

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

14 September 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m., New Executive Office Building Room 5213

Italics indicate absent members. "T" indicate members participating via teleconference.

Officers

Helen Wood (NOAA), Chair
David Applegate (USGS), Vice-Chair
Margaret Davidson (NOAA), 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
Tim Battista (NOAA), Co-Chair
Bruce Quirk (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*

NOB *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*

Amy McKee

USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*

USAID *Peter Morris*

USDA *Allen Dedrick*

USDA / USFS *Susan Conard*

USGS David Applegate

Other Attendees

DOE Jim Caruthers

DOT Shiela Duwadi

NOAA Nell Codner

John Gaynor

David Green

Margaret McCalla

Jennifer Rhoades

Nathalie Valette-Silver

Secretariat Emily Wallace

Will Hottel

USDA Michael Ritter

USGS James Devine

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of July Meeting Minutes
10:10 Report from the Chair and Vice-Chairs
10:20 Report from the NSTC Liaison
10:30 Review July Meeting Actions and
Prioritize Upcoming Projects
11:00 Briefing and Discussion – Update from
the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation
Program
11:30 Working Group Reports
11:40 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- July Meeting Minutes
- SDR Charter
- List of Performance Measures related to Grand Challenges Implementation Plan actions
- Upcoming SDR Projects
- EOWG August and September Meeting Minutes

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 and Vice Chairs

Ms. Wood began by giving a Secretariat support update. She noted that at the current level of support agency contributions will last until early 2007. Printing the 14 four-page Grand Challenges Implementation Plans will be a major expense this fall and Ms. Wood encouraged any agencies still considering contributions with Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 funds to send them forth.

Ms. Wood reported meeting with the Disaster Management Branch Chief for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Pasi Rinne, on Wednesday, 13 September. UNEP is becoming more focused and engaged in disaster reduction, especially reducing environmental/ecosystem destruction as a result of disasters. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), in conjunction with UNEP, is drafting a joint discussion paper for ISDR. The SDR will receive a final copy.

Dr. Gene Whitney noted that disasters was just added to the Policy Coordinating Committee for UNESCO and suggested the SDR could endeavor to provide information for UNESCO. Dr. Whitney inquired about the status of SDR's International Working Group and whether it could fill this role. Ms. Wood said that the Co-Chairs could consider it when they set this year's Working Group priorities.

In his report, SDR Vice-Chair Dr. David Applegate said he briefed the National Academies Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (COSEPUP) on the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction at the end of August. He also mentioned that the Technical Reference documents for Earth Observations that were developed under Dr. Rosalind Helz, former Co-Chair of the SDR's Earth Observations Working Group, can be cleared and filed as a USGS Open File Report. However, the document was collaborative in nature and Dr. Applegate is working with Dr. Helz to identify other agencies that also may need to clear the document.

Ms. Wood concluded her report by announcing that the SDR review of *Catastrophic Events: Testing the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction* has been completed, and that the documents will now move forward for review by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) before they undergo National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) clearance.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Whitney announced that the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans have been cleared and are ready to go to press. Each of the plans will be printed individually, and a folder will be designed to hold the entire set of documents such that the Implementation Plans are secured on the left side of the folder the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction document is secured on the right. The letter from Dr. Marburger will be printed on the left flap of the folder. Dr. Noel Raufaste (NIST) requested that the documents be posted as individual files and as one large file with the letter from Dr. Marburger for downloading from the SDR website.

Dr. Whitney mentioned that all NSTC Charters, including the SDR's are being put into the same format. This does not affect the content of the charter, only its presentation.

Dr. Whitney concluded by announcing that legislation creating a National Alert and Warning System will soon be voted on by the full Senate. OSTP opposed this bill because it essentially duplicates the recent Executive Order to create such a system, but regardless, it appears the bill will pass. Speaking of the recent Executive Order, it was deemed a breach of etiquette for the SDR to send a letter to Secretary Chertoff about the Executive Order. However, Dr. Marburger and Frances Townsend will send a memo to Secretary Chertoff and include the SDR's language. This is a very effective way to transmit the SDR's message to Secretary Chertoff. Dr. Whitney reminded members that this was all a result of the Task Force on Effective Warnings.

C. Review July Meeting Actions and Prioritize Upcoming Projects

Dr. Applegate thanked all members who participated in the 20 July SDR Meeting/Offsite. Numerous ideas were discussed as potential topics for future SDR white papers or task groups, including:

1. Early Warnings
2. Community Resilience
3. Earth Observations
4. Critical Infrastructure
5. Natural Resources

Of those, Early Warnings has been overcome by events related to the Executive Order. Dr. Margaret Davidson (NOAA) will take on a Community Resilience Task Group with a white paper, community resilience index and possible sessions at upcoming scientific/hazard-related meetings deliverable in the next 18-24 months. The Earth Observations Working Group is currently drafting their white paper and will complete by December 2006. Dr. Joy Pauschke (NSF) will lead an effort to expound on Grand Challenge #4 with a longer white paper. That effort will commence in November when John G. Voeller comes to brief the SDR about homeland security as it relates to critical infrastructure. Dr. Susan Conard (USFS) will work with Dr. Nathalie Valette-Silver (NOAA) and John Haugh (BLM) to author a white paper about natural resource impacts as a result of hazards.

Ms. Wood and SDR Secretariat Emily Wallace described the interest from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in establishing links between the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans and existing OMB program evaluation measures. Ms. Wallace drew the member's attention to the sample evaluation measures included in the meeting packets, which were provided by USGS. There is an opportunity for agencies to provide information on the program evaluation measures they are currently employing, and to map those measures to the plans. Dr. Whitney reminded members that if the Implementation Plans do not connect to the budget there will be no long term interest from the agencies or OMB.

Members are asked to provide information on the OMB program evaluation measures (PART and GPRA) currently employed by their agency to the Secretariat no later than Thursday, 28 September.

D. Briefing and Discussion - Update from the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program

Dr. David Green (NOAA) briefed the members on the progress being made by the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) since the publication of the SDR document *Tsunami Risk Reduction for the United States: A Framework for Action* in 2005. NTHMP was developed as a collaborative effort by NOAA, NSF, FEMA, and USGS to reduce the impact of tsunamis and coastal hazards. Dr. Green emphasized that NTHMP is a Federal, State and local entity designed to provide "durable end-to-end warning, guidance, and mitigation." The program intends to develop a global

framework for tsunami hazard reduction and has partnered with UNESCO/IOC, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and ISDR.

Dr. Green provided the following summary of NTHMP actions in relation to the SDR Tsunami Risk Reduction Report (2005):

NTHMP Expansion. At its February 2006 Meeting, NTHMP included reps from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This effectively expanded the program out to a total of seven U.S. States, Commonwealths, and Territories. NTHMP members were also able to provide Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with some funding for their mitigation and preparedness activities

In May 2006, NTHMP held a meeting in Jacksonville, FL where all of the 23 new state, commonwealth, and territory members were invited to learn more about NTHMP. The only limitation to truly expanding this program effectively is funding. The next NTHMP Meeting is being held November 1-2, 2006 at the Hilton in Silver Spring, MD. All NTHMP Members are invited to attend and participate.

SDR Actions. NTHMP is currently developing an Implementation Plan to address the SDR Recommendations, which will be available no later than March 2007. In the interim, NTHMP has begun to address the following actions:

Risk Assessment – NTHMP decided to develop a U.S. Hazard Assessment, based on historical and seismological data, prior to the development of a Risk Assessment. The Hazard Assessment is expected to be delivered to the NTHMP Membership at its Nov. 2006 Meeting. This Hazard Assessment is a first step toward building a Risk Assessment. NTHMP expects to have annual updates to the hazard assessment until true risk assessments can be developed (such as the Seaside, OR study that was recently drafted).

Research Plan – NTHMP held a Research Review in Corvallis, OR in July 2006 with tsunami experts from federal, state, and academic institutions. The findings of this review will be used to develop a Research Plan. Delivery of the Final 2006 Research Plan is expected Nov. 2006

NTHMP Assessment – Although an assessment of NTHMP was not a recommendation of the SDR, NTHMP realized a follow-up assessment to 2001 was due. GAO supported this by making a recommendation for an NTHMP Assessment. NTHMP has formed a working group to determine who external to the program needs to be a part of the assessment team and what actions do we want them to accomplish. The working group has formed a proposal which will be submitted to NTHMP for approval at its Nov. 2006 Meeting. The Assessment is expected to be complete by April 2007.

NTHMP Strategic Plan – Similar to the NTHMP Assessment, the development of a strategic plan for the program was not an action recommended by the SDR. However, the program along with the GAO support this direction. NTHMP will utilize the information provided in the Research Plan, Assessment, Implementation Plan, Hazard Assessment along with other information to develop a strategic plan for the program. The strategic plan will be completed in early 2008.

Dr. Green's PowerPoint presentation will be available on the SDR members-only website.

III. Working Group Reports

Grand Challenges Task Group

Dr. Raufaste (NIST) thanked all members for their contribution to the 14 Grand Challenges Implementation Plans, which will be published shortly. A distribution plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

Earth Observations Working Group. Dr. Steve Ambrose (NASA) asked members to read the EOWG meeting minutes included in the meeting packets. The EOWG is currently writing an Earth observations white paper that reflects the cross-cutting Earth observation applications in the Grand Challenges. The EOWG will meet again on 28 September.

International Working Group. No report available.

IV. Close and Next Actions

The members thanked departing SDR Chair Helen Wood for her years of dedicated leadership and service to the Subcommittee. Ms. Wood, in response, officially “crowned” Dr. David Applegate as the new SDR Chair with the Helen Wood Commemorative Tiara. Dr. Applegate will now serve as Chair of SDR and Dr. Margaret Davidson is the Vice-Chair.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 4th at the Department of the Interior Room Room 7000-B.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.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):

October 4, 2006

November 2, 2006

December 7, 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

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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

Tim Battista, Co-Chair, 301-713-3028 x171, tim.battista@noaa.gov

Bruce Quick, Co-Chair, 605-594-6040, quirk@usgs.gov

Grand Challenges Task Group

Noel Raufaste, Chair, 301-975-6062, noel.raufaste@nist.gov

Secretariat

Emily Wallace, 703-560-7448, ewallace@grs-solutions.com

IV. Summary of September Actions

Action	Lead	By When
SDR Members will provide information on the OMB program evaluation measures employed by their agencies to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	28 September
Secretariat will update the Grand Challenges/OMB cross-reference table to include evaluation measures submitted by members	Secretariat	5 October
Members interested in managing the distribution of the Earth Observations Technical Reference Document will contact the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	28 September