

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

11 January 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., New Executive Office Building Room 5213

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

Officers

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

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

NIST *Jim St. Pierre*

Noel Raufaste

NOAA Margaret Davidson (T)

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

DHS/FEMA John Gambel

EPA Stephen Clark

NOAA Nell Codner

NRC Bill Anderson

NSF Bob O'Connor

Secretariat Emily Wallace
Will Hottel

USDA / USFS Michael

Hilbruner

USACE Andy Bruzewicz

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
10:45 Presentation – WindHRP Annual Report
11:15 Presentation – NRC Report “Facing Hazards and Disasters: Understanding Human Dimensions”
11:45 Working Group Reports
12:00 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- December Meeting Minutes
- Announcement for the NCSE Conference: *Integrating Environment and Human Health*
- Draft of the WindHRP Annual Progress report for 2006

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 the Space Weather Grand Challenges Implementation Plan distributed to members for comments at the December SDR meeting. The Space Weather Council members have received the Subcommittee's input and will be issuing a second iteration to be circulated again before the March SDR meeting.

The earth observations whitepaper was issued to members for review at the December meeting, and comments can still be submitted before the next meeting of the Earth Observation Working Group on January 19.

Dr. Applegate also distributed copies of a letter requesting financial support for the SDR which will be distributed to all member agencies. In response to Dr. Applegate's comment that member agency contributions are especially important this year, Noel Raufaste (NIST) asked if a suggested contribution should be list in the letter? Dr. Applegate said that a better solution might be to list the agency's prior year contribution. The letter will be further revised before it is sent out.

B. Report from the Vice Chair

No report.

C. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney (OSTP) began by discussing the SDR revetting process, which has already been initiated. On Monday, January 8, revetting letters were faxed to all heads of agencies and departments represented in the SDR. All agencies were asked to respond by January 31, either confirming their current representative to the SDR, or appointing a new one. Dr. Whitney stressed that official agency reps do not have to be the person from their agency at SDR meetings, and that the subcommittee encourages all interested individuals to attend. Outreach may also occur to agencies who are currently not represented in the SDR but might be interested.

Dr. Whitney discussed the fourteen *Grand Challenges Implementation Plans*, which are still awaiting final clearance from OMB. OMB does not feel that the research needs are adequately prioritized in these documents, and that it needs to be more clear which agencies are responsible for which tasks. The SDR will work to comply with these requests, but it is not within the subcommittee's purview to assign specific tasks to individual agencies.

Dr. Applegate asked if these revisions would require the documents to restart the entire clearance process? Dr. Whitney said that this will not be the case, as long as the changes are not too substantial and no new agencies are added to the documents. SDR Secretariat Emily Wallace will set up a meeting with Dr. Whitney and any interested volunteers from the Subcommittee to start editing the documents. Volunteers are asked to contact Emily Wallace by Tuesday January 16.

D. Presentation – WindHRP Annual Report

Dr. John Gaynor (NOAA) gave a presentation on the annual report of the Wind Hazards Interagency Working Group. The working group was created under Congressional order, as specified in the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act, and consists of representatives of NSF, NOAA, NIST, FEMA, and other Federal agencies as appropriate. Dr. Gaynor highlighted the achievements of the

working group over the last year, and discussed several issues that will require further examination, including:

- concerns about the response to the recent Nation Science Board study on hurricanes, which offers a parallel structure to the *Wind Hazard Implementation Plan*;
- concerns about the lack of funding and congressional interest in wind hazards; and,
- the need for greater coordination with other wind related programs on all levels including international, national, and local.

The Wind Hazards Interagency Working Group will meet again in late January/early February. Dr. Gaynor's slides will be made available to all members via the SDR website following the meeting. Draft copies of the report were included in member meeting packets.

E. Presentation – NRC Report “Facing Hazards and Disasters: Understanding Human Dimensions”

Dr. Applegate introduced Dr. Bill Anderson from the National Research Council and the National Academies Roundtable on Disasters and mentioned the long working relationship between the National Academies and the SDR. Dr. Anderson gave a presentation on the report *Facing Hazards and Disasters: Understanding Human Dimensions* which was published recently by the National Academies. The report examines years of research and socio-economic factors in all phases of disaster response and recovery and highlights short and long-term challenges facing social sciences research related to hazards and disasters. In particular the report highlights the important contributions that the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) has made to understanding long term disaster recovery. The report gives 38 recommendations for further research in the field and lists numerous detailed conclusions reached.

Dr. Anderson also discussed the need for increased diversity and interdisciplinary cooperation within the field of disaster research, which will be critical to enhancing understanding of socio-economic aspects of disaster mitigation, response and recovery.

III. Working Group Reports Earth Observations Working Group

Dr. Steve Ambrose (NASA) reiterated Dr. Applegate's statements about the Earth Observations white paper and is awaiting member comments.

Infrastructure Task Group

The first meeting of the infrastructure working group will be January 16th at 2:00 p.m. at the National Science Foundation. The meeting also will be accessible via teleconference call.

Resource Impacts Task Group

The Resource Impacts Task Group will hold its first meeting in late January to begin drafting a whitepaper on resources. Representatives are still needed from NASA, USGS, and the Forest Service as well as any other interested agencies. Volunteers should contact the Secretariat as soon as possible.

IV. Close and Next Actions

The next SDR meeting will be on Thursday, February 1st in Room 5213 of the New Executive Office Building (located at 725 17th Street, NW).

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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):

February 1, 2007	June 7, 1007	November 1, 2007
March 1, 2007	July 19, 2007	December 6, 2007
April 5, 2007	September 6, 2007	
May 3, 2007	October 4, 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, 843-740-1220, margaret.davidson@noaa.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
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
Volunteer to begin editing the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans by contacting the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	16 January
Review the Space Weather Grand Challenges Implementation Plan and submit comments to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	19 January
Volunteer for the Resources Impacts Task Group by contacting the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	19 January