

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

02 October 2014, 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)
Margaret Davidson (NOAA)
Dennis Wenger (NSF)

OSTP Liaison

Tamara Dickinson (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

BLM *Edwin Roberson*
CDC *Mark Keim*
DHS Mary Ellen Hynes (T)
DHS/FEMA *Roy Wright*
DHS/USCG *Robert Thomas*
DOD *Al Johnson*
DOE *Patricia Hoffman*
DOT Sheila Duwadi
EOP/OMB *Michael Clark*
EOP/OSTP Tamara Dickinson
EPA Brendan Doyle
Stephen Clark

FERC Marsha Palazzi (T)
HUD *Dana Bres*
NASA *Craig Dobson*
NGA Patricia Allen Aquinas
NGB *TBD*
NIH *Aubrey Miller*
NIST Steve Cauffman
NOAA *Margaret Davidson*
Christopher Strager
NPS Marcy Rockman
NSF *Dennis Wenger*
OPHS Estella Jones (T)

State *Fernando Echavarría*
USACE *Steven Cary*
Dimitra Syriopoulou
USAID Sezin Tokar
USDA *TBD*
USFS *Elizabeth Reinhardt*
Carlos Rodriguez-Franco
Matt Rollins
USGS David Applegate
USNRC *Steven West*

Other Attendees

BLM Ron McCormick (T)
DHS Mitch Erickson (T)
Meredith Lee
DHS/FEMA Douglas Ham
Candice Abinanti (T)
DHS/USCG Tung Ly (T)
EOP/CEQ David Allen
Michael McCormick
Samantha Medlock
EOP/OSTP Bill Murtagh

EPA Paul Kudarauskas (T)
Paul Lemieux (T)
Shawn Ryan (T)
Eli Walton
HUD Harriet Tregoning
NASA Gerald Bawden
NIH April Bennett
NOAA Nell Codner (T)
Andrew Stern (T)
Michael Weiss

NSF Gregory Anderson (T)
USGS Kris Ludwig
Teresa Stoepler
USNRC Patrick Madden
STPI Mitch Ambrose
Chris Clavin
Zoe Petropoulos
SDR Secretariat Bret Schothorst
Barbara Haines -Parmele

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions
10:05 Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes
10:10 Report from the OSTP Liaison
10:15 Discussion: SDR Space Weather Task Force
10:30 Briefing: HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition
10:45 Briefings: WH Insurance Roundtable Workstreams
11:15 Presentation: EPA Homeland Security Research and
Disaster Recovery
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- October Meeting Agenda
- Draft September Meeting Minutes
- Draft Charter for the National Preparedness Science and Technology (NPST) Task Force
- Draft Charter for the Space Weather Operations, Research, and Mitigation (SWORM) Task Force
- National Disaster Resilience Competition Infographic
- Handouts from the EPA Homeland Security Research Program

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the October meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. in the Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center (WHCC), and participants introduced themselves.

II. Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes

The September monthly meeting minutes draft was approved with no changes.

In the report from the Co-chairs, SDR International Working Group (IWG) Co-Chair Sezin Tokar (USAID) encouraged participation in the IWG October meeting this afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the WHCC Lincoln Room. The working group's October meeting will include a focus on the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), specifically interagency comments on the pre-zero draft of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. This item will be the primary point of discussion at the second preparatory committee process meeting (PrepCom2) scheduled for November 17-18, 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. Materials related to these discussions can be provided by the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) upon request. For information, the WCDRR will be held March 14-18, 2015, in Sendai, Japan.

Meredith Lee (DHS S&T) announced that The Feast, DHS S&T, Intel, and the global design firm IDEO will host a "Civic Hardware Hackathon for Disaster Preparedness" on Friday and Saturday, October 10-11, 2014, at Pioneer Works in the Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. The event is targeted at technologists and entrepreneurs working on disaster resilience projects and government and private sector leaders fostering and accelerating innovation. It is also supported by corporate partners such as Microsoft, IKEA, SparkFun Electronics, 3D Systems, The Red Hook Initiative, Do Good Bus, and more. Please contact Lee (meredith.lee@associates.hq.dhs.gov) for more information.

Steve Cauffman (NIST) added that NIST is hosting the third in a series of workshops on the development of the Disaster Resilience Framework, a Disaster Resilience Standards Panel, and a set of disaster resilience metrics on October 27-28, 2014, at the National Center for Employee Development Conference Center and Hotel in Norman, Oklahoma. Registration for the workshop is now open and is available at the following link: http://www.nist.gov/el/building_materials/resilience/oklahoma_workshop.cfm. SDR members that have questions on the workshop can reach out to Cauffman (stephen.cauffman@nist.gov).

III. Report from the OSTP Liaison

In the report from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Liaison, Tammy Dickinson noted that the SDR is in the process of ramping up a National Preparedness Science and Technology (NPST) Task Force. The group will be primarily focused on: 1) assessing the current status of Federal S&T investments across the five PPD-8 mission areas (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery); 2) designing a structured process for use by departments and agencies to identify and prioritize efforts between the Federal interagency S&T community and the national preparedness community for S&T program planning under PPD-8; 3) developing recommendations for formal protocols required to conduct joint, interagency post-event science and technology evaluation and assessment; and 4) developing recommendations for a process for projecting future science and technology needs in support of national preparedness requirements. Dickinson added that a draft charter will be finalized in the coming weeks, and Subcommittee members were asked to provide feedback on the document to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) by Friday, October 10, 2014.

IV. Discussion: SDR Space Weather Task Force

Applegate introduced Bill Murtagh (OSTP), who reported on another body that is being established under the Subcommittee – the Space Weather Operations, Research, and Mitigation (SWORM) Task Force. It will serve as an interagency body to define, coordinate, and oversee goals and programmatic priorities of

Federal science and technology activities related to space weather. Near-term deliverables include a National Space Weather Strategy that will articulate strategic goals for improving forecasting, impact evaluation, and enhancing national preparedness to a severe space weather event and set the approach for establishing reference severe space weather events. The group will also develop a Space Weather Action Plan that will establish actions, timelines, and milestones for the implementation of the National Space Weather Strategy. Murtagh encouraged SDR representatives to submit input to the SWORM Task Force draft charter and offer suggestions for agency membership to the group to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) by Friday, October 10, 2014.

In response to the briefing, several SDR members raised potential interagency groups that the Task Force could coordinate with on the issue of space weather. Lee suggested that the Task Force engage with the NSTC Committee on Homeland and National Security Subcommittee on Topics in International Science and Technology Innovation (TISTI) regarding data management issues. Lee noted that the TISTI has a new Open Data Sharing Policy working group co-chaired by Mark Paese from NOAA and Suzanne Thornsbury from USDA that could be of assistance. Andrew Stern (NOAA) additionally encouraged the Task Force to coordinate with the Department of Commerce's Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology on the effort as they have undertaken similar space weather activities in the past. Tokar suggested working closely with the World Meteorological Organization and its international space weather efforts as well.

V. Briefing: HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition

Applegate introduced Harriet Tregoning from HUD, who provided a briefing on the recently posted National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) that will allocate nearly \$1 billion of Hurricane Sandy supplemental funding through HUD's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

The primary goal of the competition is to promote risk assessment and planning and provide funding for the implementation of innovative resilience projects to better prepare communities for future storms and other extreme events. Eligibility for funding for the competition is based on the locations of Presidentially declared major disasters in 2011, 2012, and 2013, which includes 48 of 50 states (excluding Nevada and South Carolina), Puerto Rico, Washington, DC, and 17 local and county government entities (from Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Dakota, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee).

The NDRC will be a year-long competition structured in two phases: 1) risk assessment and planning; and 2) design and implementation. Tregoning noted that many communities will be eligible for funding and technical assistance pertaining to their most impacted and distressed unmet recovery needs during Phase 1, but a subset of these communities will be invited to continue in Phase 2 to design solutions for recovery and future resilience. According to Tregoning, Phase 1 is the framing phase, in which applicants will comprehensively frame the recovery needs, relevant risks and vulnerabilities, and related community development opportunities in its target geographical area. Applicants must demonstrate a logical link or tie back to addressing unmet recovery needs from disasters in 2011, 2012, or 2013. In Phase 2, the implementation phase, the highest scoring applicants from Phase 1 will be invited to more fully articulate a resilience-enhancing disaster recovery or revitalization project or program and will compete for implementation funding. Awards for Phase 1 and 2 will be made at the conclusion of Phase 2.

More information on the NDRC can be found at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=FactSheet_071514.pdf. Please reach out to Tregoning (Harriet.Tregoning@hud.gov) to get engaged in this initiative and involve your agency in promoting the competition to eligible states and counties.

VI. Briefings: WH Insurance Roundtable Workstreams

Applegate introduced Michael Weiss of NOAA and Samantha Medlock of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), who gave a briefing on the workstream groups that resulted from a recent roundtable held with insurers as part of the President's Climate Action Plan.

This past June, the White House hosted the “Roundtable Meeting on Climate Resilience and Insurance” (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/25/readout-meetings-between-senior-administration-officials-and-business-le>) convening White House senior staff, cabinet officials from numerous Federal agencies, and insurance industry leaders to discuss opportunities to better identify, communicate, and reduce the risks and costs of extreme weather and climate change. According to Weiss and Medlock, the following four workstream groups have been developed through collaboration among Federal agencies and the insurance industry to further explore and address areas of common interest:

- 1) Sharing data and information on current and projected impacts of climate change;
- 2) Communicating climate impacts and uninsured risk to promote community resilience and reduce the public costs of future disasters;
- 3) Promoting the development, adoption, and enforcement of enhanced building codes; and
- 4) Incentivizing state, local, and tribal actions to increase resilience.

Weiss is the agency lead for the first workstream group on data sharing, which will work with the insurance industry to prioritize data needs, including determining the scale, scope, and form of data most useful for decision-making. Weiss added that some of the main goals of the workstream group are to get a better understanding of: industry data needs and uses; types of industry developed data and opportunities for data sharing; insights into how industry incorporates data; and how to best work together. The workstream group will also engage in an iterative discussion with the insurance industry to identify types of data barriers as well as priority areas for action and resolution. Tregoning added that data on the damage sustained to Federal buildings during disasters could be shared with the insurance industry as well for mutual benefit in assessing risks to federally owned and operated infrastructure.

Weiss noted that the data sharing workstream group is planning to hold a scoping meeting with insurers next Thursday, October 9, 2014. The main objectives of that meeting will be to develop a better and more comprehensive understanding of the data and information needs and uses across the insurance industry (i.e., insurers, reinsurers, insurance brokers, catastrophe modelers, and trade associations) and the types of data and information Federal agencies have to offer, discuss and identify initial priorities for data and information sharing, and define a process for government and industry collaboration and data sharing. Please contact Weiss (michael.weiss@noaa.gov) or Medlock (Samantha_A_Medlock@ceq.eop.gov) directly if your agency is interested in participating in this activity.

Cauffman, who is the agency lead for the third workstream group focused on developing enhanced building codes, discussed his agency's effort to more fully engage the insurance industry in drafting the Disaster Resilience Framework and Disaster Resilience Standards Panel currently underway at NIST. Cauffman noted that while enhanced building codes are an important tool, infrastructure is only being replaced at a rate of one percent a year so they can't be relied upon alone, but they are vital for new construction projects. Cauffman stated that a key objective of the effort will be to establish a way of looking at resilience to prioritize buildings and infrastructure based on their utility and importance in order to restore communities back to normal function, including bringing preexisting buildings up to a higher level of performance through retrofitting. On the topic of retrofitting, Tregoning added that the option of offering affordable risk-adjusted premiums is an important one for the insurance industry to consider, specifically with regards to retrofitting existing buildings for hazards risks that could conceivably cut costs for the insured, spawn a construction industry to create jobs, grow their business base, and make everyone safer from climate change and extreme weather events.

In response to the briefing on the workstream groups, several SDR members offered suggestions for collaborative opportunities. Chris Clavin (STPI) encouraged engagement with the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO), which is a Subcommittee under the NSTC Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability. USGEO is charged with coordinating data streams coming from federally supported Earth observing platforms and has a working group on data management that is coordinating the Big Earth Data Initiative, which could assist with characterizing hazards risks. Patricia Allen Aquinas (NGA) also raised the possibility of utilizing her agency's sensitive but unclassified geospatial intelligence capabilities for use in these data sharing efforts.

VII. Presentation: EPA Homeland Security Research and Disaster Recovery

Applegate introduced Brendan Doyle, Paul Lemieux, and Shawn Ryan from the EPA National Homeland Security Research Program, who provided a briefing on their organization's latest homeland security research for disaster recovery and resilience.

According to Lemieux, EPA's homeland security research supports the agency's role as the lead Federal agency for protecting water systems and decontaminating buildings, outdoor areas, and water systems following incidents involving chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants. The agency also has a large role in dealing with disaster waste and debris management. EPA's research strengthens the resiliency of local communities by providing water utility managers, laboratory technicians, on-scene coordinators, risk assessors, and emergency responders with the scientific tools and technology to detect, prepare, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other disasters. Lemieux noted that the research is primarily organized under three themes:

- Securing and Sustaining Water Systems
- Characterizing Contamination and Determining Risks
- Remediating Indoor and Outdoor Environments

Lemieux highlighted several tools and programs that the EPA National Homeland Security Research Program has been developing over the past couple of years, such as the Wide Area Recovery and Resiliency Program (WARRP), the Incident Waste Decision Support Tool (I-WASTE), the Waste Estimation Support Tool (WEST), and the Decision Support Tool for Single-Facility Remediation (DeconST) that are used by those on the front line of protecting from and responding to accidental or intentional environmental threats. Doyle added that the research that supported the development of these tools is improving the ability to detect and determine the extent of contamination, determine the level of risk to humans, develop appropriate clean-up and waste management approaches, and increase resilience to disasters and other environmental contamination incidents.

To close the presentation, Applegate noted that Lemieux presented the I-WASTE tool to much fanfare at the recent White House Innovation for Disaster Response and Recovery Demo Day that was held back in July. Aquinas again mentioned the possibility of utilizing her agency's sensitive but unclassified geospatial intelligence capabilities for use during EPA's disaster recovery and resilience efforts, while Lee and April Bennett (NIH) recommended linking EPA's research data with the disasters.data.gov effort ramping up at OSTP and the disaster research response project at NIH, respectively. In response to a question from Marcy Rockman (NPS), Doyle noted that EPA has several ongoing research projects in the areas of environmental risk communication and perception as well. Mitch Erickson (DHS S&T) added that the legal ramifications of incomplete and uncertain exposure monitoring of the public and the environment during disasters needs to be addressed.

Please contact Doyle (Doyle.Brendan@epa.gov) or Lemieux (Lemieux.Paul@epa.gov) for more information on the EPA's homeland security research for disaster recovery or to explore how EPA research can support your agency or department disaster recovery functions.

VIII. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR October meeting at 12:04 p.m.

IX. Future Meetings

Upcoming SDR meetings in 2014 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:

2014

- ✓ Thursday, November 6
- ✓ Thursday, December 4

X. 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 Bret Schothorst (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).

XI. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

David Applegate	Co-chair	703-648-6600	applegate@usgs.gov
Margaret Davidson	Co-chair	843-740-1220	margaret.davidson@noaa.gov
Dennis Wenger	Co-chair	703-292-8606	dwenger@nsf.gov
Tamara Dickinson	OSTP Liaison	202-456-6105	tdickinson@ostp.eop.gov

Secretariat

Bret Schothorst	703-388-0312	bret.schothorst@mantech.com
Barbara Haines-Parmelee	703-388-0309	barbara.haines-parmelee@mantech.com

XII. Summary of October Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Submit comments on the draft NPST and SWORM Task Force charters to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).	SDR Members	October 10, 2014
Reach out to Harriet Tregoning from HUD (Harriet.Tregoning@hud.gov) to get your agency engaged in the National Disaster Resilience Competition and promote the competition to eligible states and counties.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Email Michael Weiss of NOAA (michael.weiss@noaa.gov) or Samantha Medlock of CEQ (Samantha_A_Medlock@ceq.eop.gov) to participate in the White House insurance roundtable data sharing workstream group.	SDR Members	ASAP
Contact Meredith Lee from DHS S&T (meredith.lee@associates.hq.dhs.gov) for more information on the "Civic Hardware Hackathon for Disaster Preparedness" October 10-11, 2014, in Brooklyn, New York.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP

Reach out to Steve Cauffman of NIST (stephen.cauffman@nist.gov) to register to attend the third NIST disaster resilience workshop October 27-28, 2014, in Norman, Oklahoma.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Contact the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to participate in upcoming activities of the SDR Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force.	SDR Members	Standing
Please consider supporting the work of the SDR and its Secretariat through a contribution from your agency. Let SDR Co-chair David Applegate (applegate@usgs.gov) know if you need an Agency- or Department-specific request letter.	SDR Members	Standing
Email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) and OSTP Liaison Tammy Dickinson (Tamara_L_Dickinson@ostp.eop.gov) if willing to pilot an assessment of the progress of the short-, mid-, and long-term goals outlined in the SDR <i>Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction</i> hazard-specific implementation plans.	SDR Members	Standing
Contact OSTP Liaison Tammy Dickinson (tdickinson@ostp.eop.gov) if it would be helpful for OSTP to issue a letter to your agency or department requesting new (or re-affirmed) designation of official representatives. Ideas for other entities that should be represented on the SDR are also welcome.	SDR Members	Standing