

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

01 March 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., New Executive Office Building Room

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 Ronald Huntsinger

John R. Haugh

CDC Mark Keim (T)

DHS Bruce Davis

DHS/FEMA *David Maurstad*

DHS/USCG Suzanne Strohl

DOD Al Johnson

DOE Patricia Hoffman

DOT Sheila Duwadi

EOP / OSTP Gene Whitney

EPA *Peter Jutro*

HUD *David Engel*

NASA *Steve Ambrose*

NGB Col. Daniel Bochicchio

NIH Allen Dearry (T)

NIST *Jack Hayes*

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 / USFS Susan Conard

USGS David Applegate

Paula Gori

Other Attendees

BLM Ronald Huntsinger

DHS/FEMA Craig Wingo

NASA Craig Dobson

NOAA Nell Codner

John Gaynor

Margaret McCalla

Nathalie Valette-Silver

Secretariat Emily Wallace

Jessica Gibson

USACE David Redding

Calvin Giles

USDA Andrew Johnson

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Approval of January Meeting Minutes
10:10 Report from the Chair
10:20 Report from the Vice-Chair
10:30 Report from the NSTC Liaison
10:40 Discuss Grand Challenges Index
11:00 Discuss International Disaster Reduction
11:20 Presentation- Department of Energy
11:40 Working Group Reports
12:00 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- January Meeting Minutes
- Disasters Roundtable Draft Agenda
- Grand Challenges Implementation Plans and Indexes
- Letter from Mark Lagon
- U.S. National Platform

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) reported that he gave a presentation to the National Emergency Managers Association Mid-year Conference in February, concerning the Grand Challenges and the implementation plans.

B. Report from the Vice Chair

Dr. Margaret Davidson (NOAA) announced the 19th Disasters Roundtable event, which will be held at the National Academy of Sciences Keck Center on Wednesday, March 28th. The topic is on coastal vulnerability and was suggested by the Subcommittee. Dr. Davidson strongly encouraged full participation from SDR members. Also, the event is unique in that a smaller event will be held the very next morning on Capitol Hill to take this important discussion to the Members of Congress. This is the first the time the National Academies' have done something like this and it was, again, an SDR suggestion.

C. Report from the NSTC Liaison

The SDR's annual re-vetting process is complete and Dr. Gene Whitney (OSTP) began by welcoming the new SDR members and encouraging them to ask questions if anything was unclear. Dr. Applegate and Dr. Whitney presented a brief overview of SDR intentions and activities. Stress was placed on the fact that SDR is not about Homeland Security, focus needs to be on natural and technological disasters.

D. Grand Challenges Implementation Plans and Indexes

Dr. Applegate presented the history along with intent and clearance path of the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans. The next step in the process is for agency representatives to review and sign off on the "lead" vs. "supporting" designations in the Grand Challenges Indexes. Dr. Whitney has an appointment with OMB on March 2, 2007, to discuss SDR's approach. OSTP will decide if these documents must go back through the full re-vetting process because too many changes have been introduced during the quest to fulfill OMB's requests.

There was a discussion about the indexes concerning changes that have been made and changes that need to be made. It was mentioned that no reviews have been received yet for Flood and Tsunami. It seems there is still confusion as to the exact definition/role/responsibility of "lead" and "contributing". Questions were raised as to whether these definitions have been reconciled with the National Response Plan. Dr. Whitney responded that that is the responsibility of the agency. He also requested that members obtain input from their own agency so people are not caught off guard with publication. A time frame was proposed by Dr. Applegate for an agency review and response by March 22nd.

Dr. Whitney and Mr. Craig Wingo (FEMA) stressed that these documents are intended as policy guidance and are not budget binding. Dr. Whitney suggested a disclaimer be placed within each document and that they should not be put out there until agencies are comfortable with them, understand them, and know how to use them.

E. International Disaster Reduction

This topic is very timely because of the recent opportunity to comment on UN ISDR documents. Dr. Applegate referred to the National Platform and a letter from Mark Lagon (State) to Helen Wood (NOAA and former SDR Chair) solidifying SDR's role within ISDR and as technical support to the State Department.

Dr. Whitney reminded everyone that SDR is a science and technology body, not response and recovery. We do not need to go looking for issues on the international front. SDR serves as an advisory role, as does ISDR. Also, Dr. Whitney suggested a summary of all international activities from all SDR agencies. The focus will be on inventorying each agency's capabilities and activities, not information. Points of contact should also be provided for each agency. In addition, Dr. Paula Gori (USGS) would like agencies and programs to point out where they are already working with the U.N. and any resulting publications. Mr. John Gaynor (NOAA) will take in the information and begin to put together an outline with the support of the secretariat.

ISDR has asked for an update to Ms. Wood's presentation to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. We need to collate recent reports from the past two years and coordinate with State Department to provide a response by March 30. The secretariat will provide the response to ISDR.

III. Working Group Reports

Earth Observations Working Group

Emily Wallace reported that whitepaper will be available at the next SDR meeting on April 5th.

Infrastructure Task Group

Dr. Joy Pauschke (NSF) reported that two meetings have been held. They hope to have whitepaper that will be available to SDR in September. Also, any member interested in joining the group is strongly encouraged and welcomed to do so.

Resource Impacts Task Group

Dr. Susan Conrad (USFS) reported that the Resource Impacts Task Group has also held two meetings. They are currently working to finalize their mission statement and determine where in the Grand Challenges more focus is needed. Representatives are still needed from USGS and the Fish and Wildlife 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, April 5th in 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):

April 5, 2007

May 3, 2007

June 7, 2007

July 19, 2007

September 6, 2007

October 4, 2007

November 1, 2007

December 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, 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 Quirk, Co-Chair, 605-594-6040, quirk@usgs.gov

Secretariat

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

IV. Summary of March Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Send any international disaster reduction white papers or previous attempts at a white paper to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	28 March
Review GC Implementation Plans and Indexes and provide input from your agency to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	28 March
Provide update to ISDR	Secretariat and Leadership	30 March