



MEETING MINUTES, 3 August 2007, 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. RESOURCE IMPACTS TASK GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

Attendees

Susan Conard (Chair) (USDA)
Bob Adamcik (FWS)
Ralph Cantral (T) (NOAA)
Nell Codner (T) (NOAA)
Ronald Huntsinger (BLM)
Ann Russell (NSF)
Carl Shapiro (T) (DOI/USGS)
Allison Kilcourse, Secretariat

I. Call to Order

II. Summary of Discussion

A. Discuss Hazard Resource Matrix

The group began by discussing the draft hazard resource matrix created by Mr. Bob Adamcik (FWS). First, they discussed the matrix length and where it would best be positioned within the white paper. It was suggested that a synthetic matrix could appear in the main body of the paper and that the appendices could be organized by hazard. Mr. Adamcik noted that this was a lot of material to cover in a 5-10 page white paper; Ms. Susan Conard (USDA) felt that it was prudent to create a longer paper that could later be reduced if necessary. Mr. Adamcik introduced the idea of creating a chart instead of a textual paper as a finished product.

Next, the group moved into a discussion on the content of the matrix. The group decided to change two column sub-headings to better fit the material: under “Remediation of Risks”, the “Technological” column will now be titled “Sciences and Technology” and the “Human Engineering” column will now be titled “Social Behavioral and Economic”. Ann Russell (NSF) suggested that a note on policy development should be added to the “Social Behavioral and Economic” column.

The group discussed whether the two matrices could be combined into one larger matrix. Ronald Huntsinger (BLM) noted the overlap in “Remediation of Risk;” Mr. Adamcik suggested that adding a point about the positive feedback loop (one leads to the other) in this column may help fuse the two matrices. Mr. Carl Shapiro (DOI/USGS) reminded the group that the white paper should illustrate the interconnectedness of three entities: natural hazards, ecosystems, and humans. This idea led to creation of a diagram to illustrate the intricate relationships between humans, hazards, and ecosystems. A copy of the draft diagram (created by Ms. Russell during the meeting) can be found on page three of these minutes. Mr. Adamcik suggested that everyone could create a diagram as part of their case study and the most pertinent examples could be included in the white paper.

Next, the discussion turned to policy’s role in the impact of disaster on natural resources. Ms. Russell felt that a *lack* of policy was largely to blame; Mr. Adamcik agreed, adding that *imprudent*

policy (i.e. allowing building on barrier islands) also leads to problems. He also stated that humans create many of our own hazards through our practices and that perhaps the white paper should discuss the financial incentives to encourage positive change. Weapons and flooding could be two relevant examples. In order to broach the topic of climate change, Ms. Russell suggested citing coastal inundation as an example, since, taken by themselves, climate change and sea level rise are not considered “disasters”. The group decided that these problems could best be included in the portion of the white paper dedicated to coastal inundation, flood, and hurricane. Ralph Cantral (NOAA) and Greer Anderson (NOAA) will work together on these three topics.

The group also discussed the message it is trying to relay to the hazards community and whether it includes the direct relationship between disasters and humans. Mr. Adamcik suggested scheduling a full length presentation to the SDR on the relationship between resources, humans, and disasters. Mr. Shapiro stated that they may need a third table about whether resources can protect against damage to other resources and damage to humans. Ms. Conard suggested one table examining the hazard-resource link and a second table examining the hazard-human link. It was decided that for the time being, the group will work with the matrices in their current form.

B. Discuss Drafts and Comments for the Resource Impacts White Paper

The group decided to postpone discussion of the contents of the drafts until the next meeting in October. Individual write-ups and matrices should be completed and circulated prior to the October meeting. Ms. Conard stated that the body would parallel the appendices without using specific hazard examples; a final, synthetic matrix would be an abstraction of the body.

Each appendix is limited to four pages (12 point font/one inch margins) per hazard with references to be added at the end. Everyone should fill out a matrix in accordance with his or her hazard; each section should be kept to 1-2 pages of 10 point font. It is important to be concise. Mr. Huntsinger suggested synthesizing the matrix information down to simple statements.

C. Discuss an Outline for the Resource Impacts White Paper

The group found the current outline created by Ms. Conard to be satisfactory.

II. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be a two-day retreat scheduled for early October at a TBD Washington DC location. Please RSVP to the Secretariat (ewallace@grs-solutions.com and cc akilcourse@grs-solutions.com) by Friday, August 17th, 2007 with your availability.

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

VI. Summary of Actions

Action	Lead	By When
RSVP with your availability for the October two-day meeting to the Secretariat (akilcourse@grs-solutions.com)	Members	August 17
Reserve a conference room for the October two-day meeting	Ronald Huntsinger	August 24
Schedule a full length presentation to the SDR on how resources can mitigate disaster	Secretariat	August 24
Create a matrix for each hazard to be included in the white paper and submit to the Secretariat	Members	September 2007
Draft an appendix (no greater than four pages) for each hazard to be included in the white paper and submit to the Secretariat	Members	September 2007
Circulate drafts of individual appendices and matrices to all members	Secretariat	September 2007

Diagram: Hazard, Human, and Ecosystem Relationship (Draft as of 3 August 2007)

