

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

5 May 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., White House Conference Center Lincoln Room

Italics indicate absent members. "T" indicate members participating via teleconference.

Co-chairs

David Applegate (USGS)
Margaret Davidson (NOAA)
Jack Meszaros (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

BLM Georgette Fogle
CDC *Mollie Mahany*
DHS Mary Ellen Hynes (T)
DHS/FEMA *Roy Wright*
DHS/USCG *Robert Thomas*
DOD *Al Johnson*
DOE *Patricia Hoffman*
DOT Sheila Duwadi
EOP/OMB *Michael Clark*
EOP/OSTP Jack Meszaros
EPA Greg Sayles (T)

FERC *Marsha Palazzi*
HUD Dana Bres
NASA Craig Dobson (T)
NGA Brian Cameron
NGB *TBD*
NIH *Aubrey Miller*
NIST Steve Cauffman
NOAA *Margaret Davidson*
Laura Furgione
NPS *Marcy Rockman*
NSF *Greg Anderson*

OPHS *Estella Jones*
State Fernando Echavarria
USACE *Tony Niles*
USAID *Sezin Tokar*
USDA *TBD*
USFS Matt Rollins
Carlos Rodriguez-Franco
USGS David Applegate
USNRC *Edwin Hackett*

Other Attendees

DHS Mitch Erickson (T)
Dan Marasco
DHS/FEMA Kevin Long
DOI Jason Steinmetz
EOP/OMB Sean Porse
EPA Brendan Doyle
Keely Maxwell (T)
NASA David Green (T)
NGA Ryan Mumford

NIST Marc Levitan
NOAA John Murphy (T)
NSF David Mendonca
OPHS Tracy MacGill (T)
USACE Alex Renaud
Julie Rosati
USGS Kris Ludwig (T)
Sophia Liu

STPI Chris Clavin
Zoe Petropoulos (T)
NHC Kathleen Tierney
SDR Secretariat
Bret Schothorst
Barbara Haines Parmele

Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes
10:05 Co-chairs Report
10:30 Briefing: Natural Hazards Center Update
11:00 Presentation: National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program Update
11:30 Presentation: Implementation of Joplin Report Recommendations
11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- May Meeting Agenda
- Draft April Meeting Minutes
- Draft Progress Document on SDR Grand Challenges Heat Wave Implementation Plan

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the May meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room, and participants introduced themselves.

II. Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes

The April monthly meeting minutes draft was approved with no changes.

To start the meeting, Applegate mentioned that efforts are underway to stand up a Federal Fire Science Coordination Committee to be chartered by the Fire Executive Council – a key recommendation in the *SDR Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force Final Report* that was released this past November. The group is planning a Wednesday, June 8 kickoff meeting in the North Penthouse Room at the Main Interior Building. Please reach out to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to be connected with Jim Douglas at DOI to participate. Also on the wildfire front, the National Security Council (NSC) is planning to co-host a roundtable discussion on Wednesday, May 18 with OSTP, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Homeland Security as a follow-on to last year's White House "Fire Chiefs Roundtable on Climate Change Impacts at the Wildland-Urban Interface" event. Federal partners will discuss fire activity and perspectives relating to WUI fire experiences as well as best practices to address fire risks and enhance community resilience.

SDR Co-chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) highlighted that the NSC has also recently spun up a sub-IPC to look into extreme heat, anticipating problems for the coming summer. The effort has partnered with the NSC and FEMA's *America's PrepareAthon!* campaign to coordinate activities for the upcoming "Extreme Heat" week later in May, culminating in a webcast event on Thursday, May 26. To engage this effort with respect to the S&T perspective, SDR agencies involved in the production of the *SDR Grand Challenges Heat Wave Implementation Plan* – primarily NOAA, CDC, and EPA – were asked to review areas of progress with respect to the Plan's short-, medium-, and long-term strategic actions. Other agencies that wish to provide input to the document and clearance should do so by Friday, May 13 to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com). SDR leadership would specifically like to flag Grand Challenges 4 and 5 and the last bullet in Grand Challenge 6 – please let the SDR Secretariat know if you have any other contributions to the four bullets that are currently listed as "N/A" in advance of the deadline.

Meszaros stated that on Tuesday, May 10, NSC, OSTP, CEQ, OMB, and the National Economic Council will host a White House Conference on Resilient Building Codes to discuss the critical role of building codes in furthering community resilience, explore the economic benefits of resilient design, and consider actions that the Federal government and the private sector can take to advance resilience in the built environment. This event will be held in coordination with the National Institute of Building Sciences and will coincide with National Building Safety Month. More information on National Building Safety Month can be found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/04/29/presidential-proclamation-national-building-safety-month-2016>.

Meszaros also mentioned that the SDR National Preparedness S&T (NPST) Task Force is well underway with regards to completing their S&T prioritization and gap assessments within the five PPD-8 mission areas. Hazard review teams, OSTP, and STPI are currently working toward developing a descriptive set of cross-cutting themes to highlight in the task force final report. STPI reached out to the team leads the week of May 2 to provide additional input and instructions on content and organization of each team's chapter in the strategic report, which will be developed over the course of the next few months.

Meszaros added that a separate NPST Task Force sub-group on post-event S&T has moved forward with convening its initial interagency discussion to capture short- and long-term S&T capabilities, lessons learned, and effective mechanisms for collaboration as the sub-group considers ways to improve the coordination, access, and visibility of the S&T resources being brought to bear during disaster operations. It is initially focused on the topic area of “Informing the Disaster” (i.e., S&T reachback during response and recovery). The sub-group’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 23. Also of note, the NPST is engaged in a collaborative effort with FEMA and the NSC to incorporate S&T language into the recent update of the Federal Interagency Operational Plans (FIOPs). As part of this activity, the NPST plans to lead a writing team to draft a broader “S&T Annex” document for the FIOPs.

III. Briefing: Natural Hazards Center Update

Applegate introduced Kathleen Tierney from the University of Colorado Boulder, who briefed SDR members on the university's Natural Hazards Center, which recently celebrated its 40th year. According to Tierney, the mission of the Center is to advance and communicate knowledge on hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Using an all-hazards and interdisciplinary framework, the Center fosters information sharing and integration of activities among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from around the world, supports and conducts research, and provides educational opportunities for the next generation of hazards scholars and professionals.

Tierney noted that the Natural Hazards Center also facilitates an annual workshop every July in Broomfield, Colorado, with the primary goals to: 1) strengthen links among the nation’s research, policy, and applications communities; and 2) facilitate discussions among participants that address topics of current and ongoing interest and recent extreme events. This year’s workshop will be held July 10-13, 2016. As a side note, the SDR will hold a listening session at the annual workshop focused on discussing the targets and indicators of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* with non-Federal stakeholders on Sunday, July 10 in conjunction with its role as the U.S. National Platform for the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Tierney added that the Center also issues small grants enabling social and behavioral scientists to travel to disaster-stricken areas immediately after impact in order to gather perishable data. There are currently 253 quick response reports that were generated from such grants available online at: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/qr/qr.html>. In the questions following Tierney’s briefing, Fernando Echavarría (State) suggested that the Natural Hazards Center link up with the activities of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation’s Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) in order to play a constructive role in enabling the Asia-Pacific region to better prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters by helping to reduce the risk of disasters and building community resilience. Brendan Doyle (EPA) also recommended the group cultivate a connection to experts focused on the area of ecological services and related damages sustained during disasters.

Agencies interested in supporting this important institution’s operations with funding were asked to please reach out to David Mendonca at NSF (mendonca@nsf.gov) by Friday, May 27 to coordinate contributions. Those interested in participating in a Funders’ Panel at this year’s Natural Hazards Center Annual Workshop were also asked to contact Mendonca. More information on the Natural Hazards Center can also be found by visiting: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/>.

IV. Presentation: National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program Update

Applegate introduced Marc Levitan, Acting Director of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) in the Materials and Structural Systems Division at NIST, who gave an excellent presentation on the status of the NWIRP. NIST took over the role of lead agency for the NWIRP from OSTP when H.R. 23, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015, became Public Law 114-52 last year.

According to Levitan, the NWIRP was established in 2004 as a coordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed at achieving major measurable reductions in losses of life and property from windstorms through the understanding, assessment, and reduction of their impacts.

Key program components include: research to improve knowledge of and data collection on the impact of severe wind on buildings, structures, and infrastructure; development of mechanisms for collecting and inventorying information on the performance of buildings, structures, and infrastructure in windstorms and improved collection of pertinent information from sources, including the design and construction industry, insurance companies, and building officials; R&D and technology transfer to improve loss estimation and risk assessment systems; and R&D and technology transfer to improve simulation and computational modeling of windstorm impacts.

Additional focus areas are: development of improved outreach and implementation mechanisms to translate existing information and research findings into cost-effective and affordable practices for design and construction professionals, and State and local officials; development of cost-effective and affordable windstorm-resistant systems, structures, and materials for use in new construction and retrofit of existing construction; and outreach and information dissemination related to cost-effective and affordable construction techniques, loss estimation and risk assessment methodologies, and other pertinent information regarding windstorm phenomena to Federal, State, and local officials, the construction industry, and the general public.

Levitan highlighted that some current and upcoming activities of the group entail:

- 1) Standing up an Interagency Coordinating Committee to oversee planning of the program and drafting an annual coordinated budget;
- 2) Drafting a Strategic Plan that outlines short-, mid-, and long-term research goals and the objectives to achieve those goals;
- 3) Activating a National Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction comprised of at least 7 and no more than 15 non-Federal members who are qualified to offer assessments and recommendations on trends and developments in the natural, engineering, and social sciences and practices of windstorm impact mitigation; and
- 4) Coordinating Federal post-windstorm investigations to the extent practicable.

Levitan added that key agencies currently participating in the group include NIST, FEMA, HUD, NOAA, NSF, OSTP, and the Federal Highway Administration. Several agencies at the meeting – including NASA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – expressed interest in becoming involved with NWIRP activities. Please contact Levitan (marc.levitan@nist.gov) if additional SDR agencies would like to be linked up to the NWIRP or added to its email distribution list for workshops, seminars, etc. Visit <http://www.nist.gov/el/nwirp/> for more information.

V. Presentation: Implementation of Joplin Report Recommendations

Levitan also provided a presentation on the implementation of recommendations from NIST's Joplin tornado investigation report (http://www.nist.gov/manuscript-publication-search.cfm?pub_id=915628), which was the first study to include storm characteristics, building performance, emergency communication, and human behavior and comprehensively assess the impact of each on injury or death. The report included 47 findings and 16 recommendations for improving tornado hazard characterization, how buildings and shelters are designed and constructed in tornado-prone regions, and emergency communications that warn of threats from tornadoes.

Levitan described implementation actions for several of the report's recommendations. The first was that nationally accepted performance-based standards for the tornado-resistant design of buildings and infrastructure be developed in model codes and adopted in local regulations to ensure the resiliency of communities to tornado hazards. The report also recommends that new damage indicators and wind speed estimation methodologies be developed for the Enhanced Fujita tornado intensity scale to better distinguish between the most intense tornado events.

Levitan underscored that information gathered and generated from tornado events such as the Joplin tornado should be stored in publicly available and easily accessible databases to aid in the improvement of tornado hazard characterization. He also highlighted that tornado hazard maps for use in the engineering design of buildings and infrastructure be developed considering spatially-based estimates of the tornado hazard instead of point-based estimates. Additionally, the report recommends the development and implementation of uniform national guidelines that enable communities to create safe and effective public sheltering strategies. Please reach out to Levitan (marc.levitan@nist.gov) with any questions on the Joplin tornado investigation report recommendations.

VI. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR May meeting at 12:01 p.m. and noted that the group's next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2 in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room. Items on the June meeting agenda include a briefing from NOAA on the 2016 hurricane season outlook and a presentation from the National Academy of Sciences on its recently released *Attribution of Extreme Weather Events in the Context of Climate Change* report (<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/21852/attribution-of-extreme-weather-events-in-the-context-of-climate-change>).

VII. SDR 2016 Meeting Calendar

SDR meetings in 2016 will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the dates listed below in the Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center unless otherwise noted:

2016

- ✓ Thursday, January 7*
- ✓ Thursday, February 4
- ✓ Thursday, March 3
- ✓ Thursday, April 7
- ✓ Thursday, May 5
- ✓ Thursday, June 2
- ✓ Thursday, July 7
- ✓ Thursday, August 4**
- ✓ Thursday, September 8***
- ✓ Thursday, October 6
- ✓ Thursday, November 3
- ✓ Thursday, December 1

* January meeting will be held in Room 430ABC of the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB).

** August meeting subject to cancellation.

*** September meeting shifted to the second Thursday of the month to avoid proximity to the Labor Day Federal holiday.

VIII. Agenda Items and Other Communications with the Subcommittee

Please send proposed agenda items and any other items intended for distribution to the full Subcommittee to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).

IX. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

David Applegate	Co-chair	703-648-6600	applegate@usgs.gov
Margaret Davidson	Co-chair	843-740-1220	margaret.davidson@noaa.gov
Jack Meszaros	Co-chair	202-456-6020	Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov

Executive Secretariat

Bret Schothorst	703-388-0312	bret.schothorst@mantech.com
Barbara Haines-Parmele	703-388-0309	barbara.haines-parmele@mantech.com

X. Summary of May Actions

Action	Lead	By When
The next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2 in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room.	SDR Members	For Information
Contact the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to provide input and clearance to the draft document looking at progress on the short-, medium-, and long-term strategic actions of the SDR Grand Challenges <i>Heat Wave Implementation Plan</i> .	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Friday, May 13
Email David Mendonca at NSF (mendonca@nsf.gov) to coordinate a funding contribution to support the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. Those interested in participating in a Funders' Panel at this year's Natural Hazards Center Annual Workshop should also contact Mendonca.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Friday, May 27
Reach out to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to be connected with Jim Douglas at DOI to participate in the Federal Fire Science Coordination Committee.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Contact Marc Levitan with NIST (marc.levitan@nist.gov) to have your agency linked into the activities of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) or with questions on the NIST Joplin tornado investigation report recommendations.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Send Dave Applegate an email (applegate@usgs.gov) if you are interested in contributing to the work of the SDR and would like additional documentation or an agency-specific letter.	SDR Members	Standing
Email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to suggest external DRR stakeholder groups to invite to present at quarterly SDR meetings on behalf of the U.S. National Platform for UNISDR.	SDR Members	Standing
Submit additional agency suggestions of SDR plans and priorities for consideration in 2016 to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).	SDR Members	Standing