

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

14 December 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., New Executive Office Building Room 5104

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

Officers

David Applegate (USGS), Chair
Margaret Davidson (NOAA), Vice-Chair

NSTC Liaison

Gene Whitney (OSTP)

Working Group Chairs

International Working Group

Ralph Braibanti (State), Chair

Infrastructure Task Group

Joy Pauschke (NSF), Chair

Earth Observations Working Group

Steve Ambrose (NASA), Co-Chair
Tim Battista (NOAA), Co-Chair
Bruce Quirk (USGS), Co-Chair

Resource Impacts Task Group

Susan Conard (USFS), 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 *Sheila Duwadi*

EOP / OSTP Gene Whitney

EPA *Peter Jutro*

HUD *David Engel*

NASA Steve Ambrose

NGA *Robert Lohman*

NGB *Bill Ryan*

NIH Allen Dearry (T)

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

NOAA Nell Codner

Secretariat Emily Wallace
Will Hottel

USGS Eliot Christian

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of November Meeting Minutes
10:10 Report from the Chair
10:20 Report from the Vice-Chair
10:30 Report from the NSTC Liaison
10:40 Discussion – SDR Annual Operating Plan
11:10 Working Group Reports
11:30 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- November Meeting Minutes
- Draft Space Weather Implementation Plan
- Draft SDR FY07 Annual Operating Plan
- Draft Earth Observations white paper, *Reducing Disaster Vulnerability through Earth Observations*
- NCSE Announcement for 7th National Conference on Science Policy and the Environment
- Announcement for International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment

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 (USGS) began by discussing his November 11th meeting with ISDR Secretariat Sálvano Briceño a representative of the World Bank, SDR members Fernando Echavaria (State), Ralph Braibaniti (State) and Amy McKee (State) also were in attendance. Secretariat Briceño announced a new partnership with the World Bank (details are available online at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTDISMGMT/Resources/339456-1158594430052/TrackI-ResultsFramework-AnnexC.pdf?&resourceurlname=TrackI-ResultsFramework-AnnexC.pdf>) and agreed that a full briefing with the SDR would be a good idea in the next few months.

Dr. Applegate discussed his participation in the National Research Council's one-day Workshop on Disasters at the Keck Center on December 6th, which included briefings by Congressman Earl Blumenauer, and representatives from several Federal and State agencies. The workshop addressed the issue of reestablishing the National Academies' Board on Natural Disasters (BOND) or a similar structure to study disaster-related issues. In the past, BOND was not financially solvent and was disbanded. The Disasters Roundtable, also sponsored by the National Academies', makes recommendations but does not actually fund research. If BOND is reestablished, Dr. Applegate encouraged the Academies' to do so as broadly as possible and not to compromise funding already provided for the Disasters Roundtable.

This past week the SDR received the Space Weather Grand Challenges Implementation Plan from the Space Weather Council. SDR members will review the document and provide comments to the Secretariat no later than Friday, December 29th.

Dr. Eliot Christian (USGS) volunteered to review the document with an eye toward what would happen if a major disaster occurs at the same time as a solar flare, which can seriously disrupt communications satellites. Dr. Gene Whitney reminded the members that while there is a science and technology component, the issue of what to do in the event satellite disruption is truly more of an operational one. The SDR Task Force on Effective Warnings, no longer convened, could be reestablished as an SDR Working Group to examine issues like these. Dr. Applegate urged members to keep that idea in mind when they review the SDR's Annual Operating plan (discussed below).

B. Report from the Vice Chair

SDR Vice-Chair Dr. Margaret Davidson (NOAA) discussed the second in a series of Community Resilience Salons, sponsored by the American Meteorological Society, which was held at the Chamber of Commerce on December 7th. The Salon provided an opportunity to discuss community resilience indicators with representatives from the private sector, including the banking, real estate and energy industries. Draft notes from the Salon will be issued by the end of December. The third Salon will be held in the spring, likely in New England.

Dr. Davidson mentioned several websites where more of the information discussed at the Salon can be found, including www.resilientamerica.us, www.resilientalliance.org and www.protectingamerica.org.

Also, Dr. Davidson briefly discussed the U.S. Ocean Action Plan which lists four Federal priorities areas for ocean related science and technology identified by the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST). One of the priorities listed is severe weather and its impact on

coastal ecosystems. This seems to have resonated with OMB and passback language was encouraging. Additional information will be forthcoming with the President's budget request.

C. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney (OSTP) discussed the 14 *Grand Challenges Implementation Plans*, which are still awaiting final clearance from OMB. A press release and cover letter have already been prepared for the impending release of these documents.

The WindHRP Group has written their annual report to SDR, and John Gaynor (NOAA) will brief the SDR and distribute the document in the near future.

Dr. Whitney mentioned that the SDR annual re-vetting will occur in the near future and reminded the members of the benefits gained from the annual re-vet process.

Major bills on tsunami warning and the National Integrated Drought Information System were passed by the 109th Congress in its final session. Also passed was the "Burr Bill," authoring the creation of the Biomedical Advanced Research Development Authority (BARDA), providing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with the additional authorities and resources necessary to build partnerships to rapidly develop drugs and vaccines to protect citizens from deliberate, accidental and natural medical incidents involving biological pathogens, such as bird flu, as well as chemical and radiological agents. Specifically, the legislation:

- Reorganizes and enhances activities at HHS into the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, or BARDA: The single point of authority within HHS for the advanced research and development of medical countermeasures, including drugs and vaccines to respond to bioterrorism and natural disease outbreaks.
- Encourages academic researchers, drug and vaccine manufacturers, and other potential partners to commit substantial resources to bring new and better products to the market more quickly.
- Encourages innovation to accelerate the development of medical countermeasures which currently takes too long. The law gives responsibility for health warnings to HHS rather than DHS.

D. Discussion – SDR FY07 Annual Operating Plan

The SDR's Annual Operating plan for fiscal year 2007 is available for member comments no later than Friday, December 29th. Upcoming 2007 events include the publication of the *Grand Challenges Implementation Plans* as well as continued interaction with the Disasters Roundtable. Dr. Bill Anderson of the National Academies' will attend the January meeting to brief the members on the subcommittee's involvement with the National Research Council. A possible white paper on social sciences also may be a possibility.

Dr. Whitney requested that the members maintain a forward focus on federal research and development and look at long term, big picture issues. Dr. Bruce Davis (DHS) asked how the priorities are set within the SDR and suggested another offsite may be in order as it has been six months since the last one.

III. Working Group Reports

Earth Observations Working Group

Dr. Steve Ambrose (NASA) announced that the Earth Observations white paper is available for SDR member comments no later than Friday, December 29th. Dr. Applegate suggested that this white paper should spur discussion of the role of Earth Observations within SDR, especially in light of recent U.S. Group on Earth Observation (USGEO) activities.

Dr. Eliot Christian (USGS) attended the meeting representing the International Telecommunications Union for Development (ITU-D). He briefly discussed the work of the ITU and mentioned that they are adopting a Common Alerting Protocol, which will serve as a handbook for developing countries to implement disaster warnings. Dr. Applegate agreed that it would be worthwhile to have someone from the ITU-D brief the SDR at a future meeting.

Infrastructure Task Group

Dr. Joy Pauschke (NSF) announced that the first meeting of the infrastructure working group will be held on January 16th at 2:00 p.m. at the National Science Foundation. The meeting will also be accessible via teleconference call.

Resource Impacts Task Group

The Resource Impacts Task Group is looking for additional members. SDR members were reminded that they should share this information inside their agencies and encourage appropriate agency personnel to be involved with the Task Group. SDR members themselves are not the only agency representatives who can serve on task groups. Dr. Susan Conard (USFS) is working with the Secretariat to establish a date for the first meeting of this group.

IV. Close and Next Actions

The next SDR meeting will be on Thursday, January 11th in Room 5104 of the New Executive Office Building (located at 725 17th Street, NE).

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. EST.

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):

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

Secretariat

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

IV. Summary of December Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Update SDR internal website with Dr. Applegate's presentation to the National Academies	Secretariat	29 December
Review the Space Weather Grand Challenges Implementation Plan and submit comments to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	29 December
Contact John Gaynor (NOAA) to arrange a WindHRP briefing at a future SDR meeting	Secretariat	29 December
Review the FY07 SDR Operating Plan and provide comments to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	29 December
Review the Earth Observations white paper and submit comments to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	29 December
Contact Eliot Christian to arrange for a more formal briefing about ITU-D at a future SDR meeting	Secretariat	29 December
Volunteer for the Resources Impacts Task Group by contacting the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	2 January
Send SDR re-vetting letters to agency heads	Secretariat and OSTP liaison	5 January