

Meeting Notes of the Grand Challenges Task Group

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

20 April 2004, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., National Science Foundation

Attendees

CDC

Josephine Malilay (by phone)

NIST

Noel Raufaste (Co-Chair)

NOAA

John Gaynor (by phone)

Dori Akerman (SDR Secretariat)

Katie Dorr (SDR Secretariat)

NSF

Priscilla Nelson (Co-Chair)

Steve McCabe

Dennis Wenger

EPA

Regan Murray

OSTP

Gene Whitney

USACE

Andy Bruzewicz

USFS

Sue Conard (by phone)

USGS

Dave Applegate

Rosalind Helz

Handouts

Meeting Agenda, Team Leader Handbook

Meeting Notes

The discussion began with introductions. Noel Raufaste and Priscilla Nelson provided background information on the Grand Challenges Task Group and discussed its purpose. Noel emphasized the unique nature of this interagency group, the opportunities to develop a presidential initiative, and the importance of seeking help within agencies. Gene Whitney noted that the GC final report will provide the context for S&T planning over the next ten years.

Noel also went over the timeline for the hazard teams, and explained the timeline and hazard grid. The information gathered by analyzing challenges and completing the hazard grids will be presented at the offsite in June, and will serve as a starting point for the draft GC document. Because the final document will require agency clearance, team leaders must note sources for each piece of information on the grid.

The group discussed team formation, and the need to make inter-agency contacts. Gene pointed out that team leaders should make an effort to include some contribution from FEMA, either by selecting people from FEMA as team members, or by interviewing them in the data gathering process. He also noted that non-federal employees can be used as resources in this phase of Grand Challenges. After Dennis Wenger raised the concern that there might not be enough of a focus on social science, Priscilla reminded the team leaders that every team should have at least one member with some background in social science.

Noel made the point that the final product will be a living document, and that there will be continual revisions to it. Given that, the group briefly discussed the possibility of a permanent staff responsible for advocating the implementation of measures detailed in the GC report.

Several team leaders expressed an interest in meeting before the hazard grids are due to discuss any possible questions or difficulties that arise. It was decided that there will be meetings on May 14 and May 28 at NSF for those who can attend; those meetings also will be conducted as teleconferences. After several people also indicated that they would not be able to attend an offsite on June 24, Priscilla and Noel decided to change the offsite date to June 18. Everyone at the meeting confirmed the date.

Actions

Item	Lead	Action	Completion Date
1.	Secretariat	E-mail Hazard grid to the group	April 21, 2004
2.	Priscilla	Send Shahib Habib's contact information to John Gaynor	April 23, 2004
3.	Noel	Contact Dave Evans to go over meeting discussions and results	April 23, 2004
4.	Secretariat	Send out names and contact information for the people who submitted each challenge	April 22, 2004
5.	Secretariat	E-mail meeting notes	April 22, 2004
6.	All	Attend next meeting	May 14, 2004 1:30 pm NSF