

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

06 February 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., White House Conference Center Lincoln Room

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

Co-chairs

David Applegate (USGS)
Margaret Davidson (NOAA)
Dennis Wenger (NSF)

OSTP Liaison

Tamara Dickinson (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

BLM *Edwin Roberson*
CDC *Mark Keim*
DHS Mary Ellen Hynes
DHS/FEMA *Roy Wright*
DHS/USCG *Robert Thomas*
DOD *Al Johnson*
DOE *Patricia Hoffman*
DOT Sheila Duwadi
EOP/OMB *Michael Clark*
EOP/OSTP *Tamara Dickinson*
EPA Peter Jutro (T)
Stephen Clark

FERC *Marsha Palazzi*
HUD Dana Bres
NASA Craig Dobson (T)
NGA Patricia Allen Aquinas
NGB *TBD*
NIH Aubrey Miller (T)
NIST *Steve Cauffman*
NOAA Margaret Davidson (T)
Christopher Strager
NPS Marcy Rockman
NSF Dennis Wenger
OPHS Estella Jones (T)

State *Fernando Echavarria*
USACE *Steven Cary*
Dimitra Syriopoulou
USAID *Sezin Tokar*
USDA *TBD*
USFS *Elizabeth Reinhardt*
Carlos Rodriguez-Franco
USGS David Applegate
USNRC *Steven West*

Other Attendees

BLM Ronald McCormick
DHS Meredith Lee
DHS/FEMA Carla Boyce
Chad Payeur
Rachel Sears
EOP/NSS Eric Letvin
EOP/OSTP Jayne Morrow
Tim Stryker
EPA Brendan Doyle (T)
Paul Kudaruskas

NASA Frank Lindsay
NGA Amanda Denny
NOAA Nell Codner
Bonnie DeJoseph
Maria Honeycutt (T)
Doug Marcy (T)
Andrew Stern
NSF Greg Anderson (T)
USACE Andrew Bruzewicz
USFS Jason Steinmetz

USGS Kris Ludwig
Robert Mason
Shaun Wicklein
USNRC Thomas Nicholson
Brett Rini
STPI Chris Clavin
Ellory Matzner
SDR Secretariat Bret Schothorst
Barbara Haines-Parmele

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes
10:15 Briefing: Federal Flood Risk Management Standard
10:45 Briefing: Changes to NSTC Policies and Procedures
11:15 Presentation: FEMA National Exercise Program
 Capstone Exercise 2014
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- February Meeting Agenda
- Draft January Meeting Minutes
- NIST Handout on Resilience Framework Workshops

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the February meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. in the Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center (WHCC), and participants introduced themselves.

II. Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes

The January monthly meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

In the report from the Co-chairs, Applegate expressed appreciation for comments received on the draft charter for an SDR Wildland Fire Science and Technology Working Group (WFSTWG) at our last meeting. The working group leaders will meet with White House offices on Thursday, February 11 to get their input to finalize the charter, and then the group will formally move to seek members from the agencies. Several agencies have already expressed interest in participating in the working group – including USGS, DOI Office of Wildland Fire, USFS, NIST, and DHS S&T in addition to various White House entities, but the WFSTWG is eager to have engagement from NASA, NOAA, FEMA/U.S. Fire Administration, EPA, NSF, DOD, and others. If SDR members have not done so, please let the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) know if your agency is interested in participating on the working group.

Applegate also mentioned that NIST recently announced its series of upcoming workshops on the development of a disaster resilience framework as called for in the President's Climate Action Plan. The first workshop, titled "Developing a Community-Centered Approach to Disaster Resilience," is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 7, at NIST's main campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Please contact Steve Cauffman (stephen.cauffman@nist.gov) at NIST for more information about the initiative or visit http://www.nist.gov/el/building_materials/resilience/disreswksp.cfm to RSVP for the workshop.

Lastly, Applegate noted that a report on the work of the Department of the Interior's Strategic Sciences Group (SSG) following Hurricane Sandy is now available at: <http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/hazard-events/sandy/pubs/sandy-tech-progress-report.html>. The SSG assembled an interdisciplinary team of experts from Federal, academic, and non-profit institutions to examine Sandy's impacts on the ecology, economy, and people of the affected region. The scenarios included interventions that could improve regional resilience to future major storms. Among other uses, scenario results informed the criteria used to select DOI projects to be funded by Hurricane Sandy supplemental funds.

Mary Ellen Hynes (DHS S&T) reported that the NSTC Infrastructure Subcommittee under the Committee on Homeland and National Security will devote its March meeting to discussing the various infrastructure resilience initiatives currently underway across the Federal government to determine areas for enhanced coordination amongst these interagency groups. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 11 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room in Washington, DC. Please contact Hynes (MaryEllen.Hynes@HQ.DHS.GOV) to attend.

SDR Co-chair Dennis Wenger (NSF) reminded members that the Subcommittee's International Working Group (IWG) meets on the same day as the SDR from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the WHCC Lincoln Room. At the working group's February meeting, the IWG will: 1) revisit its January review of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) *Proposed Elements for Consideration in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* document; 2) hear a presentation from Jainey Bavishi from the Asia-Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience (APDR3) Network on her organization and its objective to convene U.S.-based stakeholders to collect multi-sectoral input for the second iteration of the Hyogo Framework for Action, known as HFA2; and 3) discuss a plan to organize a consultation of non-Federal stakeholder groups at the upcoming 39th Annual Natural Hazards Center Research and

Applications Workshop (June 22-24, 2014, Broomfield, Colorado) as a way to incorporate multi-sectoral input into the U.S. National Platform for HFA2.

III. Briefing: Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

Applegate introduced Rachel Sears (FEMA), who is a Senior Policy Advisor within the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration at FEMA. Sears, along with her colleague Doug Marcy (NOAA), briefed the Subcommittee on the development of a Federal flood risk management standard, which stems from a charge in the President's Climate Action Plan and a Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy Report recommendation tasked to the FEMA Mitigation Federal Leadership Group (MitFLG).

As outlined in the Climate Action Plan, the goal of the effort is to ensure that Federal agencies update their flood risk reduction standards for federally funded projects to reflect the best science, best available data, and consistent risk assessment approaches that account for sea-level rise and other impacts of climate change affecting flood risks. Sears noted that the initiative builds upon the initial uniform Federal flood risk standard that the Federal agencies agreed to during Hurricane Sandy for all Sandy-related rebuilding projects funded by the supplemental spending bill, which at the time required structures to elevate their bottom floor one foot higher than the most recent flood risk guidance provided by FEMA. The Climate Action Plan, however, called for an expansion of the standard in both scope and applicability to include enhanced numerical dimensions, land-use considerations, and regulations across a national scale – not just for the region affected by Sandy.

Sears explained the structure of the team formed to update the Federal flood risk management standard. According to Sears, a critical piece of the team is centered on policy, specifically the state of the science with respect to sea-level rise, the impacts of climate and hydrology change on both coastal and riverine flooding, and scenario-building, model analysis, and risk assessment for flood hazards. To this end, Marcy noted that a science working group was formed within the team, based on the Science Coordination Group that was part of the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force. The subgroup has representatives from several Federal agencies – including NOAA, FEMA, USGS, USACE, DOT, NIST, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – and produces technical guidance on the areas previously mentioned to inform the standard's policy development and considerations. Marcy noted that the group will also analyze the different levels of investment for vertical and horizontal buildings and infrastructure with respect to these various flood risks.

As part of Marcy's discussion, Margaret Davidson (NOAA) asked him to explain the extent to which current science has been able to couple riverine flooding with flooding of a more coastal nature. Marcy underscored that while flooding models and forecasts are starting to do better job of coupling the two threats, much more work still needs to be done in this area. Thomas Nicholson (USNRC) wondered if the group is looking at storm surge impacting water levels in the Great Lakes in addition to coastal and riverine flooding. Marcy noted that the group has not considered it at this point but will look into addressing the issue as the process moves along.

Regarding stakeholder engagement with the effort, Sears highlighted that there are three main objectives in bringing the right people to the table: 1) to build internal and external awareness and understanding of implications for Federal programs; 2) to understand key concerns that should be considered while policy is developed; and 3) to gain support and build coalitions. She added that communicating effectively with multiple sectors through a website launch, high-level speaking engagements, press releases, webinars, and social media will be critical to achieving these goals. The key stakeholders that the group is targeting for engagement with the standard are:

- Federal agencies: owners and operators of facilities, infrastructure, and grants.
- State, local, tribal, and territorial governments: coastal infrastructure grantees.
- Infrastructure stakeholders: both public and private.

- Design professionals: building code enforcement community
- Other professional organizations: natural hazards, water, coastal, and wetlands resources, planning, emergency management, and grant officials.
- Non-profits and advocacy groups: resilience and climate change advocates, environmental organizations, fiscal advocates, safety advocates, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, development community, home builders, bankers, and realtors.
- Academic community: grantees, and natural hazards and risk management programs and institutes.

To close out the discussion, Wenger and Hynes recommended that the initiative develop strong linkages with the academic community, specifically with regards to coordination with NSF's flood program and the work being done at the University of Maryland, College Park. Hynes added that revisions to land-use planning practices should be considered by the group, and Nicholson offered that the team should give thought to working closely with EPA and their projects concerning flood impacts to wastewater treatment plants. Maria Honeycutt (NOAA) noted that the science working group could also look at incorporating a focus on green infrastructure and nature-based conservation systems into its policy considerations. In response to this constructive feedback, Sears noted that one of the conditions the group included in the project's scoping document is a trigger for periodic updates and internal reviews to the standard as better science becomes available.

Sears stated that the timeframe for the standard's development has been compressed into a five-month schedule consisting of five phases, which began in December 2013 and will end in April of this year. Currently in the policy development phase, a first draft of the standard will be completed and provided for agency socialization around March 10, with a final draft delivered to the MitFLG for approval on April 2 and circulated for broader Federal interagency concurrence by April 15. Please reach out to Sears (rachel.sears@fema.dhs.gov) as soon as possible to participate in the Federal flood risk management standard's development due to the truncated timeline for the project. Sears added that she's hopeful to keep the interagency dialogue open as this effort progresses.

IV. Briefing: Changes to NSTC Policies and Procedures

Applegate introduced Jayne Morrow (OSTP), who is Executive Director of the NSTC. She outlined some recent changes to the organization's policies and procedures, specifically related to streamlining processes and reducing stovepipes within the NSTC for chartering working groups and approving reports.

According to Morrow, the NSTC is attempting to increase content coordination across committees and subcommittees to facilitate the more efficient sharing of information, data, and subject matter expertise. Morrow highlighted that as part of this process, there are efforts underway to make sure every NSTC committee and subcommittee has active representatives from both OMB and OSTP. Morrow also noted that the NSTC generated an updated version of its guidelines handbook that includes revisions to internal records requirements and rules on interfacing with private entities. Morrow added that another area of focus will be to break down barriers that have developed over time and improve cross-cutting activities amongst the NSTC entities to facilitate better communication and identify opportunities for collaboration. One example of this is an NSTC highlights newsletter that will go out periodically to all of the agencies to showcase some of the activities that are happening across the organization. Also, Morrow stated that the NSTC will produce a directory of agency representatives that serve on each committee and subcommittee, which will be accessible through the OMB MAX website.

During the Q&A period following her briefing, Hynes asked Morrow to elaborate on any improvements that have been made to the process for approving reports within the NSTC. Morrow said that the NSTC has expanded its document approval options to include both committee- and subcommittee-level approval thresholds so that reports can be released and published at different stages in the organization, not just at

the full NSTC level. She added that other internal NSTC reporting options will be explored as well to increase efficiency and timeliness in sharing information, including providing oral reports and shorter memorandums to the higher-level bodies. Morrow stated that many of these mechanisms existed previously within the organization but were not utilized effectively. Morrow noted that the current backlog of reports waiting to be approved has been reduced because of this change, and she anticipated that the process will continue to move more quickly and smoothly in the future.

To close her presentation, Morrow underscored that the revised NSTC handbook mentioned earlier will be circulated to the member agencies later this spring for feedback and concurrence on the various improvements. Please contact Morrow (Jayne_B_Morrow@ostp.eop.gov) directly if you have any questions about her briefing.

V. Presentation: FEMA National Exercise Program Capstone Exercise 2014

Applegate introduced Carla Boyce (FEMA), who is Director of the National Exercise Division (NED) at FEMA. She briefed the SDR on the Capstone Exercise 2014, which will examine the nation's collective ability to coordinate and conduct risk assessments and implement the National Frameworks and associated plans to deliver core capabilities.

To begin her presentation, Boyce went over the four principal objectives of the National Exercise Program (NEP), which is the parent body that houses the Capstone Exercise 2014:

- 1) Exchange intelligence, information, data, or knowledge to enable timely and informed decision-making prior to and during an incident that threatens the security of the Nation;
- 2) Identify threats and hazards and share prompt, reliable, and actionable risk information with the public, including actions to be taken and assistance made available during the onset of any hazard that threatens the security of the Nation;
- 3) Establish and maintain a unified and coordinated operational structure and process, capable of identifying, prioritizing, and delivering resources across all hazards and lead Federal agency authorities, including: catastrophic incidents where a Stafford Act declaration is not likely, and domestic response to foreign nations overwhelmed by disaster; and
- 4) Establish and maintain plans, authorities, responsibilities, and coordination capabilities that support the recovery of local communities affected by catastrophic disasters.

Boyce highlighted that Capstone Exercise 2014 is a congressionally mandated preparedness exercise designed to educate and prepare the whole community to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from acts of terrorism and catastrophic incidents, including natural disasters. She underscored that the exercise will examine the ability of government officials to establish and promulgate initial response activities, plan for and establish recovery priorities, and allocate critical resources to impacted communities in accordance with the National Response Framework, the National Disaster Recovery Framework, and other applicable plans and frameworks. According to Boyce's briefing, the NEP Capstone Exercise 2014 is expected to involve several players across multiple sectors, including state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, Federal departments and agencies, private sector entities, international partners, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. She underscored that the scope of the activity will be to examine the shared responsibility of government, the private sector, and the general public to respond and recover from a catastrophic event.

Regarding governance of the activity, Capstone Exercise 2014 will be coordinated by FEMA's NED, with the NED Director serving as Capstone Exercise 2014 Exercise Director and Chair of the NEP Capstone Exercise 2014 Exercise-Specific Working Group (ESWG). Boyce reviewed that the NED Director will lead the oversight, coordination, and conduct of required Capstone Exercise 2014 exercise events and will work in concert with sponsoring organizations to ensure the exercise meets its desired objectives. FEMA and NED will facilitate stakeholder involvement through the ESGW, sub-working groups, and the

exercise's trusted agents to ensure that exercises and all linked events follow guidance set forth by the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program. Some of the exercise's component events include:

- *Catastrophic Earthquake and Tsunami Response and Recovery Operations (Alaska Shield 2014)*: Full-scale exercises focusing on initial response and recovery operations.
- *Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) (Ardent Sentry 2014)*: Full-scale exercises focusing on initial response and recovery operations.
- *Nuclear Weapons Accident (NUWAIX 2014)*: A full-scale exercise focusing on initial response operations and preliminary transition from response to recovery from a nuclear weapons accident.
- *Continuity Operations (Eagle Horizon 2014)*: A full-scale exercise over two days that examines the Federal government's ability to perform primary mission essential functions as well as assess and/or develop reconstitution.
- *Long-Term Recovery TTX (Silver Phoenix 2014)*: Recovery exercise that will be threaded throughout the entire NEP Capstone Exercise 2014 and will culminate in a national long-term recovery tabletop exercise, ensuring the NEP Capstone Exercise addresses recovery objectives.

Applegate noted that Capstone Exercise 2014 and its related exercises will provide some nice piggybacking opportunities with activities of other interagency groups such as the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). One additional area for collaboration with Capstone Exercise 2014 was noted by Aubrey Miller (NIH). He laid out his agency's plans for a disaster research response project focused on a new tsunami scenario in Los Angeles, California. The initiative will work closely with the academic community to determine the best way to conduct useful research in the context of disasters that promotes resiliency and the continuity of health services operations. Another goal of the project will be to train health researchers to understand how to best fit into emergency response operations during disasters. Miller will brief the Subcommittee on this topic at the SDR March meeting.

To conclude her briefing, Boyce noted that Capstone Exercise 2014 is designed as one continuous exercise conducted over 7-10 days from March 27 – April 3, culminating in a National Recovery Table Top Exercise April 22 – 24. If SDR members would like to participate in Capstone Exercise 2014 or have suggestions for future National Exercise Program activities, please reach out to Boyce (Carla.Boyce@fema.dhs.gov) or Capstone Exercise 2014 Lead Planner Chad Payeur (chad.payeur@fema.dhs.gov).

VI. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR February meeting at 12:03 p.m.

VII. Future Meetings

SDR meetings in 2013 will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the dates listed below in the Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center:

2014

- ✓ Thursday, March 6
- ✓ Thursday, April 3
- ✓ Thursday, May 1
- ✓ Thursday, June 5
- ✓ Thursday, July 10
- ✓ Thursday, August 7
- ✓ Thursday, September 4
- ✓ Thursday, October 2
- ✓ Thursday, November 6
- ✓ Thursday, December 4

VIII. 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 the SDR Secretariat Bret Schothorst (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).

IX. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| David Applegate | Co-chair | 703-648-6600 | applegate@usgs.gov |
| Margaret Davidson | Co-chair | 843-740-1220 | margaret.davidson@noaa.gov |
| Dennis Wenger | Co-chair | 703-292-8606 | dwenger@nsf.gov |
| Tamara Dickinson | OSTP Liaison | 202-456-6105 | tdickinson@ostp.eop.gov |

Secretariat

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--|
| Bret Schothorst | 703-388-0312 | bret.schothorst@mantech.com |
| Barbara Haines-Parmele | 703-388-0309 | barbara.haines-parmele@mantech.com |

X. Summary of February Actions

| Action | Lead | By When |
|---|------------------------------------|----------|
| Contact the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com), copying SDR Co-chair David Applegate (applegate@usgs.gov) and OSTP Liaison Tammy Dickinson (Tamara_L_Dickinson@ostp.eop.gov), to participate in the SDR Wildland Fire Science and Technology Working Group. | SDR Members | ASAP |
| Email Rachel Sears (rachel.sears@fema.dhs.gov) to participate in the development of a Federal flood risk management standard led by the FEMA Mitigation Federal Leadership Group (MitFLG). | SDR Members | ASAP |
| Send an RSVP to Steve Cauffman (stephen.cauffman@nist.gov) to attend NIST’s first workshop on developing a disaster resilience framework, which will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014 at its main campus in Gaithersburg, MD. | SDR Members and Federal Colleagues | ASAP |
| Reach out to Carla Boyce (Carla.Boyce@fema.dhs.gov) or Capstone Exercise 2014 Lead Planner Chad Payeur (chad.payeur@fema.dhs.gov) to propose suggestions for future National Exercise Program activities. | SDR Members and Federal Colleagues | Standing |
| Please consider supporting the work of the SDR and its Secretariat through a contribution from your agency. Let Co-chair David Applegate (applegate@usgs.gov) know if you need an Agency- or Department-specific request letter. | SDR Members | Standing |
| Email SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) and OSTP Liaison Tammy Dickinson (Tamara_L_Dickinson@ostp.eop.gov) if willing to pilot an assessment of the progress of the short-, mid-, and long-term goals outlined in the SDR <i>Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction</i> hazard implementation plans. | SDR Members | Standing |

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| <p>Contact Co-chair Dennis Wenger (dwenger@nsf.gov) if your agency is able to provide funding support to the University of Colorado Boulder's Natural Hazards Center.</p> | <p>SDR Members and Federal Colleagues</p> | <p>Standing</p> |
| <p>Contact OSTP Liaison Tammy Dickinson (tdickinson@ostp.eop.gov) if it would be helpful for OSTP to issue a letter to your agency or department requesting new (or re-affirmed) designation of official representatives. Ideas for other entities that should be represented on the SDR are also welcome.</p> | <p>SDR Members</p> | <p>Standing</p> |