

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

2 June 2005, 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

David Applegate (USGS), Vice-Chair

NSTC Liaison

Gene Whitney (OSTP)

Working Group Chairs

International Working Group

Larry Roeder, Jr. (State), Co-Chair

Fernando Echavarria (State), Co-Chair

Dennis Wenger (NSF), Co-Chair

Earth Observation Task Group

Rosalind Helz (USGS), Chair

Grand Challenges Task Group

Noel Raufaste (NIST), Co-Chair

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group

Rosalind Helz (USGS), Co-Chair

Steve Ambrose (NASA), Co-Chair

WindHRP Task Group

John Gaynor (NOAA), Chair

Drought Task Group

Pai-Yei Whung (NOAA), Chair

Designated Representatives

CDC Dan Sosin (T)

DHS *Bruce Davis*

DHS/FEMA *Mike Buckley*

DOD *Earnest Paylor*

DOE *Alex de Alvarez*

DOI *Larry Braun*

DOI / USGS *David Applegate*

DOT *K. T. Thirumalai*

EOP / OSTP Gene Whitney

EPA *Peter Jutro*

HUD *John Kennedy*

NASA Steve Ambrose

NGA *Monica Gaughan*

NGB *Peter M. Aylward*

NIST *Jim St. Pierre*

Noel Raufaste

NOAA *Helen Wood*

Margaret Davidson

NSF Dennis Wenger

OPHS *John Babb*

Boris Lushniak

State Fernando Echavarria &

Larry Roeder, Jr.

USACE *Michael O'Connor*

USAID *Peter Morris*

USDA *Allen Dedrick*

USDA / USFS Susan Conard

USGS David Applegate

John Filson (T)

Rosalind Helz

Other Attendees

DHS Chris Doyle

DOT Sheila Duwadi

EPA Steve Clark

NGB Stephen Davis

NIST Shyam Sunder

NSF Bob O'Connor

NOAA Pai-Yei Whung

Doug Harper

State Melba Crawford

Secretariat Dori Akerman

Emily Wallace

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:03 Approval of April Meeting Minutes
10:05 Report from the Vice-Chair
10:15 Report from the NSTC Liaison
10:25 Presentation by NIST
10:55 Working Group Reports and Requests
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- April Meeting Minutes
- Tsunami Lessons Learned Interim Report
- SDR Outcomes and Calendar
- Drought Working Group Strategic Plan
- Thank You Letter from State Department to SDR

I. Call to Order

SDR Vice-Chair David Applegate called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Members approved the April meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Vice-Chair

Dr. Applegate began his report by recommending the SDR Outcomes and Calendar document to members interested in keeping track of the many SDR activities and working groups currently in progress. He also told members that President Bush signed the Fiscal Year 2005 Supplemental Appropriations bill, which included funds for tsunami detection, forecasting and warning. In that same vein, Dr. Applegate announced a National Academy of Science Disasters Roundtable on Tsunami that will take place on 21 June 2005 (RSVP required, <http://dels.nas.edu/dr/>). Additionally, a meeting is currently taking place in Mexico City about a tsunami warning system in the Caribbean.

Additional announcements:

- The State Department acknowledged SDR with a thank you letter (included in the meeting packets).
- The Remote Sensing Applications Working Group has been reformed. Jay Feuquay (USGS), Steve Ambrose (NASA) and Peter Rinkleff (NGA) are the co-chairs.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney reported that Dr. Kathie Olsen, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Associate Director for Science, was nominated by President Bush as the next Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation. She will be leaving OSTP pending Senate confirmation. No one has been nominated to be the next Associate Director for Science at OSTP at this time.

Dr. Whitney reported that Dr. Olsen appreciated the Lessons Learned interim report she received from the group. She noted that the report contains a lot of substantive information and directed Helen Wood to author an op-ed piece for the Washington Post or Science Magazine about the lessons learned thus far. [Note: The op-ed piece will be signed by VADM Conrad Lautenbacher, the NOAA Administrator, and placed in the Washington Post.]

Dr. Whitney informed the group that the OSTP/OMB guidance memo has been drafted. In the last draft that he saw, disasters were mentioned in the Earth Observation section. There is no release date for the memo at this time.

OSTP is convening a Task Force on Effective Warnings (TFEW) to give higher visibility to the need for a national, integrated warning system. Bob Stephan from the Department of Homeland Security and General Kelly from NOAA will be the co-chairs. The first meeting will be held in June.

“Congressman Backs Asteroid Agency” is an article in this month’s Wired Magazine. Dr. Whitney characterized this as the ultimate low-probability, high-impact disaster and asked Steve Ambrose (NASA) to pull together some information for the SDR about Near Earth Objects prior to the next meeting.

Actions

- Secretariat will author op-ed piece for Washington Post or Science Magazine based on the Tsunami Lessons Learned Interim Report.
- Steve Ambrose will distribute information to SDR Members about Near Earth Objects before 4 July.

C. Presentation from the National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Sunder, Acting Deputy Director of the Building and Fire Research Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), presented information about NIST and their role in disasters. He noted that the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) reauthorization bill passed last year and designated NIST as the lead agency but the agency has not received any appropriations to support that effort.

D. Grand Challenges Working Group Report

The Grand Challenges document has received all necessary clearances and will go to print this month. An outreach plan is being developed that will be approved by Dr. Olsen, Dr. Whitney and SDR Chair Helen Wood. SDR members suggested additional points that should be included in the draft plan.

The next step is to develop strategic implementation plans for each of the hazards identified in the Grand Challenges document. The plans will be four-page strategy documents with a common look and feel that detail steps to meet each of the Grand Challenges for a particular hazard (i.e. tsunami, drought, earthquake, etc.).

Actions

- Secretariat will finalize template for Grand Challenges hazard-specific follow-on documents and distribute to SDR members for comment.

E. Drought Working Group Report

The Drought Working Group initially convened on 20 May 2005 with both Dr. Whitney and Helen Wood present. They are producing the strategic implementation plan for drought Grand Challenges by 30 June 2005.

Actions

- Members will send comments on the Drought Working Group Draft Strategic Plan to Pai-Yei (pai-yei.whung@noaa.gov) and the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com) by 3 June 2005.

F. Wind Hazard Reduction Program Working Group Report

Public Law 108-360 mandated an interagency group be established to report to Congress the nature and extent of efforts to reduce windstorm impacts. The Wind HRP Working Group was established as part of SDR with John Gaynor (NOAA) as the Chair. Other involved agencies include:

- NIST (required by law)
- FEMA (required by law)
- NSF (required by law)
- NASA
- Federal Highway Administration
- Army Corps of Engineers

They met on 21 April 2005 and 19 May 2005 and will meet on 17 June 2005. The report is due to Congress this fall.

G. Earth Observation Task Group Report

A regional prototype warning system is being developed to ascertain the challenges and successes of integration. The disaster sector is a good prototype for this testing effort and there is enthusiasm from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

H. International Working Group Report

ISDR is being reorganized and redefined this summer. Dennis Wenger has written a white paper about this reorganization and it will be discussed at the next meeting on 10 June 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at NSF.

I. Tsunami Lessons Learned Working Group Report

Dr. Whitney reported that Dr. Olsen appreciated the Lessons Learned interim report she received from the group. She felt there was a lot of substantive information there and directed Helen Wood to author an op-ed piece for the Washington Post or Science Magazine about the lessons learned thus far. Dr. Olsen is looking forward to receiving the final report in October after researchers return from the field. She expects to see information on the environmental effects of the tsunami; if/how/when the rebuilding process will spur a slow-onset disaster, and comments on the remote sensing aspects of detection. [Note: The op-ed piece will be signed by VADM Conrad Lautenbacher, the NOAA Administrator, and placed in the Washington Post.]

J. Tsunami Warning and Detection System Planning Group Report

The 20-page plan for tsunami detection and warning in the United States will be complete by 17 June 2005 and will be circulated to SDR members when it is final.

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:

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).

VII. Contact Information SDR Leadership

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

David Applegate, Vice-Chair, 703-648-6715, applegate@usgs.gov

International Working Group

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Fernando Echavarría, Co-Chair, 202-663-2395, echavarríafr@state.gov

Dennis Wenger, Co-Chair, 703-292-7014, dwenger@nsf.gov

Earth Observation Task Group

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Grand Challenges Task Group

Noel Raufaste, Co-Chair, 301-975-6062, noel.raufaste@nist.gov

Drought Task Group

Pai-Yei Whung, Chair, 301-713-0460 x204, pai-yei.whung@noaa.gov

WindHRP Task Group

John Gaynor, Chair, 301-713-0460 x117, john.gaynor@noaa.gov

Secretariat

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

VIII. Summary of Actions**June MEETING ACTIONS**

Action	Lead	By When
Secretariat will distribute SDR Outcomes and Calendar; NIST Presentation to SDR; Drought Working Group Draft Strategic Plan; National ISDR Platform graphic and Wired Magazine article.	Secretariat	Complete
Members will send comments on the Drought Working Group Draft Strategic Plan to Pai-Yei (pai-yei.whung@noaa.gov) and the Secretariat (dori@grs-solutions.com).	Members	Complete
Secretariat will finalize template for Grand Challenges hazard-specific follow-on documents and distribute to SDR members for comment.	Secretariat	Complete
At Kathie Olsen's request, Helen Wood will author an op-ed piece for the Washington Post based on the tsunami lessons learned document.	Helen Wood	17 June
Steve Ambrose will provide information on Near Earth Objects to Secretariat for distribution to SDR.	Steve Ambrose	4 July