

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

7 July 2016, 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)
Jack Meszaros (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

BLM *Georgette Fogle*
CDC *Mollie Mahany*
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 (T)

FERC *Marsha Palazzi*
HUD Dana Bres
NASA *Craig Dobson*
NGA *Brian Cameron*
NGB *TBD*
NIH *Aubrey Miller*
NIST Steve Cauffman (T)
NOAA *Margaret Davidson*
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 *Edwin Hackett*

Other Attendees

DHS Mitch Erickson (T)
DHS/FEMA Kevin Long
EOP/CEQ Tommy Caggiano
Morgan Richmond
Carey Whitehead
EOP/NSC Stephanie Morrison
EPA Brendan Doyle
Keely Maxwell (T)
HHS Brittney Seiler (T)

NASA Gerald Bawden
David Green (T)
NIH April Bennett
NIST Marc Levitan (T)
NOAA Eli Jacks
Andrew Piring
USACE Alex Renaud
USGS Kris Ludwig (T)

USNRC John Nakoski
NAS Lauren Alexander
Augustine
SDR Secretariat
Bret Schothorst
Barbara Haines Parmele (T)

Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes
10:05 Co-chairs Report
10:20 Discussion: Feasibility Assessment of Proposed Sendai Indicators
10:40 Briefing: NAS Resilient America Roundtable
11:10 Presentation: NOAA Updates to Watch, Warning, and Advisory System
11:40 Briefing: U.S. Forest Service 2016 Wildfire Season Outlook
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- July Meeting Agenda
- Draft June Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

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

The draft of the minutes for the June monthly meeting was approved with no changes.

Applegate opened the report from the Co-chairs by noting that the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) has just released a draft concept paper on community resilience indicators and national-level progress measures, which can be viewed at: <http://www.fema.gov/community-resilience-indicators>. Interested stakeholders seeking to add their input can submit comments and feedback to the Disaster Resilience Indicators Subcommittee of the MitFLG (FEMA-CommunityResilience@fema.dhs.gov) by Monday, August 15. A FEMA bulletin with more information is located at: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/15225a6#link_1466194503253.

SDR Co-chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) mentioned that the SDR Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness (TIDP) Working Group held a meeting on Wednesday, June 22 focused on sharing agency resources to combat the Zika virus outbreak. The group also participated in a Thursday, July 7 White House Mapathon, the theme of which was “Open Mapping for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” An archived video feed of the event is located at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/live/white-house-mapathon-0>.

Meszaros highlighted that the SDR National Preparedness S&T (NPST) Task Force hazard review teams continue to develop their report chapters, with several team chapters nearing completion. OSTP and Science & Technology Policy Institute (STPI) staff will be integrating the feedback of the six teams into an NPST Strategic Report that will be made available to the Task Force and SDR members for review ahead of subsequent publication. The NPST post-event S&T sub-group will hold its next meeting on Friday, July 22, focused on reviewing the initial section drafts of its executive summary report. Also of note, the NPST is engaged in a collaborative effort with FEMA and the NSC 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 join a writing team to draft a broader “S&T Annex” document for the FIOPs. Please email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to participate in the NPST Task Force post-event S&T sub-group.

Meszaros also reminded SDR members that the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) is soliciting external stakeholder input on the development of the 2017 National Plan for Civil Earth Observations through a Request for Information (RFI) in the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/15/2016-14186/request-for-information-on-the-development-of-the-2017-national-plan-for-civil-earth-observations>). Input is being sought on key questions related to the development of the 2017 National Plan and the priorities and supporting actions identified in the 2014 National Plan for Civil Earth Observations. Please share this link with any external organizations related to the SDR that may be interested in providing input on Federal Earth observation planning. The deadline for comments is Friday, July 15.

Other happenings in the pipeline from the EOP include an OSTP-led “Drones for Good” event coming up on Tuesday, August 2, a CEQ-led climate change and sports event, a National Security Council (NSC)-led follow-on event to its resilient building codes roundtable held last month, and a review of the National Preparedness Report corrective actions led by NSC. As many of these events are still in the initial planning stages, please reach out to Jack Meszaros (Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov) for more information on these upcoming items.

Marc Levitan (NIST) noted that the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) held a one-day strategic planning stakeholder's workshop on Friday, June 17 at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Virginia. The workshop focused on the Nation's needs and priorities in research and implementation of ideas that reduce losses of life and property due to windstorms. SDR members were in attendance as part of a broad cross-section of experts from a variety of technical disciplines, including academic institutions and other research organizations, the private sector, including insurance, consulting, industry, and government. Levitan added that a draft of the group's Strategic Plan is in process and will be ready by the end of the year for comment from the SDR agencies. Please contact Levitan (marc.levitan@nist.gov) if your agency is not already engaged with NWIRP activities.

Mitch Erickson (DHS S&T) passed along his agency's web-based, interactive "Year in Review" (<https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/SciTechYiR2015/index.html#welcome>), which includes highlights from 37 of DHS S&T's projects that represent the directorate's progression toward meeting long-term visionary goals. According to DHS, the review breaks down the S&T directorate's research and development efforts and the measurable differences it has brought to the homeland security landscape with animations and graphic features as aids, for example highlighting the FINDER technology that saved four lives in Nepal and the improved firefighter gloves for structure fires that keep firefighters safe from punctures and burns.

III. Discussion: Feasibility Assessment of Proposed Sendai Indicators

Applegate introduced Sezin Tokar (USAID), Co-chair of the SDR International Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) Working Group, who updated the Subcommittee on UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) progress on establishing targets and indicators for the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.

Tokar noted that Japan is undertaking a feasibility exercise to examine the practicality of UN Member States collecting data against the proposed indicators for the Sendai Framework for Targets A-D (currently 171 indicators). The working text on UNISDR's proposed indicators for the Sendai Framework can be found at: http://www.unisdr.org/files/47136_workingtextonindicators.pdf. Tokar added that feedback from nations to the UNISDR Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group (OEWG) on the feasibility of the proposed indicators will inform the finalization process, with the timeline for this activity targeting initial results due mid-September. The official U.S. representatives to the OEWG are Tokar and Mollie Mahany (CDC).

Fernando Echavarria (State) noted that there may be parallels to explore regarding the UNISDR process to establish targets and indicators for the Sendai Framework with the UN process of establishing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. Echavarria stated that lessons learned on data collection could be gained by studying linkages to the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. More information on the SDGs and its data collection process can be found by visiting: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=9691>.

SDR members were encouraged to review the draft indicators and consider whether their agencies have responsibility for tracking relevant domestic disaster loss data. Please reach out to Tokar (stokar@usaid.gov) and the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) with the appropriate points of contact from your agency to engage as this process moves forward.

IV. Briefing: NAS Resilient America Roundtable

Applegate introduced Lauren Alexander Augustine of the National Academy of Sciences, who provided an update to SDR members on the latest activities of its Resilient America Roundtable.

Stemming from recommendations contained in the 2012 Academies' report *Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative* (<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/13457/disaster-resilience-a-national-imperative>), the Resilient America Roundtable has stood up four workstream areas: 1) Community Pilot Program; 2) Workshops, Expert Meetings, and Activities; 3) Measures and Metrics of Resilience; and 4) Economic Supply Chain Resilience. According to Alexander Augustine, the Community Pilot Program has been initiated in four communities (Charleston, SC, Cedar Rapids, IA, Tulsa, OK, and Seattle, WA) and is aimed at answering key questions such as: What are the community's priorities? How do those priorities frame resilience? How can we identify the priorities? What actions support those priorities? As part of its mission, the Resilient America Roundtable partners with its pilot communities to help community decision-makers and stakeholders build approaches for deciding how and where to invest resources to mitigate risk and build resilience in ways that allow them to explain and communicate those investment decisions.

The Roundtable also held an event June 28-29, "The State of Resilience Leadership Forum and Workshop," which brought together multi-sectoral policymakers and stakeholders at the Federal, state, and local levels to discuss what works, what doesn't, and what should happen next in the disaster resilience arena. The Leadership Forum featured three armchair discussions among noted leaders in the disaster resilience movement, each moderated by National Public Radio personality Andrea Seabrook. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and the Rockefeller Foundation's "100 Resilient Cities" President Michael Berkowitz were among the notable discussants. A webcast of the forum will be posted on the NAS website at: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/ResilientAmerica/PGA_086234.

Please contact Alexander Augustine (LEAlexander@nas.edu) for more information on the Resilient America Roundtable.

V. Presentation: NOAA Updates to Watch, Warning, and Advisory System

Applegate introduced Eli Jacks (NOAA), who made a presentation on the National Weather Service (NWS) Hazard Simplification Project and potential updates to its "Watch, Warning and Advisory" (WWA) messaging system.

According to Jacks, the goal of the project is to simplify and clarify the message to improve user risk assessment, expand user awareness, foster user comprehension, provide maximum forecaster flexibility, enable rapid partner decision-making, and create a credible, consistent framework. By engaging focus groups, surveys, and case studies with multi-sectoral stakeholders, NWS was able to solicit: 1) comments that the term "Advisory" is generally misunderstood and that "Watch" and "Warning" are sometimes confused; 2) feedback on a prototype hierarchal color and numbering scheme with symbols; and 3) support for an "Emergency" messaging tier for enhanced urgency.

Jacks added that over the next several months, NWS will be running test scenarios of the proposed changes and will collect additional comments via widely publicized channels. He underscored that changes to the WWA messaging system are a major effort with wide-reaching implications (software, dissemination, policy, etc.), so they must proceed slowly and carefully. Brendan Doyle (EPA) made note for NWS to be sure to include feedback from those who distribute information down at the local level (e.g., forecasters at local television stations and news outlets) during its open comment period, as those individuals and entities are often the primary sources of emergency weather information for many citizens.

Jacks also noted that engagement and input from the Federal agencies will be critical in the process, so he encouraged SDR agencies to please be on the lookout for more information if interested in weighing in and contact Jacks (elliott.jacks@noaa.gov) with questions on his presentation.

VI. Briefing: U.S. Forest Service 2016 Wildfire Season Outlook

Applegate introduced Matt Rollins from the U.S. Forest Service, who briefing the SDR on the 2016 wildfire season outlook.

Rollins noted that the fire season has been relatively slow to date in Alaska, highlighting that as of July 6, less than 130,000 acres have burned in the state – compared to over 2.3 million acres this time last year. Nearly 2.2 million acres have burned in the contiguous U.S. so far in 2016, with notable events such as the Erskine Fire and Pine Fire occurring in California, the Cedar Fire in Arizona, and the Hot Pot Fire in Nevada. A fascinating one-hour time lapse video of the Hot Pot Fire’s plume development can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/sQp0BXcsKk4>. For the coming months, Rollins stated that drought is anticipated to persist through the fall in California, despite increases in precipitation from El Niño last winter. The predicted La Niña later this year could lead to even dryer conditions and fire risks, with a recent survey estimating 66 million dead trees in the southern Sierra Nevada.

To close his presentation, Rollins noted that efforts are underway to stand up a Federal Fire Science Coordinating Committee to be chartered by the Fire Executive Council as called for by the principal recommendation in the SDR Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force Final Report that was released this past November. The group is planning its first official broadly attended meeting for October 12-13 in Washington, DC. Please reach out to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to be connected with Jim Douglas at DOI or Carlos Rodriguez-Franco at the U.S. Forest Service to participate in the group.

VII. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR July meeting at 12:08 p.m. and noted that the group’s next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8 in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room. The Subcommittee will not meet in August per longstanding tradition, and please note that the meeting for September has been moved to the second Thursday of the month to avoid proximity to the Labor Day Federal holiday.

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 canceled.

*** 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@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_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov

Executive Secretariat

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

XI. Summary of July Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Note that the next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8 in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room. The Subcommittee will not meet in August per longstanding tradition, and please note that the meeting for September has been moved to the second Thursday of the month to avoid proximity to the Labor Day Federal holiday.	SDR Members	For Information
Share the Request for Information in the Federal Register (https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/15/2016-14186/request-for-information-on-the-development-of-the-2017-national-plan-for-civil-earth-observations) with any external organizations that may be interested in providing OSTP and the USGEO input on Federal Earth observation planning.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	July 15
Email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to participate in the NPST Task Force post-event S&T sub-group and its next meeting.	SDR Members	July 22
Submit comments on the MitFLG draft concept paper on community resilience indicators and national-level progress measures at http://www.fema.gov/community-resilience-indicators to FEMA-CommunityResilience@fema.dhs.gov .	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	August 15
Reach out to Jack Meszaros (Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov) for more information on upcoming events led by organizations in the EOP.	SDR Members	ASAP
Contact Sezin Tokar (stokar@usaid.gov) and the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) with the appropriate points of contact from your agency to engage in a feasibility exercise to examine the practicality of the proposed indicators for the Sendai Framework.	SDR Members	ASAP
Reach out to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to be connected with Jim Douglas at DOI or Carlos Rodriguez-Franco at the U.S. Forest Service to participate in the Federal Fire Science Coordinating Committee.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP

Contact Marc Levitan (marc.levitan@nist.gov) to get your agency engaged with the NWIRP's activities.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Email Eli Jacks (elliott.jacks@noaa.gov) with questions on his presentation on the NWS Hazard Simplification Project.	SDR Members	Standing
Reach out to Lauren Alexander Augustine (LEAlexander@nas.edu) for more information on the recent activities of the Resilient America Roundtable.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Send Dave Applegate an email (applegate@usgs.gov) if you are interested in contributing to the work of the SDR and would like additional documentation or an agency-specific letter.	SDR Members	Standing
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