

## Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

5 April 2018, 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)  
Mary Erickson (NOAA)  
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 (T)

**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

**AHC** Thomas Moran

**DHS/FEMA** Mitch Erickson

(T)

Nick Shufro

Jacob Vawter

**Eversource Energy** Mike Zappone

**NGA** Kevin Dobbs

Matthew Jensen

Valerie Vuyovich-Connolly

**NGB** Chet Guyer

**NIH** April Bennett

**NSC** John Ferris

**Rutgers Univ** Tom O'Reilly

**USFS** Matt Rollins

**USGS** Bill Leith

Alice Pennaz

**USNRC** John Nakoski (T)

**USPHS** Kyle Lyons (T)

**Verizon** Kent Kildow (T)

**SDR Secretariat**

Aleeza Wilkins

### Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

10:05 Co-chairs Report

10:20 Briefing: Earthquake Early Warning

10:40 Briefing: Sensitive Information Sharing

11:10 Discussion: Hazards S&T Budget

11:55 Close and Next Actions

### Handouts

- April Meeting Agenda
- Draft March Meeting Minutes

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the December meeting to order at 10:04 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 March monthly meeting was approved with no changes.

SDR Co-chair Dave Applegate (USGS) announced the monthly meetings of the SFLAG Modeling and Data Working Group, as the most recent meeting focused on wildfire and forest fire modeling, driven by the recent events in California.

SDR Co-chair Mary Erickson (NOAA) shared that Dr. Neil Jacobs is the new Assistant Secretary for Environmental Observation and Prediction. He was previously the Chief Atmospheric Scientist at Panasonic Avionics Corporation and has been active in the American Meteorological Society, world meteorological associations, and research and development for new data policies. Ken Graham is the new Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami. The full announcement is at: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/kenneth-graham-selected-as-director-of-noaa-s-national-hurricane-center>.

SDR Co-Chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) is developing an annex on agency S&T for disaster preparedness and resilience activities that support the National Security Strategy released in December 2017, particularly page 14. The strategy can be downloaded at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905-2.pdf>. **If your agency has materials to include, contact Meszaros ([Jacqueline R Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov)).**

Meszaros also shared an update that the No Wrong Door Steering Committee is working together on social media as requests for assistance. The Steering Committee is developing a playbook guide, as well as considering essential layers of information to be shared during disasters. The group is also having conversations about how best to ensure Tech Teams are deployed prior to and during disasters. The group is planning to hold a White House event in May.

Sezin Tokar (USAID) announced the afternoon international working group meeting, which was to include discussions on the Sendai monitoring framework reporting deadline, the Understanding Risk Forum in May, organized by the World Bank, and the upcoming Regional Platform and Summit of the Americas.

April Bennett (NIH) reported on the March 16<sup>th</sup> NIH Disaster Research Response interagency event, which drew over 80 people. Discussions focused on the national disaster research framework, funding, empowering research in disasters, engaging stakeholders prior to disasters, and coordinating research efforts. **If interested in participating in a working group, contact April Bennett at [april.bennett@nih.gov](mailto:april.bennett@nih.gov).**

## **III. Briefing on Earthquake Early Warning**

Bill Leith, Earthquake Hazards Program Coordinator for the USGS, provided a briefing on Earthquake Early Warning. Leith began by explaining that since seismic waves travel slower than the speed of light, radio communications may be sent ahead of the waves reaching their destination. Such earthquake early warning systems already exist in Japan, Mexico, and several other countries. In the United States, the warning system is built on the existing seismic network, requiring upgrades to thousands of stations. There are 1,675 seismic stations planned on the west coast spanning from border to border. There are a few stations in Mexico and Canada that may be used to

share alerting across the border, pending MOUs, and a denser network is planned for metropolitan areas such as Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Leith explained that since shear waves take several seconds to reach the earth's surface, the system is fast enough to record the first p-wave before the s-wave even arrives. Populations further from the epicenter will receive more advance warning. Initial alerting will appear as text with accompanying sound and vibration. Public alerts will be published for events over a specified magnitude in order to keep a low false-alarm rate. Alerts for lower magnitude events will be issued for users such as airports, police and fire stations, and light-rail operators. However, no current alert delivery technology was designed for the high volume, high speed, geo-targeted requirements of ShakeAlert EEW. For example, the speed of Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) delivery is impacted by message length. The strategic goal is to begin public alerts in 2018 in order to educate decision-makers and the public, as well as gain experience to improve the human interface and machine-to-machine interfaces.

The USGS is responsible for alert generation, while relying on outside sources for alert delivery and use. This requires the public to be receptive to alerts for their own safety, resulting in a joint communication, education and outreach committee coordinating pilot programs, incorporating social science research, developing the alert content, and providing pre-event education and training.

Regarding funding sources, funding has developed over the past several years, increasing after the initial research stages as Congress became more interested. In FY18, \$12.9 million was allocated for base level system maintenance. Outside funding sources have accounted for \$30 million historically, including significant contributions from FEMA, The Moore Foundation, and the California Office of Emergency Services. However, USGS funding accounts for just over half of the estimated annual operating cost of \$24.6 million.

#### **IV. Briefing on Sensitive Information Sharing**

Tom Moran, Director of the All Hazards Consortium, presented a briefing on Sensitive Information Sharing Environments (SISE). Tom was joined by the chairs of AHC working groups: Kent Kildow, the Director of Business Continuity at Verizon; Mike Zappone, Resource Acquisition Manager at Eversource Energy; and Tom O'Reilly, Executive Director of The Police Institute at Rutgers University.

Moran shared that SISE was created out of a need for a trusted, sustainable framework that could be used to share private sector information with the government. Today, SISE is supported privately and publically, using a simplified confidentiality agreement to grant access to an App Store styled portal for sharing information.

The long term SISE strategy connects the private sector to State and Local Emergency Operations Centers during disasters. SISE is working closely with FEMA, DHS NICC, and DOE to extend this framework to federal dashboards and run data analytics and modeling. As each sector identifies issues, subscribers can add their solutions in the App Store. The most used product is GeoCollaborate, developed by NOAA, which consolidates government and industry data for power restoration, effectively helping 30 states and 100 companies to be on the same page at the same time. Zappone shared that in his experience, the SISE dashboard helps users make decisions quickly and leverage each others' capabilities.

#### **V. Discussion on Agency Hazards S&T Budgets**

Mary Erickson (NOAA) shared that NOAA received \$400 million in supplemental funding. One half of that funding is for fishery disasters.

- \$18 million are for assessments and removal of marine debris
- \$40 million are for mapping and charted affected coastlines and channels
- \$42 million are for repairing and replacing observatories
- \$100 million are for improving weather forecasting capabilities and data collection efforts.

Nick Shufro (FEMA) shared that for the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, \$263 million are appropriated for RiskMAP, \$71 million of which will go to LiDAR investments through 3DEP. The bill also provides \$249 million for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and \$9 million for the National Dam Safety Program.

Dave Applegate (USGS) shared that the Supplemental Appropriations provides \$42.2 million to the USGS, including:

- \$12.9 million for equipment replacement and data restoration needs due to hurricane damage, mostly in Puerto Rico,
- \$15 million to acquire high-resolution elevation data for hurricane impacted areas,
- \$3 million for coastal assessments in Florida, and
- \$5.3 million for LiDAR collection and processing in areas impacted by 2017 wildfires.

Matt Rollins (USFS) shared that the FY18 omnibus included \$2.4 billion for fire suppression, accounting for 54% of the USFS budget. In addition, funding was eliminated for the Joint Fire Science Program and National Fire Plan Research.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Applegate adjourned the SDR April meeting at 12:03 p.m. and noted that the Subcommittee's next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 3, in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.

## **VII. SDR 2018 Meeting Calendar**

SDR meetings in 2018 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:

### **2018**

- ✓ Thursday, January 4
- ✓ Thursday, February 1
- ✓ Thursday, March 1
- ✓ Thursday, April 5
- ✓ Thursday, May 3
- ✓ Thursday, June 7
- ✓ Thursday, July 5\*
- ✓ Thursday, August 2\*\*
- ✓ Thursday, September 6
- ✓ Thursday, October 4
- ✓ Thursday, November 1
- ✓ Thursday, December 6

\* July meeting subject to change 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 ([SDR@usgs.gov](mailto:SDR@usgs.gov)).

## **IX. Contact Information**

### **SDR Leadership**

David Applegate	Co-chair	703-648-6600	<a href="mailto:applegate@usgs.gov">applegate@usgs.gov</a>
Mary Erickson	Co-chair	240-678-2849	<a href="mailto:Mary.erickson@noaa.gov">Mary.erickson@noaa.gov</a>
Jack Meszaros	Co-chair	202-456-6020	<a href="mailto:Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov">Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov</a>

### **Executive Secretariat**

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

**X. Summary of April Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>By When</b>
The next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, May 3, in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.	SDR Members	For Information
Submit materials for inclusion in the S&T annex for the national security strategy to Jack Meszaros (Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov).	Jack Meszaros	TBD
Contact April Bennett (NIH) if interested in participating in a working group following the NIH Disaster Research Response interagency event ( <a href="mailto:april.bennett@nih.gov">april.bennett@nih.gov</a> )	April Bennett	TBD
Send idea contributions regarding the No Wrong Door event to Jack Meszaros (Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov)	Jack Meszaros	May 2018
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 ( <a href="mailto:applegate@usgs.gov">applegate@usgs.gov</a> ) 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