

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

1 July 2004, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., White House Conference Center, Eisenhower Room

Italics indicate absent members. "T" indicates members participating via teleconference.

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 Dan Sosin (T)
DHS *Nancy Suski*
DHS/FEMA *David Maurstad*
DHS/USCG *Russ Doughty*
DOD *Earnest Paylor*
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*
Frank Hudoba
NIST *Jim St. Pierre*
Noel Raufaste
NOAA Helen Wood
Margaret Davidson
James Louis Freed (T)
NSF Priscilla Nelson

OMB Erin McCartney, Gary
Reisner, & Jason Freihage
OPHS John Babb
State *Fernando Echavarria &*
Larry Roeder, Jr.
USACE *Michael O'Connor*
David Mathis
USAID *Peter Morris*
USDA *Allen Dedrick*
Steven Shafer
USDA / USFS *Susan Conard*
USGS David Applegate

Other Attendees

CDC
Josephine Malilay (T)
DOT
Shelia Duwadi
NASA
Ted Biess

NOAA
James Lewis Free (T)
John Gaynor
Katy Vincent
Nathale Valette Silver (T)
NSF
Cara Virgili

USAID
Charles Setchell
USGS
Rosalind Helz
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 Presentation from Public Health Services
Commissioned Corps
11:00 International Working Group
11:10 Earth Observation Task Group
11:30 Grand Challenges
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- June 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 3 June 2004 meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Chair

Helen Wood announced a Special Meeting with Dan Dubno of CBS News on 28 July and requested replies by 21 July 2004. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss two topics: (1) Role of the fourth estate in disaster management reporting; and (2) Translating data on ongoing disasters for presentation on network news.

Ms. Wood also provided an update on the planning for the 28 October National Academies Disaster Roundtable discussion on Grand Challenges. This Roundtable is an opportunity to take a holistic look at the challenges hazards pose to the nation. Federal experts will be joined by other specialists and stakeholders in the field to discuss our current national capabilities for combating risks to lives and property and the opportunities for future investments that have the greatest potential for reducing disaster vulnerability.

Actions:

- Members interested in attending the Special Meeting of the SDR with Dan Dubno (28 July, 10 a.m., Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center) will RSVP to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com) by 21 July.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

NSTC liaison Gene Whitney announced that the FY2007 Marburger-Bolten memorandum, "Updated Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities" probably will be released mid-August. The SDR member contributions to the memorandum were presented to Dr. Olsen, but there is no guarantee that the disaster reduction information will be included.

Dr. Whitney also reported on the National Windstorm Reduction Act of 2004 currently in the House. (Note from the Secretariat: The bill passed the House on 8 July and was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.) Members agreed that the focus on disaster reduction is important, but prefer an all-hazard approach to the wind-specific approach outlined in this bill. Dr. Whitney concluded his remarks by acknowledging members for the success of the Grand Challenges process to date. It is critical that the document to be published next February remain focused on the grand challenges for science and technology related to disaster reduction; subsequent reports will outline the strategy for implementation and the near-term recommendations for agency investments overall and by hazard.

Actions:

- The Secretariat will distribute the National Science Foundation Testimony on the Wind Hazards Impact Reduction Program (WHIRP).

C. Presentation by Admiral John Babb, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps

Admiral John Babb presented an overview of the Office of Public Health Services, the U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, and key public health issues in disaster reduction. He noted that the SDR emphasis this year has been in three areas: 1) Increasing warning time; 2) Improving the accuracy of the warning; and, 3) Decreasing environmental susceptibility. Though important,

Admiral Babb argued that those areas of focus are just a starting point. He suggested additional focus on topics that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assessing food safety;
- Assessing potable water, waste water, sewer;
- Evaluating vector-borne diseases;
- Evaluating mold/mildew;
- Evaluating mental health;
- Disposing of livestock and wild animal carcasses;
- Identifying human remains, processing, and reburial; and,
- Educating the public.

The ensuing discussion ranged widely, beginning with a conversation about the need for a cost-benefit understanding of public health investments and costs. Cost estimates also should reflect the potential costs if mitigation or prevention efforts were not implemented. Members recommended a multi-hazard risk-based approach and suggested insurance models for risk as a starting place. David Applegate recommended a review of the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) cost benefit model calculation and a study of the benefits derived from the disaster that did not happen (i.e. the dog that did not bark). Members also agreed that it is critical to forecast health issues along with the weather.

Helen Wood and Gene Whitney concurred with all of the remarks, and agreed that it is critical that the SDR address public health more fully and in an integrated way. The key is to leverage our current capabilities.

D. International Working Group

The International Working Group co-chairs were not present and the Working Group report was postponed until the August 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; and, (2) The Export Controls document now posted on the SDR.gov web page.

E. Earth Observation Task Group (EOTG)

Earth Observation Task Group (EOTG) Chair Rosalind Helz Change announced that the timing and structure for the U.S. Implementation Plan have changed, and that the deadlines are imminent. Disaster reduction still is included and will continue to be included. She asked members to review the documents and to provide feedback by Friday, 2 July at 5 p.m.

Dr. Helz concluded her remarks by noting that there was a great deal of feedback from SDR members, and that prioritizing the variety of requests was difficult. All of the input was considered, though it may be found in other areas of the document such as the introduction, user benefits section, and the health section. She added that several additional changes to the documents still are possible, including the following:

- To reflect the fact that citizens are the ultimate users of this data;
- To include additional information on *in situ* observations;
- To strengthen the international section;
- To include additional sidebars and illustrations;
- To highlight the importance of the transition from research to operations; and,
- To pull more of the information from the tables into the text.

Action:

- Members will review the Earth Observation/disaster reduction text send comments to Dr. Helz (rhelz@usgs.gov or 703-648-6086) by 5 August.

F. Grand Challenges Discussion

Grand Challenges chairs Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste reported on the recent Grand Challenges successes, particularly the success of the 18 June offsite at the Bolger Center. They reminded members that the purpose of the grand challenges activity is to identify the vision and related ten-year national priorities for science and technology related to disaster reduction. Both asked SDR members to review the existing documents and comment to the Secretariat; the Editorial Advisory Group will receive detailed documents for comment throughout the next eight weeks.

Action:

- Members will provide Grand Challenges input by replying to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com or 703-560-7448) by 5 August.

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 28 2004 (Special Meeting with Dan Dubno)

August 5, 2004 (Canceled)

September 9, 2004

October 7, 2004

November 4, 2004

December 2, 2004

January 6, 2005

February 3, 2005

March 3, 2005

April 7, 2005

May 5, 2005

June 2, 2005

July 7, 2005

August 4, 2005

September 8, 2005

October 6, 2005

November 3, 2005

December 1, 2005

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 Doris Akerman (dori@grs-solutions.com) by 27 August 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 interested in attending the Special Meeting of the SDR with Dan Dubno (28 July, 10 a.m., Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center) will RSVP to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com) by 21 July. | Members | 21 July 2004 5 p.m. ET |
| III.B. Report from the NSTC Liaison | Secretariat will distribute the National Science Foundation Testimony on the Wind Hazards Impact Reduction Program (WHIRP). | Secretariat | 5 August 2004 10 a.m. ET |
| III.E. Earth Observation Task Group | Members will review the Earth Observation/disaster reduction text send comments to Dr. Helz (rhelz@usgs.gov or 703-648-6086) | Rosalind Helz | 5 Aug 2004 10 a.m. ET |
| III.F. Grand Challenges | Members will provide Grand Challenges input by replying to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com or 703-560-7448). | Members | 5 Aug 2004 10 a.m. ET |