

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

3 November 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)
Laura Furgione (NOAA)
Jack Meszaros (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

ASPR <i>Darrin Donato</i>	EPA Greg Sayles (T)	NSF Greg Anderson (T)
BLM <i>Georgette Fogle</i>	FERC <i>Marsha Palazzi</i>	State <i>Fernando Echavarría</i>
CDC Mollie Mahany	HUD Dana Bres (T)	USACE Tony Niles
DHS Mary Ellen Hynes (T)	NASA <i>Craig Dobson</i>	USAID Sezin Tokar
DHS/FEMA <i>Roy Wright</i>	NGA <i>Kerri Dugan</i>	USDA <i>TBD</i>
DHS/USCG <i>Jim Small</i>	NGB <i>TBD</i>	USFS Matt Rollins
DOD <i>Al Johnson</i>	NIH Aubrey Miller (T)	<i>Carlos Rodriguez-Franco</i>
DOE <i>Patricia Hoffman</i>	NIST Steve Cauffman (T)	USGS David Applegate
DOT <i>Sheila Duwadi</i>	NOAA <i>Margaret Davidson</i>	USNRC <i>Edwin Hackett</i>
EOP/OMB <i>Michael Clark</i>	Laura Furgione	USPHS <i>Estella Jones</i>
EOP/OSTP Jack Meszaros	NPS <i>Marcy Rockman</i>	

Other Attendees

ASPR Brittney Seiler	NASA Sang Ho Yun (T)	USGS Mike Blanpied (T)
CDC Miguel Cruz	NIH April Bennett (T)	Charlie Mandeville
DHS Dan Marasco	NOAA Mike Halpert	USNRC John Nakoski
Erin Walsh	John Ten Hoeve	USPHS Tracy MacGill (T)
DHS/FEMA Emily Blanton	NSF David Mendonca (T)	STPI Chris Clavin (T)
EOP/NSC Josh Barnes	State Caron De Mars (T)	SDR Secretariat
Amy Rosenband	USACE Alex Renaud	Bret Schothorst
EPA Brittany Kiessling	USDA Ann Mills	Barbara Haines Parmele (T)
Keely Maxwell	USFS Mike Cherry	

Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes
10:05 Co-chairs Report
10:10 Updates from SDR Task Forces and Working Groups
10:30 Briefing: Recovery Challenges from Recent Disasters
10:45 Presentation: NOAA U.S. Winter Outlook
11:10 Briefing: National Drought Resilience Partnership
11:30 Briefing: Italian Earthquake Sequence
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- November Meeting Agenda
- Draft October Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the November meeting to order at 10:00 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 October monthly meeting was approved with no changes.

At the outset of the meeting, Applegate welcomed National Weather Service Deputy Director Laura Furgione (NOAA) as SDR's new Co-chair. She already has been a great contributor as the official NOAA representative to the Subcommittee, and members looked forward to working with her in this new role. Furgione will be taking over for Margaret Davidson, who has served as Vice-chair or Co-chair of the SDR for the past decade. It was noted that Davidson will stay on as the official NOAA representative, participating as she is able, and members looked forward to having her wit and wisdom in that capacity going forward.

Applegate also acknowledged that this was the last SDR meeting for Mary Ellen Hynes (DHS S&T), as she will be retiring in December after 40 years of Federal service. Hynes was congratulated on a distinguished career and thanked for sharing her wealth of experience and valuable insights with the Subcommittee. DHS S&T's new official representative to the body will be Erin Walsh, and members welcomed her participation going forward as well.

SDR Co-chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) flagged that the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience released its Resilience Opportunities report, describing key Administration accomplishments and highlighting opportunities for Federal agencies and stakeholders to work together on a shared climate resilience agenda. More information can be found in a White House Fact Sheet here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/10/31/fact-sheet-obama-administration-highlights-opportunities-building>.

The SDR's new Co-chair Furgione updated the group on NOAA's recent Diversity and Inclusion Summit held during the week of October 24 and associated efforts to prepare products that will more effectively reach diverse communities. She also reported on the upcoming World Tsunami Day on November 5.

III. Updates from SDR Task Forces and Working Groups

Brittney Seiler (HHS) shared that the Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness (TIDP) Working Group is in the process of drafting a white paper on lessons learned from the recent historic flooding in Louisiana, with a specific emphasis on technology and information sharing. As part of this effort, the group sees a potential partner in the National Security Council to work on implementing a disaster tech team or "concierge" with regards to these issues during future disasters. As discussed last month, it also has plans to host an interagency workshop this fall regarding the optimization and interoperability of existing apps and tools for locating missing family members and searching for open businesses during a disaster. Work also needs to be done to this end in addressing the different capacities for technology usage and data processing between the Federal and state/local levels. More information on the proposed technology workshop led by the TIDP will be shared as it is made available. To get your agency involved in the working group, please reach out to Seiler (Brittney.Seiler@hhs.gov).

Meszaros and Chris Clavin (STPI) highlighted that the National Preparedness S&T (NPST) Task Force hazard review teams continue to develop their report chapters, with several team chapters nearing completion. OSTP and STPI will be integrating the feedback of the six teams into an NPST Strategic Report that will be made available to members of the Task Force and SDR members for review ahead of subsequent publication towards the end of the year. Meszaros added that the NPST post-event S&T sub-

group will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, November 15, focused on making progress on the 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 sometime in early 2017.

Sezin Tokar (USAID) and Mollie Mahany (CDC) gave a report out on the latest activities of the International Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) Working Group. The IDRR submitted agency responses last month to a feasibility exercise led by Japan on the proposed UNISDR Sendai Framework progress indicators, with much appreciation to NOAA, FEMA, CDC, EPA, and USDA for submitting information in response to the data call. Tokar stated that Japan has finalized its recommendations based on the survey responses from participating Member States, and they are recommending that UNISDR reduce the number of global progress indicators for the Sendai Framework from 171 down to 14. The indicators will be finalized at the next formal UNISDR Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group (OEWG) meeting later this month in Geneva. Related to the topic of disaster data collection, Tokar added that the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED, <http://www.cred.be/>) briefed IDRR Working Group members at USAID on Wednesday, October 26, highlighting its disaster data collection sources and methods, as it could help inform how the U.S. collects data for marking progress on the proposed indicators for the Sendai Framework.

Tokar and Mahany also noted that IDRR Working Group leaders have been working closely with colleagues at Public Safety Canada regarding their plans to host the upcoming 2017 UNISDR Regional Platform of the Americas Meeting, which will be held March 7-9, 2017, in Montreal, Quebec. In terms of next steps and as part of their planning for the event, the Canadians are still looking to receive U.S. input on the initial draft agenda as well as gauge interest in U.S. agencies taking on hosting/co-hosting duties and serving as panelists for some of the parallel sessions during the meeting (<http://www.eird.org/rp17/>). If your agency has any comments on the agenda or is interested in hosting/co-hosting a session, please email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).

With regards to US planning for the event, initial expressions of interest in agency participation in the official U.S. delegation are welcome. Please let the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) know as soon as possible if your agency would be interested in sending representation to the 2017 Regional Platform Meeting and at what level. Tokar added that the 2017 UNISDR Global Platform Meeting will take place May 24-26, 2017, in Cancun, Mexico (with May 22-23 serving as preparatory and consultation days). Please save the date and begin thinking about interest in participating on the official U.S. delegation for this event as well. More information on the Global Platform can be found at: <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en>.

IV. Briefing: Recovery Challenges from Recent Disasters

Applegate introduced Josh Barnes and Amy Rosenband from the National Security Council staff, who discussed some of the recovery challenges seen in recent disasters, such as issues with building back better from the flooding events in Louisiana.

Barnes and Rosenband underscored that there is a risk perception challenge at the state and local levels that recovery options are often limited, and as a result of these observations, there has been a push to make the FEMA-led Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) more operational to increase the availability of Federal tools and resources that are at the disposal of affected communities. Barnes added that an Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) was stood up to this end to assist in the coordination of solutions to these recovery challenges and others that might arise in future events.

Also along those lines, Barnes also mentioned that the Administration and a host of Federal agencies recently announced a series of new actions to help build the capacity of state, local, tribal, territorial, private sector, and nonprofit stakeholders to recover from future disasters. The White House Fact Sheet on the announcement can be found by visiting: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/27/fact-sheet-obama-administration-announces-new-efforts-increase-national>. Please contact Christi Collins (Christi.collins@fema.dhs.gov) and the MitFLG recovery action point of contact Kathleen Boyer (Kathleen.Boyer@fema.dhs.gov) to engage your agency in the MitFLG-led effort to solve some of the recovery challenges seen in recent disasters.

V. Presentation: NOAA U.S. Winter Outlook

Furgione introduced Mike Halpert, the Deputy Director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, who provided a presentation to the SDR on the recently released U.S. winter outlook.

By way of background, Halpert noted that El Niño Southern Oscillation-neutral conditions are present, and that equatorial sea surface temperatures are below average in the central and east-central Pacific Ocean. These conditions suggest that a La Niña phenomenon is favored to develop (70 percent chance) during the Northern Hemisphere fall 2016 and slightly favored to persist (55 percent chance) during winter 2016-17.

For the U.S., that designation means that temperature and precipitation outlooks should likely be consistent with typical La Niña impacts, such as above normal snow in the northern Rockies and the Ohio Valley/Great Lakes regions and less snow in the mid-Atlantic. It's also favored to be warmer and drier than usual across many of the southern U.S. states during the upcoming December, January, and February months. Please reach out to Halpert (mike.halpert@noaa.gov) with any questions on his presentation concerning NOAA's U.S. winter outlook.

VI. Briefing: National Drought Resilience Partnership

Meszaros introduced Ann Mills, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA, who provided a briefing to the Subcommittee on the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP), where she serves as a Co-chair of its Steering Committee.

As called for in the President's Climate Action Plan, the NDRP coordinates long-term Federal drought preparedness across the country and is working closely with state and local governments, the agriculture industry, and other partners to improve community preparedness and resilience to drought. The NDRP is dedicated to helping communities better prepare for future droughts and reducing the impact of drought events on livelihoods and the economy.

In March 2016, the group released its flagship document, the *Long Term Drought Resilience: Federal Action Plan of the National Drought Resilience Partnership* as well as more recently a 150-day progress *Report to the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience* in August 2016. Both documents are at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/drought_resilience_action_plan_2016_final.pdf and https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/ndrp_august_report_final_83016.pdf, respectively.

The latter report highlights accomplishments against the Action Plan and provides an overview of some of the Administration's work on drought response since 2009, including a series of six goals and 27 actions that are designed to complement state, regional, tribal, and local drought preparedness, planning, and implementation efforts. Please email Mills (Ann.Mills@osec.usda.gov) for more information on the NDRP or to link up with your agency point of contact to the group.

VII. Briefing: Italian Earthquake Sequence

To close the meeting, we received a quick brief on the recent Italian earthquake sequence. Mike Blanpied from USGS discussed the historical background of earthquakes in the region, and Sang-Ho Yun from NASA discussed how agencies have been using remote sensing and geospatial imagery to locate damaged buildings in the aftermath of the disaster.

According to Blanpied, the sequence of earthquakes began in August 2016, with a magnitude 6.2 earthquake occurring on August 24 that killed roughly 300 people and caused severe damage in the Amatrice area of the country. A vigorous sequence of aftershocks continued culminating on October 26 with a magnitude 6.1 earthquake and followed with a magnitude 6.6 earthquake on October 30 that caused further widespread damage. Blanpied also noted that aftershocks continue and are striking a high-hazard area with a long history of damaging earthquakes.

Yun highlighted that NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) produced damage proxy maps derived from synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data acquired from Italian Space Agency's COSMO-SkyMed satellites. He noted that preliminary validation was carried out by comparing high-resolution pre-and post-event optical imagery acquired by DigitalGlobe's WorldView satellites.

VIII. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR November meeting at 12:10 p.m. and noted that the group's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13 in the White House Conference Center Jackson Room.

IX. SDR 2017 Meeting Calendar

SDR meetings in 2017 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 5
- ✓ Thursday, February 2
- ✓ Thursday, March 2
- ✓ Thursday, April 6
- ✓ Thursday, May 4
- ✓ Thursday, June 1
- ✓ Thursday, July 13*
- ✓ Thursday, August 3**
- ✓ Thursday, September 7
- ✓ Thursday, October 5
- ✓ Thursday, November 2
- ✓ Thursday, December 7

* July meeting shifted to the second Thursday of the month to avoid proximity to the Independence Day Federal holiday.

** August meeting subject to cancellation.

X. 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).

XI. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

David Applegate	Co-chair	703-648-6600	applegate@usgs.gov
Laura Furgione	Co-chair	301-713-0711	laura.furgione@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-Parmelee	703-388-0309	barbara.haines-parmelee@mantech.com

XII. Summary of November Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Note that the next SDR meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13 in the White House Conference Center Jackson Room.	SDR Members	For Information
Email Sezin Tokar (stokar@usaid.gov) and the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) with comments on the draft agenda for the 2017 Regional Platform Meeting as well as if you agency would like to attend the 2017 Regional and/or Global Platform Meetings.	SDR Members	ASAP
Reach out to Brittney Seiler (Brittney.Seiler@hhs.gov) to get your agency involved in the TIDP Working Group or for more information about its white paper and potential workshop.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Contact Christi Collins (Christi.collins@fema.dhs.gov) and the MitFLG recovery action point of contact Kathleen Boyer (Kathleen.Boyer@fema.dhs.gov) to engage your agency in the MitFLG-led effort to solve some of the recovery challenges seen in recent disasters.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Email Ann Mills (Ann.Mills@osec.usda.gov) for more information on the NDRP or to link up with your agency point of contact to the group.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Send additional disaster-related priorities from your agency for consideration in the new Administration to the SDR Secretariat (Bret.Schothorst@ManTech.com) on a rolling basis.	SDR Members	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