

## Meeting Minutes – Resilient Neighbors Network

11:00 am ET Friday, November 17, 2017

*Rescheduled to Thursday, November 30, 2017*

**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.

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### **AGENDA:**

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Review of Action Items
4. RNN Community Membership – Rebecca Joyce Memorandum
5. RNN Communities involvement with NHMA Nominating Committee and Election
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: Deployment to Florida, Montana and partially to Utah
  - Possible major series of peer-to-peer sessions in Montana including an RNN Meeting next July
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 can we adjust our Curriculum to better suit the need?
10. NHMA and RNN Community Meeting: Natural Hazards Workshop - July 9-12, 2017?
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

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

#### **1. ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Tracee McKenna (Western Arkansas); Traci Sears (State of Montana); Mary Kell (City of Tulsa); Steve Allen (Jefferson County); Bill Ramsey (Muncy Borough, PA); Rebecca Joyce (Shenandoah Valley Region, VA); Tom Hughes (NHMA Board Member); Ed Thomas (NHMA Board Member); Alessandra Jerolleman (NHMA Board Member); Janice Roper-Graham (Outreach Process Partners, MD); Joe Rossi (Marshfield Coastal Coalition)

## 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 Rebecca Joyce;  
**The Motion was seconded** by Ed Thomas;  
There being no discussion, it was  
**VOTED, the Minutes were approved.**

## 3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS:

1. Tom Hughes to send link for Ideascale website out to everyone. **(In process)** RNN Communities to give Tom Hughes feedback on External Stakeholder WorkGroup initiatives. **(In process)**
2. RNN presentations of the DRR Curriculum to incorporate audience participation going forward, as this has proven very successful and generates tremendous interest and enthusiasm. – **Item 8**
3. RNN Community to think about where it might be able to hold its annual meeting this year that would be really useful to everyone involved and make recommendations to Ed Thomas. – **Item 8**
4. 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)**
5. Ed Thomas to coordinate with Joe Rossi about the possibility of meeting in Montana in July. **(In process)**
6. Janice Roper-Graham to Chair the NHMA Awards Committee and the RNN Community is encouraged to serve on and develop this Committee. **(Ongoing)**
7. Roger Faris to connect with Barb Miller and discuss a work-around for compiling the Harper's Ferry best practices story. **(in process)**
8. Barb Miller to connect with Tom Hughes to get him in touch with some of the folks who were involved in West Virginia. **(In process)** (Tom Hughes to follow up with Barb Miller.)
9. Tom Hughes to get a of list of different trainings that the External Stakeholder Group has made over to Barb Miller, so she can add some things on to it. **(In process)** (Tom Hughes to follow up with Barb Miller)
10. 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. **(In process)**
11. Roger Faris to work with Jim Mullen and Barb Miller to research alternate best practice stories that involved the RNN. **(In process)**
12. Roger Ferris to stay in touch with Vince Brown and Janice Roper-Graham about how to put together a best practices database that is searchable. **(Ongoing)**
13. 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. **(In process)**
14. 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. **(In process)**

15. RNN Communities to review and 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)**
16. RNN Community 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. **(in process)**
17. NHMA Admin to support Rebecca Joyce in setting up monthly RNN outreach calls. **(in process)**
18. Ed Thomas and Rebecca Joyce to continue to work with NHMA's webmaster to update the website. **(in process)**
19. Rebecca Joyce to send NHMA webmaster an email sometime this weekend and copy Ed Thomas and NHMA Admin. **(in process)**
20. 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] **(in process)**
21. Janice Roper-Graham to work with NHMA Admin to help smooth out and speed up the newsletter formatting to try make it more cost effective. - **(In process)**
22. 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)**
23. All RNN Community Members to think about volunteering for the Nominating Committee. Also, RNN Community members to think about who else they would like to invite to become an RNN community member, and who else they think could possibly be a committee chair, or could be on the NHMA Board. - **(Ongoing)**
24. 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)**
25. Ed Thomas to ask FEMA to have someone join us and go through the FEMA Risk Management Division Strategy. **(In process)**

#### **4. RNN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP – REBECCA JOYCE MEMORANDUM**

Progress on the RNN Community Membership Memorandum was discussed. This to continue as an Action Item and an item on the Agenda. Draft memo sent out; waiting for comments. Important for RNN to decide what they want to get out of it.

#### **5. RNN COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT WITH NHMA NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION**

RNN Community members are encouraged to make recommendations to the Nominating Committee and to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Janich Roper-Graham to Chair the NHMA Awards Committee and the RNN Community is encouraged to serve on and develop this Committee as well. Rebecca Joyce suggested that retirements may be a good Awards focus and offered to work on it. This question was referred to Janice Roper-Graham who agreed it was a good idea and suggested a separate call to discuss it.

Tom Hughes to reach out to the Tribal members of the ESWG to invite them to join the RNN. Members of the Lowland Center are also very welcome to join the RNN and we want to reach out to them.

## 6. EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKGROUP – TOM HUGHES

Tom Hughes reported on the External Stakeholder Workgroup and described their priorities. Tom will send link for Ideascale website out to everyone. RNN Communities are asked to give him feedback.

## 7. DISCUSSION OF FEMA RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION STRATEGY

This was sent out to everyone already. Very important that we all have an understanding of their strategy. Ed Thomas will ask FEMA to have someone joins us and go through the FEMA Risk Management Division Strategy with us.

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

Pilot in Harrisburg was discussed and the results of taking this to Salt Lake City, Utah.

### - **Next Steps: Deployment to Florida, Montana and partially to Utah**

We have just been asked to deploy the curriculum in Florida. This will be coming up in January; anyone interested in speaking/presenting please let Ed Thomas know.

### - **Possible major series of peer-to-peer sessions in Montana including an RNN Meeting next July**

Traci Sears working with Ed Thomas to present Modules in Montana; want to deploy the new Wild Fire Module there and do some peer-to-peer networking and make this the locus for the RNN Annual Meeting.

Joe Rossi suggested the RNN consider the Flood Conference in Montana as a venue for the Curriculum in July 2018. Ed Thomas to coordinate with Joe Rossi about the possibility of meeting in Montana in July. Another possibility is Texas; ideas from the group are invited.

## 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?**

NHMA has put out an RFP and are working with Pierce Community College to turn the Curriculum into a college level credentialed course. Also hope to get another RFP out for DRR Curriculum development.

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

An alternative to the going to Montana in July is attending the Natural Hazards Workshop in Colorado – the RNN Community to make a decision about where to meet.

## 11. STATUS OF PRACTICAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Ed continues to work with David Vaughn to launch this; he will keep everyone informed as it moves along.

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

Vincent Brown was not present on the call. Will wait to hear from him on the many things happening at FEMA.

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

Allen Greenberg success story in Houston was shared and how the use of extra freeboard preserved a large development and was implemented after hearing what we had to say. More to come on that and developing it into a major success story with Island Press.

## 13. COMMENTS/ISSUES/GOOD NEWS

RNN Community to get back to us on where the group wants to meet next year.

## 14. ADJOURN

**A Motion to adjourn** was made by Rebecca Joyce;  
**The Motion was seconded** by Mary Kell;  
There being no discussion, it was  
**VOTED, the Meeting adjourned.**

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Call ended 12:09 pm.