

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

7 October 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*
DHS Bruce Davis
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*
Kevin Sheehan (Alternate)
NASA Steve Ambrose
NGA *Monica Gaughan*
Peter Rinkleff
NGB Peter Aylward
NIST *Jim St. Pierre*
Noel Raufaste (Alternate)
NOAA Helen Wood
Margaret Davidson (T)
NSF Priscilla Nelson

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

Other Attendees

DHS
Tod Companion
NSC
Julie Bentz

NOAA
James Lewis Free
Pai-Yei Whung
NSF
Larry Weber

Secretariat
Dori Akerman
Will Hottel
State
Cynthia Brady

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 Grand Challenges
11:20 International Working Group
11:30 Earth Observation Task Group
11:40 FY2005 Operating Plan
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- September Meeting Minutes
- Agenda for Disasters Roundtable on Grand Challenges Memorandum on Updated Administration Research and Development Priorities
- Grand Challenges Draft as of 6 October 2004
- Grand Challenges Timeline
- Grand Challenges Summary of Member Comments
- International Working Group Meeting Notes
- NASA Cooperative Agreement Notice
- SDR FY2005 Annual Operating Plan

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 September 9th meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the SDR Chair

SDR Chair Helen Wood began by discussing the Disaster Roundtable at the National Academies scheduled for October 28th. Based on early registrations, record attendance is expected for the event. Helen reminded the members that the Roundtable will facilitate the sharing of thoughts and ideas, but will not result in recommendations.

Ms. Wood announced that she will provide two plenary presentations at the United Nations workshop on space programs in developing nations (Munich, Germany, 18 October). The presentations address integrated Earth observations for disaster reduction from the international (Global Earth Observation System of Systems) and national plan development (Interagency Working Group on Earth Observations) perspectives.

Actions:

- Members interested in attending the National Academies Disasters Roundtable on Grand Challenges may register by visiting <http://dels.nas.edu/dr/fl2.html>.
- Secretariat will provide information about the Strategic Plan for the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System (http://iwgeo.ssc.nasa.gov/draftstrategicplan/ieos_draft_strategic_plan.pdf) by October 22. The deadline for comments is 22 October and the Federal Register notice provides details (<http://earthobservations.org/docs/FedReg090904.pdf>).

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney announced that the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Plan Bill (H.R. 2608) passed and that NIST was designated as the lead agency. An additional hazards reduction program for wind hazards was attached to the Bill, and Dr. Marburger may ask the SDR to facilitate.

Dr. Dennis Wenger expressed concern that the Wind Hazards Reduction Program ignores critical feedback provided by SDR agencies and does not require social science research. Dr. Whitney recognized these concerns, but noted that the Subcommittee can address social science issues even though they are not directly mentioned in the bill. It is important to remember that though the Subcommittee addresses threats from an all-hazard terms, politicians think in specifics, hence the bill's focus on single hazards. It is appropriate for the Subcommittee to think broadly, while being prepared to apply specifically.

Dr. Whitney discussed the OSTP-OMB memorandum entitled "Updated Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities" which outlined the Administration's top priorities for the coming year. The document states that all agencies should be able to produce:

1. Definitions of all activities/programs.
2. An inventory of all programs in the baseline budget.

3. Agency tradeoffs to provide greater resources.
4. An interagency implementation plan.

Though disaster reduction is not mentioned in the Research and Development Priorities, we still must identify the key areas for investment in disaster reduction science and technology.

Dr. Marburger's statement on the International Day for Disasters has been approved with slight modifications and will be released on October 13 to the White House and NOAA press distribution lists as well as the SDR members.

C. Grand Challenges

Grand Challenges Co-Chairs Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste thanked all of the members for their feedback and comments on Grand Challenges drafts. They also referenced the upcoming clearance process, noting that there are several steps to clearance of the document; the Secretariat will provide details by October 15th. They also asked members to identify the three most important areas for investment in disaster reductions.

Dr. Earnest Paylor acknowledged the accomplishments to date and expressed concern about the focus of the document. He requested additional language reminding reminders that the Grand Challenges are part of a much bigger problem that cannot be solved by science and technology alone. Science is only part of the solution and must be combined with sound policy to work. Susan Conard agreed, adding that it is important that all of the challenges be written as scientific issues.

Dr. Gene Whitney said that the Grand Challenges will ultimately be implemented in agency budgets. There are two steps to this for each agency:

1. Look at the five year planning scope and agency priorities.
2. Examine the agency budget to see that they are meeting the national priorities.

Timeline	Owner	Complete By
Discuss grand challenges for disaster reduction with Federal, state, local, academic, and private stakeholders at the National Academies Disasters Roundtable (http://dels.nas.edu/dr/).	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
Distribute press release	White House	15 February 2005
Publish and distribute grand challenges document. Publish FY2007 budget companion document.	Secretariat	January or February 2005
Brief appropriate Administration stakeholders	SDR Leadership	15 March 2005

Actions:

- Members will submit three priorities for Federal investment in science and technology to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com) by October 15 at 5 p.m.
- Secretariat will produce the next Grand Challenges draft and distribute to members for comment by November 4.
- Secretariat will outline and distribute the process for NSTC document clearance by October 15.

D. International Working Group

International Working Group Chair Larry Weber mentioned the upcoming World Conference on Disasters in Kobe, Japan, and the continuing need for nominations to the U.S. Delegation. All nominations must be provided to Larry Roeder (roederla@state.gov) by November 16th. The Secretariat will provide information on the nomination process by October 8th. The U.S. delegation will consist of about thirty members, lead by Deputy Assistant Secretary for State Mark Lagon.

Ms. Helen Wood announced that she accepted an invitation from the United Nations to chair one of the five themes for the conference.

Actions:

- Members will nominate delegates to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction by November 16th.

E. NASA Cooperative Agreement

Dr. Steven Ambrose announced NASA's Cooperative Agreement calling for proposals from all agencies to integrate NASA Earth science research results into applications of national priority. The solicitation is open to all organizations, private or public. The deadline for all responses is October 22nd.

F. FY2005 Annual Operating Plan

A notional draft of the FY2005 Operating Plan was enclosed in the meeting packets and discussed very briefly. The Secretariat will redistribute copies to members by October 15th for comment.

Actions:

- Secretariat will update the SDR FY2005 Annual Operating Plan and redistribute to members for comment by October 15.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 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:

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 October 29, 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

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Larry Weber, Co-Chair, 703-292-7240, lweber@nsf.gov

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

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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

Doris Akerman, 703-560-7448, dori@grs-solutions.com

VIII. Summary of Actions

OCTOBER MEETING ACTIONS

Action	Lead	By When
Members will submit three priorities for Federal investment in science and technology to the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com).	Members	13 October 2004 (no later than 15 October)
Secretariat will provide information about the Strategic Plan for the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System (http://iwgeo.ssc.nasa.gov/draftstrategicplan/ieos_draft_strategic_plan.pdf). The deadline for comments is 22 October and the Federal Register notice provides details (http://earthobservations.org/docs/FedReg090904.pdf).	Secretariat	Complete
Secretariat will produce the next Grand Challenges draft and distribute to members for comment.	Secretariat	4 November 2004
Members will nominate delegates to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (see attached memo from Mark Lagon).	Members	16 November 2004
Secretariat will outline and distribute the process for NSTC document clearance.	Secretariat	Complete
Secretariat will update the SDR FY2005 Annual Operating Plan and redistribute to members for comment.	Secretariat	Complete