

Meeting Notes of the Grand Challenges Task Group

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction, 14 May 2004, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., National Science Foundation

Attendees

Names of absent members are indicated in italics. Members participating via telephone are indicated with a "T."

Biological/Ecological

Josephine Malilay (CDC, T)
Nathalie Valette-Silver (NOAA, T)

Flood

Dennis Wenger (NSF)
Andy Bruzewicz (USACE)

Volcano

Roz Helz (USGS)
Grace Swanson (NOAA)

Earthquakes

Dave Applegate (USGS)
Steve McCabe (NSF)

Severe Weather

John Gaynor (NOAA, T)
Shahid Habib (NASA, T)

Co-Chairs and Secretariat

Priscilla Nelson (NSF)
Noel Raufaste (NIST)
Dori Akerman (GRS)

Fire

Sue Conard (USFS)
Dave Evans (NIST)

Technological

Regan Murray (EPA)
Josephine Malilay (CDC, T)

Other Attendees

John Filson (USGS, T)
Fritz Policelli (NASA, T)
Pai-Yei Whung (NOAA, T)

Handouts

Agenda, Hazard Grids

Meeting Notes

Grand Challenge co-chairs Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste began the meeting with a round of introductions. Other than Volcanoes and Earthquakes, each hazard team was represented by at least one team leader.

Mr. Raufaste acknowledged team members for their participation and the results produced to date, and reiterated the importance of forward-thinking and inter-agency involvement. Priscilla Nelson amplified his remarks and encouraged members to do the following:

- (1) Keep a list of all participants on the hazard teams and any experts consulted;
- (2) Identify the hazard in the header of all documents produced;
- (3) Identify the date and page numbers on all documents; and,
- (4) Keep a list of all resources used, including the full citation and URL, as applicable. Indicate resource confidence for each document cited by noting holes or areas for which additional input is required.

Biological/Ecological

Dr. Josephine Malilay asked for more information about the areas encompassed by the terms "Biological/Ecological." A new definition was not declared, but it was agreed that the team should be renamed to clarify the areas to be addressed. The term Epidemiological / Ecological was suggested and discarded.

Dr. Malilay also requested clarification about the number of items to be included in each cell of the hazard grids. Dr. Nelson addressed the query, noting that the key is to synthesize the inputs and list only the key topics. Dr. Valette-Silver and Dr. Malilay will invite additional members to the team, especially representatives from NSF, USFS, NIH's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). Dr. Valette-Silver concluded the report by promising to expand the Ecological hazard grid to include areas beyond Harmful Algal Blooms.

Earthquakes

Neither Earthquakes team leader was present; the report was delayed until the 28 May 2004 meeting.

Fire

Sue Conard and Dave Evans requested that the team be named “Fire” instead of “Wildland Fire” as a means for representing the joint focus on wildland, wildland urban interface, and urban fires. Dr. Evans asked about the overlaps between natural and technological for this hazard, noting that this community focuses primarily on the scientific issues related to the fire itself rather than the sources. Dr. Nelson and Dr. Conard answered, requesting that he address the technological issues, as appropriate and without detracting from the appropriate natural hazards issues. Dr. Conard also reminded him that other National Science and Technology Council committees and subcommittees address technological issues and that it is important that the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction not overlap the work accomplished in other areas.

Flood

Dennis Wenger reported on the progress of the Flood team and listed the members: Doug James (NSF), Tim Cohn (USGS), Mike Grimm (FEMA), Darryl Davis (USACE), Jerry Galloway (Titan Corporation), Larry Larson (President, American Society of Floodplain Managers), and Kyle Schilling (Governing Board Member, Environmental and Water Resources Institute). All team member submissions are included in the master grid distributed in the meeting. Dr. Wenger and Mr. Bruzewicz will assign sections to the various team members and each member will synthesize the information in his or her category.

Severe Weather

John Gaynor and Shahid Habib requested that the team be named “Severe Weather” rather than “Severe Storms” and clarified the hazards addressed by this team: (1) Change freezing and expand to include freezes and heat waves or, simply, temperature extremes; (2) Combine hurricane and typhoon; (3) Define snow as heavy snow accumulations (two feet or more) and blizzards; (4) For windstorms, include straight-line winds from thunderstorms (usually referred to as “derechos”) and also include, but at lower priority, unusually strong winds associated with winter frontal systems. Severe Weather now includes the following hazards:

- Coastal storms
- Hurricane/typhoon
- Mud/landslide
- Snow
- Temperature extremes
- Tornadoes
- Windstorms

Technological

Josephine Malilay discussed the Technological hazard team, noting the need for information on radiation and promising new information shortly.

Volcano

Neither Volcano team leader was present; the report was delayed until the 28 May 2004 meeting.

Next Actions

Hazard team leaders will prepare final editions of the hazard grids by 28 May 2004 at 5 p.m. Preview copies of those grids will be sent to the co-chairs by 27 May 2004 at 5 p.m.

Meeting Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Secretariat will send the document management table.	Secretariat	Complete
Noel Raufaste will invite his contact at the Department of Transportation to participate on the hazard teams.	Noel Raufaste	Complete
Josephine Malilay and Nathalie Valette-Silver will recommend a new name for the Biological/Ecological hazard category.	Josephine Malilay, Nathalie Valette-Silver	21 May 2004 5 p.m. ET
Nathalie Valette-Silver will resend the Ecological table after expanding the content beyond Harmful Algal Blooms.	Nathalie Valette-Silver	21 May 2004 5 p.m. ET
Dennis Wenger will contact Doug Ryan at the U.S. Forest Service. Secretariat will send contact information to Dennis (complete).	Dennis Wenger, Secretariat	21 May 2004 5 p.m. ET
Pai-Yei Whung will coordinate the creation of a drought-specific hazard table	Nathalie Valette-Silver	28 May 2004 5 p.m. ET
Dennis Wenger will send the updated flood table to the Secretariat. Secretariat will distribute.	Dennis Wenger, Secretariat	Complete
John Gaynor will send a separate landslides table to the Secretariat. Secretariat will distribute.	John Gaynor, Secretariat	Complete
Team leaders and the Secretariat will change the name of hazard category "Severe Storms" to "Severe Weather." Also, "Wildland Fire" will become "Fire."	Secretariat	Complete
Secretariat will provide contact information for key individuals on the NSTC subcommittee dealing with technological issues.	Secretariat	Complete
Hazard team leaders will prepare final editions of the hazard grids by 28 May 2004 at 5 p.m. Preview copies of those grids will be sent to the co-chairs by 27 May 2004 at 5 p.m.	Hazard Team Leaders	28 May 2004 5 p.m. ET