

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

6 September 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

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 *Daniel Bochicchio*

NIH *Allen Dearry*

NIST *Jack Hayes*

Noel Raufaste

NOAA *Margaret Davidson*

NSF *Joy Pauschke*

OPHS *Sven Rodenbeck*

State *Ralph Braibanti*

Fernando Echavarria

USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*

USAID *Peter Morris*

USDA / USFS *Susan Conard*

USGS *David Applegate*

Paula Gori

Other Attendees

BLM *John Haugh*

NASA *Shahid Habib*

NSF *Jacqueline Meszaros*

FEMA *Mike Buckley*

NOAA *Margaret McCalla*

Nell Codner

Ralph Cantral

Mark Weadon

David Andrus

Secretariat *Allison Kilcourse*

Emily Wallace

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and

Introductions

10:03 Approval of July

Meeting Minutes

10:05 Report from the Vice
Chair

10:20 Report from the NSTC
Liaison

10:40 Presentation-National
Wildland Fire Assessment

11:05 Presentation-Coastal

Zone Management Act

Revisioning Effort

11:30 Presentation-Forecasting

Disasters: Multi-Function

Phased Array Radar (MPAR)

Capabilities

11:50 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- July Meeting Minutes
- Land Imaging Press Release
- Pamphlet-Research and
Development Plan for Multi-
Function Phased Array Radar

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Vice Chair Dr. Margaret Davidson (NOAA) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Vice Chair

Dr. Davidson opened the meeting by discussing the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Synthesis Assessment Reports (SAPs). Currently, *Product 3.3: Weather and Climate Extremes in a Changing Climate* is available for public review; the SDR Secretariat is conducting a preliminary review. The CCSP has created more than 20 SAPs and the SDR will be involved in this review process for the next 4-5 months.

Dr. Davidson announced that the next Disasters Roundtable, focusing on recovery, will take place on October 17, 2007. She suggested that next month's SDR meeting include a group discussion on which topics to propose for Roundtable Workshops; SDR has the ability to suggest and organize topics it would like to see covered. Actively planning and supporting Roundtable events may be one way for the SDR to engage other National Science and Technology Council subcommittees. Also, Dr. Davidson reminded the group that a scaled-down version of the full-day Roundtable can be taken to Capitol Hill for maximum leveraging of our message and invited speakers.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney (OSTP) began by discussing the memo issued each year by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designed to steer the interagency projects of science and technology agencies into priority areas. The items in these memos have a high probabilistic chance of receiving funding.

Next, Dr. Whitney informed the group of three upcoming White House reports:

1. Plan for the National Land Imaging Program-This report promotes moderate resolution/multi-dimensional land imaging and is currently available on the OSTP website, www.ostp.gov.
2. Strategy for Federal S&T to Promote Water Availability and Quality in the U.S.-Water availability and quality is a growing problem within the U.S. and this report identifies specific S&T strategies for addressing these issues.
3. Review of the Current State of Weather Modification Research.

Dr. Whitney informed the group that the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans have been reviewed by all OMB examiners and comments have been received. The SDR Leadership is currently responding to those comments and clearance should be forthcoming.

The lawsuit filed against Dr. William Brennan and Dr. John Marburger by various environmental non-governmental organizations has been settled. The decision was in favor of the plaintiffs and requires the government to update their strategy and publish a national climate change assessment report by June 1, 2008. However, Dr.'s Brennan and Marburger will decide exactly what constitutes a national assessment.

Finally, Dr. Whitney broached the subject of transitioning the SDR across Presidential administrations. Dr. Davidson suggested that the group allocate time in the November or December meeting to discuss the transitional process and coordination with other agencies; the group agreed.

III. Presentations

A. Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM): “National Wildland Fire Assessment,” Lt. Col. David Andrus (NOAA)

Lt. Col. Andrus discussed the growing threat of wildland fires; the United States is currently exceeding the 20-year average for number of fires and number of acres burned. The OFCM recently issued a framework to meet the needs of the fire community based on fire community surveys that detail what they deem necessary to fight fires through all phases of a disaster.

Lt. Col. Andrus stated that facets of this framework do touch on other meteorological issues, such as cyclones, tornados, and air quality.

Dr. Davidson asked if there had been any discussion of the connection between wildland fires and severe flooding. Lt. Col. Andrus stated that flooding had not been discussed because the fire community had not seen it as a pressing issue concerning their needs.

In the climate change communities, models are using on-the-ground indicators to improve their prediction of trends. Dr. Whitney asked if the fire community utilized these types of indicators (i.e., correlations between insect infestations and fire prevalence). Lt. Col. Andrus responded that on-the-ground indicators are used when possible.

The full report is available on the OFCM website: <http://www.ofcm.gov/homepage/text/pubs.htm>.

B. Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (NOAA), “Coastal Zone Management Act Revisioning Effort,” Dr. Ralph Cantral (NOAA)

Dr. Cantal’s presentation discussed the future of coastal management and how NOAA can assist Federal and State agents in influencing the quality of coastal zone resources. It would be beneficial to the cause if the SDR could help with the problem of Federal, State, and local coordination on this effort.

A final report identifying the core principles for the next generation of coastal management will be submitted next week; hopefully this document can obtain interagency clearance by the end of 2007 and legislation will follow soon after. The final report can be viewed on NOAA’s Coastal Management website: www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov

Dr. Whitney commented that the motivation for States to develop their coasts is economic; he asked what we can do to encourage States to better manage their coastal resources in the face of such great economic incentives. The Federal government feels helpless because land use planning and zoning is a local responsibility. Dr. Cantral stated that grants and creating accountability for Federal money can encourage States to manage their coastal resources more wisely.

Dr. Davidson suggested that we need to create a more collaborative approach between Federal, State, and local governments. She cited the example of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) collaborative effort concerning air quality.

Dr. Whitney stated that the SDR could play a greater role in this issue by monitoring coastal activity and supporting the legislation created by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). This support

could come in the form of issuing a letter, sponsoring a National Academies Roundtable event on coastal management, or bringing in other National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) groups to back the cause.

C. Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM), “Forecasting Disasters: Multi-Function Phased Array Radar (MPAR) Capabilities,” Dr. Mark Weadon

Dr. Weadon’s presentation discussed the functionality and benefits of a multi-phased array radar (MPAR). MPARs could potentially replace the aging mechanically-scanning radars over the next 20 years. They offer better weather measurements and could increase safety and capacity in severe weather situations.

Mr. Stephen Clark (EPA) asked whether this technology would make it possible to study hurricanes and tornados with a mobile unit. It is feasible but difficult; Severe Storm Labs are currently working on this engineering. It was also cautioned that technology created in the isolation of a lab does not always translate into real-world success.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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):

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

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 Margaret Davidson, Vice Chair, 843-740-1220, Margaret.davidson@noaa.gov
 Gene Whitney, NSTC Liaison, 202-456-6081, gwhitney@ostp.eop.gov

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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

IX. Summary of September Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Volunteer to comment on the following Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment Products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abrupt Climate Change 	SDR Members	1 October

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coastal Elevation and Sea Level Rise ▪ Threshold Change and Ecosystems ▪ Water, Biodiversity, and Land Resources ▪ Transportation and Infrastructure 		
Work with Mike Buckley (FEMA) to schedule a Flood Map Modernization briefing for the SDR	Secretariat	1 October
Work with Mike Buckley (FEMA) and colleagues at DHS to schedule a Centers of Excellence and progress on national alert and warning systems briefing(s) to the SDR	Secretariat	1 October
Allocate time at the October meeting to discuss topics for the Disasters Roundtable	Secretariat	1 October
Allocate time at the October or November meeting to discuss SDR's transition across Presidential administrations	SDR Leadership/Secretariat	1 October
Post meeting presentations on the SDR website	Secretariat	1 October