

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

4 October 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Department of the Interior Building Room 7000-B

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

Officers

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 (T)

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 *Margaret Davidson*

NSF Joy Pauschke

OPHS Sven Rodenbeck (T)

State *Ralph Braibanti*

Fernando Echavaria

USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*

USAID *Peter Morris*

USDA *Allen Dedrick*

USDA / USFS *Susan Conard*

USGS David Applegate

Other Attendees

AMS Bill Hooke

NASA/IPO Jim McGuire

NGB Tina Schoenberger

NOAA Tim Battista

Nell Codner

John Gaynor

Margaret McCalla

NSF Thomas Birkland

Jacqueline Meszaros

Bob O'Connor

Secretariat Emily Wallace

Will Hottel

State Ebonique Padgett

Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 10:05 Approval of September Meeting Minutes
- 10:10 Report from the Chair
- 10:25 Report from the NSTC Liaison
- 10:35 Grand Challenges Four-Page
Implementation Plans Distribution Plan
- 10:45 Discuss Plenary Panel for Upcoming
Natural Hazards Workshop in Boulder
- 11:00 Briefing and Discussion – ICSU
- 11:10 Working Group Reports
- 11:30 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- September Meeting Minutes
- SDR Charter
- Draft Grand Challenges "key" for OMB
- Joint SDR/USGEO final document *Improved Observations for Disaster Reduction: Near-Term Opportunity Plan*
- USGEO final document *National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Near-Term Opportunity Plan*
- National Science Board draft document for public comment *Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative*
- Draft Outreach and Distribution Plan for Grand Challenges Implementation Plans
- ICSU Planning Group Background
- U.S.-China Joint Commission Meeting Information

I. Call to Order

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

II. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Chair

Dr. David Applegate began by thanking the SDR member agencies that submitted performance measures to the Secretariat last month. Those measures were mapped to specific Grand Challenges Implementation Plan actions and the draft document is included in the meeting packets. Any member agencies who still wish to submit measures should do so by Friday, October 6th. The draft document will be circulated for comment and comments will be due to the Secretariat on Friday, October 13th.

Dr. Applegate announced that the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) just released two reports germane to the SDR: *Improved Observations for Disaster Reduction: Near-Term Opportunity Plan* and *National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Near-Term Opportunity Plan*. These reports represent near-term opportunities for earth observations related to disasters and NIDIS, and were developed in close coordination with the SDR. The SDR website will provide a link to the documents on the USGEO website (http://usgeo.gov/docs/nto/Disaster_Observations_NTO_2006-0925.pdf and http://usgeo.gov/docs/nto/NIDIS_NTO_2006-0925.pdf) where the reports can be downloaded.

The National Science Board (NSB) document *Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative* is now available for public comment until Sunday, October 29th. Members can access it online at <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/committees/hurricane/index.htm>. Dr. Gene Whitney mentioned that the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has two concerns about this report: 1) Public Law 108-360, Title II, known as the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 was signed into law by President Bush on October 25, 2004 and hurricane research should be coordinated through the mechanism mandated therein; and 2) The increased level in funding for hurricane research proposed in the document is unrealistic and not likely to get a response from OMB. OSTP is negotiating with NSB in an effort to dovetail existing programs and national needs while refraining from initiating hazard-specific programs across the government. Dr. Whitney emphasized the need to maintain a balanced research portfolio across hazards and not simply cater to the most recent disaster event. The SDR Secretariat will draft an official SDR response to the NSB request for public comment and will distribute it to Members for comment prior to the October 29 deadline.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney mentioned that the memo from Dr. Marburger and Frances Townsend to Secretary Chertoff about the National Alert and Warning System Executive Order includes the SDR's language about the importance of the social sciences in this endeavor. Once the memo is issued publicly, the SDR will receive a copy.

The SDR's parent committee, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) will hold its bi-annual meeting tomorrow, October 5th at 2:00 p.m. in the Indian Treaty Room of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Dr. Applegate will give a presentation on recent SDR activities at the meeting.

Also, Dr. Whitney announced that the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans are undergoing further review by White House staff and those approvals are the last approvals needed prior to publication. The 14 hazard-specific implementation plans were graphically designed before this

level of clearance, though the photos and graphics used were not necessarily high-resolution and publication quality. All members are encouraged to send relevant high resolution photos to the Secretariat for use in the Implementation plans by Friday, October 13th. All photos submitted must be government owned to avoid copyright issues.

C. Grand Challenges Implementation Plans Distribution Plan

Dr. Applegate discussed the draft Grand Challenges Implementation Plans Outreach and Distribution Plan included in the meeting packets. SDR Secretariat Emily Wallace summarized the plan for the members, pointing out that the distribution plan was similar to the one used for the original Grand Challenges document. A press release will be issued at the time of publication, and copies will be distributed to all member agencies upon request, as well as to all Cabinet Members, White House offices, other National Science and Technology Council Committees and Subcommittees.

The Implementation plans can be distributed in complete sets along with the parent document, or as individual documents. The plans will also be available for download from the SDR website, along with a PowerPoint presentation members can use for briefing these documents within their own agencies. Dr. Applegate reminded members that one of their responsibilities is to share these documents widely within their own agencies and brief their colleagues at all levels.

D. Plenary Panel for Upcoming Natural Hazards Workshop in Boulder

Dr. Applegate led a discussion of the upcoming Natural Hazards Workshop in Boulder, CO. The planning committee for this annual workshop requested ideas for plenary sessions at their next event in July 2007. The SDR has sponsored plenary sessions for 4 of the last 5 years. Given the recent release of the joint USGEO/SDR *Improved Observations for Disaster Reduction: Near-Term Opportunity Plan*, Dr. Applegate suggested the SDR propose a joint session with USGEO. Dr. Tom Birkland (NSF) suggested the session focus on themes and ideas meaningful to hazards practitioners and draw a direct line from satellite observations to disaster reduction practices. Dr. Patricia Hoffman (DOE) suggested that the discussion be rooted in the next big disaster scenarios created by the SDR, and in demonstrating their utility to practitioners via real hazard scenarios.

Dr. Whitney suggested a session on moving research results into operational practice. He cited the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program has a model for how this could be done within the hazards community. Dr. Peter Jutro (EPA) mentioned the Department of Homeland Security's Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs) as an example of how Federal data can be shared with the hazards community in a useful manner.

The Secretariat will draft a session proposal by Friday, October 13th for SDR Leadership comment and submit it to the Natural Hazards Center by Friday, October 20th.

E. Briefing and Discussion – ICSU

Former SDR Chair and American Meteorological Society Director and Senior Policy Fellow Dr. Bill Hooke briefed the SDR on the International Council for Science (ICSU). The International Council for Science (ICSU; formerly the International Council of Scientific Unions) has put together a Planning Group on Natural and Human-Induced Hazards and Disasters, available online at: http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/865_DD_FILE_Hazards_Report_Final.pdf. The core recommendation is found at the beginning of Section 6.4 of that report (page 28 of the pdf file above):

"Our analysis suggests that research is needed on how to translate research findings about natural hazards and human behaviour into policies that are effective in

minimising the human and economic costs of hazards. Such research needs a multidisciplinary approach focused on the needs of identified customers."

Dr. Hooke is seeking SDR members to work with him and inform the ICSU Planning Group as they define the international program and its implementation. Any SDR members interested in participating in an ad-hoc working group to address these objectives should contact the Secretariat by Friday, October 13th.

III. Working Group Reports

International Working Group

Dr. Fernando Echavaria (Department of State) and Ms. Ebonique Padgett (Department of State) briefed the members on the upcoming U.S.-China Joint Commission Meeting, which will take place in Beijing on October 18-19. A session on disaster prevention and mitigation has been added as a new area of discussion and the Chinese are very interested in hearing about U.S. national policies for disaster mitigation, including opportunities for cooperative international agreements. The Secretariat will provide Dr. Echavaria with copies of all recent SDR publications for distribution at the meeting and send Ms. Padgett the link to the SDR member's only website. SDR members are asked to provide basic briefing materials on any existing China/U.S. agency collaborations, or possible collaborations, to the Secretariat by Friday, October 6th.

Earth Observations Working Group.

Dr. Tim Battista (NOAA) mentioned that the EOWG is continuing to work on updating the earth observations white paper. The next meeting of the EOWG will be held on October 26th.

IV. Close and Next Actions

The next SDR meeting will be on Thursday, November 2nd in Room 5213 of the New Executive Office Building (located at 725 17th Street, NE).

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 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):

November 2, 2006	April 5, 2007	October 4, 2007
December 7, 2006	May 3, 2007	November 1, 2007
January 11, 2007	June 7, 1007	December 6, 2007
February 1, 2007	July 19, 2007	
March 1, 2007	September 6, 2007	

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

David Applegate, Chair, 703-648-6715, applegate@usgs.gov
Margaret Davidson, Vice Chair, 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

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 October Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Provide information and briefing materials on any existing disasters mitigation U.S.-China agency collaborations or possible collaborations to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	6 October 2006
Consolidate agency information on U.S.-China collaborations and send to Ebonique Padgett	Secretariat	7 October 2006
Provide 50 copies of each recent SDR publication to the State Department for distribution at the U.S.-China Joint Commission Meeting.	Secretariat	6 October 2006
Submit PART and GPRA agency measures for inclusion in the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans OMB Tool to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	6 October 2006
Provide comments on the draft Grand Challenges Implementation Plans OMB Tool to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	13 October 2006
Volunteer to participate in an ad-hoc working group to work with Dr. Bill Hooke and inform the ICSU Planning Group on Natural and Human-Induced Hazards by contacting the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	13 October 2006
Send relevant, high resolution photos and graphics to the Secretariat for use in the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans graphic design	Members	13 October 2006
Draft a plenary session proposal for the Natural Hazards Workshop in Boulder, CO. and circulate to the SDR Leadership for approval	Secretariat	13 October 2006
Draft the SDR comment on the NSB hurricane study and circulate to SDR members for comment	Secretariat	18 October 2006
Integrate SDR member comments on the OMB Tool and circulate to SDR Leadership for final approval	Secretariat	20 October 2006
Submit plenary session proposal to the Natural Hazards Center for consideration in planning the Natural Hazards Workshop	Secretariat	20 October 2006
Integrate SDR member comments on the NSB	Secretariat	26 October 2006

hurricane study and send to SDR Leadership for final approval		
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