

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

3 June 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*

DHS *Nancy Suski*

DHS/FEMA *Trey Reid*

Priscilla Scruggs

DHS/USCG *Russ Dougherty*

DOD *Earnest Paylor*

Bob Feden

DOE *Tom Ryder*

DOI Larry Braun

DOI / USGS *David Applegate*

EOP / OSTP Gene Whitney

EPA *Peter Jutro*

HUD *John Kennedy*

NASA Steve Ambrose

NGA *Monica Gaughan*

Peter Rinkleff

NGB *Peter Aylward*

Steven Davis

NIST *Jim St. Pierre*

NOAA Helen Wood

NSF Priscilla Nelson

OMB *Erin McCartney, Gary Reisner,*
& Jason Freihage

OPHS John Babb

State *Fernando Echavarria &*
Larry Roeder, Jr.

USACE *Michael O'Connor*

USAID Peter Morris

USDA *Allen Dedrick*

Steven Shafer

USDA / USFS *Susan Conard*

Other Attendees

NIST

Noel Raufaste

NOAA

John Gaynor

Nathalie Valette-Silver

NSF

Bob O'Connor

Secretariat

Dori Akerman

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of Meeting Minutes
10:10 Report from the Chair
10:20 Report from the NSTC Liaison
10:30 International Working Group
10:55 Earth Observation Task Group
11:20 Grand Challenges
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- May Meeting Minutes
- International Working Group Notes and Materials
- Earth Observation Task Group Notes and Materials
- Grand Challenges Task Group Notes and Materials
- Disasters Roundtable Announcement
- Draft Presidential Statement for 13 October 2004
- UN-OOSA Workshop Announcement
- SDR Member Contact List and Web Site Instructions
- NSTC Organizational Structure
- Reports: NASA Aura; SDR Interim Report

I. Call to Order

SDR Chair Helen Wood called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Members approved the 6 May 2004 meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Vice-Chair

Helen Wood outlined the purpose of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) and the corresponding areas of focus: (1) The creation of the disaster reduction chapter within the U.S. National Implementation Plan for the Group on Earth Observations (<http://earthobservations.org/default.asp>); and (2) The establishment of a coordinated, strategic, national framework for science and technology research and development relevant to disaster reduction.

Ms. Wood also led a discussion of the Presidential Statement in support of the United Nation's International Day for Disaster Reduction (13 October 2004). Dr. Whitney agreed that the statement is important, though reminded members that it is difficult to release statements of this type through the White House Communications Office. Members reviewed the draft text and suggested several changes to create the updated version that follows:

Every year, natural disasters in the United States result in the loss of hundreds of lives and cost an estimated \$20 billion in the form of disaster aid, disrupted commerce, and destroyed public and private properties. In 2003 alone, 56 major disasters – floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, wildfires, and others – struck the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories. The United States recognizes October 13, 2004 as International Day for Disaster Reduction and proudly shares in the commitment to promote hazard mitigation. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to reducing disaster events and their effects through improved prediction, preparedness, and response, together enhancing our safety and economic well-being.

Ms. Wood concluded her report with a discussion of the upcoming Disasters Roundtable sponsored by the National Academies and the attendant opportunities for a Grand Challenges-related Roundtable this fall. She also encouraged members to organize a special meeting of the SDR following the Grand Challenges Roundtable.

Actions:

- Members will note that the July SDR meeting is 1 July rather than 8 July.
- Secretariat will update the draft statement and provide a copy to Dr. Whitney for concurrence.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

NSTC liaison Gene Whitney announced that the Marburger-Bolten FY2007 Interagency Research and Development Priorities memorandum has not yet been released. While acknowledging the Subcommittee's contributions, Dr. Whitney predicted that the memorandum probably will not be released this year.

C. International Working Group

The International Working Group co-chairs were not present and the Working Group report was postponed until the July meeting. Secretariat Dori Akerman briefly summarized the Working Group

areas of focus: (1) The special meeting with Dan Dubno, Senior Technology Producer with CBS News; (2) The Export Controls document drafted for the SDR.gov web page; and, (3) U.S. involvement with the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005).

The export controls document entitled, “The Potential Impact of Export, Travel and Transaction Restrictions on Disaster Reduction Research” was the result of a Working Group meeting with Elizabeth Farrow, a representative from the Treasury Office of Foreign Asset Control. Drafted by Larry Roeder, the document was edited by Working Group members in May and cleared by the State and Treasury Departments. Members agreed that it is a useful document and requested that it be posted to the SDR website.

Actions:

- Members will confirm availability for a Special Meeting of the SDR with guest Dan Dubno (CBS News) on 28 July at 10 a.m. in the Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center. The special meeting will focus on the following two topics: (1) Role of the fourth estate in disaster management reporting; and (2) Translating data on ongoing disasters for presentation on network news.
- The Secretariat will post the Export Controls document to the SDR website.

D. Earth Observation Task Group (EOTG)

Chair Rosalind Helz provided an overview of the accomplishments of the Earth Observation Task Group and briefly described the various documents, timelines, and inputs needed in order to contribute the chapter to the U.S. National Implementation Plan. The next thirty days are critical for this project and anyone with additions or corrections should contact Dr. Helz immediately. Constructive contributions include final edits, fact checking, and illustrations.

Discussion on the chapter ranged from concerns about the planning and integration aspects (covered in another chapter) to requests for additional mention of ecological and public health implications (also covered in another chapter). Dr. Helz agreed to reference public health in the chapter and will update the document before the next draft is shared with the Interagency Working Group on Earth Observations. Helen Wood acknowledged Dr. Helz for her leadership and the outstanding result produced in a limited time with limited resources. Members applauded.

Actions:

- Members will review the IWGEO Implementation Plan Chapter and send comments to Dr. Helz (rhelz@usgs.gov or 703-648-6086) by Monday, 14 June at 5 p.m.
- Dr. Helz will incorporate Public Health references into the disaster reduction chapter.

E. Grand Challenges Discussion

Grand Challenges leaders Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste reported on the recent activities of the Grand Challenges teams, reminding members that the purpose of the activity is to identify the vision and related ten-year national priorities for research and development related to disaster reduction. A Grand Challenge is a fundamental problem in science and technology, with broad economic and scientific impact, whose solution can be advanced by coordinated and sustained investment in research, education, communication, and application of technology. In other words, if we still are not equipped to handle the disaster in 2015, what did we fail to do? What can we do now to prevent those disasters?

Members discussed the individual hazard matrices briefly, and Dr. Whitney acknowledged Dr. Nelson and Dr. Raufaste for their outstanding work and guidance. Between the meeting and mid-June, Hazard team leaders and members will review the matrices from a multi-hazard perspective, identifying critical gaps and opportunities. Then, the materials will be combined and prepared for use at the 18 June offsite. These grids are the foundation of this visionary exercise and will be the source for the Subcommittee's recommendations. Ms. Wood suggested members focus on the top ten investment strategies within these areas, especially the ten major areas in which investment now will produce a drastic reduction in disasters. Dr. Nelson agreed, noting that it is critical that we also identify a vision as the context for the individual research requirements and major technology investments.

Hazard Team Leaders

DroughtPai-Yei Whung (NOAA)
 Phil Pasteris (USDA)
 Earthquakes..... Dave Applegate (USGS)
 Steve McCabe (NSF)
 Fire.....Sue Conard (USFS)
 Dave Evans (NIST)
 FloodDennis Wenger (NSF)
 Andy Bruzewicz (USACE)
 Public Health / Ecological ... Josephine Malilay (CDC)
 Nathalie Valette-Silver (NOAA)
 Severe Weather John Gaynor (NOAA)
 Shahid Habib (NASA)
 Technological..... Regan Murray (EPA)
 Josephine Malilay (CDC)
 Volcano.....Rosalind Helz (USGS)
 Grace Swanson (NOAA)

The Hazard-Specific Grid

Disaster Management Stage	Challenges: What can society count on in 2015? What are the benefits?	Key Research Requirements and Major Technology Investments
1. Disaster Process Research and Development (R&D) 2. Hazard Identification 3. Risk Assessment 4. Risk Communication 5. Mitigation 6. Prediction 7. Preparedness 8. Response 9. Recovery		

Actions:

- Members will RSVP for the 18 June Grand Challenges offsite June by replying to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com or 703-560-7448) no later than Friday, 11 June at 5 p.m. ET.
- The Secretariat will redistribute all Grand Challenges materials.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. ET.

V. 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:

July 1, 2004 (Note: Schedule change from July 8 to July 1.)
 August 5, 2005
 September 9, 2004
 October 7, 2004
 November 4, 2004
 December 2, 2004

VI. 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 24 June 2004.

VII. 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 Echavarría, Co-Chair, 202-663-2395, echavarríafr@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

VIII. Summary of Actions

Topic of Discussion	Action	Lead	By When
III.A. Report from the Chair	Members will note that the July SDR meeting will be held 1 July rather than 8 July.	Members	1 July 2004 10 a.m. ET
III.C. Report from the Chair	Secretariat will post the Export Controls document to the SDR website.	Secretariat	1 July 2004 10 a.m. ET
III.C. International Working Group	Members will RSVP for a Special Meeting of the SDR with guest Dan Dubno (CBS News) on 28 July 2004:	Members	21 July 2004 5 p.m. ET
III.D. Earth Observation Task Group	Rosalind Helz will incorporate Public Health into the disaster reduction chapter.	Rosalind Helz	1 July 2004 10 a.m. ET
III.D. Earth Observation Task Group	Members will review the IWGEO Implementation Plan Chapter and send comments to Dr. Helz (rhelz@usgs.gov or 703-648-6086) by Monday, 10 May at 5 p.m.	Members	10 May 2004 5 p.m. ET
III.E. Grand Challenges	Members will RSVP for the one-day Grand Challenges offsite on 18 June by replying to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com or 703-560-7448).	Members	11 June 2004 5 p.m. ET
III.E. Grand Challenges	Secretariat will redistribute all Grand Challenges materials.	Secretariat	4 June 2004 5 p.m. ET