

Resilient Neighbors Network
Minutes of Meeting of Friday, *May 17, 2019*, 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 June 28, 2019:

1. Roll call
 2. Approval of Minutes (May 2019)
 3. Status of ABA Resilience Book (Ed Thomas)
 4. **Comments/Issues/RNN Community Sharing/Good News**
 5. Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina & Silver Jackets link (Ed Hecker)
New NHMA Board Member Ed Hecker to talk about RNN Linkage to Silver Jackets
 6. A Briefing on the FEMA Flood Mapping Program (Lillian Robison)
 7. Review of Action Items
 8. RNN Future Activities
 9. Discussion of Best Practices Documentation-New Best Practice on mitigation-based recovery with no Presidential Declaration: Joe Rossi and Coastal Coalition [Material sent separately] and Traci Sears from Montana
 10. Next Steps for RNN-DRR Curriculum Future Meeting? Discussion of CTP Grant
 - a. New Grant requires NHMA and RNN to participate with and recommend other possible interested agencies for an advisory committee meeting in Washington D.C. – [Detail by John Wiener circulated with Minutes.] Possible other locations/dates
 - b. NHMA DRR Curriculum & Workshop Status:
 - i. 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, NACo, NGO & private market courses?
 - ii. RNN Volunteers for the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum;
 - iii. How to take advantage of the latest update from the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council on the cost/benefit of Hazard Mitigation.
 - c. Natural Hazard Conference
 11. *CTP Collaboration Monthly* Call for Topics
 12. Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on the many things happening at FEMA
 13. Status of Island Press Interest, Articles for NHMA Newsletter and/or ABA
 14. Adjourn
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Minutes for Meeting of Friday, *May 17, 2019*:

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

1) ROLL CALL:

Present:

Tim Trautman (Mecklenburg County);
Chuck Wallace (of Grays Harbor, Washington);
Barb Miller (NHMA Board);
Erin Capps (NHMA Board);
Rebecca Joyce (Shenandoah Valley Region, VA);
Ed Thomas (NHMA Board Member);
Jim Murphy (NHMA Board);
Ed Hecker (NHMA Board);

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (May 2019)

A **Motion** was made by Barb Miller to approve the Minutes for March and April 2019.

The motion was **Seconded** by Chuck Wallace and Tim Trautman.

There being no discussion, it was

VOTED: Minutes for March and April 2019 are approved.

3) Status of ABA Resilience Book (Ed Thomas)

Rebecca Joyce explained that bumped an item up on the agenda for Ed Thomas to speak about the status of the ABA Resilience Book, and the need for someone to step forward to take over the lead on one of the Chapters.

- Rebecca Joyce had to drop out of helping with that and hopes we can recruit folks to help with it.

Ed Thomas shared that he very happy that we had so many folks from NHMA participating in the ABA Book and was sorry to hear that Rebecca wasn't able to take the lead on this. Alessandra Jerolleman offered to write one of the two Chapters planned for the RNN Communities or NHMA folks. Ed is happy to send the working outline out to anyone who is interested. Need to nail down who will author the chapters. The book is for lawyers, with experts in the field talking about various things; the two chapters related to Resilience are *Linking Social and Built Environments to Determine Goals and Objectives* and *Basics of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation Response and Recovery*. Deadline to nail down authors extended to June 3rd. Entails about 5,000 words between now and August 15th. Gives us a chance to contribute to an important dialogue. Barb Miller not able to assist but mentioned that Gene Henry expressed interest in speaking to Ed Thomas about it. Chuck Wallace offer to help in any way he can. Ed Hecker asks for clarity on the outline; will be talking with David Vaughn next week. Ed Thomas will forward the outline to Chuck Wallace.

4) Comments/Issues/RNN Community Sharing/Good News

Tim Trautman

- Shared quickly that he is going to a luncheon today at their Emergency Management Office where Brock Long is speaking with their local folks; is interested in getting Brock's perspective as a former FEMA director on some of the disasters we've had over the past several years. Hopes to catch up with us about this on the next call.

Chuck Wallace

- Today Washington State is having the largest LAHAR Evacuation Exercise in the country. Fourteen schools are participating: 11 public and 3 private. A LAHAR is a destructive mud/debris flow from volcanic eruption. Washington State has Mt. Ranier, which sits essentially in the middle of the City of Seattle. A LAHAR there would affect a lot of

areas and the tremendous population that lives right at the foot of the mountain. The exercise works on how to evacuate and take best protective action. Hats off to the State of Washington for endorsing this first effort and the Emergency Management Program in Washington State.

Barb Miller

- Barb shared that this month she is assisting in her home State of West Virginia with teaching the Foundations of Emergency Management Class. This course is being taught all over the country as well as at EMI. The class that just ended yesterday was the one that had all the Mitigation chapters in it. While everyone else was eager to teach the Operations course part, Barb instead jumped at the chance to teach the Mitigation chapters. She addressed a group of about 45 people, many of whom it appeared were Operations folks, all asking good questions about hazard mitigation. Barb shared that she received very good feedback. Some folks said they really learned a lot and didn't realize how important it was for the Emergency Manager to speak with the Flood Plain Manager. Many had never had a class that explained what the Emergency Manager's role was in mitigation planning, which is a huge step.

Ed Hecker

- Trying to catch up with what we're doing with RNN and how we might better connect it with some of the issues that we were pursuing while still with the Corp up until last February in terms of Community Resilience. More and more he sees opportunities to knit this together. Asks Ed Thomas if he has any updated information on the development of the videos from the DRR training that we did in South Carolina; he will be pursuing that. that will translate into the topic of the Advisory Committee Meeting we need to set up in D.C. More to come. Need to get our heads together with Ellen Berghren and David Vaughn and try to capture the lessons learned from south Carolina and the utility of the videos and how to take the DRR Modules and incorporate them into a training session that also has the appropriate translation to the hazard challenges of the State/community that represents the training class. A lot of interesting and important things we can work on to increase the utility of this, including the web-based availability. Looks forward to continuing to talk about that.

Ed Thomas

- Nothing much to add to Ed Hecker's comments; the key to what we're trying to do is to emphasize that we do have this incredible set of course material that was developed with thousands of hours volunteer time and quite a bit of professional help from Wightman & Associates. It's available and is best put on on a state-by-state basis, and it costs money to bring the instructors in, etc. It is available and if anyone wants to do it. Is hoping we will use some of the next CTP money and put it online as an on-line learning course, so that beyond the Workshops we can do this individually and eventually credential people for being Disaster Risk Reduction Ambassadors or whatever we want to call it. It does incorporate the learning and the experience of the RNN Communities and others that are looking at locally based disaster risk reduction measure. This will help us talk to people in Operations. Just a matter of finding some folks to take this to the next step which is both an online course and series of workshops around the country such as the one we're doing in Arkansas in September and doing legally oriented session in Utah also in September. Also an introductory event in June in Vermont.

Erin Capps

- Updates everyone on the Board call yesterday in that we have some volunteers working in different communities for outreach for volunteers for conferences and webinars and updates; hope to have something soon that we can put out to the RNN. We want to do a webinar on the DRR and are looking to have someone from FEMA present on that. More to come.

Rebecca Joyce

- The Historic Foundation for the City of Stanton does brown-bag lunches on different topics; in June their starting a series on water and the City, addressing the floodplain. Rebecca will team with the former Emergency Manager to talk about the flood of 2003, and they will also be taking people around to the area where they did some flood proofing, with some flood shields things like that in the businesses. It will be interested to see what people's thoughts are. Are expecting a lot of folks that probably aren't even aware of mitigation and what things can be done, so we're hoping to corner them to give some input on their hazard mitigation plan. It's nice to have this partnership with the Historic group in the City. More to come.

5) Review of Action Items

- Ed Thomas will connect with Gene Henry to make the One-pagers pithier and see if some special one-pagers can be developed.
 - Gene Henry to tell Ed Thomas what he needs as a local flood plain manager and hazard mitigation / disaster risk reduction specialist in that regard.
 - Conceivably we may want to get some help on these from our contractor under the CTP Grant; but essentially, it's a matter of the RNN telling them what it needs and then getting together to do it.
- February Action Items were reviewed;
- Engagement survey for the RNN Members - Rebecca Joyce will work on this.
- FEMA activities – Tabled until Vince Brown can be on the call to give a report;
- Tom Hughes working with Alessandra Jerolleman and Erin Capps to work on monthly webinar series.

6) RNN Future Activities

In July Rebecca Joyce will be attending the Resilient Virginia Conference and will be mentioning NHMA and talking to folks about NHMA.

Jim Murphy will be at the ASFPM Meeting in Cleveland and will do the same; presuming Vince Brown may be attending and doing the same as well. NHMA Board members will try to get together for a breakfast meeting while there.

- Barb Miller noticed that Bill Robison will be giving one of the presentations on CRS getting to Class 1 at the ASFPM conference; it would be good to offer any support that we could give him.
- Barb Miller will give him greetings and best wishes from the RNN.

Ed Hecker mentioned there is an opportunity to have a discussion about building off of what was done in South Carolina and looking at a Silver Jackets/RNN collaboration; maybe develop a one-or two-pager on what that might look like with the folks who were involved.

7) Discussion of Best Practices Documentation-New Best Practice on mitigation-based recovery with no Presidential Declaration: Joe Rossi and Coastal Coalition [Material sent separately] and Traci Sears from Montana

Tabled until Joe Rossi and Traci Sears can report.

8) Next Steps for RNN-DRR Curriculum Future Meeting? Discussion of CTP Grant

a) New Grant requires NHMA and RNN to participate with and recommend other possible interested agencies for an advisory committee meeting in Washington D.C. – [Detail by John Wiener circulated with Minutes.] Possible other locations/dates

- Erin Capps reported that Vince Brown and David Mallory will talk about the Grant and make sure that we have done the next application for 2019 and report on where we are with it. We do still have some funding left in 2017 and will look at pushing out the materials for an on-line course. Erin will have an update after Vince and David talk.
- Ed Hecker is very interested in working on increasing agency participation for the Advisory Committee Meeting and would like to be involved when they're read to have a more detailed discussion on this.

b) NHMA DRR Curriculum & Workshop Status:

- i) 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, NACo, NGO & private market courses?
- ii) RNN Volunteers for the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum;
- iii) How to take advantage of the latest update from the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council on the cost/benefit of Hazard Mitigation.

c) Natural Hazard Conference

9) CTP Collaboration Monthly Call for Topics

10) Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina & Silver Jackets link

- Ed Hecker reported that he will speak with Ed Thomas and Tom Hughes about a summary report on the pilot project in South Carolina, working the concept of practical community resilience with Lawrence County, South Carolina and lessons learned in connecting community resilience with the Silver Jackets concept. Silver Jackets wanted to take those lessons learned and apply them with another community, but it didn't make the cut for the next round of Silver Jackets projects. There's an opportunity to have a discussion about building off of what was done in South Carolina and looking at Silver Jackets/RNN collaboration and maybe develop a one-or two pager on what that might look like with the folks who were involved with that. Could be a potential future action.
- Rebecca Joyce suggests bumping item No. 10 up to the RNN Community Groups level on the next Agenda so Ed Hecker can give a mini presentation about it. Ed Hecker will work on getting these ideas down on paper for a good discussion.
- Jim Murphy raise two topics – 1) with the prospect of infrastructure funding coming about, the legislation may have requirements for resilience and climate changes, and it is important that we follow that legislation; and 2) important that everyone be aware of the liabilities for architects and engineers if they don't apply these requirements.

11) Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on the many things happening at FEMA

Tabled until Vince Brown can join us to report on this.

12) Status of Island Press Interest, Articles for NHMA Newsletter and/or ABA

13) Adjourn

A **Motion** was made by Barb Miller to adjourn.
The motion was **seconded** by Chuck Wallace.
There being no discussion, it was
VOTED: Meeting is adjourned.

Meeting ended at 11:45 a.m.

Next meeting is **June 28, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.** Eastern Time.

ACTION ITEMS:

May 2019 RNN Action Items List

- (May-A1) Ed Hecker to speak with Ed Thomas and Tom Hughes about a summary report on the pilot project in South Carolina.
- (May-A2) **DONE** - NHMA Admin to bump item No. 10 up to the RNN Community Groups level on the next Agenda so Ed Hecker can give a mini presentation on the Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina & Silver Jackets link.
- (May-A3) Erin Capps to update everyone on the CTP at the next meeting after Vince Brown and David Mallory talk.
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April 2019 RNN Action Items List

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

- (April-A1) NHMA Admin to put the National Symbols Cache. <https://www.symbols.gov/> in the next Newsletter and get it up on both websites.
- (April-A2) Gene Henry and Ed Thomas to get together to make the one-pagers pithier and snappier and see if special one-pagers can be developed for specific issues/matters around Module 15 and Module 20, or any other Modules.

March 2019 RNN Action Items List

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

- (March-A1) **IN PROCESS** - Barb Miller will invite Jenny Gannoway to talk at a future meeting about West Virginia VOAD's Bridge Project. *NOTE from Barb Miller: "When would be a good time to do this? I hesitated only because we seem to be having difficulties with time to get through our agenda. Let me know when you think would be a good time for her to do this and I will be happy to give her a call."*

PRESENTATION ON MITIGATION PLANNING BY LAURA DUFF, PLANNER AT FEMA

- (March-A2) Veronica Criscitiello to distribute a copy of the Planning Module to Laura Duff for her review and feedback.
- (March-A3) Laura Duff to look at the Planning Module and give some feedback.
- (March-A4) Tom Hughes to talk to Shannon Burke about going to the next APA Conference to try to interest university professors there in the DRR Curriculum.
- (March-A5) Tom Hughes to get with the APA about improving the Planning Module and putting parts of the Curriculum out as webinars.
- (March-A6) Vince Brown to schedule Laura Duff to come back in a few months to talk to the RNN about the Tribal Mitigation Planning Handbook.
- (March-A7) Erin Capps to discuss with Laura Duff about doing a webinar for us on that as well.

(March-A8) Erin Capps expressed our hope to continue to loop Laura Duff in on our activities and keep her in mind for future calls and webinars

NEXT STEPS FOR RNN-DRR CURRICULUM FUTURE MEETING? DISCUSSION OF CTP GRANT

(March-A9) Veronica Criscitiello to get the updated Curriculum Overview sent out to everybody.

(March-A10) Ed Thomas and Erin Capps to arrange with David Mallory to make a frequent report (not less than once per month) to Vince Brown on the stuff we're doing with FEMA's investment to make sure that Vince is aware of how we are using these, and the leverage with the RNN Communities and the Best Practices we are developing, etc.

(March-A11) Rebecca Joyce to put Module 24 – From Policy to Engineering: Earthquake Risks in the survey she is sending out to the RNN asking if anyone could help with looking it over for final review.

(March-A12) **IN PROCESS** - Barb Miller to review Module 6 – Risk Assessment – *Barb Miller awaiting materials.*

(March-A13) **IN PROCESS** - Veronica Criscitiello to send Module 6 – Risk Assessment to Barb Miller for review. – *Query sent on status. - KT.*

(March-A14) Ed Thomas, Tom Hughes and Chuck Wallace to look at the Michael Gumpert Recovery Management Curriculum.

(March-A15) Erin Capps to send the Michael Gumpert Recovery Management Curriculum to Ed Thomas, Tom Hughes and Chuck Wallace and then get back to Michael Gumpert and let him know.