

# Discussion Draft

## Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

4 June 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Department of Commerce, Room 5215

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

### Officers

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

### NSTC Liaison

Jonathan Kolak (OSTP)

### Designated Representatives

**BLM** *Edwin Roberson*

*Ronald Huntsinger*

**CDC** *Mark Keim*

**DHS** *Bruce Davis*

**DHS/FEMA** *Deborah Ingram*

**DHS/USCG** *Steven Cohen*

**DOD** *Al Johnson*

**DOE** *Patricia Hoffman*

**DOT** *Kelly Leone*

*Sheila Duwadi*

*Tim Schmidt*

**EOP/OSTP** Jonathan Kolak

**EDA** *Audrey Clarke*

**EPA** *Peter Jutro*

*Stephen Clark*

**FERC** *Berne Mosley*

**HUD** *David Engel*

**NASA** *Andrea Donnellan*

**NGA** *Stephen Homeyer*

**NGB** *Daniel Boicchio*

**NIH** *Allen Dearry*

**NIST** *William Grosshandler* (T)

*Jack Hayes*

**NOAA** John Gaynor

**NSF** Dennis Wenger

**OPHS** *Sven Rodenbeck* (T)

**State** *Cari Enav*

*Fernando Echavarria*

**USACE** *Barbara J. Sotirin*

*Dimitra Syriopoulou*

**USAID** *Sezin Tokar*

**USDA** TBD

**USFS** *Carlos Rodriguez-*

*Franco*

**USGS** David Applegate

*Paula Gori* (T)

### Other Attendees

**DHS/FEMA** Steve Carruth

**EPA** Janis Johnston

**NGA** Dana Miller

**NGB** Lisa Burg (T)

**NOAA** Nell Codner

Maria Honeycutt

Margaret McCalla

Jenifer Rhoades

Nathalie Valette-Silver (T)

**NSF** Robert O'Connor

**Secretariat** Ross Faith

Emily Wallace

**State** Nellie Moore

**USAID** Peter Morris

### Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions

10:05 Report from the NSTC Liaison

10:20 Presentation: National Tsunami Hazard  
Mitigation Program

10:50 Approval of May Meeting Minutes

10:55 Report from the Chair

11:15 Report from the Vice-Chairs

11:30 Close and Next Actions

### Handouts

- Agenda
- May Meeting Minutes
- Disasters Roundtable  
Announcement and Agenda
- IOM Medical Surge Capacity  
Workshop Agenda (first page)
- Draft Coastal Working Group TOR
- Opportunity to Support SDR  
FY2010 Letter

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## **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Chair David Applegate (USGS) called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and the participants introduced themselves. Applegate noted that the sequence of the meeting would be shifted to accommodate tricky schedules.

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

NSTC Liaison Jon Kolak (OSTP) reported that the Senate had confirmed Aneesh Chopra as the Associate Director for Technology in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Chopra also will hold the title of Chief Technology Officer, a newly created position. Kolak noted that Shere Abbott is the Associate Director for Environment. The nominations of two more associate directors (for Science and for Security and International Affairs) have not been announced but are expected.

Kolak reported that OSTP is still reviewing the U.S. responses to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) 2008 Joint Early Warning Questionnaire and the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor.

Several agencies have submitted minor editorial comments to enhance the “National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) Biennial Report to Congress for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008.” There is one substantive comment to address, which Kolak and others at OSTP/OMB are currently reviewing.

Kolak stated that OSTP continues to flesh out the functional details of an interim NSTC clearance process in order to work through the backlog of documents and reports which piled up during the transition. He assured Members that the *Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Implementation Plan: Space Weather* will be one of the first documents he feeds into the process. He noted that the document may have to be re-cleared at a level commensurate with the Committee for Environment and Natural Resources (CENR).

## **III. Presentation: U.S. National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program**

Applegate introduced Jenifer Rhoades, who is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Tsunami Program Coordinator and the U.S. National Tsunami Hazards Mitigation Program (NTHMP) Administrator.

Rhodes thanked SDR Members for the opportunity to speak to them about the NTHMP, which is a partnership between Federal and State agency representatives designed to reduce the impact of tsunamis on U.S. coastal communities.

Led by NOAA’s National Weather Service (NWS), the NTHMP is the nation’s community-focused program to improve tsunami mitigation and preparedness of at-risk areas within the United States and its territories. NTHMP participants also include all 28 U.S. coastal States, Territories and Commonwealths as well as the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The NTHMP was established in 1995 by an act of Congress in response to the increased recognition of the Cascadia tsunami threat, the April 1992 earthquake and tsunami on the Cascadia subduction zone in northern California, and the loss of life and property in Japan due to the 1993 Hokkaido Nansei-Oki tsunami that devastated the island of Okushiri. These events, together with the historic Alaska tsunamis of 1946 and 1964, brought to light the general lack of tsunami preparedness and hazard assessment for the U.S. coasts and the need for significant improvement in tsunami detection and forecasting. The NTHMP is primarily focused on the ability of local communities to receive, use, and communicate tsunami information.

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Drawing on the 1995 authorizing legislation; the following SDR documents:

- *Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Implementation Plan: Tsunami*, available through [http://www.sdr.gov/185820\\_Tsunami\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sdr.gov/185820_Tsunami_FINAL.pdf),
- *Tsunami Risk Reduction for the United States: A Framework for Action*, available through <http://www.sdr.gov/Tsunami%20Risk%20Reduction%20for%20the%20US%20-%20A%20Framework%20for%20Action%202005-12-22.pdf>;

and the Government Accountability Office 2006 Report “U.S. Tsunami Preparedness,” the NTHMP recently developed a five-year Strategic Plan describing how the program will help U.S. coastal communities threatened by tsunamis to improve their preparedness and mitigation efforts. The successful implementation of this plan will result in the following high-level, over-arching outcomes:

- Reduction of loss of life and property damage from tsunami
- Successful execution of NTHMP tsunami mapping, modeling, mitigation, planning and education efforts
- Tsunami inundation maps that support informed decision making in tsunami-threatened communities
- Tsunami evacuation maps that support effective preparedness and response
- A culture of tsunami preparedness and response
- Establishment of more tsunami resilient communities
- Effective and reliable warning dissemination to people at risk
- Understandable and effective Tsunami Warning Center products

Rhoades stated that the program is focused on building a culture of tsunami awareness, including better preparation, response, and land-use planning. She noted that in certain areas, like land-use planning, the Federal government can only encourage States and local communities to adopt sound policies and practices.

Bob O’Connor (NSF) asked how the NTHMP seeks to measure a “culture of preparedness and response.”

Rhoades responded that metrics to measure this culture have been developed in consultation with the social science community. The NTHMP has plans to survey local communities in the near future to establish a baseline and then return at a later date to see if a “culture of preparedness and response” has matured as a result of education efforts.

Rhoades explained that the NTHMP functions through three subcommittees and has established 2009 goals for each. This year the Warning Coordination Subcommittee will work to develop a post-event review process with performance measures to determine the effectiveness of tsunami warning products. 2009 goals for the Mitigation and Education Subcommittee include: establishing definitions of mitigation and preparedness; establishing an inventory of NTHMP Federal and State mitigation and preparedness activities; completing an evaluation of the TsunamiReady Program; and implementing electronically-available, education toolkits and curricula for educators. The Mapping and Modeling Subcommittee will focus on prioritizing U.S. Digital Elevation Map Development Requirements and establishing Inundation Map Guidelines. Rhoades noted that the Inundation Map Guidelines are intended to standardize local maps and provide the basis for a National tsunami map.

Sheila Duwadi (FHWA) asked if the NTHMP was looking at building codes and standards.

Rhoades answered that while the International Building Code (IBC) will not be used to measure progress on the 2009 goals, it is indeed a long-term performance metric of the NTHMP.

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Dennis Wenger (NSF) voiced concern that the infrequency of tsunamis would leave the program without sufficiently broad data sets on which to base surveys, metrics, and recommendations. He encouraged Rhoades and the NTHMP to draw upon social science information derived from other, more frequent hazard events.

Applegate asked when the NTHMP was due to come up for Congressional reauthorization.

Rhoades stated that Congress is scheduled to reconsider the program in 2012 and that reauthorization language will be developed over the next few years to prepare for the deadline.

Kolak noted that the National Academies and GAO will produce reports this fall and in early 2010, respectively, on tsunami hazard events.

Rhoades reported that the NHTMP had made progress on several tasks outlined (below) in the *Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Implementation Plan: Tsunami*.

### **Tsunami Implementation Plan Task**

Develop standardized and coordinated tsunami hazard and risk assessments for all coastal regions of the United States and its territories ( <i>status: on-going</i> )
Improve Tsunami sensor and seismic data infrastructure for better tsunami detection and warning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Achieved Full Operating Capacity of U.S. Strengthening Program in 2008               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/7 Tsunami Warning Centers</li> <li>• Completed DART Network</li> <li>• Upgraded and installed new tide gauges to meet tsunami sampling requirements</li> <li>• Enhanced global seismic networks (USGS); acquisition of CTBTO seismic data</li> <li>• 24/7 National Earthquake Information Center (USGS)</li> <li>• 32 Site Specific Inundation Forecast Models developed</li> </ul> </li> <li>– On-going efforts to enhance international tide gauge networks</li> <li>– On-going research to improve tsunami detection equipment and inundation models</li> <li>– Operational Requirements Development</li> </ul>
Enhance tsunami forecast and warning capability along our coastlines (Pacific, Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico) by increasing the number of Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) buoys, tide gauges, and seismic sensors feeding real-time data into on-line forecast models ( <i>status: complete</i> )
Ensure interoperability between U.S. national system and other regional tsunami warning systems ( <i>status: on-going</i> )
Provide technical expertise and assistance, as appropriate, to facilitate development of international tsunami and all-hazard warning systems, including for the Indian Ocean ( <i>status: on-going</i> )
Encourage data exchange and interoperability among all regional tsunami and all-hazard warning systems, such as The Intergovernmental Oceanographic sub-commission for the Caribbean (IOCARIBE) ( <i>status: on-going</i> )
Promote development of model mitigation measures and encourage communities to adopt construction, critical facilities protection and land-use planning practices to reduce the impact of future tsunamis ( <i>status: on-going</i> )
Increase outreach to all communities, including all demographics of the at-risk population, to raise awareness, improve preparedness, and encourage the development of tsunami response plans ( <i>status: on-going</i> )
Conduct an annual review of the status of tsunami research and develop a strategic plan for tsunami

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research in the United States (*status: 1st report completed in 2007; annual review of research within program*)

Applegate thanked Jen Rhoades her presentation, noting that it was great to receive an update on the progress the NHTMP is making on the “Grand Challenges Tsunami Implementation Plan.”

#### **IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The May Meeting Minutes were approved with a request to change David Passey’s agency affiliation listed on page 2 to read “FEMA detailed to State.” The Secretariat has made this revision.

#### **V. Report from the Chair**

Applegate reminded Members about the 2009 Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, July 15<sup>th</sup>—18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at the Omni Interlocken Resort, just outside Boulder, Colorado. Members should inform Dave or the Secretariat ([ewallace@grs-solutions.com](mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com)) if they are interested in attending. After June 15<sup>th</sup> registration late fees will apply.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> the National Academies will host the Disasters Roundtable "Children and Youth in Disasters: Closing Gaps among Research, Practice, and Policy." More information is available through the website <http://dels.nas.edu/dr/f25.shtml>.

The Institute of Medicine will be hosting a two-day workshop on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC on “Medical Surge Capacity.” More information, including the workshop agenda, is available through the website <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3740/42532/6591.aspx>.

Applegate reported that an ad hoc team of experts met on May 14<sup>th</sup> to begin drafting a Terms of Reference (TOR) for a SDR Coastal Inundation Working Group. Applegate informed Members that the coastal group’s June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be rescheduled. SDR Members are invited to send comments on the draft Coastal Group TOR to the Secretariat ([rfaith@grs-solutions.com](mailto:rfaith@grs-solutions.com)) by June 17<sup>th</sup>.

The U.S Delegation to the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (June 16<sup>th</sup>—19<sup>th</sup> in Geneva) met on May 18<sup>th</sup> and is currently putting the final touches on a position statement that the U.S. will deliver at the conference. On May 17<sup>th</sup> the ISDR launched a 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR). The report is available through the website <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/?pid:38&pil:1>.

Applegate thanked agencies that have stepped forward with financial support for the SDR and encouraged others to do so. Members should contact Dave ([applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov)) if they would like a personalized letter to their agency letter requesting support.

The SDR’s August meeting was cancelled by mutual agreement.

#### **VI. Report from the Vice-Chairs**

Vice-Chairs Margaret Davidson (NOAA) and Dennis Wenger (NSF) stated that they did not have anything to add.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

#### **VIII. Future Meetings**

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The SDR meets on the first or second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

July 2, 2009  
September 3, 2009

October 1, 2009  
November 5, 2009

December 3, 2009

## X. 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](mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com)).

## XI. Contact Information SDR Leadership

David Applegate, Chair, 703-648-6714, [applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov)  
Margaret Davidson, Vice Chair, 843-740-1220, [Margaret.davidson@noaa.gov](mailto:Margaret.davidson@noaa.gov)  
Dennis Wenger, Vice Chair, 703-292-8606, [dwenger@nsf.gov](mailto:dwenger@nsf.gov)  
Jon Kolak, NSTC Liaison, 202-456-6081, [jkolak@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:jkolak@ostp.eop.gov)

## Secretariat

Emily Wallace, 703-560-7448, [ewallace@grs-solutions.com](mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com)

## XII. Summary of May Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Send comments on the Coastal Group TOR to the Secretariat ( <a href="mailto:rfaith@grs-solutions.com">rfaith@grs-solutions.com</a> )	SDR Members	June 17 <sup>th</sup>
Let Emily know if you are interested in attending the Annual Hazards Workshop in Boulder ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> ).	SDR Members	ASAP
Send a summary of any agency activity related to ISDR to Dennis Wenger ( <a href="mailto:dwenger@nsf.gov">dwenger@nsf.gov</a> ).	SDR Members	Standing
SDR financial support: Contact Dave ( <a href="mailto:applegate@usgs.gov">applegate@usgs.gov</a> ) if you would like a personalized support request letter to your agency.	SDR Members	Standing
Contact Emily ( <a href="mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com">ewallace@grs-solutions.com</a> ) 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