

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

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

Names of absent members are indicated in italics. Names of members participating via teleconference are indicated with a (T).

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, Jr./
Fernando Echavarria (State), Co-Chair
Larry Weber (NSF), Co-Chair

Designated Representatives

CDC

Josephine Malilay
Dennis Christianson (alternate, T)

DOD

Earnest Paylor

EPA

Peter Jutro

FEMA

Margaret Lawless

FERC

Dan Mahoney

HUD

John Kennedy

NASA

Steve Ambrose

NIST

Shyam Sunder
Noel Raufaste (alternate)

NOAA

Helen Wood

NRO

Keith Fennell

Duane Snow (alternate)

NSF

Priscilla Nelson

OHS

Bill Jeffrey

OMB

Erin McCartney

Gary Reisner

Jason Freihage

OSTP

Gene Whitney

State

Fernando Echavarria

Larry Roeder, Jr.

USACE

Michael O'Connor

USCG

Ernesto Montijo

USFS

Sue Conard

US Public Health Office

Eric Noji

USGS

Tim Cohn

Kathleen Gohn (alternate)

Other Attendees

FEMA

Craig Wingo

NASA

John Haynes

NOAA

Chris Lewis (NESDIS/IA)

Dori Akerman (GRS)

Mary Newton (NWS)

Peter Colohan (GRS)

NSF

Dennis Wenger

USACE

Andy Bruzewicz

USGS

John Filson

Rosalind Helz

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of Summary from Last Meeting
10:10 Report from the OSTP Liaison
10:20 Report from the Chair
10:30 SDR Interim Report
10:50 Briefing, USACE in the Spotlight
11:20 Briefing, NEHRP
11:40 Working Group, Remote Sensing Applications
11:50 Working Group, International
12:00 Close

Handouts

Agenda
Minutes, February 2003 Meeting
Minutes, January 2003 Meeting
Minutes, International Working Group Meeting
Minutes, Remote Sensing Applications Working Group Meeting
USACE Presentation (soft and hard copy)
International White Paper outline
Draft Cover for the SDR Interim Report
Earth Observation Summit Prospectus
DMSG Final Report
ISRSE Brochure

Call to Order

Acting Chair John Filson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Summary of Discussion

1. Report from the OSTP Liaison / Discussion of the Interim Report

Gene Whitney described the OSTP and OMB approval process for the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction Interim Report. He reminded members that the value of the document drops exponentially as time progresses and emphasized the importance of publishing this report in mid-April, as planned. The next steps to publication are as follows: (1) The SDR Secretariat will complete all changes to the document, ending with a complete copy edit; (2) the document will be graphically-designed to follow the final layout intended; and (3) this version will be sent to Committee on Earth and Natural Resources (CENR) representatives with a simultaneous note to the SDR members. Once the CENR approval process is complete, the document will be published to hard copy and in CD format. [Note: The "Document to Supplement the President's FY2004 Budget" is now entitled "Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction Interim Report."]

On March 27, 2003, the chairs and secretariats of CENR subcommittees will meet to facilitate communication among the subcommittees, especially with respect to the overlap in purview. The meeting will also be an occasion to discuss the procedural aspects of subcommittee operations. Margaret Lawless suggested the meeting members look for opportunities to increase interaction between subcommittees and with the CENR. John Filson concurred, suggesting the CENR consider joint meetings of related (sub)committees and other groups within the NSTC.

2. Report from the Chair

Acting Chair John Filson and the SDR Secretariat reported on the CENR Task Force for International Earth Observational Systems, currently working to complete two tasks:

1. Create a framework and strategy for moving forward nationally and internationally; and
2. Organize an Earth Summit, tentatively scheduled for July 31, 2003.

Science ministers and others who can make substantive progress on this issue will be the primary guests at the Summit. SDR members discussed the workshop SDR will host in conjunction with this summit and agreed to focus on observations for disaster reduction and sustainable development. Members agreed that an *ad hoc* Earth Observations Task Force of the SDR is necessary to review the materials to date and to help the CENR task force.

Priscilla Nelson suggested the Subcommittee request assistance from the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center at the University of Colorado (www.colorado.edu/hazards) in setting up a forum or otherwise supporting the activity. Dennis Wenger volunteered to explore the possibilities, and will coordinate with the SDR Secretariat.

Christopher Lewis offered copies of the Disaster Management Support Group Final Report. The Disaster Management Support Group (DMSG) was established in 1997 by the CEOS Plenary and tasked to support natural and technological disaster management on a worldwide basis by fostering improved utilization of existing and planned earth observing (EO) satellite data. The DMSG served as a forum to identify, and interact with, current and potential users of space-derived data as one of the tools to deal with natural and technological disasters. Over the last few years, the DMSG has transitioned its ongoing work to a number of international fora.

John Filson reported on his March 7, 2003 presentation to the Association of American Geographers. John Filson presented "The Role of The Subcommittee on Natural Disaster

Reduction in Reducing Loss of Life and Property Related to Natural and Technological Disasters,” part of the Panel Session *Geographic Information and Foreign Affairs: Institutional Perspectives on Next Steps*.

Action

- SDR Secretariat will include time for discussion of the Earth Observation Summit in the April agenda.
- Dennis Wenger will research possibilities for coordination with the Hazards Research and Applications Workshop and will coordinate with the SDR Secretariat.

3. US Army Corps of Engineers Briefing

Andy Bruzewicz provided a briefing on the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) programs related to natural and technological disasters, highlighting recovery efforts. His briefing focused on USACE work to translate information and technology from the military to the civil side and on GIS-based tracking and reporting capabilities.

Priscilla Nelson noted the importance of database access during and after disasters. She suggested the SDR initiate a working group and establish focus groups for a look at this issue, and the broader issue of information technology applied to disasters. Members agreed to consider this idea, and asked that it be added to the April SDR meeting agenda.

Action

- SDR Secretariat to include time for discussion of information technology for disasters in the April agenda.
- CD copies of the USACE presentation will be at the April meeting, or members may request a copy by sending an email to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com).

4. Briefing on the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP)

Craig Wingo, the Department of Homeland Security (formerly Federal Emergency Management Agency) lead to the NEHRP, provided a briefing on the program. Members discussed the implications of the new Department of Homeland Security for the NEHRP, and touched on the issues of social science input in the development of the research agenda.

5. Report from the Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

Rosalind Helz, Co-chair of the Remote Sensing Applications Working Group (RSAWG), reported on the recent activities of the Working Group. She discussed the recent meeting of the Working Group and referred members to the working group meeting minutes. The working group is completing final drafts of the white paper and a briefing on Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR).

Action

- SAR White Paper writing team to complete the revisions of the third draft of the white paper and redistribute to Working Group members by the March 25, 2003 meeting of the group.

5. Report from the International Working Group

International Working Group (IWG) Co-chair Larry Roeder, Jr. reported on the recent activities of the Working Group. Referring to the March 11, 2003 minutes of the Working Group, Mr. Roeder discussed recent accomplishments of the Working Group, including: group concurrence on the Working Group Charter; planning for the upcoming visit of the Director of the ISDR Secretariat, and a forum with other international groups to be held May 20, 2003.

Members voted unanimously to accept the International Working Group Charter, as proposed:

The Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction's International Working Group (IWG) is charged with facilitating and promoting international cooperation in science and technology as it relates to all phases of natural and technological disasters. The IWG facilitates a dialogue between policy, and science and technology communities. The IWG provides an interagency forum to exchange information on disaster-related science and technology programs and facilities in other countries, and to identify and coordinate opportunities for beneficial international collaborations. Similarly, the IWG facilitates, from a science and technology perspective, the U.S. Government's contribution to and participation in relevant international programs and organizations, e.g. the United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

6. 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 March 27, 2003.

7. 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
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International Working Group

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Larry Weber, Co-Chair, 703-292-7240, lweber@nsf.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

8. 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:

April 3, 2003 (NOTE CHANGE)	10am – 12pm	OSTP Offices, Rear Conference 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 12:00 pm.