

Meeting Minutes – Resilient Neighbors Network
11:00 am ET Friday, January 19, 2018

Resilient Neighbors Network (RNN) is a network of professionals representing communities actively working toward adaptation and resilience from natural hazards.

RNN Mission

To increase resilience in existing and developing communities at the grass roots level by documenting and actively sharing best practices, through education, peer to peer collaboration and mentoring.

RNN Vision

RNN will be a source for a compilation of community driven hazard resilience best practices that can serve as a resource to people & communities before, during and after a disaster. RNN will also actively bring ground truth and grassroots enlightenment to policy makers, researchers, regulators, and journalists.

AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2018:

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Review of Action Items
4. RNN Community Membership – Rebecca Joyce Memorandum
5. Results of NHMA Board Elections
6. External Stakeholders Workgroup – Tom Hughes
7. Discussion of FEMA Risk Management Division Strategy
8. Pilot of the RNN/Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum in Harrisburg, PA & Salt Lake City, UT
 - Next Steps
9. NHMA DRR Curriculum & Workshop Status:
 - Where are we with respect to the RNN and DRR Curriculum’s further rollout
 - Does the RNN Curriculum fit the need of External Stakeholders coupled with existing FEMA courses, EPA, & NOAA courses?
 - How we can adjust our Curriculum to better suit the need?
 - Development of NHMA comments on the newly published National Hazard Mitigation Investment Strategy;
 - Next steps for the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum;
 - How to take advantage of the latest update from the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council on the cost/benefit of Hazard Mitigation.
10. NHMA and RNN Community Meeting: Natural Hazards Workshop - July 9-12, 2018?
11. Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina
12. Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on the many things happening at FEMA
13. Status of Island Press Interest, ABA-Houston Success Story
14. Comments/Issues/Good News
15. Adjourn

Minutes for Meeting of Friday, December 22, 2017:

11:00 am ET - CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL:

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: **Ed Thomas** (NHMA Board), **Joe Rossi** (Marshfield Coastal Coalition), **Donna Boyce** (Solix, Inc.), **Roger Faris** (Seattle, WA), **Mary Kell** (City of Tulsa), **Tom Hughes** (NHMA Board Member), **Bill Ramsey** (Muncy Borough, PA), **Ned Swanberg** (State of Vermont), **Kim Thiele** (Administrative Manager, NHMA)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ed Thomas opened the floor for discussion on the Minutes. There being no comments,

A Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ned Swanberg;
The Motion was seconded by Donna Boyce;
There being no discussion, it was
VOTED, the Minutes were approved.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS:

1. RNN Community to submit any info with regard to best practice stories to Roger Faris at rogerfaris@hotmail.com. Please send materials about anything that the RNN community is proud that they accomplished along with a photo if you have it.
2. RNN members to please provide your list of five main topics/navigation threads for the peer-to-peer sharing tool per request of Janice Roper-Graham. She has received only one so far.
3. RNN members to please let Ed Thomas know if you want to be part of NHMA's response to Keith Porter on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council's draft of the Cost Benefits of Hazard Mitigation. The draft emphasizes zoning and planning.
4. Tom Hughes to send link for Ideascale website. - **DONE**
5. RNN Communities to give Tom Hughes feedback on External Stakeholder WorkGroup initiatives. – **Comments due to Tom Hughes by February 6, 2018. – In process**
6. RNN presentations of the DRR Curriculum to incorporate audience participation going forward, as this has proven very successful and generates tremendous interest and enthusiasm. **(Ongoing)**
7. Ed Thomas to connect with Bill Ramsey with regard to P-1000 webinars for schools; Ed Thomas to loop Bill Ramsey into his development of this module going forward. **(Ongoing)**
8. Ed Thomas to coordinate with Joe Rossi and Traci Sears about the possibility of RNN meeting in Montana in July. **(Ongoing)**
9. RNN members are encouraged to serve on the NHMA Awards Committee. Janice Roper-Graham to Chair and develop this Committee. **(Ongoing)**
10. Roger Faris to connect with Barb Miller and discuss a work-around for compiling the Harper's Ferry best practices story. **(Ongoing)**
11. Barb Miller to connect with Tom Hughes to get him in touch with some of the folks who were involved in West Virginia. **(Ongoing)** (Tom Hughes to follow up with Barb Miller.)
12. Tom Hughes to get an updated list of different trainings that the External Stakeholder Group has made out to everyone. **(In process) has full list – will send out directly to everyone.**
13. Tom Hughes to fill in the chinks and the gaps in the list of training programs with the DRR Curriculum materials and get this to Ed Thomas by the time they have their meeting in Utah. **(DONE)**

14. Roger Faris to work with Jim Mullen and Barb Miller to research alternate best practice stories that involved the RNN. **(Ongoing)**
15. Roger Ferris to stay in touch with Vince Brown and Janice Roper-Graham about how to put together a searchable best practices database that is. **(Ongoing)**
16. RNN members to go to <http://nhma.info/resources/best-practices/> and choose an RNN logo to use for these; please let him know at Rogerfaris@hotmail.com and send him more materials!
17. Janice Roper-Graham to discuss RNN website in best practices follow up call. – **DONE**
18. Kim Thiele to distribute Minutes from best practices follow up calls. **(In process)**
19. Steve Allen to talk to and work with Barb Miller about any good examples she knows about of how communities have recovered from disasters when not eligible for FEMA declaration, and get that info over to Roger Faris so he can write it up for best practices. **(Ongoing)**
20. Steve Allen also to follow up with/work with Barb Miller about contacting the person still in Harpers Ferry who might remember what happened and see if they are willing or able to talk about it with Roger Faris for the purpose of writing up a generic best practice example showing how the RNN expertise was particularly helpful, and get the contact information to Roger Faris. **(Ongoing)**
21. Kim Thiele to distribute copy of two-pager from Tom Hughes on how communities have recovered from disasters when not eligible for FEMA declaration — **(Checking on status of this)**
22. RNN members to offer input on the Rebecca Joyce memorandum so we can better describe RNN to potential new communities, as well as circulate it to interested persons such as Matt Campbell and Vincent Brown of FEMA. - **(Ongoing)** *Please send these to Kim Thiele and Ed Thomas.*
23. RNN members to decide what they want to say about themselves and share this within NHMA and RNN and make sure it goes out to Matt Campbell at FEMA and other folks. **(Ongoing)**
24. Janice Roper-Graham to come up with a couple of logo options for the RNN to consider and present at the next meeting. [Ed noted that we do not seek to establish RNN as a separate group apart from NHMA, but rather integrate NHMA into the work of all resilient communities and vice versa] **(Ongoing)**
25. Janice Roper-Graham to work with Kim Thiele to help smooth out and speed up the newsletter formatting to try make it more cost effective. - **(Ongoing)**
26. Janice Roper-Graham to work with her associate, Jordan Asulin, to do social media as we can come up with little articles and the like. **(Ongoing)**
27. All RNN Community Members to think about who else they would like to invite to become an RNN community member, as well as who they think could possibly be a Committee Chair or could be on the NHMA Board. - **(Ongoing)**
28. Rebecca Joyce to forward contact information to Ed Thomas for the Association of Play Therapy, a national association, as a good connection for possible help in producing copies of the Children's Guide. – **(In process)**
29. Ed Thomas to ask FEMA to have someone join us and go through the FEMA Risk Management Division Strategy. **(Ongoing)**

4. RNN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP – REBECCA JOYCE MEMORANDUM

Rebecca Joyce stepping down from the Board and from the RNN Communities due to a personal situation. She hopes to be back once these are resolved. Must figure out how we can get the thoughts of the RNN Communities to the Board and to the Curriculum.

5. RNN COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT WITH NHMA NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION

Janice Roper-Graham - Secretary
Taran Roddy - Fundraising
Ponmile Olonilua – Volunteer Coordination
Tom Hughes – Vice President
Ed Thomas – continuing as President for year of transition
Need representative from the RNN on the Board.

6. PENNSYLVANIA BUY OUT GUIDE

Multi-Hazard Mitigation Counsel has completed their draft of the Cost Benefits of Hazard Mitigation emphasizing zoning and planning. We have been invited by Keith Porter to participate with comments on that. Please let Ed Thomas know if you want to be part of NHMA's response.

7. EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKGROUP – TOM HUGHES

Tom Hughes to send out materials on this out to everyone.

8. DISCUSSION OF FEMA RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION STRATEGY

RNN will continue to work on providing comments on this and we want to cross-link these with APA. John Wiener, Ed Thomas, Shannon Burke and others to work on this – volunteers are welcomed.

9. PILOT OF THE RNN/DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CURRICULUM IN HARRISBURG, PA & SALT LAKE CITY, UT

- **Next Steps: Deployment to Florida, Montana and partially to Utah**
- **Possible major series of peer-to-peer sessions in Montana including an RNN Meeting next July**

Per request of Janice Roper-Graham, please provide your list of five main topics/navigation threads for the peer-to-peer sharing tool. She has received only one so far.

10. NHMA DRR CURRICULUM & WORKSHOP STATUS:

- **Where are we with respect to the RNN and DRR Curriculum's further rollout**

Will focus more on Wildfire and flood following wildfire going forward – Gina Wightman to work on this.

- **Does the RNN Curriculum fit the need of External Stakeholders coupled with existing FEMA courses, EPA, & NOAA courses?**

Will continue linking the Curriculum with other courses that are out there.

- **How we can adjust our Curriculum to better suit the need?**

As a follow on to Harrisburg event several months ago, we did a combined presentation on flood insurance/flood plain management/legal aspects last week in Salt Lake City and it went well. State of Montana is talking about bringing us back out in July; RNN to think about possibly doing the RNN Annual Meeting here as well. Discussing ways to make the Curriculum entirely user friendly for post-disaster work.

11. NHMA AND RNN COMMUNITY MEETING: NATURAL HAZARDS WORKSHOP - July 9-12, 2017?

Leading venues now are the Natural Hazards Workshop in Colorado, which looks much more practitioner oriented thanks to the work of Lori Peek, or to hold it in Montana as we get more information about what would be the options they'd like to have from Joe Rossie and Traci Sears.

12. STATUS OF PRACTICAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Ongoing; we continue to help with the DRR Curriculum and encourage the Corps and the Silver Jackets to participate with us in the NHMA.

13. COMMENTS FROM VINCENT BROWN OF FEMA ON THE MANY THINGS HAPPENING AT FEMA

Vince Brown to report on this at next opportunity.

14. STATUS OF ISLAND PRESS INTEREST, ABA-HOUSTON SUCCESS STORY

ABA / Houston success story being worked on. Roger Faris anxious for details on this as soon as possible so we can beat others to the punch in reporting on it. FEMA would like to get a video crew down there. How about we include Ann Patton best practice stories as a feature in our Newsletters. Perhaps a short bio of her as intro to these stories. Roger Faris to work some wording up.

15. COMMENTS/ISSUES/GOOD NEWS

16. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned 11:48 a.m.
