

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

6 November 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

International Working Group

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

Earth Observation Task Group

Rosalind Helz (USGS), Chair

Grand Challenges Task Group

Tim Cohn (USGS), Co-Chair
Priscilla Nelson (NSF), Co-Chair

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

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

EPA

John Lyon

NOAA

John Gaynor (USWRP)

Nathalie Valette-Silver

Peter Colohan (GRS)

State Department

Joseph Bracken

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of Meeting Minutes
10:10 Report from the Chair
10:40 Report from the OSTP Liaison
10:55 Earth Observation Task Group
11:15 Grand Challenges Task Force
11:35 International Working Group
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

Agenda
Minutes, October 2003 SDR Meeting
Meeting Notes, Earth Observation Task Group
Meeting Notes, Grand Challenge Task Force
EOTG Agenda and Documents
IW-GEO Terms of Reference
ISDR Documents
Yokohama +11 Conference Information

Call to Order

SDR Chair Helen Wood called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led a round of introductions.

Approval of Minutes

Members approved the October 2, 2003 meeting minutes.

Summary of Discussion

1. Report from the Chair

Helen Wood reported on the Disasters Roundtable, "Hazards Watch: Reducing Disaster Losses through Improved Earth Observations" initiated by the Subcommittee and sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences on October 22, 2003. A number of distinguished guests presented at the Roundtable and the special session of the SDR held the following day, among them Bill Hooke (American Meteorological Society), Bob Hamilton (National Academy of Sciences), Bill Anderson (National Academy of Sciences), Greg Withee (NOAA/NESDIS, Co-chair of the IW-GEO), Terry Egan (Washington Military Department), William Gale (Ball Aerospace), Susan Conard (US Forest Service) and Sálvano Briceño (UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction).

In the special session of the SDR, Mr. Briceño requested a single point of contact with the United States for work relative to the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and preparations for Yokohama +11 (Kobe, Japan, January 18-22, 2005). SDR members agreed that it is appropriate to provide input to the U.S. national platform, especially with respect to the overall scientific and technological knowledge possessed by the members. The Subcommittee does not formally coordinate positions held by the United States, but some sort of arrangement is necessary to achieve effective coordination. Members agreed that the International Working Group should develop a plan to effectively coordinate with the National Academy of Sciences and involve the private sector and academia in an effective coordination mechanism. Such a mechanism also will be effective in addressing the new questions raised by the Grand Challenges Task Force. Priscilla Nelson suggested working with the National Academy of Sciences to create a standing board of the Academy. Helen Wood recommended inviting Bill Hooke (Chair, Disasters Roundtable) and Bill Anderson (National Research Council) to future a meeting of the SDR to discuss this in more detail, noting that there already is a significant relationship with the Disasters Roundtable and the National Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Briceño also asked the members of the SDR to represent the United States in a session on Earth observations for disaster reduction at Yokohama +11. This will be a topic of discussion at future meetings of the SDR.

Action

- SDR Secretariat will invite Bill Anderson and Bill Hooke to a monthly meeting of the Subcommittee to explore additional opportunities for coordination.

2. Discussion of the CENR Meeting

Helen Wood reported on the meeting of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) held October 28, 2003. CENR co-chairs Dr. Paul Gilman (EPA), Dr. Kathie Olsen (OSTP), and Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher (NOAA) led a discussion of the cross-cutting issue of sustainability, beginning with a discussion of the distinctions between sustainability and sustainable development. Members also were interested in exploring technology and practice from a

sustainability perspective. Vice Admiral Lautenbacher raised education as a possible CENR cross-cutting issue. Members discussed agendas and budget priorities at length, eventually establishing a plan to present a set of budget priorities in March 2004 and to arrange a related meeting of the CENR to provide advice to the OSTP.

The SDR may choose to publish a one- or two-page white paper relevant to these issues. Such a paper will not mention a specific program but will be tied to specific hazards. SDR members discussed the Subcommittee's position and possible approaches and priorities that might be addressed in the paper. Susan Conard suggested the Subcommittee set the goal of having a disaster reduction paragraph in the CENR's document. All members agreed that a draft of the overall white paper must be created in time for the December 4, 2003 meeting.

Actions

- Pai-Yei Whung will send a soft copy of the Marburger memo to the SDR Secretariat.
- John Filson and Susan Conard will create an outline and a draft memo.

3. International Working Group

Members asked that the next SDR meeting focus on the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) and the upcoming GDIN conference (March 25-28, 2004, Washington DC).

4. Grand Challenges Task Force

Grand Challenges Task Force Co-chair Priscilla Nelson distributed the draft Grand Challenges matrices created by the Task Force. The matrices have multiple dimensions of information required for each grand challenge and require individual agency self-assessment. Agencies will use the base matrix as a tool to identify participation and leadership relative to hazards, goals, and timeline, among other things.

The Grand Challenges Task Force sent a copy of the matrix to each SDR agency with the intention of encouraging grassroots agency thinking about the respective agency's role in these areas. Once agencies provide inputs, the Task Force will organize the information so that the next refinement of the Grand Challenges can be distributed by January 2004. The Task Force will conclude this phase of the process with an all-agency retreat in late January 2004. Helen Wood noted that NOAA is using a sophisticated relational database tool for similar work and that this tool may be available for use in the SDR Grand Challenges process.

SDR members also discussed the possibility of naming NIST representative Noel Raufaste to the role of Grand Challenges Task Force Co-chair. All members agreed to the appointment.

Action

- Helen Wood will discuss SDR use of the relational database tool with the NOAA database architecture team.
- Every agency will submit at least one matrix to Priscilla Nelson (pnelson@nsf.gov) before the December 4, 2003 SDR meeting.
- The Grand Challenges Task Force will meet December 2, 2003 at 1:00 in Room 120 of the National Science Foundation. The SDR Secretariat will distribute a meeting notice.

5. Earth Observation Task Group (EOTG)

Earth Observation Task Group Chair Rosalind Helz reported on the Task Group's success in developing Earth observation requirements relative to disaster reduction. For now, the outputs of this exercise are summarized in a series of tables. Ms. Helz noted that the Task Group's work will result in more detail than can be included in the National Plan and proposed the SDR publish a focused report on the topic. Among other things, publishing such a report will seize the opportunity to raise the profile of these details.

John Lyon (EPA, IW-GEO) led a discussion of the broader User Requirements chapter to be included in the National Plan and a review of the IW-GEO Chapter list, including a discussion of the organization of the User Requirements chapter.

Action

- The Task Group will meeting again on December 4, 2003 at 1 p.m. in the Eisenhower Room of the White House Conference Center.

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 December 1, 2003.

7. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

Helen Wood, Chair, 301-713-1140, helen.wood@noaa.gov

John Filson, Vice-Chair for Science, 703-648-6715, jfilson@usgs.gov

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

International Working Group

Larry Roeder, Jr., Co-Chair, 202-647-5070, roederla@state.gov

Fernando Echavarria, Co-Chair, 202-663-2395, echavarriafr@state.gov

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

Earth Observation Task Group

Rosalind Helz, Chair, 703-648-6086, rhelz@usgs.gov

Grand Challenges Task Group

Priscilla Nelson, Co-Chair, 703-292-7018, pnelson@nsf.gov

Noel Raufaste, Co-Chair, 301-975-6062, noel.raufaste@nist.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 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Eisenhower Room of the White House Conference Center:

2004

January 8, 2004

February 5, 2004

March 4, 2004

April 1, 2004

May 6, 2004

June 3, 2004

July 8, 2004

August 5, 2005

September 9, 2004

October 7, 2004

November 4, 2004

December 2, 2004

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.