

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group, Meeting Minutes*

4 March 2003, 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM, NASA HQ Room MIC3

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

**as approved by co-chairs*

Co-Chairs: Rosalind Helz, USGS
Steve Ambrose, NASA

Attendees:

USGS

John Pallister, USGS
Rosalind Helz, USGS
Brenda Jones, USGS EDC (by phone)

NASA

Jim McGuire, NASA IPO
John LaBrecque, NASA HQ
Steve Ambrose, NASA HQ

NSF

Rick Fragaszy, NSF

USACE

Andy Bruzewicz, USACE

NOAA/NESDIS

John Periera, NOAA/NESDIS (by phone)
Nathalie Valette-Silver, NOAA/NESDIS
(by phone)
Peter Colohan, NOAA/GRS
William Pichel, NOAA/NESDIS

US Forest Service

Bill Belton

I. Call to Order

Rosalind Helz called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM and led a round of participant introductions.

II. SAR White Paper Version 3

John LaBrecque led a discussion of the latest version of the SAR white paper, circulated on 2/28/03. The group agreed the draft was good but had several comments for improvement. On format and clarity, the group suggested:

- a tight summary/purpose statement for the front of the document (one-page, detachable);
- clearer definition/simplification of technical terms;
- clearer emphasis on SAR's all weather capability;
- clearer definition of SAR as a space-based tool;
- separating the technical band discussion into a sidebar with a possible diagram.
- Including examples as sidebars

The group also agreed that the paper was a bit long, and could be shortened to be an umbrella paper that smaller papers could be developed from. On substance, the group discussed a number of points that should be emphasized in the paper:

- The need to maintain credibility on actual versus potential SAR uses, cautioning against overselling.
- The point about US need for its own SAR device should be made more clearly. The US needs the capability to target a device at will, rather than waiting for European and Canadian cooperation. It was agreed that this point should be made

positively, without implying that our foreign counterparts were being uncooperative.

- Imagery is under-utilized because in the past it has not been ordered correctly or used properly. This is due to a lack of education in the user community about how to take advantage of SAR, and as a result current commercial SAR products don't meet the requirements of the user community.

Actions:

- ALL: Forward specific/addition comments to John LaBrecque by March 11
- LaBrecque: Revise and release Version 4 of the paper by March 18.

[In the course of the discussion, John Pallister reported on a recent meeting in La Jolla of groups in the US involved in SAR data from the government and academic research community (USGS, NOAA, NASA, NSF). The meeting addressed, among other things, a common SAR data policy—how we as a community of SAR users would like to make SAR data available, how to access and archive the data, etc. The group agreed on the desirability of open access and sharing of data, and they have begun working toward building a consortium of SAR users in the US, to address data sharing and to advocate development and use of SAR. The meeting was a watershed event, as it marked the first time the SAR research community has met as a group to discuss these issues.]

III. Discussion of Possible SAR Briefing for the Senate Natural Hazard Caucus

Roz Helz and John Pallister reported on their meeting with David Applegate concerning the possible SAR briefing on the Hill. The briefing is not yet scheduled but would fall in the May-June time frame. The next step is to prepare a one-page outline of the briefing for Applegate (AGI) and Folger (AGU) to present to the caucus staffers. A general discussion ensued about what format the briefing should take, departing from the preliminary format proposed to Applegate by Pallister/Helz of two science application briefs followed by an end-user perspective. Consensus emerged around one very general brief about what SAR is, (SAR vs. InSAR, etc.) including a bit on SAR's history, with a second talk on successful science applications (mostly InSAR) and ending with a presentation of more mature applications (mostly SAR). Andy Bruzewicz suggested that the presentation mention work on the use of SAR to monitor snow pack and determine snow-water equivalents. The group then discussed possible candidates for presenting the end-user perspectives.

Actions:

- ALL: Nominate candidates to give end-user perspective, submit to Helz ASAP
- Helz/Pallister: Submit straw-man outline to group by March 11.

IV. Future Briefs to RSAWG

Helz led a discussion on presentations that might be of interest to RSAWG in the future:

- Eagle Vision II (Andy Bruzewicz provided a mini-briefing on the system)
- International Charter (hope to have this in April)

- WSSD Module 3 Activity (Steve Ambrose now chairs)

Actions:

ALL: Identify/recruit FEMA rep for RSAWG, possibly John Murray

ALL: Contact Steve Ambrose to join WSSD Module 3 committee

Bruzewicz: Explore scheduling a full brief on the Eagle Vision II system

GRS: Finalize firm presentation date to RSAWG on the Charter

V. Regular Meeting Time

At the request of the SDR Secretariat, the group began a discussion to hold regular meetings on the third week of the month beginning in April.

VI. Next Meeting

The group agreed to meet again on March 25, 2003 from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM at NASA HQ, room TBA. (This meeting may be cancelled if deemed unnecessary.)

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.