



## MEETING MINUTES, 3 MAY 2007, 2:45 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M. RESOURCE IMPACTS TASK GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

### **Attendees**

Susan Conard (Chair)  
Ann Russell  
Jan Thorman  
Ron Huntsinger  
Victor Cole  
Bob Adamcik  
Carl Shapiro (T)  
Nathalie Vallette-Silver (T)  
Emily Wallace (Secretariat)  
Allison Kilcourse (Secretariat)

### **I. Call to Order**

### **II. Summary of Discussion**

#### **A. Discuss Resource Impacts in Grand Challenges 4-Pagers**

The Group began by reviewing the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans for the new working group members. Ann Russell and Jan Thorman reviewed notes they made on the documents; this led to a discussion of other possible areas to build on for the white paper.

Ann Russell stressed the importance of basic research on ecosystem properties and processes to inform risk-wise behavior and reduce vulnerability. Jan Thorman stated that we need to promote healthy growth from the beginning and foster ecosystems that can recover quickly; we need to look at restoration where resilience was not there to begin with. Susan Conard added that we should expand our definition of “restoration” to include promoting health and resiliency *prior* to disaster.

Bob Adamcik stated that the documents tended to leave out the economic, political, and tax incentives for prevention and mitigation; it is important to explore the nexus between social science and natural science. Emily Wallace reminded the group that SDR was science and technology centered and its main goal was not to discuss these types of incentives. However, Grand Challenge Six does include social science and promoting risk wise behavior. Susan Conard added that it is appropriate to discuss the importance of research to study the effects of certain incentive systems without promoting particular policies.

Susan Conard annotated each of the Grand Challenges Implementation Plans and they will be circulated with the meeting minutes. Group members are encouraged to make additional comments on what SDR has done right and where it is still lacking regarding resource impacts.

#### **B. Discuss Themes for Resource Impacts White Paper**

The group began a discussion of the SDR white paper by addressing concerns. Bob Adamcik commented that he thought there needed to be more agency synergy and that perhaps the three groups (Earth Observations, Climate Change Science Program, and RITG) could create a document together. Jan Thorman stated that she had difficulty seeing how all of this was going to come

together and that there seemed to be a lack of information available on impacts from natural disasters on resources.

Carl Shapiro listed several relevant reports that may be helpful for the group to read: a 2004 National Research Council report, a paper produced by the Wharton School, USGS, and AAG linking natural science and social science, and the Millennium Report. He stated that it is the challenge of the group to go through the related literature and prioritize how it will help determine resource impact. It was also noted that members could go back to their own agencies for information on the subject.

The group came up with several preliminary ideas as to how the white paper should be organized. Susan Conard suggested that instead of going hazard by hazard, the group should create a document that crosses hazards to show their impacts on natural resources. She also stated that there should be a several page introduction to the White Paper on actual hard data concerning resource impact. She suggested the following format:

**Introduction**

- A. Natural disasters have a significant impact on natural resources and there are actions we can take to lessen their effects.
- B. Natural resources themselves can help mitigate disaster.

**Body**

- A. Ecosystems
- B. Social Systems
- C. Value of ecosystems in mitigating disaster
- D. Overview of the plans stated in the 4-pagers
- E. Overview of the gaps in the plans in the 4-pagers

Bob Adamcik suggested the following format:

- A. Overview of the gaps in plans in the 4-pagers
- B. How disaster could be mitigated by putting plans in place
- C. How to create healthy ecosystems (begin with how to foster resiliency)
- D. Echo the Grand Challenges and how each impacts natural resources
- E. Discuss the tradeoffs of implementing certain actions

**II. Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m., pending availability of group members. Please RSVP to the Secretariat ([ewallace@grs-solutions.com](mailto:ewallace@grs-solutions.com)) by Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> if you can attend the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**IV. Agenda Items and Other Communications with the Subcommittee**

Please send proposed agenda items and any other items intended for distribution to the full Resource Impacts Task Group to the Secretariat, or to the RITG Chair.

**V. Contact Information RITG Leadership**

Susan Conard, Chair, 202-205-1561, [sconard@fs.fed.us](mailto:sconard@fs.fed.us)

**VI. Summary of Actions**

Action	Lead	By When
RSVP with your availability for the June 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting	Members	May 11
Review the annotated Grand Challenges Implementation Plans and cite gaps or areas to build upon in the RITG white paper	Members	June 1

