

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

10 July 2003, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 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

NSTC Liaison

Gene Whitney (OSTP)

Working Group Chairs

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

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

International Working Group

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

Designated Representatives

CDC

Josephine Malilay

DOD

Earnest Paylor
Robert Feden (alternate)

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 Echavarria
Larry Roeder, Jr.

USACE

Michael O'Connor

USCG

Ernesto Montijo

USFS

Sue Conard

US Public Health Office

Eric Noji

USGS

Tim Cohn

Other Attendees

NASA

Craig Dobson
John LaBrecque
NOAA
Peter Colohan (GRS)

John Gaynor (USWRP)
Nathalie Valette-Silver (NOS)
Don Wernly (NWS)
David Green (NWS)

USGS

Kathleen Gohn
William Leith

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of Summary from Last Meeting
10:10 Report from the Chair
10:30 Report from the OSTP Liaison
10:50 Brief, National Weather Service
11:20 Working Group, Remote Sensing Applications
11:50 Working Group, International
12:00 Close

Handouts

Agenda
Minutes, June 2003 Meeting
Minutes, May 2003 Meeting
Minutes, Remote Sensing Applications Working Group
Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Paper Draft (Helz/LaBrecque)
Draft Amendment to SDR Charter (Whitney)
Hard copies of NOAA/NWS Presentation (Wernly)

Call to Order

Vice-Chair John Filson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from 5 June 2003 meeting were approved.

Summary of Discussion

1. Report from the Chair

Dr. Filson began the meeting with a request for an update from the Secretariat. Peter Colohan provided a brief summary on the status of the SDR Interim Report publication and the Integrated Earth Observation System (IEOS) two-pager and announced upcoming presentations by Pierre-Alan Schieb of OECD and Charles Meade of Rand. Gene Whitney shared the positive reaction of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to the SDR Interim report but suggested that, given the lengthy approval process necessary for the longer document, the SDR should generate shorter, more focused reports in the future. The group also engaged in a brief discussion of the Rand report.

2. Report from the OSTP Liaison

Dr. Whitney introduced and distributed a minor amendment to the SDR Charter concerning the SDR's relationship with Congress. The spirit of the amendment is to adjust the language of the Charter to clarify the SDR's role as an advisory body to the Administration that does not serve as a liaison or provide information to Congress, but may communicate with Congress.

Action

- Dr. Whitney will forward an electronic copy of the amendment to GRS for email distribution to SDR membership; SDR membership will review amendment in advance of the August meeting; and Secretariat will include amendment as an item of business on the August meeting agenda.

3. National Weather Service Program Briefing

Don Wernly provided a briefing on the National Weather Service (NWS). Mr. Wernly focused on the vision, goals, and operations of NWS as it relates to and benefits disaster reduction as well as weather prediction capability.

After the briefing, the group discussed the problem, challenges, and need to expand public warnings, as well as the relationship of the NWS to private weather forecasters.

Action

- Secretariat will post the NWS presentation on the new SDR FTP site and provide instructions for downloading from the site as soon as the site is online.

4. Report from the International Working Group

The International Working Group co-chairs were not present and the report was postponed to the August meeting.

The International Working Group will meet again on August 19, 2003. If you are interested in participating, please R.S.V.P. to dori@grs-solutions.com.

7. Report from the Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group co-chair Rosalind Helz (USGS) reported that the working group was still in the process of arranging a briefing for the Senate Natural Hazard's Caucus on Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), as detailed in the minutes from the group's 19 June meeting. Ms. Helz also introduced John LaBrecque, who circulated copies of the SAR paper produced by the working group, provided an overview of the paper's development, and requested the SDR's review and comment. Craig Dobson (NASA) noted that NASA likely would be supporting the paper's layout and publication. Dr. Whitney (OSTP) praised the working group for producing the report, indicating that it was precisely this sort of scientific advice that SDR should be providing.

Action

- Secretariat will distribute a text-only version of SAR paper to SDR members via email, and a graphic version when it becomes available. Secretariat will place formal agency review of SAR paper as an item of discussion for the August SDR meeting.

The Remote Sensing Applications Working Group will meet again on July 21, 2003. If you are interested in participating, please R.S.V.P. to pcolohan@grs-solutions.com.

8. 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 July 30, 2003.

9. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

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Margaret Lawless, Co-Chair for Policy, 202-646-3027, margaret.lawless@dhs.gov

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

10. Future Meetings

The SDR meets on the first or second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Eisenhower Room of the White House Conference Center:

2003

August 7, 2003
September 11, 2003
October 2, 2003
November 6, 2003
December 4, 2003

2004

January 8, 2004
February 5, 2004
March 4, 2004
April 1, 2004
May 6, 2004
June 3, 2004
July 8, 2004
August 5, 2004
September 9, 2004
October 7, 2004
November 4, 2004
December 2, 2004

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.