

Discussion Draft

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

1 October 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Climate Change Science Program, Room 250

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 (T)

DHS/FEMA Deborah Ingram

DHS/USCG *Steven Cohen*

DOD *Al Johnson*

DOE *Patricia Hoffman*

DOT *Kelly Leone*

Sheila Duwadi (T)

Tim Schmidt

EOP/OSTP Jonathan Kolak

EDA *Audrey Clarke*

EPA *Peter Jutro*

Stephen Clark

FERC Howard Wheeler

HUD *David Engel*

NASA Andrea Donnellan

NGA *Stephen Homeyer*

NGB *Daniel Bochicchio*

NIH Allen Dearry (T)

NIST *William Grosshandler*

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 Candice Abinanti

EPA Brendan Doyle

Marcy Rockman

NASA Craig Dobson

NGA Chris Crosier

Dana Miller

NOAA Mary Erickson (T)

Maria Honeycutt

Margaret McCalla

Nathalie Valette-Silver (T)

NSF Robert O'Connor

Secretariat Ross Faith

Emily Wallace

USFS Mike Hilbruner

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions

10:05 Approval of September Meeting Minutes

10:10 Report from the Chair

10:30 Report from the Vice-Chairs

10:40 Report from the Coastal Group

10:50 Report from the NSTC Liaison

11:00 Presentation: Update from the Council on
Environmental Quality

11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- September Meeting Minutes

Discussion Draft

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Chair David Applegate (USGS) called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and the participants introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The September Meeting Minutes were approved with no opposition or abstentions.

III. Report from the Chair

Applegate began his report with an overview of the September 29th 8.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami in the Samoa Islands Region and the September 30th 7.6 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Central Sumatra, Indonesia. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provided estimates of the number of people and the names of cities exposed to severe shaking following these events, as it does for all significant earthquakes worldwide, through PAGER (Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response, see <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/pager>).

Shortly after the event, the White House issued a disaster declaration for the territory of American Samoa, freeing Federal funds for response and relief efforts on American soil. All Emergency Support Functions were stood up by their respective lead agencies, including those functions coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Margaret Davidson (NOAA) reported anecdotal stories of people moving up to higher ground along the impacted coastlines when the sea receded before the tsunami – a sign that public outreach and capacity building efforts since 2004 have been effective. Nevertheless, the need for further education was apparent as not all people in the Samoa Islands region moved away from the coastline when the strong shaking preceding the tsunami was felt. The lack of response highlights the need for the implementation of a more effective end-to-end warning system. Davidson recommended that the SDR generate its own “lessons learned” paper from the event.

Sezin Tokar (USAID) stated the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is working to deploy a Disaster Response Team (DART) to Indonesia and has activated Washington based Response Management Team (RMT). A link to a public fact sheet on the earthquake and response can be found at: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries/indonesia/template/index.html.

USAID also produces a daily USG-only updates (Monday-Friday). Those interested in being added to the distribution list should provide Tokar (stoker@usaid.gov) with their ".gov" e-mail address. Also, please send Tokar information about any U.S. agencies contacting or being contacted by the Indonesian government regarding the earthquake (so these contributions are catalogued in the overall USG effort).

Applegate reported that mechanisms of the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters were activated. However, the need for more easily-accessible, real time geospatial information remains.

Sheila Duwadi (FHWA) underscored Applegate’s observation, noting that it was difficult in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami to locate good information. She suggested that a central clearinghouse for such information would be helpful.

Allen Dearry (NIH) noted that the National Institutes of Health have conducted tsunami-specific training programs in American Samoa. Members can send updates on agency responses to the

Discussion Draft

earthquakes and tsunamis – particularly those activities with a science and technology focus – to Dave (applegate@usgs.gov).

Applegate reiterated his call from the September meeting for volunteers interested in participating in a writing team that will put together a white paper outlining the role of disaster risk reduction in climate change adaptation strategies, and describing how SDR can link the S&T priorities identified in the Grand Challenges to climate policy development – essentially a calling card for SDR to climate policymakers. Currently, the White Paper writing team includes: Nell Codner (NOAA), Allen Dearry (NIH), Andrea Donnellan (NASA), Sheila Duwadi (DOT), John Gaynor (NOAA), Maria Honeycutt (NOAA), Marcy Rockman (EPA), and Sezin Tokar (USAID). Let the Secretariat (rfaith@grs-solutions.com) know if you would like to join the group.

Applegate updated members on hazards legislation being considered by the House Science and Technology Committee. The House bill is expected to be introduced this month.

Jon Kolak (OSTP) stated that the Administration's review of the National Science and Technology Council's structure is ongoing and that SDR is unlikely to be affected.

Deb Ingram (FEMA) reported that FEMA, in their discussions about the NSTC, is pointing to the SDR as an effective interagency body and taking the position that a new body with a similar charter is not needed.

Kolak stated that the Office of Management and Budget provided minor comments on the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) Biennial Report to Congress for Fiscal Years 2007-2008. The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is currently reviewing the document. This is the final step before transmitting the document to Congress.

IV. Report from the Vice-Chairs

Vice-Chair Margaret Davidson reported that the ad hoc SDR Coastal Group held a teleconference on September 16th to discuss the activities on which it will focus over the next several months. The group will work on two projects. In time for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2012 OSTP-OMB Spring Priorities Memo, the group will create a crosscut budget template to see if hazards-related science and technology needs can be met through the current budget. In the short term, a task team of the Coastal Group will work to index existing Federal models which focus on the short term effects of coastal inundation.

V. Report from the Coastal Group

Mary Erickson (NOAA) reported that the Coastal Group task team met via teleconference on September 25th to create an index framework into which the coastal models will be logged. The group is working to complete the activity by the Thanksgiving holiday.

Brendan Doyle (EPA) noted that the Environmental Protection Agency develops models for water quality and resource management in coastal areas. EPA also uses coastal inundation models produced by NOAA and other federal agencies to understand adaptation to and mitigation of flooding and sea level rise impacts.

Members can contact Mary (mary.erickson@noaa.gov) or the Secretariat (rfaith@grs-solutions.com) for more information on contributing to the effort to index coastal models.

Discussion Draft

Davidson stated that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and FEMA will deliver a joint briefing to OMB on coastal inundation risk analysis and mitigation next week. She stated that she would share the briefing with SDR members.

VI. Report from the NSTC Liaison

NSTC Liaison Jon Kolak reported that he attended a recent meeting of the NSTC Subcommittee on Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE), which encompasses task teams focused on education, public health, and the environment (broadly defined). The group's January 2009 report, *Social, Behavioral and Economic Research in the Federal Context* is available at: [http://ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/SBE%20in%20the%20Federal%20Context%20\(for%20NSTC\)%204-21-09.pdf](http://ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/SBE%20in%20the%20Federal%20Context%20(for%20NSTC)%204-21-09.pdf). Kolak cited shared interests between the SBE and SDR, including climate change and coastal inundation, and recommended that the subcommittees brief each other. Kolak noted that the Administration is likely to place greater emphasis on such cross-pollination activities within the NSTC as it moves forward.

VII. Presentation: Update from the Council on Environmental Quality

Applegate introduced Maria Blair, Deputy Associate Director for Climate Change Adaptation in the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Maria is on leave from the Rockefeller Foundation, where she is an Associate Vice President and Managing Director for select Foundation initiatives. At Rockefeller, Blair has worked on climate change adaptation projects focused on Asian cities and rural Sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to her work at Rockefeller, she was an associate principal with McKinsey & Company, where she focused on private sector development, microfinance, corporate social responsibility, and strategy development for nonprofits.

Blair began her presentation by stating that climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation are Administration priorities to which significant time and resources will be dedicated. She stated that the Administration is focused on developing interagency collaboration in order to answer three questions:

1. How can the Federal government build resilience to climate change?
2. How can the Federal government best support efforts at the State, regional and local levels?
3. How can the U.S. support and lead on climate change adaptation internationally?

Addressing these challenges will require new resources and a fresh approach to working cross-sectorally. To tackle these issues, the Administration has established an Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Committee (ICCAC), which is co-chaired by CEQ, OSTP, and NOAA. A goal of the committee is to consider a set of cross-cutting domestic and international climate change issues in order to identify areas in which the Federal government can invest to affect positive change.

The committee met in April to share basic information on adaptation and more recently, at its July meeting, agreed on a way forward. Blair reviewed the five thematic areas on which the committee's working groups will focus: science inputs, agency, water, insurance, and international. The working group on science inputs will start by identifying the user requirements needed by decision makers to more effectively implement climate change adaptation. The agency working group will address impacts to mission, agencies, coordination, budget issues, and recommendations toward developing a national strategy for adaptation. The water, insurance, and international working groups are thematically focused and chartered for four months. All the committees will have listening sessions with stakeholders as well as regional meetings. Blair noted that it had taken some time to find the right people inside of each agency, but the committee and working groups now have close to eighty percent agency participation.

Discussion Draft

John Gaynor (NOAA) noted his surprise that energy was not among the focus areas.

Blair responded that energy will be covered by the working groups handling water and international issues. As the work is intended to be cross-cutting, the committee did not want any given area to be the vestige of a single agency.

Davidson asked whether a rumor was true that the insurance group would be expanding to include infrastructure issues.

Blair responded that if so, it was news to her. She stated that the infrastructure group had been slow to get started due to preparatory work with the Treasury Department. The insurance group will study flood and crop insurance programs with the aim of identifying ways to improve risk transfer in society. Blair noted that there may be an opportunity to engage the private sector on this issue.

The ICCAC was purposefully established to complement (or parallel) the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). While the USGCRP is focused on forwarding climate change research, the ICCAC will be collecting information about user requirements. Moreover, the ICCAC was set up to generate recommendations, not science inputs. The agency, water, insurance, and international working groups are each expected deliver reports on user requirements to the science working group in December. There will be a January review and the committee is expected to work through September 2010, where after it is hoped that the agencies themselves will take over the majority of the activities. Eventually and ultimately, Blair said, this work needs to be owned by the agencies.

Blair stated that she would share a list of ICCAC participants with the SDR and thanked Members for the opportunity to speak with them.

Applegate thanked Maria for a very informative presentation. He noted that at the November 5th meeting, the SDR will hear from Mark Shriver, chairman of the National Commission on Children and Disasters, which, in the midst of a two year study, has just finished an interim report. Also at the November meeting, Jack Hayes, Director of the National Earthquakes Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) will update members on developments and progress.

Ingram stated that FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are co-chairing an Interagency Flood Risk Management Task Force, which is expected to hold its first meeting in mid-November (possibly the 16th or 18th). The task force will consider revisions for Executive Order 11988 on floodplain management (see <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/regs/eo11988.html>) as well as other collaborations. Formal invitations will be sent out later this week. For more information contact Deb Ingram (deborah.ingram@dhs.gov).

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

IX. 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.

November 5, 2009

December 3, 2009

Discussion Draft

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 Ross Faith (rfaith@grs-solutions.com).

XI. Contact Information SDR Leadership

David Applegate, Chair, 703-648-6714, applegate@usgs.gov

Margaret Davidson, Vice Chair, 843-740-1220, Margaret.davidson@noaa.gov

Dennis Wenger, Vice Chair, 703-292-8606, dwenger@nsf.gov

Jon Kolak, NSTC Liaison, 202-456-6081, jkolak@ostp.eop.gov

Secretariat

Ross Faith, 703-388-0308, rfaith@grs-solutions.com

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

XII. Summary of October Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Send updates on agency responses to the Samoa Islands Region earthquake and tsunami and the Southern Sumatra earthquake – particularly those activities with a science and technology focus – to Dave (applegate@usgs.gov).	SDR Members	ASAP
Send Sezin Tokar (stokar@usaid.gov) your ".gov" e-mail address to receive USG-only updates from USAID.	SDR Members	Standing
Send Sezin Tokar (stokar@usaid.gov) information about ways your agency is interacting with the Indonesian government regarding the earthquake (so these contributions are catalogued in the overall USG effort).	SDR Members	ASAP
Let Ross (rfaith@grs-solutions.com) know if you are interested in participating in the writing team for a SDR white paper on the role of disaster reduction in climate change adaptation strategies.	SDR Members	October 9 th
Contact Andrea Donnellan (andrea.donnellan@jpl.nasa.gov) or Michael Goodman (michael.goodman@nasa.gov) if you are interested in attending NASA workshops and exploring other opportunities for collaboration.	SDR Members	ASAP
Send Jon Kolak (jkolak@ostp.eop.gov) or Ross (rfaith@grs-solutions.com) your blog ideas for the OSTP website.	SDR Members	Standing
Visit http://www.ciw.edu/silver_fellowship , for information about supporting the Paul G. Silver Postdoctoral Fellowship in Seismology	SDR Members	Standing
Make check contributions to the Celine M. Silver Memorial Scholarship Fund payable to Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda MD 20814.	SDR Members	Standing
Contact Lisa Abbott (labbott@mote.org) about contributing to the Celine Silver Endowed Intern Scholarship in Coastal Ecology at the MOTE Marine Laboratory.	SDR Members	Standing
Contact Peter Bobrowsky (pbobrows@nrcan.gc.ca) if you are interested in contributing to Springer Verlag's Encyclopedia of Natural Hazards.	SDR Members	Standing

Discussion Draft

Contact Ross (rfaith@grs-solutions.com) to receive copies of the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Implementation Plan packets or CD.	SDR Members	Standing
Let Ross or Dave know how you use the implementation plans, including when you link to the plans from your agency websites.	SDR Members	Standing
Send Ross or Dave additional distribution suggestions, including relevant contact information.	SDR Members	Standing