

## Meeting Minutes of the SDR Earth Observation Task Group

6 November 2003, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Eisenhower Room, White House Conference Center

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### Attendees

#### NASA

Craig Dobson

#### NOAA

John Gaynor

Nathalie Valette-Silver

Kirk Waters (telecom)

Mary Kate Rubin (GRS)

#### USFS

Sue Conard

#### USGS

Rosalind Helz (Chair)

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### Agenda

1:00 Welcome and Introductions  
1:05 Update from the Chair  
1:15 Task Group Inputs Documents  
2:30 Close

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### Call to Order

Rosalind Helz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### Summary of Discussion

#### 1. Update from the Chair

Rosalind Helz opened the meeting by passing out the latest version of the assignment table, plus a table summarizing the documents produced by the Task Group to date. These and all individual hazards files were emailed to the SDR Earth Observation Task Group (EOTG) on November 4 and 5, 2003. The members now have the latest versions of the documents, including the summary cross-walk chart. The chart reflects the lack of input so far for sea ice, wild fires, and landslides/subsidence.

These documents formed the basis of Helz's presentation to the SDR earlier on 11/6, summarizing the progress made to date by the EOTG. She had invited John Lyon of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and chair to the IWGEO User Requirements Team, to attend the SDR meeting. Roz and John led a discussion about the hazards requirements and the IWGEO User outline on hazards and disasters. (This was among the attachments sent to the EOTG on November 4, 2003.) At the SDR meeting, the SDR members discussed whether the EOTG would consider the economic impact of disasters in the User Requirements chapter. The SDR members determined that it would be the role of others to do the front piece while the EOTG would provide the background information and substance of user needs and observational requirements for the document. The deadline for the User Requirements Team is January 12<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for EOTG input will be somewhat sooner. Further guidance should be available after the GEO meeting in Baveno Italy in late November.

#### 2. Task Group Inputs Documents

The group then moved on to discuss the input documents, noting that the present tables are not consistent in the level of detail and style. The members suggested that some of the high-profile hazards, namely floods, may require more detail. Kirk Waters undertook to combine the various Coastal Hazards tables into a single table.

Based on their examination of the high-level tables that identify hazards, Craig Dobson and Sue Conard

proposed extracting information from previously-published requirements to define and reassess the current state of thinking. Sue Conard proposed adding recently recognized requirements for the areas that lack requirement information, noting specifically that the CEOS DMSG requirements for wild fire were incomplete. It was agreed that if there were new, previously undocumented requirements, that it would be appropriate to bring them forward for the IWGEO process and 10-year plan. However, Roz Helz noted that the plan will need to be fairly concise. Sue Conard stated that it is important to flesh out the details to some extent. John Gaynor added that it would be useful to prioritize the different requirements in the various tables. Helz indicated that the IWGEO ser Requirements team is supposed to be identifying gaps as part of their process.

Rosalind Helz suggested that the group provide their initial feedback on the volcano and earthquake inputs, to start the revision process. She asked the members to think about the level of detail in the high-level table and the desirability of relying on supporting text. The members talked about the difficulty in providing details and definitions in the given format, but agreed on the need to strike a balance between overpopulating the table with too much information and relying on too much text. It was agreed that members would review the tables, sending their questions and comments about consistency of style to the principal authors of the individual tables.

**Action:** Members will edit tables for readability, fill in gaps, and work toward greater consistency of format.

**Action:** Members will provide acronym definitions to Helz, who will compile a glossary for all the hazards tables.

**Action:** Members will distinguish between the current systems and future requirements to which the tables must speak. Various possible formats were discussed.

**Action:** Rosalind Helz will put Kirk Waters and Nathalie Valette-Silver in touch with Mark Holliday, the NOAA representative to the User Requirements team.

**Action:** Kirk Waters will rework the coastal information to make it one table.

**3. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm. The next meeting will be in December, time, place and format to be determined. (It may be necessary to have it be a telecom.)

#### **4. Contact Information**

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##### **Earth Observation Task Group**

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##### **Secretariat**

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