meeting of the SDR.

4. Report from the Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

Rosalind Helz, Co-chair of the Remote Sensing Applications Working Group (RSAWG), reported on recent activities. David Applegate of the Senate Natural Hazards Caucus Working Group briefed the RSAWG in their January 7, 2003 meeting, and will coordinate the Remote Sensing Applications Working Group brief to the Senate Natural Hazards Caucus on Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). The second draft of the SAR white paper will be circulated by the next meeting of the Working Group (February 11, 2003), and the brief will be scheduled to coincide with availability of the white paper.

The members also discussed the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters, for which NOAA is the U.S. lead agency. The late February meeting of the Working Group will include a

discussion of the International Charter, as well as the issues of facilitating SDR member agency access to remote sensing data.

Action

- SAR White Paper writing team to complete the second draft of the white paper and redistribute to Working Group members by the February 11, 2003 meeting of the group.

5. Document to Supplement the President's FY2004 Budget

The members discussed the first draft of the Document to Supplement the President's FY2004 Budget, currently scheduled for publication mid-April 2003.

Gene Whitney reemphasized that the SDR should be playing an advisory role with respect to science and technology issues for disaster reduction. There was also a thorough conversation of the "Recommendations" section of the document, with several members noting concern that "Recommendations" from SDR may contradict individual agency submissions to the President's Budget. The members suggested a section name change from "Recommendations" to "Identified Needs." This name change highlights the Subcommittee's responsibility for identifying gaps, while acknowledging the Administration's priorities. Members also suggested that the paper specifically highlight the benefit of investment in science and technology for disaster reduction, calculated in particular in terms of the "payoff" for the next disaster.

The final document will be shared with a variety of groups, including the Senate Natural Hazards Caucus.

Action

- The Secretariat will distribute an interim draft by January 17, 2003. Members to provide comments and suggestions on the document by January 31, 2003.

6. NSF Briefing

Dr. Priscilla Nelson provided a briefing on National Science Foundation (NSF) programs related to natural disaster reduction. Her briefing focused on NSF research investments in disasters and hazard mitigation, especially the NSF programs related to the SDR. Of particular interest was the total amount of NSF hazards funding in FY2002: \$130 million (estimate).

Action

- Copies of the "NSF in the Spotlight" brief will be available at the February meeting, or members may request a copy by sending an email to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com).

7. Agenda Items and Other Communications with the Subcommittee

Please send proposed agenda items and any other items intended for distribution to the full Subcommittee to Dori Akerman (dori@grs-solutions.com) by January 30, 2003.

8. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

Helen Wood, Chair, 301-457-5120, helen.wood@noaa.gov
John Filson, Co-Chair for Science, 703-648-6715, jfilson@usgs.gov
Margaret Lawless, Co-Chair for Policy, 202-646-3027, margaret.lawless@fema.gov

International Working Group

Larry Roeder, Co-Chair, 202-647-5070, roederla@state.gov
Fernando Echavarría, Co-Chair, 202-663-2395, echavarriafr@state.gov

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

Rosalind Helz, Co-Chair, 703-648-6086, rhelz@usgs.gov
Steve Ambrose, Co-Chair, 202-358-0851, sambrose@hq.nasa.gov

Secretariat

Dori Akerman, 703-560-7448, dori@grs-solutions.com

9. Future Meetings

The SDR meets on the first or second Thursday of every month at 10am in the White House Conference Center. Upcoming meeting dates:

February 6, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
March 13, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
April 10, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
May 1, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
June 5, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
July 10, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
August 7, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
September 11, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
October 2, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
November 13, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room
December 4, 2003	10am – 12pm	Eisenhower Room

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.