

July 30, 2017

To: RNN Community Member Representatives

From: Rebecca Joyce, Central Shenandoah PDC - RNN Member

Re: Interim Membership Memorandum

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After discussion and input by the current membership of NHMA's Resilient Neighbors Network (RNN), the following is a list of activities that will be incorporated into the responsibilities of and benefits for existing and incoming members of the RNN. The first item listed below will be given top priority for implementation while the other items listed will happen simultaneously and as volunteer resources permit.

1. Statement of Participation: A document in the format of a checklist will be created that individual RNN representatives would sign. By signing, it RNN community member representatives would not obligate their communities to anything and it would not be required to be adopted by a Town/City Council or Board of Supervisors. It would be an informal document that would express an RNN community's individual representative's commitment to participate in RNN. Individuals could check off RNN activities where they would be willing to participate or assist such as the monthly calls, posting things on social media, attending a yearly in-person meeting, helping with the Disaster-Risk Reduction Curriculum, helping with the update of the Roadmap to Resilience (formerly the Patchwork Quilt) document, giving presentations, writing articles, etc. This would allow the RNN to have information about the social capital it would have available by its membership to undertake disaster risk-reduction activities.
2. Development of the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Program: During the RNN retreat in July 2016, RNN members said they would like to create a program to be able to offer peer-to-peer assistance to other communities during, in the aftermath, or as a community recovered from an emergency or disaster caused by a natural hazard by providing one-on-one community mentoring and technical assistance that could include emails, phone calls, visits to the community in crisis, and connection with experts who are members of NHMA. Development of a framework for the activities of this program will begin in 2017.
3. New RNN Communities Mentoring Program: As new communities become RNN members, they will be assigned an existing RNN community as a mentor to orient them to the RNN program and be a contact for them as they become a part of the program and may have questions or require additional information. This would be an informal, unstructured mentoring relationship where the mentor and the person being mentored could contact each other when needed. This activity will begin with the next new community to join the Network.

4. Training/Webinars for RNN Members: Several times a year, as part of our monthly calls, we will have a training/webinar etc. on a topic that would be of interest to the group. Having regular educational opportunities specially geared towards RNN members is a benefit of the Resilient Neighbors Network. A list of speakers will be compiled to be contacted for future training. Any member of the RNN can suggest either a topic or a speaker at any time they feel there is information that would be beneficial for the group.