

# Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

9 September 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 (T)  
*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  
**DHS** *Nancy Suski*  
**DHS/FEMA** *David Maurstad*  
**DHS/USCG** *Russ Doughty*  
**DOD** Earnest Paylor  
**DOE** *Tom Ryder*  
**DOI** *Larry Braun*  
**DOI / USGS** *David Applegate*  
**DOT** Dr. K. Thirumalai  
**EOP / OSTP** Gene Whitney  
**EPA** *Peter Jutro*  
**HUD** *John Kennedy*  
**NASA** Steve Ambrose

**NGA** *Monica Gaughan*  
*Peter Rinkleff*  
**NGB** *Peter Aylward*  
Frank Hudoba (Alternate)  
**NIST** *Jim St. Pierre*  
Noel Raufaste (Alternate)  
**NOAA** *Helen Wood*  
Margaret Davidson  
James Lewis Free  
Pai-Yei Whung  
**NSF** Priscilla Nelson  
Larry Weber

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

## Other Attendees

**DOT**  
Shelia Duwadi  
**Disasterhelp.gov**  
Chip Hines  
Gordon Fullerton  
Margie Yeung

**NOAA**  
James Lewis Free  
Katy Vincent  
*Nathalie Valette Silver*  
**NSF**  
Bob O'Connor

**Secretariat**  
Dori Akerman  
Will Hottel

---

## 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 by Disasterhelp.gov  
11:00 International Working Group  
11:10 Earth Observation Task Group  
11:30 Grand Challenges  
11:55 Close and Next Actions

## Handouts

- Agenda
- July Meeting Minutes
- Agenda for Disasters Roundtable on Grand Challenges Memorandum on Updated Administration Research and Development Priorities
- Proposed Marburger Statement
- Disasterhelp.gov Notes and Materials
- International Working Group Notes and Materials
- Earth Observation Task Group Notes and Materials
- Grand Challenges Task Group Notes and Materials
- SDR Member Contact List and Web Site Instructions
- NSTC Organizational Structure
- Reports: NASA Aura; SDR Interim Report

## **I. Call to Order**

NSTC Liaison Gene Whitney called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

Members approved the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes.

## **III. Summary of Discussion**

### **A. Report from the SDR Chair**

SDR Chair Helen Wood was unable to attend the meeting; Dr. Gene Whitney led the meeting in her stead.

### **B. Report from the NSTC Liaison**

Dr. Gene Whitney began his report by announcing the National Academies Disasters Roundtable, "Creating a Disaster Resilient America: Grand Challenges in Science and Technology." This workshop, created in partnership with the SDR, is an opportunity to take a holistic look at the challenges hazards pose to the nation. Federal experts, joined by other specialists and stakeholders in the field, will discuss national accomplishments in combating risks to lives and property. Panelists also will address the possible future investments that have the greatest potential for reducing disaster vulnerability throughout the country. The Roundtable will be held at the National Academy of Sciences Building on Constitution Avenue on October 28<sup>th</sup>. To view the agenda or register, visit <http://dels.nas.edu/dr/f12.html>.

Dr. Whitney also discussed the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with Dan Dubno, senior technologist with CBS News, and announced that Mr. Dubno has agreed to return on December 7<sup>th</sup> for an SDR-sponsored media seminar. Mr. Dubno and other key representatives from the media and Federal agencies will address opportunities for improved communication between the media and citizens, and between Federal agencies and the media.

The memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies, "Updated Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities," was released by John Marburger, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Josh Bolten, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The memo is designed to guide science and technology priorities on an interagency level. The memo does not address disaster reduction issues and members expressed concerns. Dr. Whitney acknowledged the concerns and reminded members of the opportunity to distribute a statement from Dr. Marburger in conjunction with International Day for Disaster Reduction (October 13<sup>th</sup>). A final draft of the Marburger statement was distributed to members for review.

The Interagency Working Group on Earth Observations (IWGEO) released their draft report yesterday. Copies are available in member packets or can be downloaded from the IWGEO website ([http://iwgeo.ssc.nasa.gov/draftstrategicplan/ieos\\_draft\\_strategic\\_plan.pdf](http://iwgeo.ssc.nasa.gov/draftstrategicplan/ieos_draft_strategic_plan.pdf)).

### **Actions:**

- Members interested in attending the National Academies Disasters Roundtable on Grand Challenges may register by visiting <http://dels.nas.edu/dr/f12.html>.

### **C. Presentation by Chip Hines, DisasterHelp.gov**

Mr. Chip Hines presented the goals and activities of the DisasterHelp.gov e-gov initiative. The purposes of the initiative are as follows:

1. To act as a portal of information and services for all disaster management agencies and personnel.
2. To provide interoperability, services and a basic toolset for incident management.
3. To assist with data management and transfer.

The system is designed to be used by responders at the state or local level and is designed to collect and share basic information about an incident. In the long-term, DisasterHelp.gov intends to develop a set of standards for data sharing and interoperability to enhance response effectiveness. Members may contact Chip Hines with questions or comments: (202) 646-3115 or Chip.hines@dhs.gov.

### **D. International Working Group**

Larry Roeder led the discussion of the International Working Group activities and opportunities. The group is leading the science and technology aspects of U.S. preparations for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005) and produced a paper addressing key science and technology issues. Mr. Roeder requested short papers from each member identifying proposed conference outcomes for any area of interest to the U.S.

Mr. Roeder requested member comments on the U.S. National Report and the science and technology requirements document by September 28<sup>th</sup>. Members may propose additional panels for the World Conference, though the deadline is Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Margaret Davison suggested a panel on risk communications. Susan Conard would like to see natural resources addressed.

Members interested in serving as delegates to the World Conference may e-mail Larry Roeder by November 16<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting of the International Working Group is September 16<sup>th</sup> at the National Science Foundation.

#### **Actions:**

- Members will propose topics for World Conference panels by September 15<sup>th</sup>: Larry Roeder, 202-647-5070, roederla@state.gov.
- Members interested in attending the next meeting of the International Working Group (September 16<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in NSF Room 920) will RSVP to the Secretariat: 703-560-7448 or dori@grs-solutions.com.
- Members will comment on the U.S. National Report and the list of Science and Technology requirements for the World Conference by September 28<sup>th</sup>: Larry Roeder, 202-647-5070, roederla@state.gov.

### **E. Grand Challenges**

Grand Challenges co-chairs Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste began their report by restating the purpose of the Grand Challenges document - to highlight the key areas for Federal investment in science and technology that will enhance our Nation's disaster resilience over the next ten years. The document is not an implementation plan, but rather a compelling list of policy goals. Members will receive an updated draft on September 17<sup>th</sup> and will be asked to provide comments and suggestions.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Complete By</b>
GRS distributes draft text to SDR members.	Secretariat	17 September 2004
Interim comments from all SDR members submitted to GRS.	Members	1 October 2004
GRS distributes updated draft text to SDR members.	Secretariat	7 October 2004
Interim comments from all SDR members submitted to GRS.	Members	22 October 2004
Discuss grand challenges for disaster reduction with Federal, state, local, academic, and private stakeholders at the National Academies Disasters Roundtable ( <a href="http://dels.nas.edu/dr/">http://dels.nas.edu/dr/</a> ).	National Academies	28 October 2004
GRS distributes final draft to SDR members.	Secretariat	4 November 2004
Final comments from all SDR members submitted to GRS.	Members	11 November 2004
Gain document clearances from all agencies.	Secretariat	31 December 2004
Brief appropriate Administration stakeholders	SDR Leadership	15 March 2005
Distribute press release	White House	15 February 2005
Publish and distribute grand challenges document. Publish FY2007 budget companion document.	Secretariat	January or February 2005

**Action:**

- Members will provide Grand Challenges inputs to the Secretariat: 703-560-7448 or [dori@grs-solutions.com](mailto:dori@grs-solutions.com).
- Secretariat will complete and distribute a new draft of the Grand Challenges document by September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.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:

- 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](mailto:dori@grs-solutions.com)) by 30 September 2004.

## VII. Contact Information

### SDR Leadership

Helen Wood, Chair, 202-482-6120, [helen.wood@noaa.gov](mailto:helen.wood@noaa.gov)

John Filson, Vice-Chair for Science, 703-648-6715, [jfilson@usgs.gov](mailto:jfilson@usgs.gov)

Margaret Lawless, Vice -Chair for Policy, 202-646-3027, [margaret.lawless@dhs.gov](mailto:margaret.lawless@dhs.gov)

### International Working Group

Larry Roeder, Jr., Co-Chair, 202-647-5070, [roederla@state.gov](mailto:roederla@state.gov)

Fernando Echavarría, Co-Chair, 202-663-2395, [echavarríafr@state.gov](mailto:echavarríafr@state.gov)

Larry Weber, Co-Chair, 703-292-7240, [lweber@nsf.gov](mailto:lweber@nsf.gov)

### Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

Rosalind Helz, Co-Chair, 703-648-6086, [rhelz@usgs.gov](mailto:rhelz@usgs.gov)

Steve Ambrose, Co-Chair, 202-358-0851, [sambrose@hq.nasa.gov](mailto:sambrose@hq.nasa.gov)

### Earth Observation Task Group

Rosalind Helz, Chair, 703-648-6086, [rhelz@usgs.gov](mailto:rhelz@usgs.gov)

### Grand Challenges Task Group

Priscilla Nelson, Co-Chair, 703-292-7018, [pnelson@nsf.gov](mailto:pnelson@nsf.gov)

Noel Raufaste, Co-Chair, 301-975-6062, [noel.raufaste@nist.gov](mailto:noel.raufaste@nist.gov)

### Secretariat

Dori Akerman, 703-560-7448, [dori@grs-solutions.com](mailto:dori@grs-solutions.com)

## VIII. Summary of Actions

### SEPTEMBER MEETING ACTIONS

Action	Lead	By When
Members will submit comments to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:dori@grs-solutions.com">dori@grs-solutions.com</a> ) on the proposed Marburger Statement in support of the International Day for Disaster Reduction by 15 September.	Members	15 September 2004
Members will propose topics for panel discussions at World Conference by 15 September to Larry Roeder ( <a href="mailto:roederla@state.gov">roederla@state.gov</a> ). The form to propose additional panel discussions can be found at: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/eng/wcdr/format/thematic-session.doc">http://www.unisdr.org/eng/wcdr/format/thematic-session.doc</a> .	Members	15 September 2004
Members interested in attending the next meeting of the International Working Group (9/16/04 from 3 to 5 p.m. in NSF Room 920) will RSVP to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:dori@grs-solutions.com">dori@grs-solutions.com</a> ).	Members	15 September 2004 by 12 p.m.
Secretariat will produce an expanded draft of the Grand Challenges document and distribute to members for comment.	Secretariat	17 September 2004
Members will comment on the “National Report for World Conference on Disaster Reduction” and the “Proposals for Science and Technology” document to Larry Roeder ( <a href="mailto:roederla@state.gov">roederla@state.gov</a> ).	Members	28 September 2004 by 9 a.m.
Members will continue to provide agency contributions to the Grand Challenges document.	Members	Ongoing