



Resilient Neighbors Network

Minutes of RNN Community Meeting of
Friday, *July 31, 2020*, 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 RNN COMMUNITY MEETING OF *July 31, 2020*:

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes (April, May, and June 2020)
3. Comments/Issues/RNN Community Sharing/Good News
4. Discussion of RNN objectives and roles in the new NHMA Strategic and Operational Plan (Ed Hecker)
- New NHMA Board Member Ed Hecker to talk about RNN Linkage to Silver Jackets
5. Status of ABA Book – Ed Thomas
6. Follow-up on any RNN action items and future activities
7. CTP Collaboration Monthly Call for Topics
8. Publication opportunities and virtual speaking opportunities
9. Any comments from Vincent Brown for FEMA updates
10. Adjourn

Minutes for Meeting of Friday, July 31, 2020:

11:00 am Eastern Time: CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL:

1) ROLL CALL:

Present:

Gene Henry (formerly Hillsborough County, FL)
Joe Rossi (Marshfield Citizens Coastal Coalition)
Traci Sears (State of Montana)
Ned Swanberg (State of Vermont)
Erin Capps (NHMA Board)
Ed Hecker (NHMA Board)
Jim Murphy (NHMA Board)
Ed Thomas (NHMA Board)
Annie Vest (NHMA Board)

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Ed Thomas.

The Motion was Seconded by Gene Henry

A Friendly amendment was made by Ed Thomas that we are approving the Minutes without a quorum.

There being no discussion, it was

VOTED: The Minutes were approved without a quorum.

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

Traci Sears reported on the Montana Annual Resource Seminar which will be virtual this year. She and her team are in the process of finalizing the Agenda and will start advertising in the next week. They have a few of the Modules which were brought up and discussed by Ed Thomas and Shaye Bodine. Shaye Bodine will be the lead for the event. Traci Sears and her team hope to align the Modules with some of the Tier requirements for training. They are very excited to be able to bring these excellent training opportunities to Montana again.

Ed Thomas will work with Shaye Bodine to update the Module names and particularize them for the Montana Annual Resource Seminar event. NHMA has a contractor almost hired and is working on the final stages of the contract, hoping to sign it this week. **Ed Thomas** will chat with Traci Sears offline about the honorarium and other payments that they can afford, so we can make this happen.

Ed Thomas explained that in the Board Meeting yesterday, Vince Brown urged us to contribute material to the publications that are put out by FEMA. Traci Sears and Shaye Bodine will work up a draft on the Montana Annual Resource Seminar event which is due next week. Anyone else working on projects or putting together conferences like the Oklahoma Flood Plain Managers Conference, etc., or anything else you are doing that you want to showcase, FEMA is anxious to hear from the grass-roots folks who are doing this work out on the ground. This is a national best practice that is being recognized by FEMA. Montana is one of the eight top states that are being looked at by FEMA for best practices training. So, we want to hear more about the other seven states and we want to get the word out to people. It is hoped that that we will be making some of the Montana presentations into national webinars with other partners like ASFPM.

Erin Capps agreed and asked that if anyone gets an e-mail from Ed Thomas or Shaye Bodine that we respond right away and get them whatever they need.

Ned Swanberg shared that Vermont is anticipating a tropical storm early next week, largely part of the hurricane coming up the East Coast. He is immersed in emergency response along with the whole issue about the complexion of the field relative to the people who are impacted. Vermont is very busy with staffing for one position right now.

Gene Henry shared that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Economic Opportunity have provided quite a few grants to communities to work on resiliency. Many of these communities are going forward under the state and will have some targets to shoot for. The state already knows about the RNN and NHMA, but Gene would like to go ahead and reach out to them to remind them about our syllabus under the RNN and NHMA.

Ed Thomas shared that we'll be happy to make those presentations available to Gene so he can tweak them. It would also be very easy to have speakers available virtually as they don't have to worry about travel, it's very easy to do these, and we have a very deep bench of people that are nationally and internationally recognized experts on a variety of topics with respect to disaster risk reduction.

Gene Henry will contact Ed Thomas or Erin Capps and get some information from them that he can use to help make this outreach go forward. His company is working with the Port Authority for one of the resilient grants, and just finished working with the City of Tampa, so it's very active. Gene wants to share that information with others who might want to do more and make their resilient projects a bit more robust versus just doing planning or simple implementations around sea level rise - which is enough, but if they want to do more, Gene wants them to know that NHMA and the RNN have great things to share. Gene will call Ed Thomas or Erin Capps and digest this a little bit to see what type of direction can be established. He needs a couple of good steps that he can take, remember easily and do well, versus trying to do everything all at once.

Ed Thomas shared that NHMA is about to hire a contractor which will tremendously increase our capabilities to do things like produce simple one or two pagers so folks like Gene can stay abreast of the incredible number of activities that are happening right now.

Gene Henry shared he is typing out an e-mail to a very good peer of his who is now a Department Director and will be overseeing the Resiliency Agency for Hillsborough County and who is Gene's counterpart at Applied Sciences. Gene is reaching out to urge them to step into his role with the RNN and will make the introduction if he accepts.

Ed Thomas suggested Gene have him reach out to either himself or Erin Capps, and depending upon which way they want to go with this, include our new Director of Operations, Ed Hecker, and of course the new contractor when we finally sign the contract with them. Suggests he and Gene chat offline or in e-mails and will try to get Gene a short pithy description of the ABA Resilience Handbook as well.

4) 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

Erin Capps reported that NHMA did put out an RFP and received a lot of responses from many great universities for operationalizing the DRR Curriculum. NHMA did settle on a university, but with the excellent responses we received from so many other universities we see additional opportunities for either micro-contracts with them or in general, collaboration. One of those micro-contracts that we're looking at is growing the RNN and looking at how we can engage communities more and how we can get more membership. Many of these universities now have programs not only in emergency management and mitigation but resilience as well. It's good to see this as the focus in overall college education and curriculums.

Erin Capps announced that Ed Hecker is being recognized by the Board for his work on the NHMA Strategic Plan and Operations Plan and will be stepping into the role of Operations Director going forward, and will receive an honorarium for the work that he's done and will continue to do.

5) Status of ABA Book – Ed Thomas

Ed Thomas reported that the ABA Book publication date has changed: It has been moved from a vague late- September, early- October publication date to an increasingly firm late- August publication date. This is excellent news. The ABA virtual meeting - happening now - has put out a flyer on some recent books and publications. Ed Thomas will get that flyer out to everybody on this call, along with a copy of the press release for the ABA Resilience Book, once it is available which describes the Book in more detail.

6) Follow-up on any RNN action items and future activities

Erin Capps summarized discussions from yesterday's Board Meeting and some Action Items:

- In addition to the Montana Annual Resource Seminar (September 14th through the 17th), the Oklahoma Flood Plain Managers Conference is coming up September 21, 22nd. NHMA will be submitting an abstract for that.
- Anybody who has webinar topics or events of interest, please suggest them. One webinar topic the Board discussed yesterday was the BRIC program.
- The NHMA Board will look at some of the micro-contracts and move forward on them.
- The NHMA Board also discussed reactivating some committees and is reactivating the Mitigation Planning Committee. We also have a new Board Member, Brandy Bones, and she has expressed interest in helping with some of the webinars - not only in developing topics but helping us to execute them, which is excellent. Without formalizing it, the NHMA Board has restarted the Outreach Committee, which would be part of these webinars as well.

7) CTP Collaboration Monthly Call for Topics

Erin Capps reported that The CTP Collaboration Monthly Call for Topics has been sent out. That is always an opportunity through the Risk Management Directorate to provide topics for their newsletters as well. Anything we can do that helps not only articles or issues that you as members of the RNN Communities want to generate awareness around is important and it also helps FEMA by the fact that it is coming from NHMA and/or an RNN Community member. FEMA values our input highly. The NHMA Admin has been circulating these, so if you haven't been getting them, or if you want more information around it, please let us know. (Contact: adm4nhma@outlook.com).

8) Publication opportunities and virtual speaking opportunities

Erin Capps asked Annie Vest to report on the Oklahoma Flood Plain Managers Conference which is scheduled immediately after the Montana Annual Resource Seminar (September 21-22, 2020).

Annie Vest reported that last year the Oklahoma Flood Plain Managers Conference held the Quad-State Conference with Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Arkansas. She believed that Texas is hosting it this year and the other states are participating. This should be a good opportunity for us to present NHMA, the RNN and the DRR Curriculum. This year the Quad-State Conference includes Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. The date is October 5- 9, 2020. Deadline is today. Annie Vest will send Erin Capps a link to the Quad-State Conference (October 5- 9, 2020) and Erin Capps will submit for it.

DISCUSSION:

Ed Thomas shared that Vince Brown requested that we submit topics to the CTP Collaboration Monthly and articles to the Resilient Nation Roundup. The CTP Collaboration Monthly request is just a call for topics about things people want to hear about, which is a pretty low level of work effort on people's part. Those suggestions would be turned over to the FEMA staff and its contractors to develop as articles. The other submission request to the Resilient Nation Roundup is an opportunity to actually submit material for publication as Shaye Bodine is going to do on behalf of Montana. Both opportunities are there for us, and Vince is enthusiastically supporting us in our efforts to get this information out. This reminder is to put another bee in people's bonnets that this could be done a lot easier than folks think.

Joe Rossi shared that, in terms of speaking opportunities, the State of Massachusetts is putting on a program based on some work he has done with the State Legislature. The RNN may find this interesting and it might be something they can take back to their own states and communities. In line with September being National Preparedness Month, Joe is working with different state legislators in Massachusetts, which has a coastal caucus of legislators who focus on coastal issues at the state level. In working with them, Massachusetts is actually Proclaiming by Declaration, which will be signed by the Governor, to make September Flood Awareness Month. This will open the door to many opportunities for speaking, outreach, presentations, etc. The schedule right now is every Thursday there is an opportunity to attend a program by

a different group in the state that talks about issues, awareness, coastal concerns, etc. This is something unique that Massachusetts is doing.

Erin Capps asked Joe Rossi to send us any links or information he has about this that we can share electronically to raise awareness of the September Flood Awareness Month.

Joe Rossi is working with a State legislator who dedicated a staff person to work on this. Joe will send us a draft Agenda for the September Flood Awareness Month events that we can start to circulate as soon as it is finalized.

9) Any comments from Vincent Brown for FEMA updates

Erin Capps reported that David Mallory has been overseeing the Grant but she does get copied on all the messages between him and Vince Brown. We have gotten everything in for the next fiscal year.

Ed Thomas reminded everyone that everything we do, think and say as NHMA should relate to what the RNN Communities are doing day to day one way or another. If there's something that you would like us to be doing with this wonderful investment that FEMA is making in the CTP Grant which is up to \$150,000.00 this year, let us know. We will be putting these requests together in the month of August/September for submission to FEMA, so if there's anything that you would like to see us doing, please tell us. David Mallory is the lead on that. We will also be working with our new Director of Operations, Ed Hecker, and of course Erin Capps, himself, and others, to put together the application for the Grant and would love to hear from anyone in the RNN about what you would like to see us doing and promoting in partnership with you.

Ed Hecker shared that for next month's RNN call, he will provide a read-ahead that relates to the Strategic Plan that NHMA is developing and the follow-on Operations Plan. Specifically, the objectives or strategies that we're imbedding in those plans for playing the RNN forward. We'll be looking at some of the RNN members to participate in a work group to work in context with the Operations Plan and the contractor that Ed Thomas mentioned, who will be as much a partner as a contractor at the university level. So there are some new opportunities to look back at all the great work that's been done by the RNN Communities over the past eight to ten years and realize how we can shape that and build a future direction that connects with where we're going in operationalizing the DRR Curriculum. What we're doing in Montana is a perfect example of this and we want to play that forward in a more RNN Communities in other states. Much more to follow on this. Ed Hecker will provide a read-ahead about the NHMA Strategic Plan and Operations Plan for discussion in the RNN meeting at the end of August.

Annie Vest invited anyone in the RNN who wants to be involved in the Planning Committee let her know. FEMA is again beginning to update local mitigation policy of the states, so she and a few others will put some thoughts together to submit for that. Comments are due to FEMA quickly. A Request for Comments from FEMA will be sent out to the RNN and the NHMA membership, so any comments you may have, please send them to us.

Gene Henry will participate on the Planning Committee.

Erin Capps thanked Gene for stepping forward on that. The Planning Committee will discuss the issues that people are grappling with, identify some of the problems they've had, and shape put together some of the success stories. There are a lot of differences, but there are also a lot of similarities, especially now with climate, and the Guidance that's being put out. In addition to having monthly calls, the Planning Committee can develop a white paper, to make comments or recommendations on things like this too. As soon as we're ready we can put out a call to the NHMA membership for anyone else who would like to join the Planning Committee.

Gene Henry will forward Erin Capps the contact information for Bryan Cook of Hillsborough County who did the Community Vulnerability Study. Bryan is working with some of the Resilience Officers throughout the Tampa Bay area to further this and address sea level rise. Gene Henry will send Erin Capps some information on the Community Vulnerability Study.

Erin Capps will follow up with Bryan Cook of Hillsborough County to see what his level of interest in the RNN is.

Gene Henry offered to help draft a summary of the RNN that communicates its vision and some background information. There's a world of information he wishes we had on a post card or a flash card to

hand out to people or send them digitally, especially prior to storm season just to remind folks about who we are, what we do, and why we're here.

Erin Capps acknowledged that some of the key benefits of NHMA and the RNN haven't really been captured in a short one-pager but could be summarized in a pithy description of what we've done. Both what the RNN has done for NHMA, and vice versa, through engagement, and how this helps focus our efforts for the benefit of communities on what we're seeing nationally and at the local level. Just as the DRR Curriculum was based on the detailed survey and questionnaire from the RNN Communities.

Ed Thomas asked Gene what he would like to see on such a post card or one-pager.

Gene Henry offered that when he's trying to share with others who are coming in and have their career's ahead of them he is looking for something that shows them why they need to be not only a member of NHMA but also involved with the RNN. Everything in Erin's succinct statement is perfect - pointing to the DRR and the specific items on the NHMA and RNN website so they can understand what's there to help them.

Gene Henry explained that Hillsborough County divided his old position into three or four different other positions and the planner that they hired for the All Hazards Document was someone that worked in Public Works - a great planner - but didn't have the knowledge for All Hazards, so is just going to have to learn it on the job. Even her bosses don't know exactly where to send her. So, he's going to send information to people that hopefully will get funneled down to the folks that need it.

Gene Henry suggested that everything that Erin Capps just said - in a glossy format - would be good, saying 'If you need some assistance in building these documents, you've got great resources right here. Just go and look because you're going to have to be writing these reports, you're going to have to be doing these things after a disaster, and you'll be responsible for writing that long term redevelopment plan and trying to channel the Stafford Act Fund and the BRIC Funds now' etc. So, it's all there. We have it; we've talked about it; we've created the documents. Gene allowed that he doesn't have any one single thing to suggest we point someone to with a digital card; he has been pointing them to the website. Is that good enough?

Erin Capps agreed we need that marketing and it would be good if we had someone step forward to create this and write it up. Erin suggested we give these notes to our contractor and it could be done under the auspices of the micro-contract we have for the RNN. She explained that we just haven't had the bandwidth to get so much of this done. There's a ton of stuff that the volunteers are doing, and we need a volunteer to do it. This is a clear indication of something that we can use to not only promote what the university will be doing for us on our DRR Curriculum, but also what the RNN is as a whole. It would not take much to have a micro contractor develop these materials.

Gene Henry agreed to work with the NHMA micro-contractor to get this stuff done.

Gene Henry shared that he often had to go work in different jurisdictions and saw many different communities and the leadership in those communities. Their elected officials are every three years, so a lot of small communities in Texas and the panhandle of Florida don't know where to go for information or who to reach out to or how to do some of these things, such as redevelop and recover and what directions to take, etc. Faced with that situation, you can't just sit there and point them to a website because their minds are going a hundred miles an hour and they can't absorb any more material; but if they had something simple in their hand that they could refer to, to help boil down what they need and where to go to get it, it would be most useful. Often if there aren't a lot of disasters happening, mitigation is one of the first areas to get restricted for funding or exploring additional avenues to strengthen the community. And now we have all these Resiliency Officers just in Tampa Bay alone, and they're all new and learning on the job. Gene is working with - and will start working more with their Regional Resiliency Officer to get out to these individual communities and push forward this Regional scenario, logic, or thinking; he would love to have something succinct to hand to them. After a disaster you are working so fast trying to get stuff done, you can't absorb much.

Erin Capps will discuss with the Project Management Team that Gene Henry will help with producing an outreach card; the Project Management Team will look at the micro contract to take on marketing support - producing something easy for people to digest and see and for gaining more membership in the RNN; also creating a digital flyer or imaging for use in promotion of webinars.

Ed Thomas shared that he was speaking at a national conference and one of the speakers on a panel of very distinguished folks was a newly appointed state Resiliency Officer. This man's background was state

police, so he knew state police stuff, and had been given the additional appointment for the purpose of a promotion.

During the panel discussion, this person stated that, if somebody would only tell him, what do we have to do to be resilient with respect to disaster risk reduction, and how can we afford to do it, that's what he wanted to hear from us. Ed Thomas's response to him - and to everyone present - was that he would tell them all exactly, precisely, 50% minimum disaster risk reduction, and how to pay for it without a dime of public money - Were they interested? Of course, everybody was interested! So, Ed Thomas said, 'We will give you the list of higher standards that you need in the state, including wet and dry freeboard with respect to elevation above base flood elevation, higher standards for wind, higher standards for hail, higher standards for wildfire mitigation which you also need here, and higher standards for earthquake mitigation, which you also need here. All you have to do - and within 30 years, according to demographic projections - you will have 50% of your property built to these higher standards and significant reduction of approximately 50% - and probably more percent of reduction - because the other thing that will be taking place during those 30 years are disasters; and we can also show you how to rebuild following those disasters so you will have an accelerated pace of disaster risk reduction. What do you think?' And this new Resiliency Offer looked at him and said, 'That would be really hard to do' - which meant that you would have to actually go to the people that play golf with the mayor and tell them, 'You're going to have to build that project differently and maybe in a different spot, Harry. You can't do exactly what you want to do, Harry, even though you gave all this money to my campaign. You're going to have to do that thing differently.' *That's* what this newly appointed Resiliency Officer meant when he said, 'That would be really hard to do.'

The development community will go almost directly insane when they hear this type of proposal. But that is what we need to do as a society. We concentrate on fixing stuff that breaks rather than saying, 'It broke, let's fix it right', or 'It hasn't broken yet because we haven't designed it and constructed it yet, so let's do it dramatically differently in this changing climate and this changing planet.' And *that* is the message we need to get across. If you want to be resilient, you are going to have transformative change in development and planning, and all that. And we need to convey to the planners that when we have a disaster, a foreseeable natural disaster that causes devastation, it is a *failure of planning*. It is a *failure of design*; it is a failure of our society that externalizes the cost of short-term development which produces a lot of benefits for a few people at tremendous cost to the many. That's it and that's the fundamental message of the DRR Curriculum: We need to look forward with much better, higher, thoughtful standards if we want to have Disaster Risk Reduction. That's the goal of resilience. And certainly the ABA's Resolutions, and the Court decisions that are coming down on this, all support better, safer construction; and the idea that communities and others involved in these horrible decisions that produce short-term products for the benefit of a few at the cost of the many, are immune from lawsuit, are not getting very good legal advice - if that's the legal advice they are getting in today's world based upon recent Supreme Court decisions. Somehow, we've got to get this idea into the kind of elevator speeches that can be conveyed to people in 27 words, delivered in nine seconds, with no more than three points in those messages. And that has to be our challenge - to come up with a series of those messages, whether it has to do with levees, or dams, or flood or wind, or whatever. We can do that, and if we get help from the contractor, and if we get the active participation of the RNN members, we can do that. Thank you so much, Gene - with your help, we can do it.

Gene Henry shared that he is helping the Regional Resiliency person go out and speak to communities in order to pull people together in a holistic perspective on disaster risk reduction. And to add to that what they learned from the Sea Level Rise study. Folks want, through these Grants, to help implement these projects, but the first thing is volunteering and helping our communities. What they learned from the Sea Level Rise Study is that the special equity and soft community vulnerabilities, as well as the hard assets - and if we can make a nice package presentation like Ed Thomas said in 20 seconds - the ramifications are extremely important too. When he's talking to people about this and they start to get droopy-eyed and their minds are wandering, he would throw out Ed Thomas's information because when he throws that out, it opens their eyes all up again because they realize that they have responsibility and there are consequences.

Ed Thomas shared that one of the cornerstones in NHMA is looking out for the most underrepresented, disadvantaged people, whether it is persons of color, Native American, a single mom barely getting by, small businesses barely making payroll, the first and hardest hit and last to recover, if they recover at all, as well as deciding we can look at this from the perspective of the whole - and we are not. What is generally happening is that there are a few bright lights around the nation who say we will have to have higher

standards, rethink doing building codes, we can't just be doing it for life-safety only, etc. We have to think of post event operability, disaster risk reduction.

Gene Henry suggested that it gives resources to those who are preaching it to also sell it, so we can also be that resource. For the Resilience Officer or Planning Director, to provide them with a flash card when then need the resources to help someone else understand. It's very difficult for people to wrap their whole mind around this. It would be great if we provided them with that resource so they could.

Ned Swanberg shared that he listened in on the BRIC workshop and they were talking about emergency response in very abstract terms, but were trying to identify this thing they called 'life lock' which he understood to be prioritizing essential services in the immediate post disaster environment. Maybe we need to come up with a branded term that links to something more substantial in terms of planning for resilience, equitable sustainable outcomes.

Gene Henry offered that FEMA may have a problem getting all this information out as well. When they send representatives out and are sitting with these jurisdictions, those folks don't know how to help those communities' step forward as Ned just said. Gene likes the phrase too.

Ned Swanberg suggested that maybe there's a connection between the threads in the Patchwork Quilt.

Ed Thomas shared that one of the primary purposes of the DRR Curriculum is to educate the FEMA folks as well as the state folks as well as the local folks as well as the ordinary citizens that a lot of stuff that they are hearing does not cover the need for the transformative change that is necessary. We're hoping to set up some meetings with FEMA in the very near future to go over this with them, and hopefully they will be receptive.

Gene Henry will send the point of contact information for the new Hillsborough County Government Employee Department Director who will be in the RNN.

Ed Thomas said we'll try to get this person up to speed and understanding that one of the integral parts of resilience - not the only one, of course - is Disaster Risk Reduction. And Disaster Risk Reduction will require a transformative change in planning, development, construction, building codes, and a lot of other things and we need to look at this always from the perspective of the most disadvantaged people. He sometimes wonders what would happen if when doing a plan for a community, instead of approaching it from the point of view of the whole community we only approached it from the point of view of the most underrepresented and disadvantaged members of the community, how would that affect the outcome? Would everything else just fall into place if we took care of the most underserved people in the planning process first? We don't know; but it's an interesting thought.

Ned Swanberg observed how this highlights the fact that so many vulnerable people don't control their own building or landscape.

Ed Thomas agreed; they don't control their own landscape and the disaster relief system that we have in this country is fundamentally inequitable towards people who are just barely getting by week to week; who are renters, who are small business owners and operators; but it favors homeowners and the middle class, large business and industry. So too with our entire development game. It favors what probably are called the plutocrats - the people who play golf with the mayor, and donate to campaigns, and all this other stuff, and we need to look at this from the perspective of folks who are just barely getting by who are truly underrepresented. *That's* what we need to do.

In any case, we need to do things dramatically differently than what we're doing, and so much of what he sees for hazard mitigation planning, is people who think that all they have to do is take all the plans in the community and combine them together and that would solve everything! But in reality, if the flood plain management plan, or the hazard mitigation plan is going to produce worse disasters, it doesn't matter if you combine them or not.

Ed Thomas this has been a great discussion. We've got some action items, we got some folks to join our newly reestablished Planning Committee, we have folks working on getting webinars going. Joe Rossi hasn't mentioned it, but he has agreed to do another webinar in conjunction with some other thoughts that are going on with respect to insurance and it will probably bring in something on elevating homes and probably be an opportunity to do some stuff on planning and maybe introduce the Planning Committee. We can set that up as we work with our contractor who's going to be doing the webinar series.

Ed Hecker shared that he looks forward to working with this group and made a few comments along those lines in the Board call yesterday. This discussion plays very well into the Strategic Plan we're putting together so he will have a lot more to say in the next RNN call at the end of August.

Ed Thomas asked if there is a possibility that the Strategic Plan will be going out to the RN Communities before the August call.

Ed Hecker confirmed that is his intent. At the very least he will put together a read-ahead for the RNN Community in advance of the call at the end of August. As the entire plan is waiting for publication and the Board to approve it, those parts of it - and particularly the early drafts of the Operation Plan - along with the early work that we're going to be doing with our contractor/partner at the university level will all be ready for more in depth discussion at the end of August.

Ed Thomas observed that August will be a big month: We'll be seeing at least a draft Strategic Plan, we'll be working with you all as much as you have time to with respect to the Grant from FEMA, and we are looking forward to more information to come on the ABA Book.

10) Adjourn

The Meeting ended at 4:07 p.m.

Next meeting is **August 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.** Eastern Time.

July 2020 Action Items List

MONTANA ANNUAL RESOURCES SEMINAR

- (July-A1.) **Ed Thomas** to work with Shaye Bodine to update the Module names and particularize them for the Montana Annual Resource Seminar.
- (July-A2.) **Ed Thomas** to chat with Traci Sears offline about the honorarium and other payments that Montana can afford.
- (July-A3.) **All RNN Community members who get an email** from Ed Thomas or Shaye Bodine about the Montana Annual Resource Seminar to respond right away and get them whatever they need.

VIRTUAL SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

- (July-A4.) **Annie Vest** to send Erin Capps a link to the Quad-State Conference (October 5- 9, 2020); Erin Capps to submit for it.
- (July-A5.) **Erin Capps** to submit for the Oklahoma Flood Plain Managers Conference (Sept. 21-22, 2020).
- (July-A6.) **Joe Rossi** to send a draft Agenda for the September Flood Awareness Month events in Massachusetts to [NHMA Admin](#) to be circulated to the RNN Communities.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

- (July-A7.) **Traci Sears and Shaye Bodine** to work up a draft on the Montana Annual Resource Seminar to submit to the Resilient Nation Roundup per request of Vince Brown of FEMA.
- (July-A8.) **RNN Community members** to respond to the Request for Comments from FEMA sent out by the NHMA Admin.

RNN OUTREACH

- (July-A9.) **Gene Henry** to reach out to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Economic Opportunity to remind them about the DRR Curriculum syllabus under the RNN and NHMA.
- (July-A10.) **Gene Henry to contact Ed Thomas or Erin Capps** and get some information from them for purposes of outreach to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Economic Opportunity.
- (June A-1) **Gene Henry** to reach out to his peer in the Resiliency Agency for Hillsborough County, and urge them to step into his role with the RNN.

- (June A-2) **Gene Henry** to forward to Erin Capps the contact information for Bryan Cook of Hillsborough County who did the Community Vulnerability Study along with some information on the Community Vulnerability Study.
- (June A-3) **Ed Thomas** to chat with Gene Henry offline about his outreach to the Department Director in the Resiliency Agency of Hillsborough County.
- (June A-4) **Erin Capps** to follow up with Bryan Cook of Hillsborough County to see what his level of interest in the RNN is.

ABA RESILIENCY BOOK & FLYER

- (June A-5) **Ed Thomas** to get a copy of the ABA virtual meeting flyer on recent books and publications as well as a press release for the ABA Resilience Book out to everyone.
- (June A-6) **Ed Thomas** to get Gene Henry a short pithy description of the ABA Resilience Handbook for purposes of outreach.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- (June A-7) **Ed Hecker** to provide a read-ahead for the RNN Communities about the NHMA Strategic Plan and the Operations Plan for discussion in the August RNN.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- (June A-8) **Erin Capps** to discuss with the Project Management Team that Gene Henry will help produce an outreach card; the Project Management Team to look at the micro contract to take on marketing support - producing something easy for people to digest and see and for gaining more membership in the RNN; also creating a digital flyer or imaging for use in promotion of webinars.
- (June A-9) **Gene Henry** to participate on the NHMA Planning Committee and work with the NHMA micro-contractor to produce introductory material for the DRR Curriculum, NHMA and the RNN.
- (June A-10) **Erin Capps and the Project Management Team** to provide a copy of these notes to the micro-contractor for purposes of drafting a series of summary note cards for presentation about the RNN, the DRR Curriculum and the NHMA.