**Meeting Minutes** **of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction**

5 October 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*

# DHS Erin Walsh

# DHS/FEMA *Roy Wright*

# DHS/USCG *Jim Small*

**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*

# NASA *Craig Dobson*

**NGA** *Kerri Dugan*

# NGB *Steve Mason*

# NIH *Aubrey Miller*

**NIST***Steve Cauffman*

**NOAA**Mary Erickson

**NPS** Marcy Rockman

# NSF Greg Anderson

**State** Fernando Echavarria

**USACE** Tony Niles

*Dimitra Syriopoulou*

**USAID** Sezin Tokar

**USCB** *Laura Furgione*

**USDA** *TBD*

**USFS** *Monica Lear*

*Carlos Rodriguez-Franco*

**USGS** David Applegate

**USNRC** *Edwin Hackett*

**USPHS** *Estella Jones*

**Other Attendees**

**NASA** Gerald Bawden

Miguel Roman

Shanna McClain

**NIST** Marc Levitan (T)

**USACE** Lauren Knapp

Julie Rosati

**USGS** Angela Moye

Trent Richardson

**USNRC** John Nakoski

Stephanie Coffin

**SDR Secretariat**

Bret Schothorst (T)

**USGS** Aleeza Wilkins

**Agenda**

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

10:05 Co-chairs Report

10:20 Roundtable Discussion: Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria

11:55 Close and Next Actions

**Handouts**

* October Meeting Agenda
* Draft September Meeting Minutes

1. **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 10:03 a.m. in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room, and participants introduced themselves.

1. **Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes**

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

Applegate announced an event celebrating the life of former SDR co-chair and self-described hazards diva Margaret Davidson to be held October 23.

Fernando Echavarria (State) and Miguel Roman (NASA) provided a brief report on the recent NASA/CONAE-led Earth Observations Disaster Risk Reduction Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as a preview to a more comprehensive report during the afternoon’s SDR International Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (IDRRWG) meeting. Several hundred attendees from 20 countries participated in bilingual training sessions and created dialogue between data providers and data users. Other topics for the afternoon’s IDRRWG meeting include updates on the reporting process for the progress indicators of the Sendai Framework and potential agency International DRR Day activities (October 13). The working group’s next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 7, at 1:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center.

SDR Co-chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) thanked the agencies for their contributions to the roll-up of hurricane-related activities and asked agencies to provide her with any new S&T items or updates going forward. She reported on hurricane-related coordination activities at OSTP including the SDR Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness (TIDP) Working Group, the NSTC Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience subcommittee, and the National Information Technology R&D group, and interactions with the National Security Council. The Administration has called for potential S&T opportunities to consider during the rebuilding of Puerto Rico. If your agency has technology or infrastructure ideas to be tested in Puerto Rico,please email Meszaros ([Jacqueline\_R\_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov" \t "_blank)).

Marc Levitan (NIST) shared an update on the interagency National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program’s activities. NIST itself is currently addressing a FEMA mission assignment to generate wind field maps for Hurricane Nate. FEMA uses the maps in HAZUS loss estimation, which supports response activity and damage assessments. They are currently exploring how to transform the process of estimating time histories of wind speeds and directions at specific locations. Doing so would enable more sophisticated post-storm analysis of building and infrastructure performance.

1. **Roundtable Discussion: Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria**

The primary agenda item for the October SDR meeting was a roundtable discussion to give agencies an opportunity to describe the S&T lessons learned, coordination gaps, and after action recommendations resulting from experiences from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and in preparation for Hurricane Nate.

*Mechanisms for integrating S&T in disasters*

Regarding the use of S&T products, members in attendance agreed that many mapping materials are of great use. Examples included open source maps and GIS layers, like OpenStreetMap; paper maps during disaster response and recovery. Other capabilities discussed include the GOES-16 satellite, which provides critical data for storm forecasters, especially when local doppler radar capabilities fail; and social media, which provides a wealth of data that can provide situational awareness, helps mapping response, and identifies locations of assets and areas needing aid.

Members also discussed the importance of formally integrating scientists into disaster preparation efforts. Integrating policy and science experts into emergency operations centers effectively demonstrates the pace at which data needs to be processed and at what level it needs to be presented. This experience not only sets expectations more effectively, but it also increases the uptake of S&T information by the EOC staff. The integration of science experts into the EOCs allows for the right information to be delivered to right people at the right time.

Lessons learned from relationships built in advance included:

1. Communication with scientists assures the understanding that information needs to be shared in a timely fashion in order to be useful
2. Developing relationships with governors allows agencies to acquire the information necessary to prepare canned reports
3. There is a need to establish ahead of time which entity is the official source of statements and/or data.
4. It is important to manage the expectations of scientists who want to collect ephemeral data, as human health and safety always takes priority.

*Science-related mission assignments*

In terms of mission assignments that the members would like to see in the future, the topic of emergency messaging and human behavior arose. The recent series of hurricanes revealed a need to create messages that will speak to human behavior to best keep people safe. Two suggestions of resources to help address such a sociological messaging problem were FEMA, as well as lessons learned from the advertising world.

The topic of science-related mission assignments gave rise to further questions, such as: How do we prioritize research in advance so that the infrastructure is in place ahead of time to keep researchers from getting in the way of safety? What are cross-disciplinary priorities that all scientists will recognize for next event? How can we engage local communities in answering these questions?

*S&T needs for recovery and key considerations for rebuilding*

Due to time, this topic was not discussed as thoroughly as the others, but a few examples of improved resilience were provided. New hotel building codes encouraging sheltering vertically were effective during Hurricane Irma, and the new elevated Houston Emergency Operations Center building has successfully resisted hurricane storm surges.

1. **Adjournment**

Applegate adjourned the SDR September meeting at 12:02 p.m. and noted that the Subcommittee’s next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2, in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.

1. **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.

1. **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 ([SDR@usgs.gov](mailto:SDR@usgs.gov)).

1. **Contact Information**

**SDR Leadership**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| David Applegate | Co-chair | 703-648-6600 | applegate@usgs.gov |
| Jack Meszaros | Co-chair | 202-456-6020 | Jacqueline\_R\_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov |

**Executive Secretariat**

SDR@usgs.gov

1. **Summary of October Actions**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Lead** | **By When** |
| The next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2, in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room. | SDR Members | For Information |
| The Administration has called for potential S&T opportunities to consider during the rebuilding of Puerto Rico. If your agency has technology or infrastructure ideas to be tested in Puerto Rico, please email Meszaros ([Jacqueline\_R\_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov)). | SDR Members | ASAP |
| Send additional disaster-related priorities from your agency for consideration in the new Administration to the SDR Secretariat (SDR@usgs.gov) 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 (SDR@usgs.gov) 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 |