



Resilient Neighbors Network

Minutes of RNN Community Meeting of
Friday, March 16, 2018 @ 11:00 am ET

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 *UPCOMING* MEETING OF *April 20, 2018*:

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes (February and March)
3. Review of Action Items
4. NHMA Communications Plan
5. **Veronica Criscitiello (Wightman & Associates) Discuss and Obtain Input on Post-Disaster Risk Reduction Materials.**
6. External Stakeholders Workgroup – Tom Hughes
7. Rebecca Joyce’s Membership Memorandum
8. Further Roll Out of RNN/Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum: Hiring a Contractor; Further Presentations in Colorado, South Carolina and Montana
9. NHMA DRR Curriculum & Workshop Status:
 - Examining how to further improve fit of the RNN Curriculum to the needs of External Stakeholders; coupling better with existing courses: including FEMA, EPA, NOAA, NGO & private market courses?
 - RNN Volunteers 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. **Discussion of an RNN meeting in Montana**
11. NHMA and RNN Community Meeting: Natural Hazards Workshop - July 9-12, 2018?
12. Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina
13. Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on the many things happening at FEMA
14. Status of Island Press Interest, ABA-Houston Success Story
15. Comments/Issues/Good News
16. Adjourn

Minutes for Meeting of Friday, March 16, 2018:

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

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: **Ed Thomas** (NHMA Board Member), **Jim Murphy** (NHMA Board Member), **Bill Ramsey** (Muncy Borough, PA), **Vincent Brown** (FEMA), **Rachel Jacobson** (American Society of Adaptation Professionals), **Barb Miller** (Jefferson County, WV), **Ned Swanberg** (State of Vermont), **Daya Dayananda** (formerly of Pasadena, TX); **Donna Boyce** (NHMA Board Member),

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Not addressed.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Written updates of the Action Items will be requested. – **DONE**

4. NHMA COMMUNICATIONS PLAN - Not addressed.

5. DISCUSSION OF PARTICIPATION OF AN RNN COMMUNITY IN THE RESILIENCE DIALOGUES OF JUNE 2018 - RACHEL JACOBSON (ASAP); need to identify participating community by March 23, 2018

This year the Resilience Dialogues will be serving 10 additional communities in two rounds to take place in June. They seek strong and committed community leaders and hope the RNN may be able to step in as a network of vetted climate subject matter experts. The program requires two five-day sessions, online, at each participant's own time and pace. The goal is to help communities wade through all the programs and materials that are available. Anyone interested is invited to sign up via the webinar link previously sent out in the mail.

6. EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKGROUP - TOM HUGHES

Tom Hughes will be asked to draft up a quick explanation of the work group for the Newsletter and social media. - **DONE**

7. DISCUSSION OF NHMA COMMENTS ON FEMA RISK MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT STRATEGY

NHMA's comments have been submitted and posted to the website; we want to incorporate them into the DRR Curriculum.

8. NHMA DRR CURRICULUM & WORKSHOP STATUS:

DRR CURRICULUM – we have hired a contractor – Gina Wightman (our previous contractor) assists us again in further Curriculum rollout.

- Gina Wightman to let Vincent Brown know when and where we have conferences so he can communicate this up through the various organizations at FEMA. (This gives evidence that the Grant is working.)
- Make sure we are meeting the needs of the RNN Communities and including any private courses and relevant materials that are available;
- Include a simple presentation of concepts from the Patchwork Quilt materials, designed for post disaster use, and good examples of best practices;
- Connect with/review Jim Schwab materials to make sure we're not replicating best practice/success stories resource efforts;
- Have RNN volunteers presenting the DRR Curriculum;

- Volunteers continue to be needed for development of Modules for the Curriculum, including Modules on leadership and on wildfire – please let NHMA Admin or Ed Thomas know if you are interested.

GRANT STATUS: We need to request an extension of time on the Grant.

WORKSHOP STATUS - We have requests for follow on presentations of the DRR Curriculum in May and July of this year at:

COLORADO - requests presentations in May - David Mallory and Ed Thomas will present there.

MONTANA and SOUTH CAROLINA have requested presentations in July:

- Shannon Burke will present a portion of the DRR Curriculum in SC the week of July 23.
- MONTANA: **We want to do make a major effort in Montana** and seek feedback from the RNN Communities with regard to including an RNN Community meeting there.

WEST VIRGINIA Flood Plain Managers' Conference in June:

- Barb Miller will present a portion of the DRR Curriculum there.

FLORIDA - We need an official statement that the Florida presentation did not go forward.

NHMA RNN Representative on the Board: Rebecca Joyce has temporarily withdrawn from the Board and the RNN. We seek another RNN representative.

9. NHMA AND RNN COMMUNITY MEETING:

Natural Hazards Workshop - July 9-12, 2018?

- Haven't heard from Hazards workshop – we need to see the Hazards Workshop agenda.
- The RNN communities are more interested in meeting in Montana than at the Hazards Workshop - Please let Ed Thomas know if that has changed.

COMMENTS:

- Montana is very interested in a presentation of the RNN Curriculum – Ed Thomas is communicating with Joe Rossi.
- RNN Communities to decide if they wish to do a major presentation in Montana and incorporate an RNN Community Meeting there, or if they wish to meet again in Colorado.

10. STATUS OF PRACTICAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

We are going to continue working with South Carolina in July to recruit instructors once we know which Modules they want.

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

This is the 50th anniversary of the National Flood Insurance Program. Vincent Brown gave a brief historical overview of the NFIP. FEMA is planning a whole host of activities around this event, and have a committee working on it. A comprehensive communications strategy will roll out to publicize many facts around the program, such as the mapping area (over a million miles have been mapped over the years); also insurance policies, etc.

Another FEMA seminar by NFA, formerly NFDA (National Flood Determination Association) is scheduled for April 19th. They have expanded their mission and changed their name to the National Flood Association. Also, on April 26th is a presentation on the CITGA framework – FEMA is a very silo organization. FIMA is trying to work more with people on the preparedness side. Expect some joint initiatives to come out. Vince will distribute materials as he can.

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

Ed Thomas continues working with Island Press on a series of articles to reach across the divide of people who do and do not believe in climate change. He will be talking with the editor on the Island Press this week and is happy to send a copy of the proposal to anyone who wants to see it. We need to reach out to those who make the development decisions. This is important with respect to doing a curriculum module geared toward architects and developers, helping them incorporate higher building and mitigation standards going forward.

13. COMMENTS/ISSUES/GOOD NEWS

QUESTION: How can we get more interest on the part of the RNN communities?

SUGGESTION: Sometimes it helps having somebody from the organization call people and ask if they're still participating and get their input as to why they may not be attending; Barb Miller and Vince Brown volunteer to help with calling folks about inviting them back into the fold. NHMA Admin to send Barb and Vince a good list of community representatives to call.

QUESTION: With the mitigation activities FEMA is doing, might some the folks from the Regions listen in on the RNN call and report on what's happening in their Region? Also get their communities in their respective Regions to participate in this too. We could make it part of the regular RNN Meeting agenda if possible.

RESPONSE: Vincent Brown to reach out to a Regional Coordinator he knows and work with her to see if he can get some regular representation from their folks on the RNN Community calls.

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS LIST

Roger Faris:

- RNN Community to submit any info with regard to best practice stories to RogerFaris 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. – **Status?**
- Roger Faris to stay in touch with Vince Brown and Janice Roper-Graham about how to put together a searchable best practices database. – **Status?**
- Response to Barb Miller's email below seeking feedback. - **Status?**

Roger Faris Response:

I received an excellent Mitigation Best Practices lead from Ned Swanberg and have attached the resulting story . The story explores how Vermont collaborates with and supports local officials and communities to protect river corridors and floodplains. For some reason I'm not able to convert this Publisher version to a pdf and would greatly appreciate the help of anyone who has better software on their computer. And, of course, I'm open to suggestions for improvements or corrections.

Rebecca Joyce forwarded a publication that Tom Huges shared about how the RNN Community of Muncy Borough, PA has launched a major resilience effort. I will reach out to Bill Ramsey of Muncy Borough (today!) for more information and photos that I expect will allow me complete a second story.

I've had a few exchanges with Barb Miller about the Harper's Ferry fire recovery but there appear to be insurmountable problems to completing the story. I would love to hear from Tom Hughes and Tim Trautman on the topic of resources for communities that have disaster damage that is not quite at the level for a FEMA declaration.

So far, I've not heard from any other RNN community members about stories that they'd like shared in our brief Best Practices format. A reminder at the next meeting would be great.

I participated in some of the discussions about developing a searchable Mitigation Best Practices Stories database and shared my ideas about the merits of the LID Atlas model developed by University of Connecticut. The Homeland Security Digital Library that Barb Miller mentioned is challenging to navigate but I have had some success at finding a few favorite stories on that site. The catch is that you need to know exactly what you're looking for. Getting something new off the ground and then providing ongoing support are pretty big challenges. Looking forward the next meeting!

Barb Miller and Vincent Brown:

Barb Miller:

- RNN Community Members to be asked to respond to Barb Miller's material; specifically, how much time an effort do we need to put into Best Practices? What does Bill Ramsey and the RNN need post-disaster? Make sure we get this out to the RNN Communities. – **Status?** - [NHMA Admin to forward to RNN Community for comments](#) - **DONE**
- Barb Miller to present a portion of the DRR Curriculum to the West Virginia Flood Plain Managers' Conference in June. Ed Thomas suggests Module 20 about limitation of FEMA flood insurance rate maps and/or some other materials he has for easy presentations; Barb to connect with folks in head office and get back to Ed on that. – **Ongoing**

Vincent Brown:

- Vince Brown to reach out to the Regional Coordinator to see if he can get some regular presentations from them to the RNN happening. – **Status?**
- Vince Brown and Barb Miller to contact members of the RNN Community and invite them back into the fold. - **FYI - this item is in Process** - [Awaiting contacts list from NHMA Admin.](#)

Tom Hughes, Tim Trautman and Roger Faris:

- Tom Hughes to send Roger Faris a copy of a two-pager describing how communities have recovered from disasters when not eligible for FEMA declaration. - **Status?**

Tom Hughes response:

[Emergency Resource guide](#)

<http://www.pema.pa.gov/Documents/ResourcesCatalog.pdf> Day 2

[Checklist](#)

<http://www.pema.pa.gov/Documents/Day%20%20Checklist%20ver%206%2006132017.pdf>

- Tim Trautman also to connect with Roger Faris about this. - **Status?**

Tom Hughes:

- Tom Hughes to discuss with Ed Thomas about creating an online workspace for collaboration. –**DONE**

Tom Hughes' response:

[I have a call and e-mail into Nicole LaRosa, FEMA HQ on this.](#)

[We probably will need to identify method in the NHMA Communication Plan.](#)

- Tom Hughes to update RNN on status of Ideascale website; more to come for NHMA work area. - **DONE**

Tom Hughes' response:

[I have a call and e-mail into Nicole LaRosa, FEMA HQ on this.](#)

[We probably will need to identify method in the NHMA Communication Plan.](#)

<https://fema.ideascale.com/a/ideas/recent/campaign-filter/bvids/campaigns/61038>

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants Forum

[The purpose of this forum is to create a place to encourage communities to engage in hazard mitigation, promote project success stories, and share lessons learned from grant application, implementation, and closeout.](#)

[Representatives from communities at all levels including state, federal, local, tribal, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector are encouraged to contribute information to assist counterparts across the country as they plan mitigation projects for their community. This can be a tremendous resource for those who are not well versed in the components of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant programs.](#)

[This forum relies on your contribution as a stakeholder for ideas and discussion, so login, contribute, and let others know about this resource.](#)

About this Forum

FEMA's social media pages are moderated channels, meaning all comments posted on FEMA's social media pages will be reviewed for appropriate content. Comments that are off-topic or include abusive or vulgar language, spam, hate speech, personal attacks, advertisements or endorsements of products or similar content will not be posted. FEMA will remove any comments that provide inadvertent personally identifiable information. FEMA reserves the right to determine which comments are acceptable for its social media pages. You can read full Social Media Comment Policy on fema.gov.

When submitting images, do not post copyrighted material without permission from the owner. Any image that violates copyright or were not posted with permission will be deleted. [More Details](#)

- Tom Hughes to send slides regarding External Stakeholder WorkGroup initiatives. —**Status?**

Tom Hughes' response:

- Tom Hughes to contact Traci Sears about the possibility of RNN meeting in Montana in July. -**DONE**

Tom Hughes' response:

I think Ed already took care of this with Traci there is now a date set-aside

- Tom Hughes to find out if Vincent Brown or someone from FEMA can go through the Risk Management Division Strategy slide deck with the RNN, possibly as a webinar. -**Status?**

Tom Hughes' response:

- Tom Hughes to send out "triage list" of questions to help identify viable projects. -**DONE**

Tom Hughes' response:

Attached word document that is very rough but gives a set a questions per project type.

- Tom Hughes to send out notes from the upcoming HMA workshop. -**DONE**

Tom Hughes' response:

Provided files from the work group sessions

New Action Item:

- EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKGROUP:

Hi Tom - Could you please draft up a really quick explanation of the Work Group for the Newsletter and for social media? - **DONE**

Tom Hughes' response:

Here is the Overview attached. Cut and paste as you wish....

FYI: 7 pdf files attached:

HMA Grants Forum via FEMA IdeaScale Poster FEMA

HMA 2017 Accomplishments 030918 HMA ESWG

2017Q4 Meeting - Meeting Notes

HMA ESWG 2018 Work Streams (as of April 12, 2018) HMA

ESWG 2018Q1 - Meeting Notes

HMA ESWG Annual Review Handout

HMA ESWG Overview and Application Form

Ed Thomas:

RNN members to please let Ed Thomas know if they 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. - **Status?**

Ed Thomas Response:

No comments received yet by me.

- Ed Thomas to connect with Bill Ramsey with regard to P-1000 webinars for schools; Ed to loop Bill Ramsey into development of this Module going forward. - **Status?**

Ed Thomas Response:

Bill and I connected; FEMA had decided not to support this webinar.

- Wightman & Associates to incorporate audience participation into DRR Curriculum going forward. This has proven very successful and generates tremendous interest and enthusiasm. - **Status?**

Ed Thomas Response:

This will be included in curriculum presentations going forward. Worked incredibly well in Utah both in 2017 and January 2018. A copy of the discussion questions designed to solicit audience participation in Utah attached.

- Wightman & Associations to let Vincent Brown know when we have conferences. Follow up with Gina Wightman to make sure that Vince always knows when we are presenting, and that news of these event gets sent up through the various organizations of FEMA – gives evidence that the Grant is working. - **Status?**

Ed Thomas Response:

We need to all keep this in mind as we do presentations.

Janice Roper-Graham:

- 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. - **Status?**

- Janice Roper-Graham to Chair and develop the NHMA Awards Committee. RNN members encouraged to serve on this Committee. - **Status?**

- NHMA will be looking at its communication plan and how to use social media; RNN will be a part of this. - Status?

Janice Roper-Graham Response:

"With regard to the best practices tool, the last conversation was that it may be duplicative with ideaScale (Tom Hughes). Assuming we decide that it isn't, and we should move forward, we need more input on what the structure and content should be - and volunteers to work on content once the system is set up."

RNN Community:

NHMA Admin:

- RNN members to offer feedback on the Memorandum and forward their responses to NHMA Admin and Ed Thomas. – Ongoing - *We have received some feedback on the Memorandum; I am compiling comments and will circulate with Minutes for the upcoming Meeting.- NHMA Admin - DONE*
- All RNN Community Members to think about who else they would like to invite to become an RNN community member, as well as who could possibly be a Committee Chair or could serve on the NHMA Board. – Ongoing; and
- RNN to think about how to invite other communities from the west coast to join us. – Ongoing *I will add a request for suggestions on this to the Memorandum feedback report above along with the Minutes for the upcoming Meeting. – NHMA Admin - DONE*
- RNN Community Feedback requested on the NHMA comments on Draft National Mitigation Investment Strategy
- circulate for feedback to Vince Brown. - *Am checking on status of this – NHMA Admin - DONE*
- RNN Community - we really want an RNN representative on the Board including module on leadership and on wildfire – Please let NHMA Admin or Ed Thomas know and we'll follow up. - *Will send out reminder on this to RNN Community with Memorandum feedback report. – NHMA Admin - DONE*
- Does the RNN Community want to go out to Montana the week of July 16 and incorporate an RNN Community Meeting as part of this event? -*Will send out reminder on this to RNN Community with Memorandum feedback report. – NHMA Admin - DONE*

DRR CURRICULUM – We have requests from Colorado for follow on presentations in May, Montana and South Carolina in July (date of SC is week of July 23); Would like to do the Annual RNN meeting in Montana and incorporate some folks of the RNN community as SMEs presenters of the Curriculum; or presentations at Hazards Center week of July 8th.

- Shannon Burke has volunteered to present in SC;
- David Mallory & Ed Thomas will do Colorado;
- We want to do a major effort in Montana – need feedback from RNN Communities – do you want to go out to Montana week of July 16? With RNN community meeting as part of that. -*Will send out reminder on this to RNN Community with Memorandum feedback report. – NHMA Admin - DONE*

COPY OF BARB MILLER EMAIL to update and **send out to RNN Community - NHMA Admin - DONE**

From: Barbara Miller <bmill00@comcast.net> Sent:

Thursday, February 22, 2018 7:55 PM

To: 'Roger Faris'; edwathomas@aol.com Cc:

NHMA Admin

Subject: RE: NHMA Best Practices leads Hi

Roger:

I am in high gear on several things right now, including my move! We finally have our move date of April 2/3 and it cannot come fast enough for me! I am ready to be there and get everything out of boxes and put into a new comfort zone! I will also be an instructional observer the week before for our WV State Homeland Security and Emergency Management Training office, for whom I will soon be under contract to teach some of FEMA's G Courses for. (Nothing like being out of the area the week prior to moving everything that you own!)

But I do want to pop back to this long enough to give you and Ed an observation/recommendation. As I continue to research this subject, there is one name that is popping up on multiple sites and searches. It is that of James C. Schwab. On May 31, 2017, James Schwab, FAICP, retired from the American Planning Association, where he served as the manager of the Hazards Planning Center and as editor or co-editor of Zoning Practice, a monthly APA publication. In leaving, he announced that he was undertaking a "five-point retirement plan," in effect a "baby boomer" retirement in which he would pursue a number of personal interests that were often less feasible while he remained, in effect, the resident APA disaster expert. The five-point plan includes:

- Book projects on the 1993 and 2008 Midwest floods
- Consulting on hazards planning
- Continued teaching for the University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning
- Blogging (see blog on this website)
- Public speaking

If you want the rest of his bio, go to: <http://www.jim schwab.com/biography.html>

I also want to refer you to PAS # 576, Planning for Post-Disaster-Recovery-The Next Generation which can be found at: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1425503479190-22edb246b925ba41104b7d38eddc207f/APA_PAS_576.pdf (Also written by James C. Schwab)

And Post Disaster Planning for Recovery and Reconstruction (Also known as FEMA 421), also written by James C. Schwab. The Hard Copy of the book has a section which details various types of recovery funding, and lists if a Stafford declaration is required or not, and other very helpful information.

I think we may be trying to put together something that already exists in a very fine form! Maybe we just need to seek the APA/Mr. Schwab's permission to use the information that he has already gathered, than to spin our wheels.

With all of that being said, I do not know this man, but I'm thinking that surely someone within our RNN or NHMA must! He may already be a member? I hope that he is and if he is not, I think we need to ask him to become a part of it. Sounds like a wealth of knowledge and I think he can certainly meet the needs of this mission.

Your thoughts??

On your other comment about the Go Fund Me Pages for the Harpers Ferry Fire. There were Go Fund Me pages set up by some of the individual businesses, and there was at least one set up by one of the-then Jefferson County Commissioners on behalf of the Harpers Ferry Town Foundation. A year after the fires, the Foundation reported in a newsletter that they had raised a little over \$59,000 that was being distributed. Most of the businesses had insurance, but as you know, insurance is not always adequate, nor does it always pay for everything.

One last thing that I want to share is the Homeland Security Digital Library, which is the culmination of the old LLIS (Lessons Learned, Information Sharing) website and the Naval Post Graduate School Best Practices Website. It can be found at <https://www.hsdl.org/c/>. I could spend the rest of my life reading this site, alone!! Alas, but I cannot! I did email the link for this page to the lady that is working of the Best Practices Page for RNN/NHMA a month or so ago.

I hope that all of this is helpful and I do hope that my life will begin to settle down in another month or so?! Best Wishes,

Barbara J. Miller, CEM, CFM