

# Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

1 March 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Department of Commerce

---

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

Ralph Braibanti (State), 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*

*Chris Doyle*

### DHS/FEMA *David Maurstad*

*Suzanne Strohl*

### DOE *Patricia Hoffman*

*James Tate, Jr.*

### DOT *K. T. Thirumalai*

*Gene Whitney*

### EPA *Peter Jutro*

### HUD *David Engel*

*Steve Ambrose*

### NGA *Robert Lohman*

*Bill Ryan*

### NIH *Allen Dearry (T)*

*Jim St. Pierre*

### NOAA *Helen Wood*

*Margaret Davidson (T)*

### NSF *Joy Pauschke*

### OPHS *Sven Rodenbeck (T)*

*State Ralph Braibanti*

### USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*

*Peter Morris*

### USDA *Allen Dedrick*

*Susan Conard*

### USGS *David Applegate*

## Other Attendees

DHS *Bruce Davis*

DOT *Shiela Duwadi*

EPA *Greg Susanke*

*Ed Washburn*

HUD *David Chase*

NOAA *Tim Battista*

*Michael Hales*

NSF *Tom Birkland*

Secretariat *Dori Akerman*

*Emily Wallace*

University of South Carolina

*Michael Hodgson*

USAID *John Peyrebrune*

## Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 10:05 Approval of February Meeting Minutes
- 10:10 Report from the Chair
- 10:25 Report from the NSTC Liaison
- 10:40 Update on the SDR Recommendation:  
High Resolution Electrical/Optical  
Commercial Satellite Imagery Required  
by End Users
- 10:55 Briefing - Geospatial Data Approaches  
During Phases of the Disaster Cycle:  
State EOC Perspectives
- 11:15 Grand Challenges Implementation  
Discussion
- 11:40 Working Group Reports
- 11:55 Close and Next Actions

## Handouts

- Agenda
- February Meeting Minutes
- Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015
- ISDR secretariat Biennial Work Plan
- Mid-Term and Long-Term Opportunities for USGEO
- The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned Chapter 5
- Fact Sheet: Waiver for 24-hour Delay in Data Distribution in Response to Disaster Events
- Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Four-Page Implementation Plans Current Status and Next Steps
- Disasters Roundtable Workshop Agenda for March 20, 2006

## **I. Call to Order**

SDR Chair Helen Wood called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Members approved the February meeting minutes.

## **III. Summary of Discussion**

### **A. Report from the Chair**

Ms. Helen Wood began the meeting by discussing a recent meeting with the President's Science Advisor, Dr. Marburger. Dr. Whitney, Ms. Wood and Dr. Applegate briefed Dr. Marburger, Ms. Sharon Hayes, his Chief of Staff and Mr. Ted Wackler, new National Science and Technology Council Secretariat. Dr. Marburger was already familiar with many of SDR's ongoing activities and the group discussed opportunities for increased synergy with other White House offices and the Cabinet as well as the idea of creating community "scorecards" for disaster resilience.

In February, Ms. Wood and Mark Lagon, Deputy Assistant Secretary Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the Department of State, met with Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom and Mr. Salvano Briceno to discuss the updated Hyogo Framework for Action and ISDR secretariat Biennial Work Plan. Both of these documents coincide well with SDR's ongoing activities and will be posted on the SDR website.

Ms. Wood also drew attention to the draft Mid-to-Long Term Opportunities for USGEO document that was included in meeting packets.

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

Dr. Gene Whitney began by discussing the recently issued Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned report, a sample chapter of which was included in meeting packets. This report was not an SDR document, but ties closely to much of the subcommittee's work on the Tsunami Lessons Learned. Where possible the SDR should try to match the Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned report to the Hurricane and Coastal Inundation four-page implementation plans. This could be an effective way to engage the Homeland Security Council in the future.

The WindHRP document has been approved by the White House Office of Management and Budget and will soon be transmitted to the Hill. Once the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy has transmitted the document to the Hill, the document will be posted on the SDR website and distributed to all member agencies.

The National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA) held their annual meeting in February and had briefings from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Frances Fragos Townsend, Homeland Security Advisor and Chair of the Homeland Security Council, and Dr. Whitney. Dr. Whitney attended on behalf of Ms. Wood and briefed NEMA on the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction. The emergency managers were particularly interested in how to measure community resilience (Grand Challenge #5).

### **C. Update on the SDR Recommendation: High Resolution Electrical/Optical Commercial Satellite Imagery Required by End Users**

Mr. Michael Hales briefed the members on the follow-up to SDR's involvement in the creation of a waiver for the 24-hour wait period on high resolution commercial satellite imagery. Mr. Hales provided members with basic background information on the recommendation, including its impact on the U.S. Commercial satellite industry. He thanked the SDR members for their contributions and

said the waiver has been instituted domestically. NOAA is now in position to eliminate the waiver entirely. Mr. Hales' handouts will be distributed electronically following the meeting.

#### **D. Briefing - Geospatial Data Approaches during Phases of the Disaster Cycle: State EOC Perspectives**

Dr. Michael Hodgson, University of South Carolina and Bruce Davis, Department of Homeland Security, provided a briefing on State emergency management agency perspectives on the use of Earth observations for disaster management. A survey was conducted of state Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), on the effectiveness of Earth observations products and how they are (or are not) integrated into the decision making process.

#### **IV. Working Group Reports**

**Grand Challenges Task Group.** The Grand Challenges four-page document input meetings are complete. As the content has been strengthened, the graphic design and layout of the documents has also improved. SDR members were provided with a graphically-designed Heat Wave document to illustrate the changes.

A consistency check will take place on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for all of the documents. Following that check, authors will have an opportunity to refine their documents before the SDR Leadership reviews the documents on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. SDR clearance is slated for April 3 – 14 and the four-page documents are scheduled to be published and distributed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Concerns were expressed over the limited timeline for revision and reformatting of the documents, but Ms. Wood reminded the members that the implementation plans will be most useful if published by June 2006. Dr. Whitney reminded members to review the documents now because once the document enters the CENR and White House clearance phases the SDR will not be permitted to make additional changes.

**Earth Observations Working Group.** Dr. Tim Battista will replace Dr. Margaret Davidson as Co-Chair of the Earth Observations Working Group. Dr. Steve Ambrose and Dr. Jay Feuquay will continue to serve as Co-Chairs. The working group continues to work on finalizing the Earth Observations four-page document, and will meet again to discuss it on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Jackson Room of the White House Conference Center.

**International Working Group.** Mr. Ralph Braibanti will serve as new Chair of the International Working Group (IWG), with support from Shira Yoffe and Fernando Echavaria. International issues will be discussed during the monthly SDR meeting and separate meetings will be held as needed to delve into the details of a particular issue. The goal is to effectively tap into the resident expertise of SDR members.

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

Ms. Wood reminded the members that the next Disasters Roundtable will be held on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> at the National Academy of Sciences Keck Center (500 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC) and the next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2006 in the Eisenhower Room of the White House Conference Center.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 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:

April 6, 2006	July 13, 2006	October 5, 2006
May 4, 2006	August 3, 2006	November 2, 2006
June 8, 2006	September 14, 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

Ralph Braibanti, Chair, 202-663-2330, braibantirl@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  
Tim Battista, Co-Chair, 301-713-3028 x171, tim.battista@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

### MARCH ACTIONS

Action	Lead	By When
Distribute link to "A Failure of Initiative: The Final Report of the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina": <a href="http://www.katrina.house.gov/full_katrina_report.htm">http://www.katrina.house.gov/full_katrina_report.htm</a>	Secretariat	Complete
Distribute the link to the University of South Carolina student of state emergency management use of remote sensing: <a href="http://www.rshgs.sc.edu/resources_surveys.aspx">www.rshgs.sc.edu/resources_surveys.aspx</a>	Secretariat	Complete
Review the Coastal Inundation, Flood, Hurricane, Landslides and Debris Flows, Technological Disasters and Wildland Fire Four-page documents and provide comments/revisions to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	SDR Members	8 March
Once signed by the NOAA Assistant Administrator, distribute the fact sheet on the 24-hour waiver for high-	Secretariat	10 March

resolution commercial imagery		
Distribute the Earth Observations, Earthquake, Human and Ecosystem Health Hazards, Tsunami and Volcano documents to the SDR for review	Secretariat	10 March
Review the Earth Observations, Earthquake, Human and Ecosystem Health Hazards, Tsunami and Volcano Four-page documents and provide comments/revisions to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	SDR Members	15 March
Post Dr. Hodgson's presentation to the SDR Members Only page of the website	Secretariat	17 March
Include briefings to other NSTC committees in the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans Outreach Plan	Secretariat	24 March
Consider briefing the Homeland Security Council on the science and technology aspects of the recently-released Katrina reports. Target the briefing for the start of Hurricane season	Dr. Whitney	31 March