

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

8 June 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., New Executive Office Building

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

Designated Representatives

BLM *Ed Shepard*

John R. Haugh

CDC Dan Sosin (T)

DHS *Bruce Davis*

DHS/FEMA *David Maurstad*

Craig Wingo

DHS/USCG *Suzanne Strohl*

DOE *Patricia Hoffman*

DOI *James Tate, Jr.*

DOT *K. T. Thirumalai*

EOP / OSTP Gene Whitney

EPA *Peter Jutro*

Stephen Clark

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 (T)

State *Ralph Braibanti*

USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*

USAID *Peter Morris*

USDA *Allen Dedrick*

USDA / USFS *Susan Conard*

USGS David Applegate (T)

Other Attendees

DOT *Shiela Duwadi*

MMS Tom Tobin

NIBS Bernard Murphy

Caritn Tanner

NOAA Tim Battista

Nell Codner

John Gaynor

NSF Robert O'Connor

Secretariat *Dori Akerman*

Will Hottel

State *Fernando Echavarria*

USACE *Andy Bruzewicz*

USGS *Tim Cohn*

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of May Meeting Minutes
10:10 Report from the Chair
10:20 Report from the NSTC Liaison
10:30 Briefing and Discussion – Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: An Independent Study to Assess the Future Savings from Mitigation
11:15 Briefing and Discussion – DHS Community Assessment Techniques
11:40 Grand Challenges Offsite Objectives
11:50 Working Group Reports
12:00 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- May Meeting Minutes
- Validating the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction: Scenarios and Consequences
- EOWG May Meeting Minutes
- *Natural Hazards Observer* Article on Multihazard Mitigation Council
- American Lifelines Alliance Workshop notice
- Email from National Science Foundation on funding for Social Science
- MMC report *Hazard Mitigation Saves*

I. Call to Order

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

II. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Chair

SDR Chair Helen Wood began by welcoming the members and thanked Dr. Whitney for meeting space at the New Executive Office building while the White House Conference is being renovated. The Secretariat will maintain a secured list of member social security numbers and dates of birth to facilitate building entry.

Ms. Wood referred the members to the announcement of the American Lifelines Alliance Workshop on integrated hazard data collection included in the meeting packets. All members seeking more information about this event, including sponsorship information, should contact the SDR Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com).

A draft document titled *Validating the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction: Scenarios and Consequences* was included in meeting packets. These disaster scenarios will serve as a useful tool for sharing the ideas behind the Grand Challenges and demonstrating their possible application. Members are asked to review the document and provide comments to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com) by June 16.

Ms. Wood mentioned that former SDR representative Larry Roeder, in his new capacity as United Nations Affairs Director for the World Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is seeking advice from his colleagues in the SDR. Specifically Mr. Roeder is looking for possible information on protection of livestock during volcanic eruptions. If any members would like to contact Mr. Roeder, please see the Secretariat for further information (ewallace@grs-solutions.com).

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney began by updating the members on the current status of the OMB/OSTP Spring Memo, which has not yet been released. The SDR has submitted information regarding disaster reduction for consideration in the memo, though it is not known at this time if it will be included.

Dr. Whitney discussed the recent World Bank Meeting with Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Elio Codato and Saroj Kumar Jha, which also was attended by SDR Vice-Chair David Applegate. Dr. Applegate said that the meeting provided useful information on disaster mitigation projects being conducted in the developing world, and helped to reinforce the idea that disaster mitigation should be a pillar of any national development strategy.

Gene announced that Margaret Davidson of NOAA will serve as SDR Interim Vice-Chair for Policy when David Applegate takes over as Chair in September. Margaret will continue to serve in that capacity until the official OSTP appointment is made.

Dr. Whitney concluded by discussing the recent GAO report on U.S. tsunami, which includes an evaluation of the Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. The GAO acknowledges SDR's previous report *Tsunami Risk Reduction for the United States*, but somewhat misinterprets the SDR's role relating to State and local governments. The OSTP may issue a response at a later time.

C. Briefing and Discussion – Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: An Independent Study to Assess the Future Savings from Mitigation Activities

Mr. Thomas Tobin, Vice-Chair and Consulting Project Director for the Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC), briefed the members on that organization's work, including their recent report *Mitigation Saves*. The MMC is a council of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) established to reduce total losses associated with natural hazards through fostering and promoting improved mitigation strategies. The report was submitted to Congress on behalf of FEMA to demonstrate the success of federal investment in hazard mitigation grant programs in terms of reduced lives, property and dollars lost from hazard impacts.

According to the report, the benefit cost ratios for mitigation grant by type were:

- Earthquake grants = 1.5
- Flood grants = 5.0
- Wind grants = 3.9
- Project grants = 4.1
- Process grants = 2.0

This means that for every \$1 spent on mitigation saves society an average of \$4. This represents an annual federal savings to the treasury of \$968.5 million. Mr. Tobin's PowerPoint presentation will be made available to all members by the Secretariat.

D. Briefing and Discussion - DHS Community Assessment Techniques

Ms. Nancy Suski (DHS), Portfolio Manager for Preparedness and Response briefed the members on DHS's Regional Technology Initiative (RTI). The RTI works with selected local governments to assess local technology and preparedness needs for homeland security and facilitate the development and transition of innovative technologies organizational concepts. The RTI seeks to ensure that new technologies are integrated into existing management and operational infrastructures and can be continually maintained and updated.

According to the initiative's findings, the top five solutions needed by most communities are:

1. Aids to situation awareness: a major system, accessible to many, visualization and data fusion tools, tied to GIS
2. Aids to consequence-based planning: tools, integration, decision aids, exercises using data from
3. "Smart" notification: to a variety of stakeholders, via multiple systems and tools
4. Reliable interoperable communications: integrated technologies and systems, special formats
5. Aids to broader participation: specialized tools for planning, exercises and situation awareness, emphasis on special districts and infrastructure

The rationales given for this are:

1. To be able to cooperate more effectively
2. To be able to act more intelligently

3. To be more efficient
4. To be able to act more quickly
5. To be better informed

The initiative is designed to support security needs, though many of the same methods and objectives can be applied to natural and technological hazard reduction. Ms. Suski's PowerPoint presentation will be made available to all members by the Secretariat.

E. Grand Challenges Offsite

Next SDR meeting will be on July 20th, not July 13th, and will combine regular business with a Grand Challenges "Offsite." The meeting will take place in OEOB Room 476 from 8:30 a.m. – noon. SDR members are asked to submit clearance info (SSN and DOB) to the Secretariat by July 18th.

III. Working Group Reports

Grand Challenges Task Group. See above.

Earth Observations Working Group. Dr. Steve Ambrose reported that the EOWG met on May 25th, and meeting minutes are included in all packets. The next meeting of the EOWG is scheduled for June 22nd at NASA Headquarters.

International Working Group. Dr. Fernando Echavarria reported on behalf of Ralph Braibanti. The German DMISCO proposal is being heavily pushed in the U.N. COPUOS. Though the U.S. was initially opposed to the creation of another new group on Earth Observations, the proposal will likely pass.

IV. Approval of Minutes and Review of Actions

Members approved the May meeting minutes.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. EDT.

VI. 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 the Secretariat to facilitate building entry):

July 20, 2006 (OEOB Offsite)	September 14, 2006 October 5, 2006	December 7, 2006
August 3, 2006	November 2, 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 Emily Wallace (ewallace@grs-solutions.com).

VIII. Contact Information SDR Leadership

Helen Wood, Chair, 301-713-1140, helen.wood@noaa.gov
David Applegate, Vice-Chair, 703-648-6715, applegate@usgs.gov

Margaret Davidson, Vice Chair (Interim), margaret.davidson@noaa.gov, 843-740-1220
 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

IV. Summary of June Actions

Action	Lead	By When
The Secretariat will post all PowerPoint slides from the June SDR meeting to the SDR website (www.sdr.gov)	Secretariat	16 June
Members interested in more info about the American Lifelines Alliance Workshop Proposal included in meeting packets should contact the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	SDR Members	16 June
Members will review the document “Validating the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction: Scenarios and Consequences” included in meeting packets and submit comments to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	SDR Members	16 June
All member attending the July 20 th Grand Challenges Offsite at OEOP should submit clearance information to the SDR Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	SDR Members	18 July