

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

2 February 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., White House Conference Center, Eisenhower Room

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 (State), Co-Chair

Grand Challenges Task Group

Noel Raufaste (NIST), Co-Chair

Earth Observations Working Group

Steve Ambrose (NASA), Co-Chair
Margaret Davidson (NOAA), Co-Chair (T)
Jay Feuquay (USGS), Co-Chair

WindHRP Task Group

John Gaynor (NOAA), Chair

Designated Representatives

BLM *Ed Shepard*

John R. Haugh

CDC Dan Sosin (T)

DHS *Chris Doyle*

DHS/FEMA *David Maurstad*

DHS/USCG Suzanne Strohl

DOE *Patricia Hoffman*

DOI *James Tate, Jr.*

DOT *K. T. Thirumalai*

EOP / OSTP Gene Whitney

EPA *Peter Jutro*

HUD *David Engel*

NASA *Steve Ambrose*

NGA *Robert Lohman*

NGB *Bill Ryan*

NIST *Jim St. Pierre*

Noel Raufaste

NOAA Helen Wood

Margaret Davidson (T)

NSF Joy Pauschke

OPHS Sven Rodenbeck

State *Ralph Braibanti*

USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*

USAID *Peter Morris*

USDA *Allen Dedrick*

USDA / USFS Susan Conard

USGS David Applegate

Other Attendees

DHS Bruce Davis

DHS/FEMA Fred Sharrocks

DOE Merrill Smith

DOT Shiela Duwadi

NOAA Nathalie Valette-Silver

NSF Tom Birkland

USAID John Peyrebrune

Secretariat Dori Akerman

Emily Wallace

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of January Meeting Minutes
10:10 Report from the Chair
10:15 Report from the NSTC Liaison
10:35 Briefing - U.S. Forest Service
11:00 Grand Challenges Implementation Discussion
11:30 Working Group Reports and Requests
11:45 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- January Meeting Minutes
- Implementing the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction PowerPoint presentation
- Schedule for Grand Challenges Implementation Plans
- Disasters Roundtable Workshop announcement

I. Call to Order

National Science and Technology Council (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 January meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Chair

Ms. Helen Wood began the meeting by discussing the recent National Science Board Hurricane Science and Engineering Workshop, held on January 24th. Many of the ideas for hurricane science and engineering correspond with those currently being used by the SDR to develop the Grand Challenges 4-page Implementation plan for Hurricanes. One issue that was not originally addressed in a break-out session, but was added based on SDR advice was the transition from research to operations. The work of the SDR was very well received at the event.

Dr. Gene Whitney reminded members that the SDR has responsibilities that span all natural and technological disasters but the SDR is not the sum-total of hazard activities. The National Science Board activity is so important because they can delve into the intricacies of just one hazard. The collaboration thus far with the SDR ensures consistency.

Ms. Wood thanked agencies that responded to last month's appeal for funding to support the Secretariat. These contributions are appreciated, and a more detailed report is forthcoming. If other agencies are thinking about contributing, Ms. Wood encouraged all Members not to think of it as their "share," but instead to think of what they could contribute and how much they value the services provided by the Secretariat. No contribution is too large or too small.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Whitney reported that *Tsunami Risk Reduction for the United States: A Framework for Action*, a report authored by a joint SDR/U.S. Group on Earth Observations Working Group and published in December, is being implemented. The National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, identified in the report as the coordinating mechanism, recently met in Seattle. The Secretariat will invite Dr. John Jones to brief the SDR on the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program meeting and next steps.

As part of the ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina, one outstanding issue is whether New Orleans will be more disaster resilient after it has been rebuilt. Although the urgency has passed, it is not too late to address some of the critical infrastructure issues in New Orleans. The National Academy of Sciences may conduct a detailed, technical analysis of the infrastructure. Agencies should be aware of this possibility in the event they are approached by the National Academies' for funding such a study.

C. Briefing and Discussion

Dr. Susan Conard gave a briefing on the work of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in reducing damages from natural hazards, including fire and invasive species. Fire and Aviation Management is the most important disaster related focus in the USFS, constituting rough 30-40% of the agency's budget. Dr. Conard also discussed the Forestry Service's research and development programs, remote sensing applications and climate change studies. Slides from Dr. Conard's presentation will be made available to committee members via the SDR website following the meeting.

IV. Working Group Reports

Grand Challenges Task Group.

Secretariat Dori Akerman discussed the Grand Challenges process and the ongoing development of the Four-Page Implementation Plans. The outcome of this process is to complete these documents in April, for publication in June. The input meeting for the four-page documents was held Friday, January 28th at the National Science Foundation. Dr. John Gaynor of NOAA led the review of the Heat Wave, Winter Storm and Tornado implementation plans. Those documents will be distributed to the full subcommittee for review and comment on Friday, February 3rd. Members are strongly encouraged to be active in the review of the implementation plans to assure that their agency's inputs are incorporated.

The Secretariat will work to organize a team to assure final consistency on all documents, to include Jack Mezaros (NSF) and David Applegate (USGS).

Ms. Wood asked the Members if there are any critical areas that are not being addressed in the current documents? Members are welcome to make suggestions; however, the SDR does want to produce a limited number of implementation plans. Ms. Wood suggested that perhaps a four-pager for critical infrastructure may be in order, which Dr. Whitney agreed should be considered.

WindHRP Working Group. Dr. Whitney mentioned that the clearance of the WindHRP document is still in holding at OMB, where it will likely not be reviewed until the budget is issued on February 6th. SDR Members will be notified when clearance goes forward.

Earth Observations Working Group. Secretariat Emily Wallace reported the Earth Observation Working Group met Monday, January 30th, to develop the Grand Challenges Earth Observation Four-Page Implementation Plan. The group is on track to finalize the document and solicit SDR Member comments at the March SDR meeting.

International Working Group. Ms. Wood mentioned that the National Science Foundation and Department of State have traditionally co-chaired the International Working Group, but this does not have to be the case. It has been necessary for the SDR to limit its focus on international disasters due to time constraints, but it remains an important area of focus. Key areas for IWG include: 1) Helping to define U.S. inputs to the UN ISDR, 2) Develop State advisory input to COPUOS, and 3) Helping to create a U.S. delegation to the Early Warning Conference under UNISDR being held in Bonn, Germany. No other reps have been identified and members are asked to notify the Secretariat immediately if they are interested in attending.

V. Close and Next Actions

Ms. Wood reminded the members that the next Disasters Roundtable will be held on March 20th and the next SDR meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2006 in the NOAA Conference Room at the Department of Commerce.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 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:

March 1, 2006 (Wednesday)

April 6, 2006

May 4, 2006

June 8, 2006
July 13, 2006
August 3, 2006

September 14, 2006
October 5, 2006
November 2, 2006

December 7, 2006

VIII. 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).

IX. Contact Information SDR Leadership

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

International Working Group

Fernando Echavarria, Co-Chair, 202-663-2395, echavarriafr@state.gov

Earth Observations Working Group

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

Grand Challenges Task Group

Noel Raufaste, Chair, 301-975-6062, 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

X. Summary of Actions

FEBRUARY ACTIONS

Action	Lead	By When
Invite John Jones (NOAA) to update the SDR on the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program	Secretariat	10 February
Post U.S. Forestry Service presentation to the SDR Members Only page of the website	Secretariat	10 February
Inform the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com) if planning to attend the Early Warnings Conference in Bonn, Germany	SDR Members	10 February
Review the Winter Storm, Heat Wave and Tornado Four-page documents and provide comments/revisions to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	SDR Members	17 February

Action	Lead	By When
Organize a team to assure consistency between all Grand Challenges Documents	Secretariat	17 February
Provide a summary of the USFS Climate Change program to Dr. Whitney	Susan Conard	28 February