

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

8 January 2004, 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 (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

Priscilla Nelson (NSF), Co-Chair

Noel Raufaste (NIST), 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

OMB

Erin McCartney

Gary Reisner

Jason Freihage

OSTP

Gene Whitney

State

Fernando Echavarria

Larry Roeder, Jr.

USACE

Michael O'Connor

Andy Bruzewicz (alternate)

USCG

Ernesto Montijo

USFS

Susan Conard

US Public Health Office

Eric Noji

USGS

Tim Cohn

Other Attendees

EPA

Regan Murray

NSF

Bob O'Connor

Dennis Wenger

Secretariat

Dori Akerman

Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 10:05 Approval of Meeting Minutes and Report from the Chair
- 10:10 Report from the OSTP Liaison
- 10:15 Discussion and Actions Related to SDR Input to Dr. Marburger's Guidance Memo
- 10:40 Presentation by the Environmental Protection Agency's Representative to the SDR
- 11:15 International Working Group
- 11:30 Earth Observation Task Group
- 11:45 Grand Challenges Task Force
- 11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes (December 2003)
- Dr. Marburger's Guidance Memo (June 2003)
- Notes & Materials, Earth Observation Task Group
- GEO Structure and Information
- IW-GEO Structure and Contacts
- Notes & Materials, Grand Challenge Task Force
- GDIN Flyer (March 2004)
- Conference on Disaster Management Flyer (June 2004)
- NSTC Structure
- Meeting Schedule and Member Contact List (FY2004)
- Annual Operating Plan (FY2004)
- Interim Report (FY2003)

I. Call to Order

SDR Vice-Chair John Filson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and led a round of introductions.

II. Approval of Minutes

Members approved the December 4, 2003 meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Vice-Chair

John Filson reported on the discussion of Noel Raufaste's recommendation that the SDR monthly meeting be extended to two-and-a-half hours. Though there was universal agreement that the SDR has a great deal of work to complete, it also was agreed that the SDR can establish special meetings whenever necessary rather than unilaterally extending the meeting time.

Actions

- The Secretariat will circulate an edition of the contact list that includes *ex officio* members.
- The Secretariat will circulate the latest copy of the NSTC structure.

B. Report from the OSTP Liaison and SDR Input to Dr. Marburger's Guidance Memo

Every year, the Directors of the White House Offices of Science and Technology Policy Management and Budget co-author a memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies entitled, "Interagency Research and Development Priorities." Last year, John Marburger and Mitchell Daniels co-authored the memorandum in which the following five national priorities were identified:

1. Research and development for combating terrorism;
2. Nanotechnology;
3. Networking and information technology research and development;
4. Molecular-level understanding of life processes; and,
5. Environment and energy.

Gene Whitney began the discussion of proposed SDR contributions to this year's edition of the memorandum by noting that the publication date is now in late February rather than mid-June as was traditional. Dr. Whitney asked that the SDR members formulate the committee's contributions in the meeting and pledged to coordinate immediately with the appropriate individuals at OSTP. The ensuing discussion ranged widely, eventually establishing the following disaster reduction-related areas for advocacy:

- protecting the community infrastructure against natural hazards;
- creating an all-hazards approach;
- identifying the aspects of the disaster management cycle and encouraging research and development in each piece, not just response and recovery;
- recommending research community synergies between homeland security and natural disaster research; and,
- emphasizing and expanding existing programs rather than beginning anew.

Members agreed that the following two items were critical and must be included in the memorandum:

- Advocating the leveraging of natural disaster research for support in combating terrorism, "Agencies should take steps to integrate existing research and development programs in

natural and technological disaster reduction and response with research and development programs for combating terrorism.”

- Referencing “disaster management and reduction” any time the environment or sustainable development are mentioned.

Actions

- Helen Wood, Margaret Lawless, John Filson, and Gene Whitney will meet with Kathie Olsen and John Marburger to present the disaster reduction issues relevant to Dr. Marburger’s spring priorities memo. Gene Whitney will arrange the meeting.
- The Secretariat will circulate a copy of Homeland Security Presidential Directive entitled, “Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection.”
- Peter Jutro will ask CENR co-chair Paul Gilman to support the SDR contributions to Dr. Marburger’s memo.

C. Presentation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Representative to the SDR

Peter Jutro, Counselor to the EPA Administrator for Environment and Security and the EPA representative to the SDR, presented an overview of the EPA roles for disaster reduction and homeland security. Dr. Jutro noted that the EPA is accountable for more than sixty Federal statutes and reports to 84 Congressional committees. He outlined the EPA role in the Federal Response Plan; the National Contingency Plan; and the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan. He also reported on the developing EPA role in Homeland Security including, but not limited to, the following tasks: cleaning up decontamination; ensuring water protection; and disseminating public health risk information.

Several members suggested the SDR engage with the Department of Homeland Security, ideally by arranging a briefing by the SDR leadership to Dr. Parney Albright, Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security. Such a meeting would be an occasion to identify opportunities for the SDR to serve the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security. Identifying such opportunities ensures that the SDR is well-positioned to share expertise on disaster reduction, and represents an opportunity to leverage knowledge about natural disasters for use in the counterterrorism community.

Actions

- Peter Jutro will recommend candidates to represent the Department of Homeland Security’s Directorate for Science and Technology on the SDR.
- The Secretariat will post a copy of Peter Jutro’s presentation on the SDR web site (www.sdr.gov).
- Helen Wood, Margaret Lawless, John Filson, and Gene Whitney will meet with Dr. Penrose Albright to discuss disaster reduction issues relevant to the Department of Homeland Security. Gene Whitney will call Dr. Albright to arrange the meeting.

D. International Working Group

International Working Group Co-Chairs Larry Roeder, Fernando Echavarría, and Larry Weber were not present; the International Working Group report was postponed until the February SDR meeting. SDR members agreed that the International Working Group should address the issue of establishing

international research and development (R&D) relationships prior to disasters so as to ensure effective U.S. agency R&D in the post-disaster environment.

E. 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, but the Task Group also will review the data to verify the capabilities of the observational data for achieving the intended benefit.

F. Grand Challenges Task Force

Grand Challenges Task Force Co-chairs Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste reported on the recent activities of the Task Force, reminding members that involvement from all agencies is critical. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify the ten-year national investment priorities for research and development related to disaster reduction. Gene Whitney amplified their remarks, noting that the identified priorities will become guidance to the White House and ultimately will inform the budget process as well

Noel Raufaste described the Grand Challenges handouts, adding that the Grand Challenges submitted by each agency do not have to be thoroughly identified and formulated. Some of the submissions may simply be prose paragraphs summarizing the challenge and the related opportunity. The timeline for the Grand Challenges Task Force is as follows:

Deadline: Grand Challenges inputs from agency representatives.....2004-0109 / All
Task Force Meeting: Discussion of inputs and next actions..... 2004-0123 / Task Force
Task Force Off-Site: Invent, discuss, and finalize Grand Challenges2004-05 / All

Actions

- Each SDR representative will name a Grand Challenges Task Force representative from his or her agency.
- The Task Force Co-Chairs will call agency representatives to request Grand Challenges submissions by January 9, 2004.
- The Grand Challenges Task Force will meet January 23, 2003 at the National Science Foundation. The Secretariat will distribute a meeting notice.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

V. 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, 2004.

VI. 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

VII. 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

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

VIII. Summary of Actions

Topic of Discussion	Action	Lead	Date Due
Report from the Vice- Chair	The Secretariat will circulate an edition of the contact list that includes <i>ex officio</i> members.	Dori Akerman	5 February 2004
Report from the Vice-Chair	The Secretariat will circulate the latest copy of the NSTC structure.	Dori Akerman	5 February 2004
SDR Input to Dr. Marburger's Guidance Memo	Helen Wood, Margaret Lawless, John Filson, and Gene Whitney will meet with Kathie Olsen and John Marburger to present the disaster reduction issues relevant to Dr. Marburger's spring priorities memo. Gene Whitney will arrange the meeting.	Gene Whitney	12 February 2004
SDR Input to Dr. Marburger's Guidance Memo	The Secretariat will circulate a copy of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive entitled, "Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection."	Dori Akerman	5 February 2004
SDR Input to Dr. Marburger's Guidance Memo	Peter Jutro will ask CENR co-chair Paul Gilman to support the SDR contributions to Dr. Marburger's memo.	Peter Jutro	5 February 2004
Presentation by the EPA Representative to the SDR	Peter Jutro will recommend candidates to represent the Department of Homeland Security's Directorate for Science and Technology on the SDR.	Peter Jutro	5 February 2004
Presentation by the EPA Representative to the SDR	The Secretariat will post a copy of Peter Jutro's presentation on the SDR web site (www.sdr.gov).	Dori Akerman	5 February 2004
Presentation by the EPA Representative to the SDR	Helen Wood, Margaret Lawless, John Filson, and Gene Whitney to meet with Dr. Penrose Albright to discuss disaster reduction issues relevant to the Department of Homeland Security. Gene Whitney will call Dr. Albright.	Gene Whitney	5 February 2004