

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

08 January 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Room 430ABC

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 (T)
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 (T)
NGA *Patricia Allen Aquinas*
NGB *TBD*
NIH Aubrey Miller (T)
NIST *Steve Cauffman*
NOAA *Margaret Davidson*
Christopher Strager
NPS Marcy Rockman (T)
NSF Dennis Wenger
OPHS *Estella Jones*

State *Fernando Echavarría*
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

DHS Mitch Erickson (T)
Meredith Lee
DHS/FEMA Kimberly
Hayward (T)
EOP/NSC Heather King
Eric Letvin
EOP/OSTP Maham Ahmed
Robert Strickling
Tim Stryker
EPA Paul Kudarauskas
Ed Washburn

GSA Philip Ashlock
Clarence Wardell
Rebecca Williams
NASA Lucia Tsoussi (T)
NGA Robert Kluba
NIH April Bennett
NIST Marc Levitan
NOAA Kevin Schrab (T)
NSF Greg Anderson (T)
Robert O'Connor
OPHS Tracy McGill (T)

USFS Everett Hinkley (T)
USGS Teresa Stoepler
Kris Ludwig (T)
Greg Snyder (T)
USNRC Patrick Madden (T)
STPI Chris Clavin
Mitch Ambrose (T)
SDR Secretariat Bret Schothorst
Barbara Haines-Parmelee (T)

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes
10:10 Update: USGEO National Earth Observations Portfolio
Assessment
10:30 Briefing: NPST Task Force PPD-8 Activity
11:15 Presentation: TIDP Working Group and
Disasters.Data.Gov Launch
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- January Meeting Agenda
- Draft December Meeting Minutes
- Invitation to NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Project Meeting

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the January meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. in Room 430ABC of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB), and participants introduced themselves.

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

The December monthly meeting minutes draft was approved with no changes.

Applegate noted that the first phase of the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC), which will allocate nearly \$1 billion of Hurricane Sandy supplemental funding through HUD's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, is underway. Applications from eligible states and cities are due in March, and HUD is currently looking for proposal reviewers with expertise related to disasters and natural hazards. If interested in participating in this review, please reach out to Harriet Tregoning (Harriet.Tregoning@hud.gov), who briefed the SDR on this initiative back in October.

Applegate also highlighted two hazard-related actions in Congress: The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed by voice vote under suspension of the rules H.R.23, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014, which reauthorizes the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP), and H.R.34, the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2014, which reauthorizes and strengthens the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation programs within NOAA. The NWIRP legislation specifically impacts the SDR in that NIST would take over management of the program from OSTP if the House-passed version is passed by the U.S. Senate and signed into law. Currently, the SDR Windstorm Working Group coordinates the activities of the NWIRP.

April Bennett (NIH) noted her agency's upcoming second annual Federal interagency discussion regarding the NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Project. The meeting will take place on the NIH Bethesda, MD, campus in Room D in Building 45 (Natcher) on Friday, January 16 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. This NIH initiative, being performed in collaboration with the National Library of Medicine (NLM), seeks to improve our collective ability to conduct timely health research in response to disasters and other time-critical situations (<http://disaster.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/dr2/disasterresearch.html>). The DR2 Project is designed to address several well-identified gaps associated with obtaining human health information following a disaster, including quick access to useful data collection tools, rapid development and implementation of research protocols, IRB reviews, and capacity to deploy trained researchers to the field. During this discussion, NIH colleagues would like to share with you their DR2 Project accomplishments over the past year and plans for the upcoming year. Additionally, they are seeking input regarding areas of improvement and research priorities, as well as any opportunities for collaboration. For more information on this opportunity, please contact Aubrey Miller (miller.aubrey@nih.gov) or Bennett (april.bennett@nih.gov).

SDR International Working Group (IWG) Co-Chair Dennis Wenger (NSF) encouraged participation in the IWG January meeting that will take place on the afternoon of Thursday, January 8 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in EEOB Room 430ABC. At the meeting, the working group will: 1) discuss logistics for planned U.S. side events at the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) that will be held March 14-18, 2015, in Sendai, Japan; and 2) review outcomes from recent WCDRR Preparatory Committee meetings (PrepCom) focused on the latest draft of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction known as HFA2+.

III. Update: USGEO National Earth Observations Portfolio Assessment

Applegate introduced Tim Stryker (OSTP), Program Manager of the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) Program, who relayed an update to the Subcommittee on the group's progress regarding the second National Earth Observations Assessment (EOA) slated for completion in June 2016.

According to the National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations that originally called for the initiative, the triennial assessment will document, for internal Federal use, the baseline current portfolio and define an integrated portfolio of observing systems, networks and platforms that will provide optimal continuity, fulfillment, and advancement of required measurements over the 10-year planning period. Within this context, Stryker noted that the group's primary goals are to: 1) assess the current portfolio of Earth observing systems that provide measurements, data, and information that support Federal activities; 2) use the societal benefit area (SBA) framework to provide a cross-cutting view; 3) provide greater detail regarding the specific uses of Earth observing data in delivering societal benefit; and 4) include expanded consideration of research priorities and future needs in addition to existing systems.

Stryker added that the second assessment will leverage the methodology of value tree construction and incorporate lessons learned from the first assessment undertaken in 2012, and the USGEO Subcommittee's Assessment Working Group provided guidance at an initial orientation meeting in November to help the 13 SBA teams structure sub-areas and key objectives in a standardized manner to ensure adequate coverage, address gaps or areas of overlap, and improve agency representation and engagement. Stryker underlined that the final analysis set for delivery in 2016 will include a summary of the current national observing system portfolio, a baseline assessment of the current portfolio, tiered by relative criticality, for individual SBAs and an overall integrated assessment, and a recommended portfolio of measurement categories, tiered by relative criticality over a 10-year planning horizon, for individual SBAs and the overall Federal government.

Ed Washburn (EPA) noted that he was pleased to see a greater emphasis placed in the second assessment on the users of Earth observing systems and the program evaluation aspect being included in the early stages. He added that he would also like to see an enhanced focus on internationally-based shared Earth observation resources, the growing rate of the citizen science community's input, and on experimental and novel research products. In response to a question from Everett Hinkley (USFS) asking if there will be any crossover with the second EOA and the National Research Council's Decadal Survey on Earth observing systems, Stryker stated that although they are separate activities with different scopes and methodologies, preliminary discussions will take place centered on maintaining ongoing communications to inform both efforts. Craig Dobson (NASA) added that he would like to see more attention placed on assessing emerging research trends in operations during the second assessment that what was emphasized with the first analysis in 2012.

For more information or to engage your agency in the second EOA effort if not already involved, please reach out to Stryker (Timothy.S.Stryker@ostp.eop.gov).

IV. Briefing: NPST Task Force PPD-8 Activity

Applegate provided an introductory briefing on the National Preparedness Science and Technology (NPST) Task Force, which was established under SDR this past fall and held its kickoff meeting on November 21, 2014. The NPST Task Force was convened to address the S&T requirements of the five mission areas of Presidential Policy Directive-8 (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) and act as an interagency conduit to more fully integrate S&T into all facets of national preparedness across Federal departments and agencies under PPD-8.

At the group's initial meeting, Applegate stated that the Task Force was shown a pilot assessment of how science and technology investments support operational elements of PPD-8 derived from the work of the SDR's Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force. This example highlighted the work being done to develop a catalog of existing Federal S&T capabilities for wildland fire that support the PPD-8 mission areas, which includes an inventory identifying Federal S&T programs that focus on both producing and using S&T. With regards to other hazards and threats, the Task Force initially broke them

down into sub-groups centered on six key areas: Meteorological (Drought, Extreme Cold/Heat, Flood, Hurricane, Tornado, Wildland Fire); Geologic (Earthquake, Landslide, Tsunami, Volcanic Eruption); Space (Space Weather, Near-Earth Objects); Chemical (Spills, Terrorism Attack, Food Contamination); Nuclear/Radiological (Nuclear Terrorism Attack, Radiological Terrorism Attack, Radiological Substance Release); and Biological (Human Pandemic, Animal Disease Outbreak, Bio Food Contamination, Biological Terrorism Attack).

As part of this initial straw-man, Applegate requested feedback on the proposed taskings as well as nominations of subject matter experts and volunteers to help steer the assessment of the sub-grouping of geologic hazards (earthquake, landslide, tsunami, and volcanic eruption) that has been preliminarily assigned to the SDR. Please send comments along with names and email addresses of those interested in participating in this activity to Maham Ahmed (Maham_Ahmed@ostp.eop.gov) by Friday, January 23. Applegate noted that the next meeting of the NPST Task Force will take place on Tuesday, January 27 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the WHCC Lincoln Room.

V. Presentation: TIDP Working Group and Disasters.Data.Gov Launch

Applegate introduced Meredith Lee (DHS S&T) and her colleagues from the General Services Administration and the White House, who presented an overview of the recently stood up SDR Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness (TIDP) Working Group and the launch of the [disasters.data.gov](http://www.data.gov/disasters/) web portal (<http://www.data.gov/disasters/>).

As background, Lee highlighted that the TIDP Working Group formed out of the White House Innovation for Disaster Response and Recovery Initiative launched by the Administration in the wake of Hurricane Sandy to find effective ways technology can empower survivors, first responders, and government at all levels with critical information and resources. The group has been very active convening technologists, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders for several events, including datapaloozas, demo days, workshops, and through a variety of public and private commitments for open data and tools. [Disasters.data.gov](http://disasters.data.gov) serves as the initiative's first online clearinghouse for Federal datasets related to hazards and disasters.

After reviewing the key functions of the disasters.data.gov site, Lee highlighted two features geared towards public engagement in the initiative: 1) a "Call to Action for Data Stewards" (<http://www.data.gov/disasters/call-action-open-data/>), which will help the initiative build a culture of open data to empower technologists, entrepreneurs, governments, volunteers, survivors, and community leaders with information that can improve disaster preparedness; and 2) "Innovator Challenge" questions (<http://www.data.gov/disasters/innovator-challenge/>) that the Administration is unveiling to highlight pressing needs from the disaster preparedness community. The first challenge on disasters.data.gov asks innovators across the Nation, "How might we leverage real-time sensors, open data, social media, and other tools to help reduce the number of fatalities from flooding?"

To participate in this challenge, please send a one-page description of your idea or prototype that can be shared with disaster preparedness stakeholders to disastertech@ostp.gov. Also email Lee (disastertech@ostp.gov) if interested in becoming a member of the working group or providing data sets from your agency for the disasters.data.gov web portal as well as feedback on the site's design and functionality. To get your agency's disaster response and recovery data up on disasters.data.gov, Rebecca Williams (GSA) directed agencies to work through their Open Data point of contact – which can be determined through contacting datagov@gsa.gov.

Washburn recommended that the disasters.data.gov portal also include data from tribal governments in addition to the Federal data already represented. He offered up the Alaskan Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium as an example of a unique mechanism for tribal professionals in Alaska to apply traditional tribal ecological knowledge and western

science and technology to document unusual plants and wildlife, extreme weather, erosion, flooding, drought, wildfire, and other events that can threaten food security, water security, and community health in tribal areas. Philip Ashlock (GSA) appreciated the suggestion and noted that the portal also plans to eventually house data from state and local governments. Teresa Stoepler (USGS) added that disasters.data.gov might benefit from accessing the wealth of disasters- and hazards-related data sitting within the academic community, and Sezin Tokar (USAID) suggested including data from the international disaster space as well.

In response to a question from Mitch Erickson (DHS S&T) on how best to market disasters.data.gov to its targeted user community, Lee stated that the initial metrics from the site's visitors offer up encouraging signs of engagement – especially given that the portal went live to the public two weeks before the holidays in mid-December. Lee presented some interesting statistics from that analysis, stating that the most visited pages were Apps & Tools, Call to Data Stewards, Innovator Challenge, and Earthquakes. She noted that Twitter activity saw five to ten times more impressions than average (~3-4000 vs. ~500) and added that media coverage was widespread, including from the tech sector, neighborhoods, cities, states, regions, nations, faith-based communities, government, academia, and non-profits as well as publications such as Emergency Management Magazine, FedScoop, StateScoop, ExecutiveGov, and Forbes. Lee was also proud to note that social media covered the release of the disasters.data.gov portal in six languages: English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Dutch, and Portuguese.

VI. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR January meeting at 11:58 a.m.

VII. 2015 Meetings

Upcoming 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-Parmele	703-388-0309	barbara.haines-parmele@mantech.com

X. Summary of January Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Reach out to the Harriet Tregoning (Harriet.Tregoning@hud.gov) if you are interested in participating in the Phase 1 application review process for HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Email Aubrey Miller (miller.aubrey@nih.gov) or April Bennett (april.bennett@nih.gov) to attend the upcoming second annual Federal interagency discussion regarding the NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Project on Friday, January 16 at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Contact Maham Ahmed (Maham_Ahmed@ostp.eop.gov) with feedback on the proposed National Preparedness Science and Technology (NPST) Task Force assessment process and to nominate subject matter experts and volunteers to help steer the assessment of the sub-grouping of geologic hazards (earthquake, tsunami, and volcanic eruption) under the SDR.	SDR Members	Friday, January 23
Email Meredith Lee (disastertech@ostp.gov) if interested in becoming a member of the SDR Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness (TIDP) Working Group or providing data sets from your agency for the disasters.data.gov web portal as well as feedback on the site's design and functionality.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Contact Tim Stryker (Timothy_S_Stryker@ostp.eop.gov) for further information on becoming engaged with the second National Earth Observations Assessment conducted by the U.S. Group on Earth Observations.	SDR Members	Standing
Please consider supporting the work of the SDR and its Secretariat through a contribution from your agency. Let SDR Co-chair David Applegate (applegate@usgs.gov) know if you need an Agency- or Department-specific request letter.	SDR Members	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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