

Discussion Draft

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

01 May 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Department of Commerce Room 5215

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

Earth Observations Working Group

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

Infrastructure Task Group

Joy Pauschke (NSF), Chair

Resource Impacts Task Group

Susan Conard (USFS), Chair

Designated Representatives

BLM Edwin Roberson
Ronald Huntsinger
CDC *Mark Keim*
DHS *Bruce Davis*
DHS/FEMA *David Maurstad*
DHS/USCG Steven Cohen (T)
DOD *Al Johnson*
DOE *Patricia Hoffman*
DOT *Sheila Duwadi*
EOP / OSTP *Gene Whitney*

EDA Audrey Clarke
EPA *Peter Jutro*
FERC Berne Mosley
HUD *David Engel*
NASA Steve Ambrose
NGA Stephen Homeyer
NGB *Daniel Bochicchio*
NIH Allen Dearry
NIST *William Grosshandler*
Jack Hayes
NOAA Margaret Davidson (T)

NSF *Joy Pauschke*
Dennis Wenger
OPHS Sven Rodenbeck (T)
State *Fernando Echavarría*
USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*
Dimitra Syriopoulou
USAID Sezin Tokar
USDA Melissa Simpson
USFS *Susan Conard*
USGS David Applegate
Paula Gori

Other Attendees

NOAA Nell Codner
John Gaynor
Nathalie Valette-Silver (T)
NGB Leonard Kosicki
DOE William Bryan

EPA Ed Washburn
USFS Michael Hilbruner
National Research Council
Caetlin Ofiesh
Anthony de Souza

Secretariat Emily Wallace
Barbara Haines-Parmele

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Presentation: Community Resiliency Indicators
10:45 Approval of Meeting Minutes
10:50 Report from the Chair
11:15 Report from the Vice-Chair
11:35 Report from the NSTC Liaison
11:45 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- April Meeting Minutes
- SDR Membership List
- Measuring Community Resiliency Presentation
- Measuring Community Resiliency Plan of Action

Discussion Draft

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Chair David Applegate (USGS) called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Applegate introduced and welcomed new members to the SDR.

II. Presentation: Measuring Community Resiliency – Anthony de Souza, Director, and Caetlin Ofiesh, Associate Program Officer with the Board on Earth Sciences and Resources, National Research Council (NRC).

Applegate introduced de Souza and Ofiesh to discuss a proposal for a two-part study on the resiliency of U.S. communities to multiple natural and human-induced threats. Following an introduction by de Souza, Ofiesh's presentation focused on the study's policy context, plan of action and funding challenges.

Ofiesh began the presentation by referencing Margaret Davidson's presentation to the NRC's Geographical Sciences Committee in June 2007 and a prospectus approved by the NRC Governing Board in March 2008 that identifies the need for a community resiliency study. She also highlighted the Grand Challenges and the specific reference to the need to assess disaster resilience using standard methods. Ofiesh also noted existing studies such as the Community and Regional Resilience Initiative (CARRI) funded by DHS at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, MCEER and past NRC reports conducted by the Geographical Sciences Committee. The proposed NRC study is intended to focus and coordinate the existing research agendas.

Ofiesh indicated that an ad hoc committee will undertake the study, the first part of which will focus on the challenges of measuring and monitoring levels of community resiliency. The second part will develop a set of community resiliency indicators that will help agencies and communities prepare for, manage, and respond to multiple threats to communities' well-being. A single two-part report will be produced at the end of the 24-month study period.

Mr. de Souza indicated that conducting the study will require multi-agency funding. Margaret Davidson (NOAA) reminded the SDR of their general support when she discussed the concept last fall. Applegate emphasized the need to build off the Grand Challenges and stressed the importance of the NRC's undertaking.

Dr. Dennis Wenger (NSF) indicated that the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) has been developing an index of resiliency for every nation for the last three years through Dr. David Simpson at the University of Kentucky. Varying data quality has made the study difficult. Wenger recommended that Simpson be considered as a panel member or presenter for the NRC ad hoc committee.

Ofiesh indicated that the NRC study would produce decision support tools for community managers. De Souza stated that the study would also examine how social cohesion is measured. If a community can withstand one challenge, are they more likely to succeed with others? He also noted that the cascading failures issue also presents a challenge.

Discussion Draft

Applegate asked what areas of expertise the ad hoc committee needs. Ofiesh expressed an interest in individuals who generally study community resilience, community managers, individuals familiar with geospatial analysis, experts from the insurance industry or those who study infrastructure resilience. De Souza emphasized that experts who have studied vulnerability and resilience in general terms would be preferred.

William Bryan (DOE) asked if the final deliverable would generate metrics to measure resiliency and cautioned the group that scoping will be difficult without a carefully defined mission. DOE has significant experience in defining reliability, survivability and resiliency. Bryan indicated that every state is interested in continuity of government, which could represent a point of departure for identifying measurable functions. Many states have good continuity plans and are eager for assistance. State assistance will trickle down to communities. Communities usually focus on technology as a solution even if it is not appropriate.

Davidson stated that the Community Resiliency study would be a nice compliment to the Grand Challenges and would be useful to the next administration.

De Souza asked the SDR the best approach to proceed for funding assuming the subcommittee finds the study context acceptable. He also suggested spreading out any financial contribution over two to three fiscal years.

Applegate agreed that the study aligns nicely as a follow-on to the Grand Challenges. He also iterated that SDR is not a conduit for funding but a platform for raising interest within agencies. Applegate will pass the presentation on to all agency representatives and ask interested parties to make use of the Secretariat as a point of contact if they have funding available.

Bryan asked who DOE should contact to offer up experts and the total cost of the study. de Souza stated that when the study is 70% funded, the NRC will send nomination forms to seek committee membership. The estimated cost of the study is \$665,000. Davidson reminded members that as agencies approach the end of the fiscal year, they should keep the study in mind when looking for left over monies to spend. De Souza expressed a willingness to send out funding proposals to agencies.

Applegate thanked de Souza and Ofiesh for presenting and announced that the presentation will be posted to the SDR members only website.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting (April 8, 2008) were approved without objection.

IV. Report from the Chair

Applegate introduced the *Grand Challenges* document to the new members and announced that they were recently distributed to interested members of the Hazards Caucus Alliance.

Applegate also indicated that a number of briefings are taking place during the month of May including FEMA on May 21st. In addition, congressional briefings are being explored. Applegate has also been contacted by *Science News* as a result of the OSTP media advisory and is preparing an opinion piece for that publication. Nell Codner (NOAA) encouraged members to continue to chase op-ed opportunities through trade magazines.

Nathalie Valette-Silver (NOAA) noted that she presented the *Grand Challenges* documents to a National Ocean Service technology board, and they were well received. Valette-Silver received a

Discussion Draft

request to provide the names of the chairs responsible for drafting each implementation plan. Emily Wallace (Secretariat) indicated that she would provide the list of names. Valette-Silver also asked if permission was needed to utilize the Human and Ecosystem Health Implementation Plan in drafting a white paper. Applegate noted that the document is public, therefore no clearance is needed.

Applegate reminded the group of the availability of the *Grand Challenges* toolkit which contains the *Grand Challenges* documents, media advisory, cover letter and PowerPoint presentation. Emily requested that members let her know how many CD's they require. Sven Rodenbeck (USPHS) asked if the toolkit was available on the website. Emily indicated that all the documents on the CD are also on the web.

Applegate also requested that members let him and Emily know if more *Grand Challenges* documents are needed and how they are being distributed.

Applegate noted that the SDR has cleared the Space Weather Implementation Plan, which now goes to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) then the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR; SDR's parent body within the National Science and Technology Council structure), and finally White House staff for clearance.

Applegate noted that SDR's annual membership re-vetting is nearly complete with five agency responses remaining.

Applegate reminded the committee about the International Disaster and Risk Reduction Conference (IDRC) being held from August 25-29, 2008 in Davos, Switzerland and the Tudor Rose partner publication *Risk Wise*. Applegate asked Steve Ambrose (NASA), who agreed to serve as the SDR lead to provide an update. Ambrose indicated that NASA is contributing an article to *Risk Wise* and preparing two special sessions for Davos, one specific to SDR and one specific to NASA. Ambrose announced that he is looking for 4-5 agencies to assist in the SDR session. Ambrose also announced that the deadline for article submission was May 1st, noting that written submissions can still be staggered up until early July if needed. A \$10,000 contribution purchases 100 books.

Valette-Silver asked if an article related to harmful algae blooms would be appropriate. Ambrose indicated that it was. Valette-Silver will contact Ambrose to discuss submission of the article.

V. Report from the Vice-Chair

Margaret Davidson announced that two U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) reports are available for comment.

Comments to the Draft Report of Synthesis and Assessment Product 5.2: "Best practice approaches for characterizing, communicating, and incorporating scientific uncertainty in decision making" must be received by **June 9, 2008**. The Draft Report is posted on the CCSP web site at: <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/sap/sap5-2/public-review-draft/default.htm> for review.

Comments to the USGS-lead Draft Report of Synthesis and Assessment Product 3.4: "Abrupt Climate Change" must be received by **June 16, 2008**. The Draft Report is posted on the CCSP web site at: <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/sap/sap3-4/public-review-draft/> for review.

Davidson encouraged SDR members to review and comment on the reports indicating that the committee can provide assistance to CCSP as they re-think their processes.

Discussion Draft

Applegate asked members to let the Secretariat know if they wish to review one or both documents. Comments can be consolidated and submitted as SDR comments.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

VII. Future Meetings

The SDR meets on the first or second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The July 17th meeting will be an all-day retreat focused on issues related to the Presidential transition. The location for the retreat has not been confirmed. There will be no meeting in August.

June 5, 2008

July 17, 2008 (all-day retreat)

August 7, 2008

September 4, 2008

Friday, October 3, 2008 (note change)

November 6, 2008

December 4, 2008

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, 703-648-6714, 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

Secretariat

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

IX. Summary of May Actions

Action	Lead	By When
SDR financial support: Contact Dave (applegate@usgs.gov) if you would like a personalized support request letter to your agency	SDR Members	Standing
Contact Emily (ewallace@grs-solutions.com) to receive copies of the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Implementation Plan packets or CD	SDR Members	Standing
Let Emily or Dave know how you use the implementation plans, including when you link to the plans from your agency websites.	SDR Members	Standing
Send Emily or Dave additional distribution suggestions, including relevant contact information	SDR Members	Standing
Provide Nathalie Valette-Silver with names of SDR Implementation Plan chairs.	Secretariat	12 May

Discussion Draft

Initiate OSTP Space Weather document clearance	Secretariat	12 May
Contact Steve Ambrose with interest in contributing to RISK WISE, the partner publication to IDRC Davos 2008 or participating in the SDR session.	SDR Members	15 May
Let Emily know if you would like to comment on one or both of the latest CCSP Reports.	SDR Members	16 May
Let Emily know if you are interested in funding the National Research Council Study on Measuring Community Resiliency.	SDR Members	23 May