

Remote Sensing Applications Working Group, Minutes

19 June 2003, 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM, NASA HQ Room MIC5B

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

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

Attendees:

USGS

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

NOAA/NESDIS

William Pichel, NOAA/NESDIS
Mary Kate Rubin, NOAA/GRS

NASA

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

USDOT

K. Thirumalai

NSF

Clifford Astill, NSF

I. Call to Order

Rosalind Helz called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM, led a round of participant introductions, and summarized RSAWG activity since the March 25 meeting.

II. Discussion of Senate National Hazards Caucus briefing

Helz led a discussion on the SAR presentation to the Senate Natural Hazards Caucus and handed out an outline of the briefing components. We still do not have a date for the briefing; now the earliest possible date would be late July or August. The availability of Bernard Minster (the proposed closing speaker) will help determine the date of the presentation. Helz explained that the purpose of the SAR briefing is to build interest and awareness in SAR and InSAR for hazards monitoring and response. One advantage of having Minster (Scripps), as a final speaker is that he, as representative of academia, can speak to issues that government scientists cannot directly address.

The names of possible presenters was addressed briefly by the group, and Helz relayed that the list had been modified slightly from the March 25th meeting to include the following:

Introduction: Fawwaz Ulaby*, Sean Solomon, Roger Smith*
Presentation 1: Pablo Clemente-Colon*, Bill Pichel*
Presentation 2: Dan Dzurisin*, Mark Simmons, David Sandwell
Presentation 3: Bernard Minster*, Mark Simons, Ben Holt

The asterisks denote people who have been asked, and have indicated a willingness to participate, given a date that works for them. Helz reminded the group that at the March 25th meeting they had talked about asking additional

experts to attend the briefing. The following were named as potential expert attendees:

John Cunningham, NOAA IPO
John Curlander, Vexcel
Don Cline, NOAA NOHRSC, NWS
or Andy Rost, NOAA NOHRSC, NWS

In an effort to broaden the audience base and strengthen the argument for SAR application, the group also considered inviting one or two disaster management people from FEMA headquarters and/or state and local SAR users.

Helz explained that the objective of the presentation would be to emphasize the well-developed hazard applications of SAR. The group discussed various applications—monitoring volcanoes up to eruptions, watching for strain associated with earthquakes, etc. LaBrecque and Thirumalai discussed the value of SAR application for earthquakes because of the international attention that earthquakes receive. Helz noted that monitoring deformation at volcanoes is better developed. LaBrecque raised the issue of including the use of SAR for non-hazard applications, such as monitoring snow accumulation. Helz suggested that these might be included in handouts and perhaps raised during the discussion period, especially if appropriate experts were in the audience.

Actions:

- Helz: Work to obtain date for the NHC briefing, and establish list of speakers and invited experts.
- Members: let Helz and Ambrose know of their availability to work on the briefing if we get a date for later this summer.

III. Discussion of SAR White Paper Version 5

John LaBrecque began a discussion of the latest version of the SAR white paper. The group expressed concern for how to best support the paper. John requested that the group submit their best illustrations, by Wednesday, June 25, 2003. The group asked some questions about the paper:

- What type of review process would it undergo?
 - LaBrecque explained that it would be sent up through the directors of federal agencies, which ones to be determined.
- How would it be presented, as a web page or in hard copy form?
 - Steve Ambrose said that he would resolve this with the help of GRS Solutions.
- Could the paper be ready by a caucus date in August?
- Craig Dobson strongly advocated that the White Paper be available by late summer.

Actions: ALL: Send supporting SAR white paper illustrations to John LaBrecque by next Wednesday, June 25.

- LaBrecque: Seek graphic designer to support layout and design of paper.
- LaBrecque: Push for completion of a reviewable draft of the White Paper by the date of the next SDR meeting (July 10).
- Ambrose: Determine if the document will appear only as a web piece or also in a print format.

IV. Next Meeting

Neither co-chair will be in town on July 17, the nominal next meeting day. The date of the next meeting is TBD, subject to hearing of possible dates for the NHC briefing, and progress on the review of the White Paper.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.