

Meeting Minutes of the SDR Earth Observation Working Group

20 October 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Department of Commerce Building

Attendees

NOAA

Helen Wood (SDR Chair)
Margaret Davidson (Co-Chair)
(Teleconference)
Barbara Lancaster
Becky Chacko
Kay Weston
Rick Heidner (AEROSPACE)
Michael Hales

NASA

Steve Ambrose (Co-Chair)
Craig Dobson
Shahid Habib

USGS

Jay Feuquay (Co-Chair)
(Teleconference)

USDA/FS

Susan Conard

Secretariat

Emily Wallace (GRS)
Will Hottel (GRS)

Welcome and Introductions

Helen Wood called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Report from the SDR Chair and EOWG Mission

Ms. Helen Wood began by outlining the genesis and responsibilities of the Earth Observation Working Group (EOWG). The EOWG melds two SDR activities: the Remote Sensing Applications Working Group and the Earth Observation Task Group. EOWG will be examining the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters from a lessons learned and opportunities perspective as well as advising NOAA's Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) about waiving the 24-hour waiting period for delivery of sub-1 meter U.S. commercial satellite imagery during a hazard event.

Ms. Wood pointed out the Draft Terms of Reference that were included in the meeting packets. Members should provide comments to the Secretariat by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 25 October. The Terms of Reference will be presented at the 3 November SDR meeting.

International Charter

Ms. Wood gave the group some background information about the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters. While the United States does not lead the effort, U.S. government agencies do support the effort. Since the beginning of the Charter, NOAA has been the lead agency for the for the U.S., but USGS will assume responsibility as the on-call agency very soon. NOAA developed operations guidelines for tasking satellites and proving program officers with specific expertise in hazards. The Charter has developed operational scenarios for major hazards (before, during and after) with information requirements so they know what imagery answers which questions at a certain point before, during and after a hazard event.

The EOWG will author a lessons learned paper about the International Charter.

24-Hour Delay Waiver

Mr. Michael Hales of NOAA ACCRES led the discussion of the waiver for the 24-hour waiting period for delivery of sub-1 meter U.S. commercial satellite imagery during a hazard event. Making recommendations about a possible 24-hour waiver will be EOWG's primary focus. The EOWG will provide advice about hazard events, help develop guidelines on how and when the waiver could be used, and define how broad those guidelines should be. EOWG will support an incremental approach, which will begin by looking at specific emergencies scenarios and identifying what the timelines requirements in terms of tasking, data collection, processing and distribution. It must be determined when the 24-

hour waiver will seriously impede this process. Disaster specific templates can be created to provide further guidance.

Mr. Hales distributed a chart depicting the waiver creation process. The EOWG is expected to complete and clear their guidance/advice through SDR, USGEO and CENR by 21 December 2005. A substantial portion of the 3 November SDR meeting will be devoted to framing SDR’s guidance/advice.

Dr. Jay Feuquay mentioned that Dr. Phillip Ritcheson, Director of Space Policy at the NSC, is convening a Commercial Remote Sensing Implementation Working Group meeting on Wednesday, 26 October at 1:00 pm in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The working group meets periodically to discuss progress made implementing the President's Commercial Remote Sensing Space Policy. This meeting will also include a discussion of observations and lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina/Rita disaster recovery activities, which may provide useful information for this mission. The meeting is not open to the public, but Dr/ Feuquay can arrange for agency representatives from the EOWG to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Meeting Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Secretariat will distribute the current draft of the EOWG Terms of Reference, 24-Hour Waiver Scoping Paper and International Charter scenarios to Members	Secretariat	Complete
Members will provide comments on the Terms of Reference to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com)	Members	5:00 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, 25 October
Co-chairs or Members interested in attending the Commercial Remote Sensing Implementation Working Group meeting on Wednesday, 26 Oct at 1:00 pm in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building should contact Jay Feuquay at feuquay@usgs.gov	Members	25 October
Terms of Reference will be presented to SDR	Co-Chairs	3 November
Next EOWG Meeting	All	Week of 7 November