

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

4 May 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

Jay Feuquay (USGS), Co-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

NSF Joy Pauschke

OPHS Sven Rodenbeck (T)

State *Ralph Braibanti*

USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*

USAID *Peter Morris*

USDA *Allen Dedrick*

USDA / USFS *Susan Conard*

USGS *David Applegate*

Other Attendees

DOT Shiela Duwadi

NOAA Tim Battista

Becky Chacko

John Gaynor

Nathalie Valette-Silver (T)

NSF Tom Birkland

Secretariat *Dori Akerman*

Emily Wallace

State Fernando Echavarria

University of Louisville

Dave Simpson

Matin Katirai

Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 10:05 Approval of April Meeting Minutes
- 10:10 Report from the NSTC Liaison
- 10:20 Briefing and Discussion – Measuring Community Emergency Preparedness
- 10:50 Disaster Preparedness Self-Assessment Tools
- 11:00 Briefing and Discussion – Department of Transportation
- 11:25 Grand Challenges Next Initiatives
- 11:45 Working Group Reports
- 11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- April Meeting Minutes
- Briefing on the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan

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 April meeting minutes.

III. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Whitney announced that SDR Chair Helen Wood is recovering from surgery and SDR Vice-Chair Dr. David Applegate is on travel.

All Members were thanked for their prompt responses to the Grand Challenges Implementation Plan clearance request. The document has cleared the SDR and is now at OSTP awaiting the “green light” to proceed to CENR clearance.

Dr. Whitney announced that last week he and Dr. John Gaynor, NOAA, briefed the Wind Hazard Reduction Coalition on the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan. The briefing was very well received. Members are encouraged to brief their agencies about the report and, to facilitate that, a PowerPoint briefing has been developed. Due to the large file size, it will be available on the SDR Members-Only website.

The White House Conference Center is closing for renovations in mid-May and the SDR will hold future monthly meetings in Room 5213 of the New Executive Office Building (located at 725 17th Street, NW). The New Executive Office Building requires building access information (full names, social security numbers, dates of birth) for each person 48 hours prior to the meeting. All SDR Members and alternates must submit their building access information to the Secretariat. The information will be held in confidence and will only be used to facilitate building entry.

B. Briefing and Discussion – Measuring Community Emergency Preparedness

Dr. David Simpson and Matin Katirai, University of Louisville, provided a briefing on measuring community emergency preparedness. They discussed measurement and metrics, standards and rating scales, examples of existing indexing systems and the Center for Hazards Research project. Their working papers are available for download at the Center website: <http://hazardcenter.louisville.edu>.

C. Disaster Preparedness Self-Assessment Tools

Following up on discussion at the April SDR meeting about developing a community self-assessment tool as part of the Grand Challenges Next Initiatives, Dr. Dan Sosin of the Centers for Disease Control stated that public health has a plethora of assessment and self-assessment tools for various aspects of public health readiness and performance. A new tool to help communities assess their public health readiness status would not likely be productive.

There are National Public Health Performance Standards to improve the quality of public health practice and the performance of public health systems. Information is available online at [http://www.cdc.gov/od/ocphp/nphpsp/documents/NPHPSP%20Fact%20Sheet%20\(PDF\).pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/od/ocphp/nphpsp/documents/NPHPSP%20Fact%20Sheet%20(PDF).pdf) and <http://www.cdc.gov/od/ocphp/nphpsp/>.

The Cooperative Agreement for State and Local Preparedness Performance Measures have evolved from a self-assessment tool across planning, surveillance and epidemiology, laboratory, communications (IT and methods), and training to a more systematic readiness measurement

approach. Exercises, drills, and surrogate events, are used in 34 measures to assess readiness of public health entities to respond to different scenarios in addition to process measures. The new measures should be released in the next few weeks. Much of the new focus is on incident management training and exercising and development of response plan guidance (mostly for biological events).

Academic centers-of-excellence for public health preparedness serve as an assessment tool resource to eleven state and local public health agencies including:

- State Health Department Risk Assessments
- Disaster Mental Health Training Assessment for Cities
- Local and Regional Checklist for Preparedness and Planning
- Community Connectivity Assessment Tools to assess coordination among community partners
- Job-Based Assessment
- State Agroterrorism Prevention and Preparedness Needs Assessment
- Border-wide Education and Training Needs Assessment
- Preparedness Needs Assessments for Schools

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Public Health Ready Program offers preparedness planning guidance materials for local governmental public health agencies to use in developing their local response plans (<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/PPHR/responseplanning.cfm>).

Information about the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) can be found online at http://www.astho.org/?template=preparedness_assessment_tools.html.

The Business Planning Checklist for Pandemic Influenza, which carries through public health preparedness checklist for businesses and their employees also is available online at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/businesschecklist.html>.

Finally, there are three checklists on legal preparedness for public health emergencies that were prepared for the Centers for Disease Control by the extramural Collaborating Center for Public Health Law, based at Georgetown Law Center / Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Hygiene (<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/displan.asp>). They are:

1. Inter-jurisdictional Legal Coordination for Public Health Emergency Preparedness
2. Local Public Health Emergency Legal Preparedness and Response
3. Civil Legal Liability Related to Public Health Emergencies

On behalf of Dr. Bruce Davis, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Emily Wallace announced that DHS assesses the capability of local communities, their resiliency to a variety of hazards, and the utility of developed technology to improve that capability. The process is currently facilitated by a DHS team working with the regional authorities to reduce confusion on the required information and to insure accurate responses. Nancy Suski, Portfolio Manager for Preparedness and Response in DHS S&T, will make a presentation on this assessment process during the June meeting.

D. Briefing and Discussion – Department of Transportation

Dr. K.T. Thirumalai, Department of Transportation, presented a briefing on Department of Transportation Programs. He spoke mostly about new horizons for space-based applications and the role of remote sensing in managing infrastructure loss and reconstruction planning. Shiela Duwadi,

Federal Highway Administration, also presented information about the role of transportation in disaster reduction. Specifically, she spoke about the impact natural disasters have on the transportation system, the challenges faced by the system (constant upkeep; age) and the current R&D Thrust Program for Bridges and Structures.

E. Grand Challenges Next Initiatives

Dr. Noel Raufaste, National Institute for Standards and Technology, encouraged Members to think about how to move the Grand Challenges into the implementation phase. He emphasized that Members must think about the transition from research to operations and how that fits within the Grand Challenges framework.

A Grand Challenges Next Initiatives Offsite has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 13 June, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Members should e-mail the Secretariat with possible agenda items.

IV. Working Group Reports

Grand Challenges Task Group. See above.

Earth Observations Working Group. Dr. Steve Ambrose, NASA, reported that the EOWG will meet in May. A meeting announcement will be circulated when the date, time and location are determined.

International Working Group. On behalf of Ralph Braibanti, Department of State, and Helen Wood, Dr. Whitney thanked all SDR Members who commented on the letter from Sergio Camacho, Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, concerning member support for DMISCO.

Based on the comments received, Ms. Wood sent the following statement to Ralph Braibanti and Chris Rothfuss at the Department of State "Most SDR Members are not in favor of DMISCO because they do not see the utility in creating new, single-issue entities that would require additional funding and support. Any initiative of this type should be broader, more integrated and coupled with GEOSS. Before discussing DMISCO implementation, the international community would benefit from continued, healthy discussion about the best means to achieve these end goals. We recommend further discussions with GEO.

None of the SDR agencies are interested in providing support for the DMISCO venture, should it proceed. Of course, significant data and information from USG environmental satellite missions are already fully available for use by the international community."

Dr. Jim Tate, Jr., Department of Interior, asked if the earthquake and 500 cm. tsunami in New Zealand yesterday had caused concern. Dr. Whitney replied that there were some tense moments and it illustrated the need for redundancy in the warning systems.

V. Close and Next Actions

Dr. Whitney announced that DHS has been participating in hurricane exercises that will be ongoing through the start of hurricane season (1 June). The exercises have revealed that there are still holes in the system but communication is vastly improved post Hurricane Katrina.

Dr. John Gaynor announced that the WindHRP Working Group will meet in June to begin implementing the recommendations outlined in the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 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 New Executive Office Building (Contact Secretariat to facilitate building entry):

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

Secretariat

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

X. Summary of Actions

MAY ACTIONS

Action	Lead	By When
Incorporate information provided by Dan Sosin about self-assessment tools into the SDR meeting minutes	Secretariat	Complete
Provide full name, social security number and date of birth to facilitate entry into the New Executive Office Building for SDR monthly meetings	SDR Members and Alternates	12 May
Post Briefing on the Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan to the SDR Members-Only website	Secretariat	12 May
Post PowerPoint presentations from Dr. Simpson, Dr. Thirumalai and Ms. Duwadi to the SDR Members-Only website	Secretariat	12 May
Email Grand Challenges Next Initiatives	SDR Members	12 May

Offsite agenda topics to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)		
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