

# Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

6 April 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., White House Conference Center

---

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 (T)

DHS Bruce Davis

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*

NIH Allen Dearry

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

DOE Merrill Smith

DOT Shiela Duwadi

EPA Greg Susanke

FEMA Craig Wingo

NASA Jim Higgins

NOAA Tim Battista

Michael Hales

NSF Tom Birkland

Secretariat Dori Akerman

Emily Wallace

State Chris Rothfuss

## Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions  
10:05 Approval of March Meeting Minutes  
10:10 Report from the Vice-Chair  
10:30 Report from the NSTC Liaison  
10:50 Grand Challenges Implementation Plans  
and Next Initiatives  
11:15 Working Group Reports  
11:55 Close and Next Actions

## Handouts

- Agenda
- March Meeting Minutes
- Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning Newsletter
- Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan
- Letters to Congress transmitting the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan
- SDR Clearance Instructions for the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Implementation Plans
- Clearance Calendar
- UK Department for International Development Press Release
- Announcement: Harvard Global Conference on Disaster Prevention

## **I. Call to Order**

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

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

Members approved the March meeting minutes.

## **III. Summary of Discussion**

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

SDR Chair Helen Wood attended the Early Warnings Conference in Bonn on 27-30 March 2006 where she gave a presentation entitled, "Promoting Risk-Wise Behavior: An Integrated Strategy for Reducing Vulnerability and Improving Resiliency." While in Bonn, Ms. Wood briefed members of the World Bank Hazard Risk Management team and plans to meet with them in a more formal capacity next month. Additional information about the Early Warnings Conference can be found in the Promotion of Early Warning Newsletter, which is in the meeting folders.

Dr. Applegate announced that he will officially become SDR Chair at the September SDR meeting.

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

Dr. Gene Whitney heralded the completion of the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan. The document has been cleared by the White House and transmitted to Congress. A copy of the report and transmittal letters are in the meeting folders. Members can request additional printed copies of the report by e-mailing the Secretariat ([ewallace@grs-solutions.com](mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com)). The report will be available on [www.sdr.gov](http://www.sdr.gov) as of Monday, 10 April.

Dr. Whitney explained that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be the first agency to chair the Interagency Working Group identified in the report. Any SDR members interested in participating in the Working Group should e-mail the Secretariat ([ewallace@grs-solutions.com](mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com)). NOAA will convene the first meeting in June and will meet at least quarterly thereafter, reporting to the SDR once per year.

### **C. Grand Challenges Implementation Plans and Next Initiatives**

SDR Clearance on the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans was initiated on 5 April. Members have until Friday, 14 April to respond with their clearances, comments and edits. A Grand Challenges Implementation Plan Clearance Calendar was included in the meeting folders. Members were reminded that there is a very tight timeline for the clearance process in order to publish these documents by the end of June.

Dr. Applegate led a discussion about the next initiatives related to the *Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction*.

**Recast the Next Big Disasters as a supplement to the Grand Challenges.** The Next Big Disaster scenarios address potential catastrophic events that have a reasonable likelihood of striking major urban areas in the U.S. over the next several decades. The hazards, earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruption, tsunami and flood, are real. Each hazard scenario would be followed by a section about how the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction can be addressed to reduce the impact of these events and prevent them from becoming catastrophic. These are test cases to see if the S&T advances outlined in the Grand Challenges for Disaster reduction really would reduce risk. This supplement would be developed in April/May and enter the clearance process in June.

This effort would culminate in a fall cabinet briefing by Dr. Marburger and a follow-on half-day roundtable with appropriate senior representatives of SDR member agencies.

**Develop a tool for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).** The SDR would develop a tool for OMB to assist the analysts in interpreting the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans. This effort would be initiated through a joint OMB/Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) memo to all SDR member agencies requesting information how agency program related to disaster reduction fared under PART and GPRA analysis. Also, the memo would request information about how the Grand Challenges have affected agency budgets. Based on that information, the SDR will prepare the tool over the summer and deliver it to OMB in August/September.

**Complete Grand Challenges four-page implementation plans for cross-cutting themes.** The SDR will complete four-page implementation plans on Early Warnings, Earth Observations, Infrastructure, etc. Dr. Noel Raufaste, NIST, suggested a half-day offsite on 13 June 2006 to brainstorm these themes. The SDR will begin to work on these documents in earnest this fall and they will enter the clearance process next spring.

**Develop Grand Challenges report card and self-assessment tool.** The Grand Challenges report card will serve as a national assessment of milestones and a way to measure how well the federal government is managing disaster risk. Simultaneously, the SDR will develop a self-assessment tool to be used at the state and local levels. Dr. Dan Sosin, CDC, commented that there are already self-assessment tools related to terrorism preparedness and the SDR may want to examine some of those models. Dr. Bruce Davis, DHS, said that DHS has examples.

Dr. David Simpson, University of Louisville, will present a briefing on Measuring Community Emergency Preparedness at the May SDR meeting. The Subcommittee will brainstorm this effort as part of the half-day offsite in June and begin developing the report cards and self-assessment tool this fall.

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

**Grand Challenges Task Group.** Dr. Applegate recognized Dr. Raufaste for his leadership in shepherding the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans to the clearance process. Dr. Raufaste encouraged members to be timely in their responses to the clearance request and be prepared to reach out within their own agencies and brief the content of these implementation plans upon publication.

**WindHRP Working Group.** Dr. John Gaynor, NOAA, was recognized for his leadership in developing the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan. Dr. Gaynor again asked that members interested in participating in the Working Group e-mail the Secretariat ([ewallace@grs-solutions.com](mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com) or 703-560-7448)

**Earth Observations Working Group.** Dr. Steve Ambrose, NASA, reported that he is following up with the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) on the mid- and long-term opportunities.

**International Working Group.** Mr. Chris Rothfuss, Department of State, briefed the SDR about the State Department's position concerning the Disaster Management International Space Coordination Organization (DMISCO) on Mr. Ralph Braibanti's behalf. Mr. Rothfuss said that the State Department is not in favor of creating an other group for the sake of another group. Others in the international community; however, do not see any overlap between this activity and other ongoing international endeavors. Mr. Rothfuss specifically requested representatives from NOAA and USGS

be present at the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space meeting in Vienna on 7-16 June 2006.

Dr. Applegate informed members that the UK Department for International Development (DFID) released a new Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Paper. The Policy provides a framework for DFID to integrate disaster risk reduction measures more effectively into its own work and strengthen the international system's capacity to manage disaster risks. The DFID press release was included in the meeting folders.

Also, Dr. Applegate reported that Ms. Wood submitted comments to the Department of State about Iran's proposed Disaster Management Center saying that the U.S. is usually supportive of regionally based disaster reduction efforts, especially those funded by the host country.

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

The Harvard Global Conference on Disaster Prevention is 26-28 April 2006. Announcements were included in the meeting folders.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. EDT.

## 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:

June 8, 2006	September 14, 2006	December 7, 2006
July 13, 2006	October 5, 2006	
August 3, 2006	November 2, 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

### APRIL ACTIONS

Action	Lead	By When
Distribute the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan electronically	Secretariat	Complete
Distribute the DMISCO Function vs. GEO 2006 Workplan electronically	Secretariat	Complete
Post the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan to the SDR website	Secretariat	10 April
Contact the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> ) if you would like to participate in the WindHRP Working Group	SDR Members	14 April
Submit Grand Challenges Implementation	SDR Members	14 April

Plan clearance forms to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> or fax 703-560-3536)		
Provide examples of self-assessment tools from DHS and CDC to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> )	Dan Sosin Bruce Douglas	21 April
Invite Donald E. Powell, federal coordinator of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, to brief the SDR at a future meeting	Secretariat	21 April
Schedule Next Initiatives offsite	Secretariat	21 April
Contact the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> ) if you would like to participate in any of the following next initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cast the Next Big Disasters as a supplement to the Grand Challenges, including key actions.</li> <li>• Develop a tool for OMB to assist in interpreting the Grand Challenges implementation plans and link to performance.</li> <li>• Complete four-page implementation plans for cross-cutting themes (i.e., Early Warnings, Earth Observations, Infrastructure) and develop four-page documents to expound on each Grand Challenge.</li> <li>• Develop a Grand Challenges report card to serve as a national assessment of milestones and a way to measure how well the federal government is managing disaster risk. Simultaneously, develop a self-assessment tool to be used at the state and local levels.</li> </ul>	SDR Members	21 April
Contact the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> ) to receive hard copies of the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan	SDR Members	Ongoing