

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

02 April 2015, 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 Mollie Mahany (T)
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 Brendan Doyle
Stephen Clark

FERC *Marsha Palazzi*
HUD *Dana Bres*
NASA Craig Dobson
NGA Patricia Allen Aquinas (T)
NGB *TBD*
NIH *Aubrey Miller*
NIST *Steve Cauffman*
NOAA *Margaret Davidson*
Laura Furgione
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
Matt Rollins
USGS David Applegate
USNRC *Steven West*

Other Attendees

BLM Ron McCormick (T)
DHS Steve Dennis
Mitch Erickson
Eleanor Hajjian
Erin Walsh
DHS/FEMA Douglas Ham
EPA Keely Maxwell

NIH April Bennett
NIST Terri McAllister (T)
NRC Patrick Madden
NSF Greg Anderson (T)
Kishor Mehta
Jacqueline Meszaros
USGS Jonathan Godt (T)

USGS Kris Ludwig
Charlie Mandeville
Teresa Stoepler
STPI Chris Clavin
Mitch Ambrose
SDR Secretariat Bret Schothorst

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes
10:15 Briefing: NSF CRISP and PREEVENTS Initiatives
11:00 Readout: Summary of WCDRR
11:30 Update: NIST Community Disaster Resilience Framework
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- April Meeting Agenda
- Draft February Meeting Minutes
- Letter Requesting Agency Funding Contributions in Support of SDR
- Final U.S. Explanation of Position (EOP) for WCDRR

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the April 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 February monthly meeting minutes draft was approved with no changes. Please note that the SDR did not meet in March due to inclement winter weather.

Applegate noted that a letter has been circulated to SDR representatives requesting Fiscal Year 2015 funding contributions from agencies in support of the activities of the SDR and its Secretariat. If members are interested in contributing and would like additional documentation or an agency-specific letter, please send Applegate an email (applegate@usgs.gov). Applegate expressed much appreciation to the SDR for its consideration and support.

Applegate encouraged participation in the America's PrepareAthon! campaign, in particular the next National PrepareAthon! Day, which is coming up on April 30, 2015, with a special focus on severe weather. The goal of this campaign is to increase the number of individuals who understand which disasters could happen in their community, know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage, take action to increase their preparedness, and participate in community resilience planning. Please visit <http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon> for more information or email prepareathon@fema.gov to participate. A presidential memo encouraging agency participation will be circulated to SDR representatives after the meeting.

Applegate drew attention to the fact that the charters for several SDR working groups – including the International Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (formerly the International Working Group, or IWG), the Windstorm Working Group, and the Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness Working Group – have been finalized by the NSTC and OSTP and were signed by the SDR Co-chairs before the April meeting. Official copies of the new charters will be available at <http://www.SDR.gov> after the meeting. Draft reports from the SDR Wildland Fire S&T Task Force and SDR Windstorm Working Group are also in the process of being finalized and will be distributed to SDR members for review and comment in the coming weeks. Please be on the lookout for those documents, which will be distributed by the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).

Applegate also highlighted that public comments are being collected on draft implementation guidelines for the new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and associated Executive Order 13690, which was developed in conjunction with the President's Climate Action Plan to create a national minimum flood risk management standard to ensure that Federal actions appropriately reduce risk to its investments by changes in climate and vulnerability. The draft implementing guidelines can be downloaded by visiting: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/101761>. FEMA – on behalf of its Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) – is actively seeking public comments (due May 6) through a series of listening sessions from stakeholders regarding the implementation of the Standard and its draft guidelines. To send comments, please email FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov. More information on the Standard and the listening sessions can be found on FEMA's website at: <https://www.fema.gov/federal-flood-risk-management-standard-ffrms>.

Brendan Doyle (EPA) passed along that the 2015 EPA International Decontamination Research and Development Conference will be held May 5-7, 2015, at EPA's Research Triangle Park, NC, Campus. Topics of interest for the conference that will be presented include new research data or field activities and large-scale demonstrations related to the detection and decontamination of biological (including agricultural threat agents and biotoxins), chemical, and radiological threat agents in indoor or outdoor

areas and materials. Doyle asked that all agency participants register to confirm attendance at the conference no later than April 28, 2015. Email Doyle (Doyle.Brendan@epa.gov) for further information.

III. Briefing: NSF CRISP and PREEVENTS Initiatives

Applegate introduced both Greg Anderson and fellow SDR Co-chair Dennis Wenger from NSF, who briefed the SDR on new funding initiatives known as Critical Resilient Interdependent Infrastructure Systems and Processes (CRISP) and the follow-on program to Hazards SEES – which will be called Prediction and Resilience against Extreme Events (PREEVENTS). Both programs should create new opportunities for Federal S&T collaborations with the academic community.

Anderson opened with some background information on the current Hazards SEES program at NSF, highlighting that it is a fundamentally multidisciplinary and integrated program in natural hazards with the goals to improve: the understanding of fundamental processes underlying hazards; the understanding of impacts on individuals, the natural and built environment, and society; and capabilities for forecasting, prediction, mitigation, response, and recovery. In FY 2015 and FY 2016, Anderson anticipates that Hazards SEES will be allocated roughly \$24 million in funding, and the review process is currently underway of 150 proposals that were received in December 2014.

Regarding the upcoming PREEVENTS project that will replace Hazards SEES, Anderson noted that it is a multidisciplinary portfolio aimed to improve the fundamental understanding of processes underlying geohazards and extreme events; improve models of geohazards, extreme events, and their impacts; and enhance societal preparedness and resilience. It is planned as a five-year program starting in FY 2016, with \$23.5 million requested in the President's FY 2016 budget. He added that it will seek appropriate leveraging across NSF programs and with agency partners, including co-funding with other programs, workshops, and research coordination networks. Regarding novel research coordination, Kishor Mehta (NSF) raised that, when looking at buildings as infrastructure, it might make sense to include architects and building designers in policy planning discussions.

Wenger highlighted that CRISP is a joint initiative between the Engineering (ENG), Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorates at NSF that views critical infrastructure as networks of systems and processes that are interdependent and connected and produce and distribute a continuous flow of essential goods and services. March 20 was the initial proposal deadline for the program, which has an anticipated total funding amount of \$20 million. Wenger added that there will be two types of awards bestowed under the CRISP program over its five-year timeline: 1) Type 1 awards will be given to projects of 3 years in duration with a maximum total budget of \$500,000; and 2) Type 2 awards will be given to projects of 3-4 years in duration with budgets ranging from \$1-2.5 million. The CRISP solicitation can be viewed at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15531/nsf15531.htm>.

In response to questions from Laura Furgione (NOAA) and Applegate regarding how agencies can get engaged with these efforts, Anderson noted that NSF is eager to have program-level discussions with other agencies to explore opportunities for joint solicitations or facilitate application of research results. To learn more about the results of ongoing projects funded through these NSF programs, Wenger encouraged Mary Ellen Hynes (DHS S&T) and other agency representatives to reach out to the grants' Principal Investigators directly. Contact information and abstracts for recently awarded proposals of the Hazards SEES program can be gleaned from the NSF website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?ProgEleCode=8087&BooleanElement=ANY&BooleanRef=ANY&ActiveAwards=true&#results>.

To engage your agency with these new funding initiatives, please email Anderson (greander@nsf.gov) as the main point of contact.

IV. Readout: Summary of WCDRR

Applegate introduced Wenger and Sezin Tokar (USAID), SDR International Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) Working Group Co-chairs, who provided the readout on the U.S. delegation experience at the UNISDR 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) that was held March 14-18, 2015, in Sendai, Japan.

Tokar estimated that several thousand participants attended the conference along with 187 countries represented by several heads of state. She added that the conference differed from the last world conference held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan in 2005 by: being more inclusive; having a greater focus on resilience and building back better; linking the framework to climate change adaptation and sustainable development; including global progress targets and indicators; and encouraging public-private partnerships for financing and implementation. It was also noted that the WCDRR was hailed by many participants as the first international meeting of its kind to provide a wide range of accessibility features for people living with disabilities.

At the conference, the U.S. facilitated a Federal agency side event panel discussion (with presentations from USAID, USGS, FEMA, NOAA, NASA, NSF, and the U.S. Postal Service), hosted an exhibit booth at the WCDRR Public Forum for both Federal agency delegates and U.S.-based non-governmental organizations (such as the Red Cross, R3ADY Asia Pacific, HelpAge USA, the International Medical Corps, NSET, the Pacific Disaster Center, and Habitat for Humanity International), and participated in final negotiations of the successor document to the Hyogo Framework for Action, which is now known as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Both the side event and the exhibit booth were a success according to several IDRR Working Group members that were in attendance at the WCDRR. The only drawback mentioned by Applegate was that the side events and exhibits were held at a different venue than the conference itself, which seemed to limit overall attendance and engagement. To view the final slide deck from the U.S. side event panel discussion, please visit the SDR members-only website: <http://www.sdr.gov/formembers.html> (username: SDR.member; password: SDR#2003. including the period at the end).

Tokar noted that the U.S. joined the consensus of all other nations at the WCDRR in adopting the framework, but it did disassociate from some language in the document concerning specific issues on: the responsibility of DRR; technology transfer; the right to development; international cooperation; and references to climate change adaptation and sustainable development. The ratified version of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and accompanying political declaration can be downloaded at: <http://www.wcdrr.org/>.

In response to a question from Douglas Ham (FEMA) on how to reference these sensitive issues, State passed along that it is finalizing a reporting cable about the conference, which it intends to circulate for interagency clearance within the next week. That cable will include additional guidance about the framework and should answer any outstanding questions that technical experts have regarding the framework's implementation. Please reach out to Martha Marrazza (MarrazzaM@state.gov) with additional questions regarding guidance on the framework for your agency.

The link to the full U.S. Explanation of Position on the Sendai Framework can be downloaded at: <http://www.state.gov/p/io/rls/2015/239976.htm> or <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2015/03/19/sendai-framework-for-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030/>. Tokar shared that a blog post about Sendai by the U.S. Head of Delegation, Tom Staal (USAID), may also be of interest to the group: <http://blog.usaid.gov/2015/03/from-hyogo-to-sendai-a-new-action-plan-for-resilience/>.

Contact Tokar (stokar@usaid.gov) or Wenger (dwenger@nsf.gov) with any follow-up questions about the event or to get engaged with the SDR IDRR Working Group.

V. Update: NIST Community Disaster Resilience Framework

Applegate introduced Terri McAllister from NIST, who provided SDR with an update regarding the latest progress on her agency's development of a Community Disaster Resilience Framework (CDRF) as originally called for in the President's Climate Action Plan in June 2013.

The CDRF provides a comprehensive, customizable tool to help communities plan and implement disaster resilience measures and to recover efficiently from extreme events in the context of sustaining community functions, such as healthcare, education, and other important local services. McAllister noted that the current draft framework is nearing 100 percent completion and has been circulated to Federal agency partners for comment (due April 8) in advance of the document's public release and open 60-day review-and-comment period that will begin on April 27 during a public workshop at Texas Southern University in Houston, TX.

Following the integration of Federal and public comments, version 1.0 of the final CDRF is scheduled to be released in September 2015. According to McAllister, next steps and follow-on stakeholder engagement initiatives include: developing a disaster resilience standards panel; identifying pilot communities that are interested in implementing the framework; and drafting model resilience guidelines to provide guidance on existing codes, standards, and best practices. It was suggested at the meeting that the CDRF effort might link to other similar projects in scope, including: the National Academy of Sciences Resilient America Roundtable and its pilot communities to build disaster resilience (Cedar Rapids, IA, Charleston, SC, and Seattle, WA); the Rockefeller Foundation; and HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition.

If your agency is not already engaged and would like to participate in the draft CDRF review process, please email McAllister (therese.mcallister@nist.gov) or her NIST colleague Steve Cauffman (stephen.cauffman@nist.gov). The latest version of the document can be downloaded at: http://www.nist.gov/el/building_materials/resilience/framework.cfm.

VI. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR April meeting at 12:04 p.m. and noted that the group's next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room. It will tentatively feature a presentation from Roger Pulwarty of NOAA on the ongoing California megadrought.

VII. SDR 2015 Meeting Calendar

SDR meetings in 2015 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 unless otherwise noted:

2015

- ✓ Thursday, January 8*
- ✓ Thursday, February 5
- ✓ Thursday, March 5
- ✓ Thursday, April 2
- ✓ Thursday, May 7
- ✓ Thursday, June 4
- ✓ Thursday, July 9*
- ✓ Thursday, August 6**
- ✓ Thursday, September 3
- ✓ Thursday, October 1

- ✓ Thursday, November 5
- ✓ Thursday, December 3

* January and July meetings shifted to EEOB Room 430ABC on the second Thursday of the month to avoid proximity to holidays and due to WHCC renovations.

** August meeting subject to cancellation.

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-Parmelee	703-388-0309	barbara.haines-parmelee@mantech.com

X. Summary of April Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Email SDR Co-chair David Applegate (applegate@usgs.gov) if interested in contributing Fiscal Year 2015 funding in support of the activities of the SDR and its Secretariat.	SDR Members	ASAP
Visit http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon for more information on the America’s PrepareAthon! initiative or email prepareathon@fema.gov to participate in its next “National PrepareAthon! Day” on April 30, 2015.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Friday, April 24
Send comments on the draft implementing guidelines for the recently released Federal Flood Risk Management Standard to FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov .	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Wednesday, May 6
Reach out to Greg Anderson (greander@nsf.gov) to engage your agency with the follow-on program to Hazards SEES, which will be called Prediction and Resilience against Extreme Events (PREEVENTS).	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Contact SDR IDRR Working Group Co-chairs Sezin Tokar (stokar@usaid.gov) and Dennis Wenger (dwenger@nsf.gov) with any follow-up questions about the WCDRR or to get engaged with the SDR IDRR Working Group.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Contact Terri McAllister (therese.mcallister@nist.gov) or her NIST colleague Steve Cauffman (stephen.cauffman@nist.gov) to participate in the draft Community Disaster Resilience Framework (CDRF) review process.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing

<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>	SDR Members	Standing
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