

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

7 January 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., White House EEOB, Room 430ABC

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

Co-chairs

David Applegate (USGS)
Margaret Davidson (NOAA)
Jack Meszaros (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

BLM *Ron McCormick*
CDC Mollie Mahany (T)
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 Jack Meszaros
EPA Greg Sayles

FERC *Marsha Palazzi*
HUD Dana Bres (T)
NASA Craig Dobson
NGA *TBD*
NGB *TBD*
NIH Aubrey Miller
NIST Steve Cauffman
NOAA Margaret Davidson (T)
Laura Furgione
NPS *Marcy Rockman*
NSF Greg Anderson

OPHS *Estella Jones*
State *Fernando Echavarria*
USACE *Tony Niles*
USAID *Sezin Tokar*
USDA *TBD*
USFS *Matt Rollins*
Carlos Rodriguez-Franco
USGS David Applegate
USNRC *Steven West*

Other Attendees

DHS Mitch Erickson (T)
Dan Marasco
DHS/FEMA Matt Fuchs
DOT Phil Yen
EOP/NSC Eric Letvin
EOP/OSTP Tim Stryker
EPA Steve Clark (T)
Brendan Doyle (T)
Keely Maxwell (T)
Ed Washburn

NASA Gerald Bawden
NIH April Bennett
NIST Nelson Bryner
Alex Maranghides
NOAA John Murphy (T)
NSF Bob O'Connor
OPHS Tracy MacGill
State Michael Hamburger
USACE Linda Lillycrop (T)
USDA Glenn Bethel (T)

USGS Jonathan Godt (T)
Kris Ludwig (T)
USNRC John Nakoski (T)
STPI Chris Clavin (T)
Zoe Petropoulos
SDR Secretariat
Bret Schothorst
Barbara Haines-Parmele

Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes
10:05 Report from the Co-chairs
10:15 Disaster Update: Recent Midwest Floods
10:20 Briefing: USGEO Common Framework for Earth-Observation Data
10:45 Presentation: NIST Waldo Canyon Fire Report
11:30 Discussion: Strategizing SDR Activities in 2016
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- January Meeting Agenda
- Draft December Meeting Minutes
- Slides for NIST Waldo Canyon Fire Report Presentation

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the December meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. in Room 430ABC of the White House 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.

SDR Co-chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) stated that the National Security Council (NSC) recently spun up a task force to look into extreme heat, anticipating problems for the coming summer. This effort is similar in scope to what the NSC has undertaken with regards to the recent multi-year drought and the current El Niño season. As part of this effort with respect to the S&T perspective, SDR agencies involved in the production of the SDR Grand Challenges *Heat Wave Implementation Plan* were asked at the December meeting to review areas of progress with respect to the Plan's short-, medium-, and long-term strategic actions. Other agencies in addition to NOAA, CDC, and EPA that would like to be a part of this effort are encouraged to reach out to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to participate in the small *ad hoc* working group.

In addition, Meszaros noted that the NSC and OSTP are hosting a summit on earthquake resilience on Tuesday, February 2 in the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building, where a new Executive Order on seismic safety for Federal buildings is expected to be released. If any agencies are developing or considering rules or other actions that pertain to earthquake early warning and would like to make an announcement in concert with the event, please reach out to Meszaros ([Jacqueline R Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov)). As part of this event, Meszaros added that the SDR may commit to standing up a working group focused on addressing early warning systems across all hazards. More information on the event will be circulated to SDR members towards the end of the month.

Meszaros provided an update on the SDR Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness (TIDP) Working Group, which is celebrated the one-year anniversary of Disasters.data.gov in December. A blog entry was posted at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/12/30/celebrating-one-year-anniversary-disastersdatagov> highlighting tools, datasets, and commitments from the Disasters.data.gov website as well as listing the working group's activities and accomplishments in the past year. If you have questions or ideas for the working group going forward, feel free to contact TIDP Co-chair Heather King of the NSC (heather_c_king@nsc.eop.gov). To join the TIDP's weekly teleconference calls every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., please dial 202-395-6392 and enter passcode 8801570#.

Meszaros also mentioned that the work of the Hazard Review Teams within the SDR National Preparedness S&T (NPST) Task Force is well underway with regards to completing their S&T program crosswalks within the five PPD-8 mission areas. Within the next month, the teams will look to finalize their draft executive summary reports on the assessments as well as undertake the task of developing recommendations on a formal protocol to conduct joint, interagency post-event S&T evaluation as part of the third function laid out in the group's charter. The protocol will leverage recent event experiences and lessons learned to identify critical science needs and inform the prioritization of future national preparedness S&T investments. Also of note, the NPST is engaged in a collaborative effort with FEMA and the National Security Council to incorporate S&T language into the recent update of the Federal Interagency Operational Plans (FIOPs). As part of this activity, the NPST plans to stand up a writing team to draft a broader S&T annex document for the FIOPs, which Applegate noted could serve as a template for an eventual follow-on document to the SDR Grand Challenges.

Applegate mentioned that the SDR International Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) Working Group is in the process of reshaping the U.S. National Platform to incorporate DRR perspectives from non-Federal

stakeholders as the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) moves towards implementing the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. Under the proposal that was approved at the SDR November meeting, the U.S. National Platform plans to invite external stakeholder groups to present their latest DRR activities to the SDR on a quarterly basis at regularly scheduled SDR meetings to begin this March. A potential topic for the initial U.S. National Platform session is how the U.S. tracks disaster losses and other hazards-related statistics, as this subject will closely relate to the reporting requirements set forth by UNISDR pertaining to the disaster reduction progress targets and indicators for the Sendai Framework.

Also of note, Aubrey Miller (NIH) with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences invited SDR members to attend its third annual Federal interagency discussion on Friday, January 22 to explore Federal efforts for enhancing research capabilities in response to disasters. The NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Program, developed in collaboration with the National Library of Medicine, was created just over two years ago to help improve the agency's collective ability to conduct timely health research in response to disasters and other time-critical situations. More information is available at: <http://dr2.nlm.nih.gov/>. This meeting will take place on the NIH Bethesda, MD, campus in Room D in Building 45 (Natcher) from 1:00-3:30 p.m. Visitor's information about the NIH campus can be found at: <http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm>. Please plan on arriving about 30 minutes early to ensure you are able to clear NIH security and arrive at the meeting site on time. Please direct any questions and RSVPs to Betsy Eagin Galluzzo (betsy.eagin@nih.gov). If you are unable to attend, please consider identifying another person from your organization to participate.

Ed Washburn (EPA) passed along a call for interagency deliverables from the Arctic Executive Steering Committee for the 2016 White House Arctic Science Ministerial that will likely be held in the fall of 2016. OSTP invites agency colleagues to submit ideas to advance U.S. Arctic leadership and to lift up Arctic science. The deliverables should have a clear international component, either through collaboration with other nations or based on a topic that is germane across the Arctic. Proposed deliverables should contribute to the three primary focus areas identified for the meeting, which are: 1) observations and research; 2) impact and resilience; and 3) science-based decision-making. Submissions will be taken until February 17, and questions can be directed to Noël Bakhtian, Executive Secretary of the Arctic Executive Steering Committee (nbakhtian@ostp.eop.gov).

Another agency item that was passed along was the announcement by the Department of Health and Human Services of their new "My Preparedness Story: Staying Healthy and Resilient Video Challenge" on Challenge.gov. The contest invites young people between the ages of 14 and 23 to submit a creative video – up to 60 seconds long – showing how they help their families, friends, and community protect their health during disasters and every day. Contestants could win up to a \$2,000 grand prize. Entries are due on March 28 at 11:00 p.m. Eastern. More information is available at: <https://www.challenge.gov/challenge/my-preparedness-story-staying-healthy-and-resilient/>.

III. Disaster Update: Recent Midwest Floods

John Murphy (NOAA) and Linda Lillycrop (USACE) provided brief updates on the recent Midwest winter flooding events that have impacted hundreds of miles of the Mississippi River and its tributaries these past two weeks. The brunt of the damage to date occurred in Missouri and Illinois and affected thousands of homes and other major structures such as levees, locks, and dams. The flooding, fueled by more than 10 inches of rain over a three-day period that began over Christmas, is blamed for 25 deaths in Missouri and Illinois. The flooding impacts will likely continue for weeks as the high water moves downstream on its way south to the Gulf of Mexico. Glenn Bethel (USDA) offered to circulate the latest geospatial and remote sensing data sources summary document on the Midwest floods after the meeting.

IV. Briefing: USGEO Common Framework for Earth-Observation Data

Applegate introduced Tim Stryker (OSTP) of the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) Program, who briefed SDR members on the USGEO's draft *Common Framework for Earth-Observation Data*. Stryker noted that the document is open for public comment until Friday, January 15 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/library/shareyourinput>).

To begin his presentation, Stryker provided some background information on the USGEO, which is a sister subcommittee to the SDR under the NSTC Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS) tasked with coordinating civil Earth observation activities across Federal agencies. Several working groups comprise the USGEO, including an Assessment Working Group, International Activities Working Group, Data Management Working Group, and Satellite Needs Working Group. Following USGEO coordination, OSTP released the *National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations* in 2013 and the *National Plan for Civil Earth Observations* in 2014, which can be accessed at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/nstc/committees/cenrs/usgeo>.

Stryker stated that the purpose of the Common Framework is to promote interoperability of Earth observations data (i.e., discoverability, accessibility, and usability), establish recommendations to make data more readily usable by portals and tools, support U.S. government open data strategy, policies, and practices, promote practices and standards that comply with the data management principles of the *National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations*, and serve as guidance – not a mandate. He added that the primary audience is Federal data providers and data managers that issue guidance for improving and standardizing data management practices in Federal agencies, as well as data users – both government and non-government – that communicate how standards are used for Federal Earth observations data and ease the creation and enhance the utility of tools and services used to interact with the data.

Stryker closed his briefing by briefly reviewing the recommendations contained in the Common Framework, which are categorized into four main areas: data search and discovery services; data access services; data documentation; and compatible formats and vocabularies. An OSTP blog post on the Common Framework with more information can be found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/12/09/improving-access-earth-observations>, and please contact Stryker ([Timothy S Stryker@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Timothy_S_Stryker@ostp.eop.gov)) with any additional questions.

V. Presentation: NIST Waldo Canyon Fire Report

Applegate introduced Alex Maranghides from NIST, who presented his agency's recently released final report on the Waldo Canyon Fire to the SDR, titled "A Case Study of a Community Affected by the Waldo Fire-Event Timeline and Defensive Actions." The report can be downloaded online at: <http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/TechnicalNotes/NIST.TN.1910.pdf>.

According to Maranghides, the study demonstrates that WUI fire event attributes differ from both urban and wildland fires and provides recommendations for planning and operational considerations before, during, and after fires in the WUI. Maranghides stated that several high exposure drivers were in play during the Waldo Canyon Fire, including fuel types (both vegetative and non-vegetative), terrain (flat, sloped canyon, orientation of topographical features), weather (local winds, lack of moisture), and defensible space limitations (high density of structures, dangerous configurations).

WUI fires often experience extreme and rapid rates of structure ignition compared to urban and wildland fires due to these unique factors, and in the case of the Waldo Canyon Fire, 344 homes were destroyed in under six hours – or roughly one home destroyed per minute. Maranghides noted that despite this destruction, the defensive actions taken in response to the fire were effective and helped alter the WUI event severity and the extent of losses.

To close his presentation, Maranghides underlined that primary recommendations from the report center on the following areas:

- Defensive Actions: develop, plan, train and practice safe WUI standard operating procedures; develop WUI response threshold based on exposure and structure vulnerabilities; identify ineffective and unsafe structure spatial arrangements for WUI firefighting; develop response plans for high density WUI areas;
- Quantify Fire and Ember Exposure: update defensible space definitions; characterize the relationships between spatial arrangement of houses and defensive actions; quantify exposure factoring in fuels, topography, and local weather; develop definitions for high and low fire and ember exposure areas;
- Fuel Treatments: develop wildland fuel treatment standards; revise construction standards and test methods with regards to fire and ember exposures from fuel treatments; and
- Damage Assessments: document damage and destruction to the WUI environment with current technologies; develop protocols for ground and aerial imagery; develop protocols for WUI damaged structures.

Miller and Michael Hamburger (State) added that other target areas for improvement with regards to WUI fires include more closely tracking public health effects and more effective local land use planning policies, respectively, and Applegate mentioned that the recommendations contained in the SDR *Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force Final Report* concerning better coordination of fire science and fire management could be a nice linkage as well. For questions on the NIST report's findings, please reach out to Maranghides (alexander.maranghides@nist.gov).

VI. Discussion: Strategizing SDR Activities in 2016

Before wrapping up, Applegate led a short agency roundtable discussion following on from our December meeting on plans and priorities for SDR activities in 2016. Items raised for potential inclusion on the SDR's 2016 docket included:

- Engaging with an NSC interagency sub-IPC on extreme heat;
- Undertaking a progress report on the SDR *Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction*;
- Standing up a working group focused on early warning systems across all hazards;
- Working with the NPST Task Force on its post-event S&T assessment protocol;
- Participating in a writing team with the NSC and FEMA to draft an S&T annex to the FIOPs;
- Promoting TIDP Working Group activities for the Disasters.data.gov one-year anniversary;
- Linking with USGCRP to discuss disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;
- Working with the IDRR Working Group on targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework;
- Hosting IDRR-led quarterly U.S. National Platform meetings with non-Federal stakeholders; and
- Analyzing how the U.S. Government tracks disaster losses and other hazards-related statistics.

Additional agency suggestions of SDR plans and priorities for consideration in 2016 should be sent to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) on a rolling basis.

VII. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR January meeting at 12:00 p.m. and noted that the group's next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4 at its regular location in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.

VIII. SDR 2016 Meeting Calendar

SDR meetings in 2016 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:

2016

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

* January meeting will be held in Room 430ABC of the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB).

** August meeting subject to cancellation.

*** September meeting shifted to the second Thursday of the month to avoid proximity to the Labor Day Federal holiday.

IX. 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).

X. 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
Jack Meszaros	Co-chair	202-456-6020	Jacqueline_R_Mezzaros@ostp.eop.gov

Executive Secretariat

Bret Schothorst	703-388-0312	bret.schothorst@mantech.com
Barbara Haines-Parmelee	703-388-0309	barbara.haines-parmelee@mantech.com

XI. Summary of January Actions

Action	Lead	By When
The next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4 in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.	SDR Members	For Information
Contact the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) if your agency would like to participate in a small ad hoc working group to look at progress on the short-, medium-, and long-term strategic actions of the SDR Grand Challenges <i>Heat Wave Implementation Plan</i> .	SDR Members	ASAP

Reach out to Jack Meszaros (Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov) if your agency is developing or considering rules or other actions that pertain to earthquake early warning and would like to make an announcement in concert with the White House earthquake resilience event on February 2.	SDR Members	ASAP
Email Betsy Eagin Galluzzo (betsy.eagin@nih.gov) to RSVP for the NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Program Federal interagency discussion on Friday, January 22.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Visit https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/library/shareyourinput by Friday, January 15 to submit comments on USGEO's draft Common Framework for Earth-Observation Data.	SDR Members	January 15
Contact Noël Bakhtian (nbakhtian@ostp.eop.gov), Executive Secretary of the Arctic Executive Steering Committee, for more information on the 2016 White House Arctic Science Ministerial call for deliverables. The deadline for submissions is February 17.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	February 17
Email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to suggest external DRR stakeholder groups to invite to present at quarterly SDR meetings on behalf of the U.S. National Platform for UNISDR.	SDR Members	Standing
Reach out to Alex Maranghides (alexander.maranghides@nist.gov) with questions on his agency's recent released final report on the Waldo Canyon Fire.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Submit additional agency suggestions of SDR plans and priorities for consideration in 2016 to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).	SDR Members	Standing