

# Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

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

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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** Ronald Huntsinger

**CDC** *Mark Keim*

**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*

**NSF** Joy Pauschke

**OPHS** *Sven Rodenbeck*

**State** *Ralph Braibanti*

Fernando Echavaria

**USACE** *Barbara J. Sotirin*

**USAID** *Peter Morris*

**USDA / USFS** *Susan Conard*

**USGS** David Applegate

Paula Gori

## Other Attendees

**EPA** Stephen Clark

**NASA** Shahid Habib

**NOAA** John Gaynor

Margaret McCalla

Nathalie Valette-Silver

**Secretariat** Emily Wallace

Will Hottel

**State** Amy McKee

**USDA** Pai-Yei Whung

## Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions  
10:05 Approval of March Meeting Minutes  
10:10 Report from the Chair  
10:25 Report from the NSTC Liaison  
10:40 Discuss Space Weather Plan  
11:00 Discuss International Disaster Reduction  
11:10 Presentation- Marian Koshland Science  
Museum of the National Academies of  
Sciences  
11:40 Working Group Reports  
12:00 Close and Next Actions

## Handouts

- Agenda
- March Meeting Minutes
- Space Weather Implementation Plan and Index

## **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 briefly mentioning the recent National Academies Disasters Roundtable event that focused on Coastal Hazards. SDR members, John Gaynor (NOAA), Nathalie Valette-Silver (NOAA), and Paula Gori (USGS) attended.

Dr. Applegate also mentioned the assistance that the SDR has been giving to the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) in preparation for the upcoming Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Ministerial Summit to be held in November, in Cape Town, South Africa. Disasters are one of the five topics for discussion that USGEO is proposing for that event.

### **B. Report from the NSTC Liaison**

Dr. Gene Whitney (OSTP) updated the members on the ongoing clearance process for the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans. Dr. Whitney thanked the members for their hard work in developing the indexes to accompany these plans. It is not clear at this time if the indexes will be published, or what this means for the clearance of the plans. OMB will provide further guidance after April 13<sup>th</sup>, at which time the SDR can decide how to move forward.

### **C. Space Weather Documents**

Dr. Applegate briefly discussed the draft implementation plan and index for Space Weather included in the meeting packets. Space Weather was not originally included among the hazards for which implementation plans were developed, but has since been added.

Dr. Shahid Habib (NASA) commented that aviation should be mentioned somewhere in the plan. Paula Gori suggested that USGS should be specifically named as a contributing agency instead of "DOI".

Members are asked to submit any additional comments on the document to the Secretariat by Friday, April 13.

### **D. International Disaster Reduction**

Ms. Amy McKee (State) briefed the members on the upcoming ISDR Global Platform Meeting, being held in Geneva, Switzerland. This meeting will be the first major follow-up event to the World Conference on Disasters held in Kobe, Japan, two years ago. Among the major issues to be discussed are disaster reduction in mega-cities and the impacts of climate change on disasters. It is important that the U.S. delegation be provided with a full scope of U.S. international disaster related activities.

Dr. Fernando Echavarria, mentioned that the International Working Group will be meeting at 10:30 a.m. on April 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss preparation for this event at 1990 K Street, NW, Suite 410. Members interested in attending that meeting should contact Dr. Echavarria.

All agencies should provide a brief write up of their international endeavors to the Secretariat by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Whitney mentioned the need for the SDR to address climate change in relation to disasters, and stated the need for better, more credible science to link the two. He said that the administration is

now encouraging discussion of climate change, as long as all discussion is based on credible scientific research rather than speculation. Dr. Bill Brennan of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program will deliver a briefing next month on this topic.

Dr. Whitney mentioned the recent memo from Dr. Marburger on climate change, which he will forward to the Secretariat for distribution to the members.

**E. Presentation- Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academies of Sciences**

Ms. Patrice Legro, and Dr. Erika Shugart from the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academies of Sciences briefed the members on the museum and the role it plays for the national academies. The museum uses state of the art, interactive, multi-media exhibits to inform the public about controversial scientific issues and ongoing Academy initiatives. Exhibits at the museum include a number of topics relevant to the SDR, including climate change and infectious disease. All exhibits use authentic, peer-reviewed data sets, with federal agencies providing insight on decision scenarios, recommending experts, and providing feedback on multimedia applications.

Further information about the museum can be found at [www.koshlandscience.org](http://www.koshlandscience.org).

**III. Working Group Reports**

**Earth Observations Working Group**

Dr. Habib reported that the EOWG white paper is currently in draft form, and will be distributed in the coming weeks.

**Infrastructure Task Group**

Dr. Joy Pauschke (NSF) reported that the next meeting of the CITG will occur on April 26<sup>th</sup> at NSF Headquarters from 3-5 pm.

**Resource Impacts Task Group**

The next meeting of the RITG will occur on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Forestry Service Headquarters at 2:45 pm.

**IV. Close and Next Actions**

Dr. Whitney briefly mentioned the recent report issued by The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFSM). Sam Williamson of OFCM will meet with Dr. Crosby of NSB and Dr. Gaynor and Dr. Whitney to discuss how to avoid competing over wind hazard issues.

The next SDR meeting will be on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the New Executive Office Building (located at 725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW).

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 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):

May 3, 2007  
June 7, 1007  
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 April Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>By When</b>
Provide a brief summary of each agency’s international endeavors to the secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	April 10
Attend International Working Group meeting on Thursday, April 12 <sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in Suite 410 of the State Department Annex (located at 1990 K Street, NW)	Members	April 12
Submit any edits or comments on the Space Weather documents to the secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	April 13