

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

6 January 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., White House Conference Center, Eisenhower Room

Officers

Helen Wood (NOAA), Chair
David Applegate (USGS), Vice-Chair

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 *Chris Doyle*

Bruce Davis

DHS/FEMA *David Maurstad*

DHS/USCG *Russ Doughty*

DOD Earnest Paylor

DOE *Alex de Alvarez*

DOI *Larry Braun*

DOI / USGS David Applegate

DOT K. T. Thirumalai

Sheila Duwadi

EOP / OSTP Kathie Olsen

Gene Whitney

EPA Peter Jutro

HUD *John Kennedy*

NASA Steve Ambrose

NGA *Monica Gaughan*

Peter Rinkleff

NGB Peter Aylward

NIST *Jim St. Pierre*

Noel Raufaste

NOAA Helen Wood

Margaret Davidson

NSF Priscilla Nelson

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

OPHS *John Babb*

Boris Lushniak (Alternate)

State Fernando Echavarria & Larry Roeder, Jr.

USACE *Michael O'Connor*

Andy Bruzewicz

USAID *Peter Morris*

USDA *Allen Dedrick*

USDA / USFS Susan Conard

Other Attendees

EPA Steve Clark

NASA John La Brecque

NGB Stephen Davis

Frank Hudoba

NOAA Donna Franklin

John Gaynor

David Green

Nathalie Valette-Silver

Katy Vincent

Pai-Yei Whung

NIST Shyam Sunder

NSF Jacqueline Mezaros

Bob O'Connor

Juan Pestana

Larry Weber

Dennis Wenger

Secretariat Dori Akerman

Will Hottel

State Cynthia Brady

Peter Kozodoy

USGS Tim Cohn

Rosalind Helz

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Reducing Tsunami Losses through Science and Technology
11:30 Report from the Chair
11:40 Report from the NSTC Liaison
11:50 Updates to Grand Challenges Document
12:05 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- November meeting minutes
- Draft of WCDR tsunami position paper
- Draft of NEHRP paper on U.S. Tsunami Response Plan
- National Weather Service handout on TsunamiReady program
- Partnership for Public Warning statement on tsunami
- Announcement from Transportation Research Board regarding annual meeting discussing tsunami disaster
- Matrix of required observations for coastal hazards
- Grand Challenges draft, including handout of opportunities to include tsunami information
- SDR contact list

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 November 4th meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Reducing Tsunami Losses through Science and Technology

Dr. Kathie Olsen led the discussion of the impacts of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and made several requests of the Subcommittee. Dr. Olsen began by congratulating the SDR for being a very active and well-organized group, and noted that those traits will be especially important when dealing with the challenges presented by the tsunami disaster. She stressed that it is crucial that all committees and working groups present a united front on Earth observations in the coming weeks, and said that Dr. Gene Whitney will deliver the same message to the Interagency Working Group on Earth Observations (IWGEO) following this meeting. The key question for National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) must answer: "Is the U.S. vulnerable?"

Although tsunamis are seen as a low probability/high impact disaster, the Indian Ocean had no warning system. Dr. Olsen emphasized that any warning system for the Indian Ocean must not be developed independently of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), which is designed to be interactive among countries. Similarly, no one agency should act independently of all others. It is crucial that any work toward development of tsunami warning systems be part of a coordinated effort, with all agencies aware of what others are doing. NSTC will work with international agencies to bring together experts to link systems and coordinate a global Earth observations network.

NSTC will facilitate a full evaluation of U.S. vulnerability to tsunamis. Priscilla Nelson said that since this is such an extreme event, we have a responsibility not only to respond, but also to learn from it. Moreover, it is critical that social science experts also be involved. Dr. Olsen agreed, stating that social sciences are particularly important for understanding the public response to hazard warnings.

Dr. Olsen concluded by announcing that the white paper on tsunamis will be rewritten to include non-warnings information and also will include information on social science aspects. Members are encouraged to think about the lessons we can learn from this event and the ways in which they can be applied to future policies.

- David Applegate and Margaret Davidson will chair the Tsunami Lessons Learned Working Group. The draft outline will be presented to the SDR at the 3 February meeting.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney echoed Dr. Olsen's comments by noting that a U.S. Government position paper on tsunami warning systems will be presented at the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan. The paper will go beyond simply addressing warnings to include other aspects of hazard management. He stated that we do know the warning system will be an expansion of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (UNESCO/IOC) system and will be part of GEOSS. Dr. Whitney reminded the SDR that until the President is briefed we do not know what the level of U.S. commitment will be.

Dr. Whitney concluded his report by announcing that Helen Wood will extend her term as chair for another year, and OSTP appointed Dr. Dave Applegate to a three year term as vice-chair.

C. Report from the Chair

A U.S. tsunami position paper will be drafted for distribution to the delegates at the WCDR in Kobe, Japan. The Secretariat will prepare this by Monday, 10 January, building on the work done by NOAA tsunami experts Eddie Bernard and Laura Kong. This will be a very high-level position paper, addressing warnings and all other aspects of tsunami disaster reduction.

Actions

- The Secretariat will prepare a tsunami position paper for the WCDR by Monday, 10 January.

D. Grand Challenges

A new draft of the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction was presented to the members, including a sample of the full-color document layout. The tsunami disaster will be addressed in the executive summary, a hazard profile call-out box, and with one or more pictures scattered throughout the document.

Actions

- The Secretariat will prepare a final draft of the Grand Challenges, including new information on tsunami hazards.
- Members will submit final comments to Secretariat by 12 pm on Monday, 10 January.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 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:

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 Dori Akerman (dori@grs-solutions.com) by January 31, 2004.

VII. Contact Information SDR Leadership

Helen Wood, Chair, 301-713-1140, helen.wood@noaa.gov

David Applegate, Vice-Chair, 703-648-6714, applegate@usgs.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

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

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

Secretariat

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

VIII. Summary of Actions

January MEETING ACTIONS

Action	Lead	By When
Members will submit final comments on the Grand Challenges to the Secretariat. dori@grs-solutions.com	Members	10 January 2005 12 pm
The Secretariat will prepare a tsunami position paper for the WCDR.	Secretariat	10 January 2005 5 pm
David Applegate and Margaret Davidson will chair the Tsunami Lessons Learned Working Group. The draft outline will be presented to the SDR at the 3 February meeting.	Members	3 February 2005 10 pm