

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

5 January 2017, 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)

Jack Meszaros (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

ASPR Darrin Donato

BLM *Georgette Fogle*

CDC Mollie Mahany (T)

DHS Erin Walsh

DHS/FEMA *Roy Wright*

DHS/USCG Jim Small (T)

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 *Kerri Dugan*

NGB Steve Mason

NIH *Aubrey Miller*

NIST *Steve Cauffman*

NOAA *Margaret Davidson*

Mary Erickson

NPS Marcy Rockman

NSF *Greg Anderson*

State *Fernando Echavarria*

USACE Tony Niles

USAID Sezin Tokar

USCB *Laura Furgione*

USDA *TBD*

USFS Matt Rollins

Carlos Rodriguez-Franco

USGS David Applegate

USNRC *Edwin Hackett*

USPHS Estella Jones (T)

Other Attendees

ASPR Jack Herrmann (T)

Brittney Seiler

DHS Mitch Erickson (T)

Dan Marasco

DOI Jason Steinmetz (T)

EOP/NSC Amy Rosenband

EOP/OMB Sam Medlock

Meghan Walsh

EPA Brendan Doyle (T)

NASA Gerald Bawden

David Green (T)

NIH April Bennett

NOAA John Murphy (T)

NSF David Mendonca (T)

USFS Mike Cherry

USGS Kris Ludwig (T)

Dan Opstal

Alice Pennaz

USGS Paul Young

USNRC John Lane (T)

STPI Chris Clavin

Ethan Klein

Rob Rozansky

SDR Secretariat

Bret Schothorst

Barbara Haines Parmele (T)

Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

10:05 Co-chairs Report

10:20 Briefing: OMB Report on Resilient Communities

10:45 Discussion: NPST Task Force Final Report

11:15 Presentation: Civil Applications Committee Activities
for Disasters

11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- January Meeting Agenda
- Draft December Meeting Minutes
- NPST Final Report Handout

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 10:01 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 December monthly meeting was approved with no changes.

SDR Co-chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) noted that implementation guidelines were made public for the “Executive Order: Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard” and the “Executive Order: Wildland-Urban Interface Federal Risk Management” that were released by the Administration last year. They are online at: <http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/TechnicalNotes/NIST.TN.1922.pdf> and https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/eo13728_guidelines.pdf, respectively.

Meszaros announced that the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is seeking public comments on the third-order draft of its Climate Science Special Report (CSSR), which provides an update to the physical climate science presented in the Third National Climate Assessment (NCA3) released in 2014. The CSSR will be an important input to the authors of the next quadrennial NCA (NCA4), expected in 2018. Meszaros added that comments are due by Friday, February 3 at: <https://review.globalchange.gov/>.

Meszaros also mentioned that the Administration recently released the 2017 Update to the Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology, the first time in 30 years that the Federal government has produced a comprehensive summary of the roles and responsibilities of the three principal regulatory agencies (EPA, FDA, USDA) with respect to regulating biotechnology products. This update and the accompanying National Strategy for Modernizing the Regulatory System for Biotechnology Products can be found via a White House blog post at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/01/04/increasing-transparency-coordination-and-predictability-biotechnology-regulatory>.

III. Briefing: OMB Report on Resilient Communities

Applegate introduced Sam Medlock and Meghan Walsh from OMB, who discussed the recently released report, *Standards and Finance to Support Community Resilience*.

The OMB report identifies opportunities for collaboration with the private sector and ways to help ensure that future investments integrate resilience into the fabric of how we build, rebuild, plan, and prepare for the impacts of climate change. As part of the release of the report, the Administration announced additional commitments by leaders in the insurance industry to increase the sharing of risk data, develop approaches to better communicate risk, and support innovations to reduce the risks and public costs of disasters and finance investments in resilience. A White House blog post linking to the report and highlighting these commitments can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/12/21/supporting-resilient-communities>.

On a related topic, Medlock also stated that the Financial Stability Board (FSB) – formed by the G7 to promote stability in the international financial system – established an industry-led Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, which issued its recommendations last week for voluntary financial disclosures of climate-related risk. The FSB Task Force Report outcomes, as they relate to collaborations with financial sector partners, including insurers, can be found here: <https://www.fsb-tcfd.org/publications/recommendations-report/>.

IV. Discussion: NPST Task Force Final Report

Meszaros introduced Chris Clavin from the Science and Technology Policy Institute, who briefed SDR members on the SDR National Preparedness Science and Technology (NPST) Task Force final report, [*Identifying Science and Technology Opportunities for National Preparedness*](#).

The SDR formed the NPST Task Force to support collaboration between the Federal S&T and national preparedness communities – a collaboration that represents a new approach to joint planning to ensure science and technology outcomes are relevant to the needs of emergency managers and decision makers. To assess S&T opportunities for enhanced preparedness, the Task Force assembled six teams of subject matter experts from across the Federal government to focus on biological hazards, chemical hazards, radiological and nuclear hazards, geological hazards, meteorological hazards, and space hazards (including space weather and near-Earth objects). These interagency teams identified current S&T programs, gaps, and research opportunities to support national preparedness.

The Task Force analyzed the products of the six teams and identified a set of cross-cutting S&T development areas for national preparedness capabilities that were common to all six hazard types studied: 1) Improve Public Communication of Warnings and Advisories; 2) Enhance Fundamental Understanding of Hazards; 3) Improve Event Characterization and Risk Assessment; 4) Enhance Observations, Modeling, and Data Management; 5) Develop Technology for Safer, Effective, and Timely Response and Recovery; and 6) Integrate Science into Preparedness Decisions. The analysis of the six teams identified S&T gaps and research opportunities and described near-, mid-, and long-term research opportunities to support these six cross-cutting S&T development areas for each class of hazards. A White House blog post detailing the effort can be found here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/12/20/science-and-technology-service-national-disaster-preparedness-reduction-and>. A more detailed, internal-facing version of the report has been posted to the SDR members-only website, which can be accessed by accessed via <http://www.sdr.gov/formembers.html> (username: SDR.member; password: SDR#2003. including the period at the end).

Meszaros noted as part of this discussion that the NPST Task Force post-event S&T sub-group continues to develop its executive summary report in conjunction with several participating SDR member agencies, which can be ready for release within the first 100 days of the new Administration. Also of note, the NPST Task Force 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 participate in a writing team sometime this year to draft a broader “S&T Annex” document for the preparedness FIOP.

V. Presentation: Civil Applications Committee Activities for Disasters

Applegate introduced Paul Young and Dan Opstal from the USGS, who provided a presentation on the Civil Applications Committee (CAC) and the USGS National Civil Applications Center (NCAC).

The CAC facilitates the appropriate civil uses of overhead remote sensing technology and imagery data collected by classified military and intelligence systems as well as commercial sources. The NCAC provides classified and commercial remote sensing data and analysis to the USGS and the Federal civil community agencies, serves as the CAC Executive Secretariat, and is part of the USGS Land Remote Sensing Program.

The CAC and NCAC play a role in natural hazards and disasters (e.g., volcanoes, earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, floods, and hurricanes), primarily in the areas of detection, assessment, response, and mitigation. Some recent examples of engagement on this front over the past year include acquiring thousands of images for CAC members to support response efforts for the Louisiana floods in August and Hurricane Matthew in October, damage assessment and identification of surface ruptures after the

magnitude-7.8 earthquake in Ecuador in April, and monitoring roughly 130 volcanoes around the world for activity (e.g. Kilauea in Hawaii and Sinabung in Indonesia). The CAC and NCAC also play a role in scientific research more broadly by way of land and resource management, environmental monitoring, and climate change.

To close the briefing, Opstal noted that his organization is also in the process of working on a public-facing web presence for its data, much of which can be made available to Federal agencies at no additional cost. Please contact Young (pyoung@usgs.gov) or Opstal (dopstal@usgs.gov) for more information on the presentation.

VI. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR January meeting at 11:56 a.m. and noted that the group's next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2017, in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.

VII. 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:

2017

- ✓ 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.

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@mantech.com).

IX. 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

X. Summary of January Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Note that the next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2 in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.	SDR Members	For Information
Visit https://review.globalchange.gov/ to make comments on the draft of the USGCRP Climate Science Special Report (CSSR).	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Friday, February 2
Contact Paul Young (pyoung@usgs.gov) or Dan Opstal (dopstal@usgs.gov) for more information on the Civil Applications Committee and National Civil Applications Center.	SDR Members	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