

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

1 April 2004, 9:30 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*
DHS Nancy Suski
DHS/FEMA *Anthony Lowe*
DOD *Earnest Paylor*
DOE *Tom Ryder*
EPA Peter Jutro

HUD *John Kennedy*
NASA *Steve Ambrose*
NGA *Monica Gaughan*
NIST *Jim St. Pierre*
NOAA Helen Wood
NSF Priscilla Nelson
OMB *Erin McCartney, Gary Reisner, & Jason Freihage*

OPHS John Babb
OSTP Gene Whitney
State *Fernando Echavarria & Larry Roeder, Jr.*
USACE *Michael O'Connor*
USCG *Russ Doughty*
USFS Susan Conard
USGS John Filson

Other Attendees

NGA
Peter Rinkleff
NIST
Noel Raufaste

NOAA
John Gaynor
Nathalie Valette-Silver

NSF
Bob O'Connor
Secretariat
Dori Akerman
Claudia Nunes

Agenda

9:30 Welcome and Introductions
9:35 Approval of Meeting Minutes
9:40 Report from the Chair
9:50 Report from the OSTP Liaison
10:00 Earth Observation Task Group
10:20 International Working Group
10:40 Discussion of the Challenges for Disaster Reduction
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes (March 2004)
- International Working Group Meeting Notes
- Earth Observation Task Group Notes and Materials
- Grand Challenges Task Force Notes and Materials
- National Academies Disasters Roundtable Overview
- Invitation to a Presentation on PAGE
- National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program Bill
- SDR Overview
- SDR Member Contact List
- SDR Meeting Schedule
- SDR Charter
- SDR Report, "Reducing Disaster Vulnerability through Science and Technology"

I. Call to Order

SDR Chair Helen Wood called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led a discussion of the new members appointed because of the recent re-vetting letter.

Actions:

- Members will review the membership list (see Attachment) and will recommend additional SDR member agencies by replying to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com). Additional agencies and organizations suggested in the meeting include: Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, General Services Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Peter Jutro will suggest a bureau and key contact within the Department of Agriculture.

II. Approval of Minutes

Members approved the 4 March 2004 meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Chair

Helen Wood reported on the status of Dr. Marburger's FY2006 Interagency Research and Development Priorities memorandum, noting that the memorandum still is being drafted and that an official request for contributions from the subcommittees is not likely. Instead, Ms. Wood will write a memo from the Subcommittee to the co-chairs of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources: Kathie Olsen, Connie Lautenbacher, and Paul Gilman.

Ms. Wood also clarified the Grand Challenges process and the opportunities inherent in the endeavor. She noted that this is the time for shaping and for moving forward – a time to make decisions and identify actions. She acknowledged the work of the Grand Challenges team, reminding members that the ultimate intent of this exercise is to create a document addressing Federal opportunities for investment in disaster reduction. The document will create a roadmap for the next decade of investment in disaster reduction, though it also will be available in time to frame the FY2007 budget discussions.

Action:

- Helen Wood will send a memo to the leaders of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources outlining the top three priorities for disaster reduction research and development.

B. Report from the OSTP Liaison

Dr. Whitney amplified Ms. Wood's comments, agreeing that it is critical that the Subcommittee create a ten-year disaster reduction research and development agenda.

C. International Working Group

The International Working Group chairs were not present; the International Working Group report was postponed until the May SDR meeting.

D. Earth Observation Task Group (EOTG)

Dr. Rosalind Helz reported on the accomplishments of the Earth Observation Task Group (EOTG). The Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction is the only CENR subcommittee with complete, submitted contributions to the U.S. National Plan. Moreover, the Interagency Working Group on Earth Observations (IWGEO) task group leaders have distributed the EOTG's work nationally and internationally.

Dr. Helz also reported on the status of the various charts drafted by the EOTG. Members reviewed the charts, and asked Dr. Helz to add a line to the crosswalk table for oil spills on land. Dr. Helz also outlined the draft U.S. National Plan chapter on disaster reduction and requested comments and suggestions. Members expressed concern about the presentation of the information related to warning systems, voicing two theories about the display of the information: (1) the information should be included in one place; or (2) the information should be spread carefully throughout the document. Members advised her to include early warning methods, needs, and systems in the documentation, but agreed in the end that it is better to embed the issue in all of the line items and throughout the chapter rather than limiting the issue to a single line or paragraph.

Members also suggested the EOTG add information to the chapter, particularly as it relates to the need for an information technology infrastructure for the delivery and effective use of information. Both John Filson and Bob O'Connor expressed the importance of enabling effective utilization and translation so that we reinforce the dissemination of accurate and timely warnings. And, they argued, it is important that we integrate our understanding of people's reactions into the warnings system and the fabric of our training and outreach.

Nancy Suski questioned the term "technological disasters," wondering if it includes terrorism. A lengthy and significant discussion ensued. Sue Conard answered Ms. Suski's query, arguing that it is critical that we clarify the linkage between natural and Homeland Security. We must show the linkages and the two-way street, but we must demonstrate the connections without being subsumed to the Department of Homeland Security. After all, the majority of disasters each year are driven by natural, not technological, hazards.

Actions:

- Dr. Helz and the EOTG members will revise the draft of Chapter 4.1 of the U.S. National Plan and will share it with members.
- Dr. Helz will complete the requested updates to the tables and will resend the packet to the Secretariat for distribution to the members.
- Dr. Helz will send the timeline and latest edition of the outline, chapter, gaps and opportunities chart to the Secretariat for distribution to members.
- Members will look at the reference list and update it, as needed. Helen Wood will send comments on weather satellites.

E. Grand Challenges Discussion

Grand Challenges leaders Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste reported on the recent activities of the Grand Challenges special focus group, reminding members that the purpose of the activity is to identify the ten-year national investment priorities for research and development related to disaster reduction. Peter Jutro asked about economic and psychic disruption, wondering if they are included in the phrase "reducing the loss of lives and property." They are. Sue Conard requested that the phrase be updated to include life, property, and *resources*.

Bob O'Connor noted that it is important not to collapse our concerns about the research agenda with our concerns about the development agenda; the two are completely separate. Gene Whitney concurred, adding that the typical focus is on research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RD³). Members also expressed concern about the grouping of Biological and Technological disasters into one category, recommending that a category for each be established instead.

Members agreed that a grand challenges offsite is very important and that it should occur on 24 June 2004. The Subcommittee also will coordinate a disasters roundtable with the National Academies for the September or October timeframe, and will engage with the National Academies again when the document is published in February. [Note: The offsite is now scheduled for 18 June 2004.]

Priscilla Nelson concluded the discussion by reminding members that this sort of ten-year vision requires high-level thinking and participation from all agencies. The results will be a succinct document, but we also have the option of publishing a supplemental document with additional information, as needed.

Actions:

- Josephine Malilay and Nathalie Valette-Silver will recommend new groupings for the Technological and Biological hazard teams, and will identify suggested leaders.
- Members will check their schedules and will note their availability for a 24 June 2004 offsite by sending an e-mail to the Secretariat: dori@grs-solutions.com. [Note: The offsite is now scheduled for 18 June 2004.]
- Members will suggest additional Grand Challenges literature resources and subject matter experts by sending an e-mail to the Secretariat.
- Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste will brief related NSTC committees and subcommittees on the Grand Challenges endeavor.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. ET.

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 Doris Akerman (dori@grs-solutions.com) by 29 April 2004.

VI. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

Helen Wood, Chair, 202-482-6120, 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. ET in the Eisenhower Room of the White House Conference Center:

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	By When
I. Call to Order	Members will review the membership list (see Attachment) and will recommend additional SDR member agencies by replying to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com). Additional agencies and organizations suggested in the meeting include: Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, General Services Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.	Members	29 April 2004 5 p.m. ET
I. Call to Order	Peter Jutro will suggest a Department of Agriculture bureau and key contact.	Peter Jutro	29 April 2004 5 p.m. ET
III.A. Report from the Chair	Helen Wood will send a memo to the leaders of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Among other things, the memo will outline the top three priorities for disaster reduction research and development.	Helen Wood	5 May 2004 5 p.m. ET
III.D. Earth Observation Task Group	Dr. Helz and the EOTG members will revise the draft of Chapter 4.1 of the U.S. National Plan and will share it with members.	Rosalind Helz	6 May 2004 10 a.m. ET
III.D. Earth Observation Task Group	Dr. Helz will complete the requested updates to the tables and will resend the packet to the Secretariat for distribution to the members.	Rosalind Helz, Secretariat	6 May 2004 10 a.m. ET
III.D. Earth Observation Task Group	Dr. Helz will send the timeline and latest edition of the outline, chapter, gaps and opportunities chart to the Secretariat for distribution to members.	Rosalind Helz, Secretariat	6 May 2004 10 a.m. ET
III.D. Earth Observation Task Group	Members will look at the reference list and update it, as needed. Helen Wood will send comments on weather satellites.	Members, Helen Wood	6 May 2004 10 a.m. ET
III.E. Grand Challenges Task Group	Josephine Malilay and Nathalie Valette-Silver will recommend new groupings for the Technological and Biological hazard teams, and will identify suggested leaders.	Members	16 April 2004 5 p.m. ET
III.E. Grand Challenges Task Group	Members will check their schedules and will note their availability for a 24 June 2004 offsite by sending an e-mail to the Secretariat: dori@grs-solutions.com. [Note: The offsite is now scheduled for 18 June 2004.]	Members	29 April 2004 5 p.m. ET
III.E. Grand Challenges Task Group	Members will suggest additional Grand Challenges literature resources and subject matter experts by sending an e-mail to the Secretariat.	Members	29 April 2004 5 p.m. ET
III.E. Grand Challenges Task Group	Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste will brief related NSTC committees and subcommittees on the Grand Challenges endeavor;	Priscilla Nelson, Noel Raufaste	28 February 2005 5 p.m. ET
III.E. Grand Challenges Task Group	The Secretariat will invite Bill Hooke, Bob Hamilton, Bill Anderson, and Tricia Kershaw to the May SDR meeting	Secretariat	16 April 2004 5 p.m. ET

Attachment: SDR Member Contact List

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction, 1 April 2004

Centers for Disease Control

Dr. Josephine Malilay
jmalilay@cdc.gov, 770-488-3465

Department of Defense

Dr. Earnest Paylor
earnest.paylor@osd.mil, 703-601-2439

Department of Energy

Mr. Tom Ryder
tom.ryder@hq.doe.gov, 202-586-1667

Department of Homeland Security

Ms. Nancy Suski
nancy.suski@dhs.gov, 202-772-9561

Department of Homeland Security / Federal Emergency Management Agency

Mr. Anthony Lowe
anthony.lowe@dhs.gov, 202-646-2780
Mr. Archibald "Trey" Reid (alternate)
trey.reid@dhs.gov, 202-646 3595
Ms. Margaret Lawless (Vice-Chair for Policy)
margaret.lawless@fema.gov, 202-646-3027

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Mr. John Kennedy
john_p_kennedy@hud.gov, 202-708-2203
Mr. Kevin Sheehan (alternate)
kevin_j_sheehan@hud.gov, 202-708-3137 x5195

Department of State

Dr. Fernando Echavarría (Co-Chair, IWG)
echavarriafr@state.gov, 202-663-2395
Mr. Larry Roeder, Jr. (Co-Chair, IWG)
roederla@state.gov, 202-647-5070

Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Peter Jutro
jutro.peter@epa.gov, 202-564-3331
Dr. Regan Murray (alternate)
murray.regan@epamail.epa.gov, 202-564-1203

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Mr. Steve Ambrose
sambrose@hq.nasa.gov, 202-358-0851
Dr. Shahid Habib (*ex officio*)
shahid.habib.1@gsfc.nasa.gov, 301-614-5392

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Ms. Monica Gaughan
703-262-4465
Marty Tierny (alternate)
301-227-3234

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Mr. Jim St. Pierre
james.stpierre@nist.gov, 301-975-4124

NIST (continued)

Dr. Noel Raufaste (Co-Chair, Grand Challenges)
noel.raufaste@nist.gov, 301-975-6062

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Ms. Helen Wood (Chair)
helen.wood@noaa.gov, 301-457-5120
Mr. John Gaynor (*ex officio*)
john.gaynor@noaa.gov, 301-713-0460 x117

National Science Foundation

Dr. Priscilla Nelson (Co-Chair, Grand Challenges)
pnelson@nsf.gov, 703-292-7018
Mr. Larry Weber (Co-Chair, IWG)
lweber@nsf.gov, 703-292-8704
Dr. Dennis Wenger (*ex officio*)
dwenger@nsf.gov, 703-292-7014

United States Agency for International Development

Mr. Peter Morris
pmorris@usaid.gov, 202-712-1095

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Dr. Michael O'Connor
michael_o'connor@hq02.usace.army.mil
202-761-1839
Mr. David Mathis (alternate)
david.b.mathis@hq.usace.army.mil,
202-761-1846
Dr. Andy Bruzewicz (*ex officio*)
andrew.j.bruzewicz@erdc.usace.army.mil
603-646-4372

United States Coast Guard

Mr. Russ Doughty
rdoughty@comdt.uscg.mil, 202-267-0989
Commander Ray Perry
rperry@comdt.uscg.mil

United States Forest Service

Dr. Susan Conard
sconard@fs.fed.us, 703-605-5255

United States Geological Survey

Dr. David Applegate
applegate@usgs.gov, 703-648-6714
Dr. John Filson (Vice-Chair for Science)
jfilson@usgs.gov, 703-648-6785
Dr. Rosalind Helz (Chair, EOTG)
rhelz@usgs.gov, 703-648-6086

United States Public Health Services Commissioned Corps

RADM John Babb
jbabb@osophs.dhhs.gov, 301-443-3114