

# Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

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

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Italics indicate absent members. "T" indicate 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

Fernando Echavarría

### Grand Challenges Task Group

Noel Raufaste (NIST)

### Earth Observations Working Group

Steve Ambrose (NASA), Co-Chair

*Margaret Davidson (NOAA), Co-Chair*

*Jay Feuquay (USGS), Co-Chair*

### WindHRP Task Group

*John Gaynor (NOAA), Chair*

## Designated Representatives

**CDC** Dan Sosin (T)

**DHS** *Bruce Davis*

**DHS/FEMA** *David Maurstad*

**DOD** *Earnest Paylor*

**DOE** *Alex de Alvarez*

**DOI** *Larry Braun*

**DOT** *K. T. Thirumalai*

**EOP / OSTP** Gene Whitney

**EPA** Steve Clark

**HUD** *John Kennedy*

**NASA** Steve Ambrose

**NGA** *Monica Gaughan*

*Peter Rinkleff*

**NGB** *Peter M. Aylward*

Stephen Davis

**NIST** *Jim St. Pierre*

Noel Raufaste

**NOAA** *Helen Wood*

*Margaret Davidson*

**NSF** *Dennis Wenger*

**OPHS** Sven Rodenbeck

*Dan Beck*

**State** Fernando Echavarría

**USACE** *Michael O'Connor*

**USAID** *Peter Morris*

**USDA** *Allen Dedrick*

**USDA / USFS** *Susan Conard*

**USGS** *David Applegate*

## Other Attendees

**DHS/FEMA** Fred Sharrocks

**EOP** Tom Bossert

Dan Kaniewski

**NGA** Melba Crawford

**NSF** Doug Foutch

Bob O'Connor

**NOAA** Margaret McCalla

Ralph Cantral

**USAID** John Peyrebrune

**Secretariat** Dori Akerman

Emily Wallace

## Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 10:05 Approval of November Meeting Minutes
- 10:10 Report from the Chair
- 10:20 Report from the NSTC Liaison
- 10:30 Briefing and Discussion - FEMA
- 11:00 Working Group Reports and Requests
- 11:20 Close and Next Actions

## Handouts

- Agenda
- November Meeting Minutes
- Grand Challenges Offsite Meeting Minutes
- SDR Calendar and Outcomes
- SDR Documents and Deadlines
- National Academies Article on Disaster Experts

## **I. Call to Order**

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

## **II. Approval of Minutes and Review of Actions**

Members approved the November meeting minutes.

## **III. Summary of Discussion**

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

Dr. Whitney began the meeting by describing the SDR re-vetting process and welcoming the new agency representatives. He also described the SDR Working Groups and ongoing work with the Grand Challenges implementation plans.

The Tsunami Lessons Learned and U.S. National Tsunami Plan have both been cleared, and will be posted to the SDR website very soon.

Dr. Whitney also mentioned that the WindHRP report is ready to be submitted to Congress, and will be posted to the SDR website after it is transmitted to Congress.

On 17 November, Dr. Whitney, Dr. David Applegate and Mr. John Gaynor met with members of the National Science Board (NSB) about their intention to summarize current activities in hurricane-related science and engineering research, identify gaps and opportunities and recommend priorities for action. The NSB is seeking input from the SDR and will brief SDR members on their activities at the January meeting.

### **B. Briefing and Discussion – Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Mr. Fred Sharrocks of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) briefed the SDR on FEMA's work during the 2005 hurricane season. Mr. Sharrocks also described some of FEMA's ongoing work within the Mitigation Division, including the National Flood Insurance Program, Flood Map Modernization Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

Mr. Sharrocks' presentation and handouts will be posted on the Members Only page of the SDR website.

## **IV. Working Group Reports**

**Grand Challenges Task Group.** Dr. Noel Raufaste discussed the ongoing Grand Challenges implementation strategy four-page documents. The Drought, Coastal Inundation, Wind Hazards, Hurricane, Tornado and Severe Weather, Winter Storms and Heat Wave documents have been finalized. They are being graphically-designed and will be posted on the SDR Members Only website on Tuesday, 6 December for Member comments prior to initiating SDR clearance on 9 December. The Tsunami, Wildland Fire, Earthquake, Flood, Human and Ecosystem Health Hazards, Technological, Landslides and Debris Flow and Volcano documents are due to the Secretariat on 16 December and will enter the SDR clearance process in January.

A Grand Challenges offsite will be organized for March/April. Dr. Whitney encouraged Members to be more creative in their outreach with the Grand Challenges documents and suggested this be discussed at the January meeting. Possibilities include stakeholder workshops or hazard-specific events.

**WindHRP Working Group.** The WindHRP document is complete and has been cleared by the White House. OSTP must now transmit the report to Congress.

**Earth Observations Working Group.** Mr. Steven Ambrose stated that agencies must send their clearance forms for the 24-hour Waiver Recommendation to the Secretariat by 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, 2 December. The Working Group will hold its next meeting during the first week in January.

Mr. Steve Clark asked if anyone in the Working Group would be present at next week's Defense Intelligence Agency meeting and said he would send information to Dr. Whitney about the event.

**International Working Group.** Dr. Fernando Echavarria recently attended the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis and showcased the SDR during his presentation. He recommended all Members view the recording of the statement given by Dr. John H. Marburger, III, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy online at [www.itu.org](http://www.itu.org).

#### **V. Close and Next Actions**

Mr. Ralph Cantral reported that he and Dr. Margaret Davidson co-chaired a coastal breakout group during the Climate Science and decision-makers workshop and encouraged all Members to log onto [www.climatescience.gov](http://www.climatescience.gov) to read more about this successful event.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m. EST.

#### **VII. 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:

January 12, 2006	May 4, 2006	September 14, 2006
February 2, 2006	June 8, 2006	October 5, 2006
March 2, 2006	July 13, 2006	November 2, 2006
April 6, 2006	August 3, 2006	December 7, 2006

#### **VII. 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](mailto:dori@grs-solutions.com)).

#### **VIII. Contact Information SDR Leadership**

Helen Wood, Chair, 301-713-1140, [helen.wood@noaa.gov](mailto:helen.wood@noaa.gov)  
David Applegate, Vice-Chair, 703-648-6715, [applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov)  
Gene Whitney, NSTC Liaison, 202-456-6081, [gwhitney@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:gwhitney@ostp.eop.gov)

#### **International Working Group**

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

#### **Earth Observations Working Group**

Steve Ambrose, Co-Chair, 202-358-0851, [sambrose@nasa.gov](mailto:sambrose@nasa.gov)  
Jay Feuquay, Co-Chair, 703-648-5057, [feuquay@usgs.gov](mailto:feuquay@usgs.gov)  
Margaret Davidson, Chair, 843-740-1220, [Margaret.davidson@noaa.gov](mailto:Margaret.davidson@noaa.gov)

#### **Grand Challenges Task Group**

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

## IX. Summary of Actions

### DECEMBER MEETING ACTIONS

Action	Lead	By When
Steve Clark ( <a href="mailto:Clark.Stephen@epamail.epa.gov">Clark.Stephen@epamail.epa.gov</a> ) will send information about Defense Intelligence Agency event to Dr. Whitney	Steve Clark	Complete
Send clearance fax for the 24-hour Waiver Recommendation to the Secretariat (703-560-3536)	Members	2 December
Post the Drought, Coastal Inundation, Wind Hazards, Hurricane, Tornado and Severe Weather, Winter Storms and Heat Wave documents to the Members Only SDR website	Secretariat	6 December
Review and comment on the Drought, Coastal Inundation, Wind Hazards, Hurricane, Tornado and Severe Weather, Winter Storms and Heat Wave four-page documents by sending an e-mail to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Members	8 December
Initiate SDR Clearance on the Drought, Coastal Inundation, Wind Hazards, Hurricane, Tornado and Severe Weather, Winter Storms and Heat Wave four-page documents	Secretariat	9 December
Post the Tsunami Lessons Learned and U.S. National Tsunami Plan to the SDR website	Secretariat	9 December
Complete and deliver the Tsunami four-page document to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Jim Devine	16 December
Complete and deliver the Wildland Fire four-page document to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Sue Conard and Ruddy Mell	16 December
Complete and deliver the Earthquake four-page document to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Dave Applegate and NIST designee	16 December
Complete and deliver the Flood four-page document to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Dennis Wenger and Andy Bruzewicz	16 December
Complete and deliver the Human	Nathalie Valette-Silver and	16 December

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>By When</b>
and Ecosystem Health Hazards four-page document to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Josephine Malilay	
Complete and deliver the Technological four-page document to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Stephen Davis and Regan Murray	16 December
Complete and deliver the Landslides and Debris Flow four-page document to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Peter Lyttle and Bob Adler	16 December
Complete and deliver the Volcano four-page document to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Jim Quick	16 December
Earth Observation Working Group Meeting	Earth Observation Working Group	First Week in January; location and date TBD