

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

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

Other Attendees

DHS Mila Kennett	HHS Brittney Seiler	USGS Jonathan Godt (T)
Erin Walsh (T)	NASA Gerald Bawden	Kris Ludwig (T)
DHS/FEMA Eric Letvin (T)	Miguel Roman	Alice Pennaz
Kevin Long	NGA Elizabeth Bernstein (T)	USNRC John Nakoski
Gene Longenecker (T)	NIST Marc Levitan (T)	USPHS Tracy MacGill (T)
EOP/CEQ Brittany Carmon	NSF David Mendonca (T)	STPI Chris Clavin
EOP/NSC Stephanie Morrison	Bob O'Connor	SDR Secretariat
EPA Brendan Doyle	USCG Wendy Chaves	Bret Schothorst
Brittany Kiessling	USGCRP Ben DeAngelo	Barbara Haines Parmele (T)
Keely Maxwell		

Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes
10:05 Co-chairs Report
10:10 Discussion: Hurricane Matthew Status
10:30 Update: SDR Task Forces and Working Groups
11:00 Briefing: Climate Change Decision Support Products
11:20 Roundtable Discussion: Agency Priorities for
Administration Transition
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- October Meeting Agenda
- Draft September Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the October 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 September monthly meeting was approved with no changes.

SDR Co-chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) flagged that a previously reported-on resilience workshop set to be hosted by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) this month in conjunction with the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/resilience/taskforce>) has been canceled.

Instead, the groups plan to collaborate to draft a white paper focusing on the development of a resilience roadmap through multi-stakeholder engagement that will respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change.

Meszaros also highlighted that the first-ever White House Arctic Science Ministerial that was held on Wednesday, September 28 to build on the President's visit to Alaska last year and to further his commitment to advancing the understanding of changes occurring in the Arctic and their global consequences. The event was well-attended, with representatives from 25 governments, the European Union, and Arctic Indigenous peoples' organizations gathered to discuss collective efforts to increase the pace of international scientific collaboration in the Arctic. More information on the event can be found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/28/fact-sheet-united-states-hosts-first-ever-arctic-science-ministerial> and <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/09/27/arctic-indigenous-leaders-share-priorities-advance-white-house-arctic-science>.

III. Discussion: Hurricane Matthew Status

Applegate introduced Laura Furgione (NOAA), who provided SDR with the latest outlook on Hurricane Matthew from the National Weather Service (NWS). The powerful category 4 storm made landfall the morning of the meeting in Florida and was slated to move up the coast into Georgia and South Carolina over the weekend, delivering potentially destructive storm surge flooding, heavy rain, and high winds.

In response to Matthew, Furgione noted that FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams are deployed to emergency operations centers in Florida and North Carolina, both of which are supported by an NWS liaison. The National Hurricane Center has been briefing the state of Florida Division of Emergency Management twice daily as well as the office of the Florida and South Carolina governors regularly. She added that the NWS National Aviation Meteorologists at FAA Command Center are conducting weather briefings for Hurricane Matthew conference calls several times daily to FAA Senior Leadership, Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC) operations and management, other FAA facilities, and international air traffic control facilities. NWS is also deploying meteorologists from its Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in non-impact zones to coastal WFOs in the Southeast to augment staffing support.

Other agencies then described some of the S&T resources that were brought to bear as the storm made landfall in the U.S. Kevin Long stated that FEMA has mission assigned the USGS to deploy personnel to set up stream gauges and storm surge sensors in areas in the hurricane's path, and USGS is using NWS surge models to assess barrier island overwash potential. HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response has ramped up its monitoring of social media in the region to expedite public access to available health-related resources. Miguel Roman noted that NASA has provided remote sensing and geospatial imagery of the storm to the Hazards Data Distribution System (<http://hddsexplorer.usgs.gov/>) by way of the activation of the International Charter for Space and Major

Disasters (<https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/activations>). Tony Niles explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been working closely with the U.S. Naval Command and the U.S. Coast Guard in the Caribbean as the storm approaches Florida, and Greg Sayles from EPA and Sheila Duwadi with the Federal Highway Administration mentioned that their agencies are engaged with the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) to fulfill designated emergency support functions concerning transportation and hazardous materials response, respectively. Hurricane Matthew also brought devastating impacts to Haiti before making landfall in the U.S., and USAID and the CDC, among other agencies, have been providing international support and humanitarian aid to the country.

Applegate wrapped up the discussion by requesting that agencies send summaries of any additional S&T response and recovery activities with regards to Hurricane Matthew to the SDR Secretariat (Bret.Schothorst@ManTech.com) as soon as possible for OSTP awareness.

IV. Update: SDR Task Forces and Working Groups

Brittney Seiler (HHS) shared that the SDR Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness (TIDP) Working Group is still in the process of compiling lessons learned from the recent historic flooding in Louisiana. It also plans to host an interagency workshop in the coming weeks 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 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 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 Friday, October 21 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.

Sezin Tokar (USAID) and Mollie Mahany (CDC) gave a report out on the latest activities of the SDR International Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) Working Group. The IDRR recently submitted agency responses to the Japan feasibility study on the proposed UNISDR Sendai Framework indicators, with much appreciation to NOAA, FEMA, CDC, EPA, and USDA for submitting information in response to the data call. Related to this topic, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED, <http://www.cred.be/>) will provide a briefing to IDRR Working Group members on Wednesday, October 26 at 1:00 p.m. in the USAID offices in the National Press Club Building (529 14th St NW, Suite 700) to highlight 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 of the Sendai Framework. The briefing will be open to all SDR and IDRR Working Group members.

Tokar also mentioned 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 would like to receive U.S. input on the initial draft agenda as well as gauge interest in host/co-host duties 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, Tokar encouraged SDR members to please email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com). With regards to our own planning for the event, Tokar stated that we are also seeking initial expressions of interest in agency participation in the official U.S. delegation. 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. Tokar also noted 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>.

The Federal Fire Science Coordination Council (FFSCC) – which was spun out of the principal recommendation in the SDR *Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force Final Report* that was released this past November – is planning its first official meeting on October 12-13, 2016 at the DOI Main Interior Building. According to Matt Rollins (USFS), the effort is being co-chaired by U.S. Forest Service Research and Development and the DOI Office of Wildland Fire and will aim to identify interagency cross-cutting priorities to support the enhanced development, access, and application of science and technology in wildland fire management, response, and recovery. Please reach out to Rollins (matthewgrollins@fs.fed.us) to engage your agency in the effort.

Marc Levitan (NIST) highlighted some of the ongoing activities of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP), including efforts to stand up an Interagency Coordinating Committee to oversee planning and coordination of the program, draft a Strategic Plan that outlines short-, mid-, and long-term research goals and the objectives to achieve those goals, activate a National Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction to offer assessments and recommendations on trends and developments in the natural, engineering, and social sciences and practices of windstorm impact mitigation, and also to coordinate all Federal post-windstorm investigations to the extent practicable.

V. Briefing: Climate Change Decision Support Products

Applegate introduced Ben DeAngelo, Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), who briefed SDR members on some of the Administration's latest climate change decision support products.

After providing some initial background on USGCRP, DeAngelo gave an overview of the most recent National Climate Assessment released in 2014 (<http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>) and updated the group on the process for the next assessment (NCA4), which should be out sometime in 2018. Regarding the recent climate change tools currently being publicized by the White House, the Partnership for Resilience and Preparedness (PREP) initiative is “a public-private collaboration among Federal agencies, NGOs, private-sector companies, and civil-society organizations that will identify priority-information needs, reduce barriers to data access and usability, and develop an open-source platform to enable sharing and learning on the availability and use of data and information for climate resilience.” Its BETA site that is still under development can be tested at: <http://www.prepdata.org/>.

Other relevant products covered by DeAngelo include climate-related datasets posted to <http://www.data.gov/climate/> and the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit at <https://toolkit.climate.gov/>. A White House Fact Sheet on the PREP initiative can be found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/22/fact-sheet-launching-new-public-private-partnership-and-announcing-joint>. A related Presidential Memorandum on Climate Change and National Security is located here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/21/presidential-memorandum-climate-change-and-national-security>.

VI. Roundtable Discussion: Agency Priorities for Administration Transition

The SDR concluded its October meeting by holding a brief agency roundtable discussion on disaster-related priorities for the next Administration to get a sense of what topics SDR member agencies are planning to raise with transition teams, in particular issues likely to come to the fore early in the new Administration's tenure. Applegate underscored that if agencies have additional priorities that are not on the list, please send them to the SDR Secretariat (Bret.Schothorst@ManTech.com) on a rolling basis.

Some issues raised at the meeting included:

- Finalization of the NWIRP Strategic Report;
- Role of U.S. in the upcoming Regional and Global Platform Meetings;
- Intersection of climate change and physical infrastructure protection;
- Continued work on the NSTC Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Subcommittee R&D Plan;
- How to best make agency S&T resources for response and recovery readily available to the new Administration;
- National Academies Decadal Survey and workshops on fire science, volcano hazards, and tsunami early warning;
- Completion of the USGEO National Plan for Civil Earth Observations;
- Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program;
- FEMA future studies on risk trends, roles in non-Stafford Act events, and challenges in usage of disaster relief funds;
- National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) reauthorization legislation likely in the new Congress, and also National Volcano Early Warning System (NVEWS) authorization;
- Focus on data end-user experiences and data latency issues; and
- Understanding environmental services infrastructure.

VII. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR October meeting at 12:01 p.m. and noted that the group's next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3 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 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-Parmelee	703-388-0309	barbara.haines-parmelee@mantech.com

XI. Summary of October Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Note that the next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3 in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.	SDR Members	For Information
Send any additional agency S&T response and recovery activities regarding Hurricane Matthew to the SDR Secretariat (Bret.Schothorst@ManTech.com) for OSTP awareness.	SDR Members	ASAP
Reach out to Seiler (Brittney.Seiler@hhs.gov) to get your agency involved in the TIDP Working Group or for more information about its upcoming white paper and workshop.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) if you agency would like to express interest in attending the UNISDR 2017 Regional and/or Global Platform Meetings.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Contact Matt Rollins (matthewgrollins@fs.fed.us) to engage your agency in the Federal Fire Science Coordination Council.	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