

Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

Briefing for SDR

4/4/13

Discussion document

April 2013

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DRAFT, PRE-DECISIONAL, AND CONFIDENTIAL

Context

- In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, President Obama asked Secretaries Janet Napolitano and Shaun Donovan to develop an operational structure and common planning framework to guide long-term recovery efforts after major natural disasters, which resulted in the Natural Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)
- In response to Hurricane Sandy, the federal government has mobilized and deployed resources to support local and state efforts across New York, New Jersey, and other affected states
- President Obama has charged Secretary Donovan with chairing a federal Task Force to support state and local governments as they create a process through which to rebuild stronger, safer, and more resilient communities
- The principles and guiding vision of the Task Force flow from the NDRF. The Task Force will work within the framework to facilitate federal, state, and local officials working together with the private sector, non-profit, community, and philanthropic organizations to promote recovery in a unified and collaborative manner
- The Task Force is a non-permanent entity and will operate for approximately 180 days, with a 60 day wind down period

Contents

- **Task Force goals, scope, and framework**
- Task Force policy priorities
- Science Working Group

We are the President's Hurricane Sandy Recovery Task Force

- **We are here to coordinate the federal government's response to Sandy**

- **Role we will play:**
 - Serve as the face for the federal response
 - “Quarter-back” ideas that are innovative and deliver impact
 - Play supporting role to other agencies
 - Engage in active problem-solving when issues and bottlenecks arise on the ground and act as an “accelerant” of good ideas / important programs

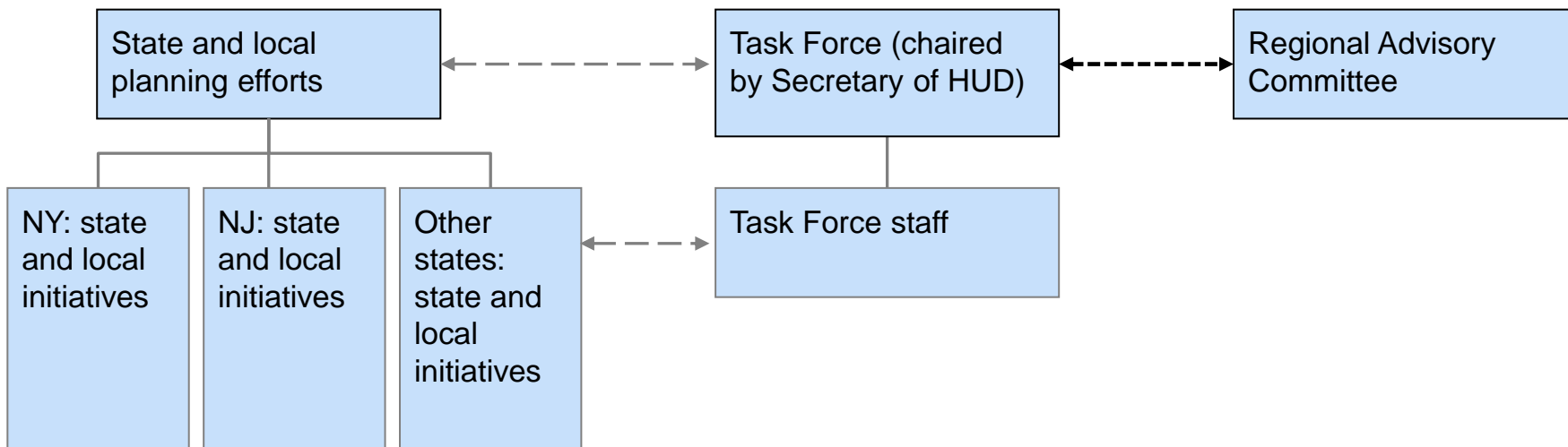
- **Concrete deliverables we will provide:**
 - Overarching strategy for all regional recovery efforts
 - Plan to track and monitor delivery of the strategy and federal funds (e.g., recovery.gov)
 - Ideas that deliver immediate impact, where possible
 - “Best practice” guide to federal recovery / Task Force design

- **How we will work.** In the course of our work, we will find opportunities to
 - Promote innovative solutions
 - Deliver impact quickly and efficiently
 - Integrate solutions across sectors and federal agencies to maximize impact

The Task Force needs to drive 6 key deliverables

- 1 Staff the TF / set up the internal management processes**
- 2 Establish process for creating strategy report (per the executive order):**
 - Plan for coordinating federal activities in response to Sandy
 - Assessment of current vulnerabilities and future risks from extreme weather events
 - Long term rebuilding plan for developing resilience against future disasters
- 3 Create and start to implement signature policy initiatives:**
 - Develop resilience/mitigation prize
 - Create infrastructure bank
 - Build housing counseling and long-term assistance programs
 - Streamlined environmental review
 - Coordinate data sharing efforts (IA and with localities)
 - Other (not exhaustive)
- 4 Provide transparency on Task Force spend**
 - Create Sandy recovery website
 - Inform Congress and taxpayers on initiatives and spend
- 5 Foster community engagement with the Task Force and recovery effort**
- 6 Define approach for disaster recovery based on lessons**
 - Codify inter-agency coordination
 - Write “best practice” Task Force set-up-guide

Relationship between local and federal structures



Role

- Engage with the federal effort in decision-making and update on local efforts

Role

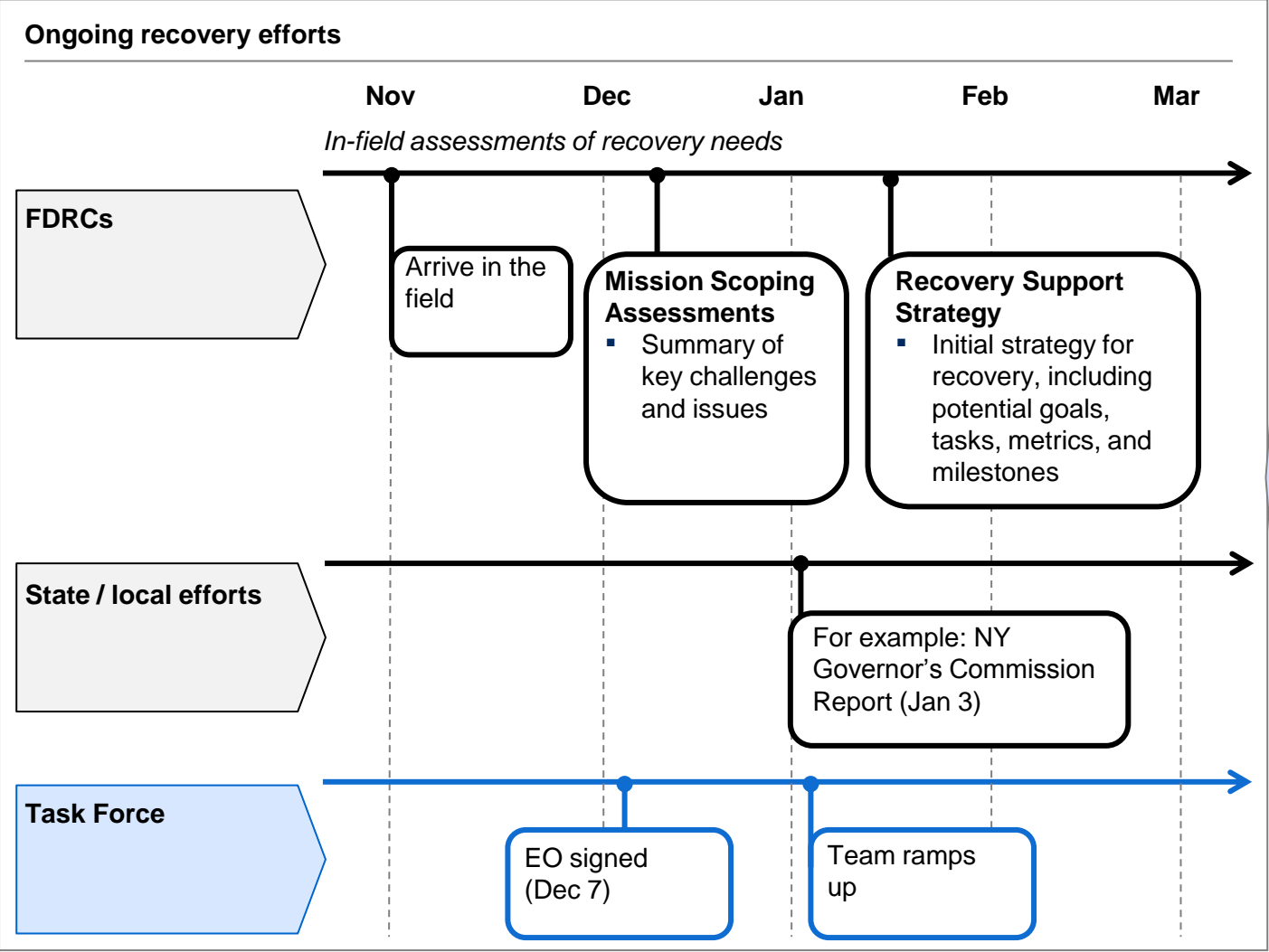
- Coordinate federal response
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement
- Coordinate flow of federal recovery funds
- Monitor progress
- Coordinate technical assistance and tools (e.g., mapping)

Role

- Provide technical / subject matter expertise to the federal effort (e.g., infrastructure)
- Evaluate proposals

Designated individuals from each of the executive departments, agencies, and offices may engage with the program office on related initiatives

The Task Force will work in harmony with federal teams already on the ground



- Task Force strategy**
- The final Task Force strategy will build on the work of the FDRC to provide a holistic approach for the government's disaster response effort
 - The Task Force will also incorporate targeted input from other sources, e.g.,
 - Agency priorities
 - Local and state government
 - Non-profits
 - Private sector entities
 - Academic institutions

















































Role of the federal government

 Supporting
  Partnering
  Leading

PRELIMINARY

Areas of focus

Early thought starters

Role	Description	Infrastructure systems	Housing	Economic	Health & social services	Natural & cultural resources	Community planning & capacity building
Convening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster stakeholder dialogue and broker agreements 						
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access to federal resources 						
Public-private partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential partners and establish partnerships 						
Technical assistance and best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share lessons learned from previous efforts Provide access to funding, tools, or collaboration for local planning and other needs 						
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support state and local planning efforts 						
Monitoring & accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish standards and track project outcomes 						
Cutting red tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support timely and effective dispersal of funds 						
Identifying future risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface and mitigate against future risks 						

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Policy development process

Where we are today

Policy exploration

- Convened issue briefings aligned with RSF areas

Policy development

- Convened designee meeting on broad policy areas followed by a meeting of TF principals
- Met with agencies on specific issues
- Met with local stakeholders on the ground
- Engaged in an intensive internal process to refine policy priorities
- Presented to Task Force chair

Policy refinement and execution

- Present overview or priority policies and form subgroups with interested agencies
- Policy leads holds briefings and conversations with subgroups to determine next steps and drive forward

NDRF provides the framework for federal response to disasters

Infrastructure systems

- Supporting infrastructure operators in rebuilding process
 - Transportation: roads, public transit, transportation hubs (e.g., seaports, airports)
 - Energy: power (generation, transmission, distribution), oil and gas, fuel delivery
 - Telecommunications: cell towers, lines
 - Water: drinking water treatment and sewage
 - Storm surge protection: barriers and other engineering projects

Housing

- Assisting with reconstruction of destroyed and damaged housing (e.g., review property / building codes)
- Developing other new accessible, permanent housing options

Economic

- Supporting and rebuilding small businesses¹ and industries (e.g., tourism, relevant facilities) damaged or affected by storm
- Developing economic opportunities that result in sustainable and economically resilient communities

Health and social services

- Restoring and rebuilding hospital systems and clinics that deliver care
- Assisting in restoration of social service networks and investing in longer-term case management to promote resilience, health, and well-being of affected individuals and communications

Natural and cultural resources

- Protecting and using environmental resources for disaster mitigation
- Preserving historical and cultural sites (e.g., Statue of Liberty, arts institutions)

Community planning and capacity-building

- Building recovery planning and management capabilities within local public sector organizations and communities for this and future disasters

¹ As defined by Small Business Administration

Note: focus areas informed by NDRF

Priority updates

Priority areas

- Housing
- Mitigation design competition
- Federal review & permitting
- Infrastructure finance
- Economic revitalization
- Resilience
- Capacity building
- ▲ Energy
- ▲ Data sharing
- ▲ Insurance
- ▲ Critical infrastructure

Questions posed to agencies

- What is missing from this list (e.g. health and social services, natural and cultural resources)?
- How do we prioritize our Team's focus and where can we draw on your agency's expertise?

- Identified recommended path forward
- ▲ Need for further define and explore

More Information

- Overview to all agencies (follows)
- Policy Lead developed background briefings (both one pagers and teleconference briefings)

Priority updates (1/3)

Policy areas	Emerging option	Task Force Policy Lead
1. Housing – To address gaps in short- and long-term housing needs for Sandy and future disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Program-in-a-box for CDBG-DR recipients▪ DHAP/rental assistance▪ Rental rehab/ accessibility units▪ Alignment of FHFA/FHA policies & procedures	Janet Golrick janet.m.golrick@hud.gov
2. Mitigation design comp – To encourage innovative approaches to disaster mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Align w/EOP on existing idea and engage external partners	Kevin Bush (temporary) kevin.j.bush@hud.gov
3. Fed. review & permitting – To ensure robust review while expediting recovery in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Incorporate high-priority projects into EO 13604 process▪ Align w/FEMA, CEQ, ACHP Unified Fed. Review process	Mark Dowd mark.k.dowd@hud.gov
4. Infrastructure finance – To pursue options that leverage dollars further and encourage investments in mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ NYS has proposed new effort in CDBG action plan▪ Need to better understand NY approach and explore technical design questions	Jacob Leibenluft jacob.d.leibenluft@hud.gov

Priority updates (2/3)

<u>Policy areas</u>	<u>Emerging option</u>	<u>Task Force Policy Lead</u>
5. Economic revitalization – To better ensure small businesses reopen and remain viable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ SBA/HUD data sharing▪ Toolkit for CDBG-DR recipients▪ CDFI index▪ Identify new ideas	Scott Davis scott.g.davis@hud.gov
6. Resilience – To address numerous calls for increased resilience in PL 113-2 & EO 13632	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop language on barriers to resilience for strategy document▪ Work w/ agencies to define resilience (flood risk)	Kevin Bush (temporary) Kevin.j.bush@hud.gov
7. Capacity building – To address community capacity gaps, and improve access to information on available programs to speed-up and enhance the recovery process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve online platform▪ Remote support to local gov't▪ Work w/RSFs to build resilience cadre	Rafaela Monchek rafaela.moncheck@fema.dhs.gov
8. Energy – To increase the resilience of the region's energy network and address resource challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve liquid fuel supply and distribution▪ Support smart grid development▪ Support hardening efforts	Josh Sawislak joshua.b.sawislak@hud.gov

Priority updates (3/3)

<u>Policy areas</u>	<u>Emerging option</u>	<u>Task Force Policy Lead</u>
5. Data sharing – To facilitate better sharing of information following a disaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop a streamlined process for data sharing▪ Proactively amending SORNs▪ Create disaster data inventory	Jacob Press jacob.d.press@hud.gov
6. Insurance – To inform on-going NFIP reform efforts with lessons learned from Sandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ TBD	Katherine Greig katherine.h.greig@hud.gov
10. Critical infrastructure – To ensure CI is rebuilt more resilient than before	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve cost-benefit analyses	Josh Sawislak joshua.b.sawislak@hud.gov

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Task Force Science Needs

1. Task Force policy development support – As the Task Force develops policy options for the policy priority areas it has identified, it will need to draw quickly on scientific expertise in order to develop its policy options as rigorously as possible.
2. Task Force Strategy Report– The Task Force Strategy Report should stand on the best available science.
3. Promote Collaboration – The Task Force seeks to promote interagency collaboration in order to maximize the effectiveness of the government’s Rebuilding investment.

Role

- 1) Respond to and/or identify important scientific information needs of decision-makers on the ground and in agencies within the Task Force effort;
- 2) Ensure that rebuilding efforts are informed by the most recent and relevant scientific advice to improve resilience and preparedness;
- 3) Ensure consistent communication about agency scientific activities relevant to the purpose and functions of the Task Force;
- 4) Provide strategic advice and input to the Task Force Strategy Report,
- 5) Provide coordination of agency scientific activities to avoid unnecessary overlap, identify opportunities for collaboration, increase the utility of scientific products, and ensure information quality standards, and
- 6) Provide efficient access to scientific information by the Task Force, state and local governments, and the public.

Science Working Group

- Intended to support other teams and will work in real-time to find practical answers to real-world problems, more like a “Rapid Response Team” than a working group.
- The working group will have the capacity to both respond to the task force’s immediate needs and also to act proactively to address emerging issues presented by recent scientific findings.
- A critical component will be trying to help bridge the gap between science and decision-making. To do this, we will ensure there are people who are good at building collaborative relationships, brainstorming to find solutions, are capable of bringing scientific knowledge from a diversity of fields to support risk based decision making, and identifying opportunities areas where Federal scientific expertise and tools can support near- and long-term rebuilding planning.
- Even in cases where there is a fair degree of confidence that all of the good ideas are on the table, having a conversation about more innovative solutions almost always leads to better results

Science Working Group

- A 21st century rebuilding strategy does require input from people who have expertise in how to integrate smart grid, green infrastructure and ecosystem services, innovative retrofit programs, climate adaptation, etc. The working group will have access to experts in every agency and across the country who can help with these topics and others.
- The team is open to working with different working groups, detailees, local interests and agencies in different ways – a lot of pathways to success! Members of the science working group have the ability to reach out to core stakeholders on an ad hoc basis for immediate feedback on high priority policy areas.
- Will draw from existing interagency bodies including but not limited to the National Science and Technology Council and its committees and subcommittees, Council on Environmental Quality Adaptation Task Force, and National Ocean Council. These bodies will continue to exist after the Task Force's work is completed. Therefore, they can serve to as long term homes for recommendations and projects that come out of the Task Force.

Organization

Key Points:

- Work group will be **inclusive** and **responsive** to Task Force needs.
- Work group will **proactively** generate ideas and information for the Task Force to consider
- Work group will draw on existing organizations (e.g. SDR, USGCRP, CEQ, ISC, etc)
- OSTP (T Dickinson) will chair
- Vice Chairs (**seeking suggestions**)
- K Werner will liaison to Task Force
- Members (**seeking suggestions** who can quickly draw on relevant expertise as needed)

Schedule

Now through early June – Engage with Task Force policy initiatives as appropriate. Working with STPI to identify best opportunities for engagement.

April through July – Task Force Strategy Report Development and Review

After July – Continue to support Task Force activities

Key Questions

1. Will need help connecting relevant expertise to Task Force strategy report and policy options. Please consider members who can expedite this effort.
2. Strategy Report Review – Need to organize a review process. How best to accomplish this?
3. Identify opportunities for Task Force report to include constructive suggestions for improvement disaster rebuilding.