



# Resilient Neighbors Network

Minutes of RNN Community Meeting of  
Friday, **November 13, 2020, 3:00 pm ET**  
(Combined Meeting for October & November)

**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 November 13, 2020:**

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes (*August and September 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, November 13, 2020:

3:00 pm Eastern Time: CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL:

### 1) ROLL CALL:

Present:

**Joe Rossi** (Marshfield Citizens Coastal Coalition)

**Shaye Bodine** (State of Montana)

**Tim Trautman** (Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC)

**Alyssa Henry** (Lycoming County, PA)

**Ned Swanberg** (State of Vermont)

**Bill Smiley** (USACE)

**Ed Hecker** (NHMA Board)

**Ed Thomas** (NHMA Board)

**Donna Boyce** (NHMA Board)

**John Wiener** (NHMA Board)

**Annie Vest** (NHMA Board)

**Mary Baker** (NHMA Board)

**Vincent Brown** (FEMA)

### 2) Approval of Minutes (August & September 2020)

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

**The Motion was seconded** by David Mallory.

There being no discussion, it was

**VOTED:** The Minutes were approved.

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

**Ed Hecker** introduced Joe Rossi and noted that Joe Rossi has provided updates for us on trends in the insurance industry in the past. We've also talked about doing a webinar with Joe Rossi on insurance and mitigation and we are preparing to re-launch a series of NHMA webinars in which Risk Rating 2.0 remains one of our key topics.

**Joe Rossi** shared that he briefly reviewed the Strategic Plan and the Operations Plan. He has no major comments on them but likes the direction we are moving in, as education and outreach are critical in everything we do. Important we continue promoting that as a major part of what we're doing as we move forward.

**Joe Rossi** reported that about two weeks ago he was invited to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement with FEMA to view the Risk Rating 2.0 in its entirety. Because he's part of the Risk Rating 2.0 NDA he can't say much about the data that was shown; however, he can say in general that FEMA is far further along in Risk Rating 2.0 than anyone thought. They're at a point already where someone could actually get a quote - which is very interesting. Generally, and without disclosing anything under the NDA, he could say that once it is rolled out it will be easier to rate buildings. Risk Rating 2.0 is still on trajectory for 10-1. However, there is pushback in the industry because the timeline doesn't seem to allow enough time from development to implementation - a point that he agrees with. Based on what he's seen, it's a good product but not something we want to rush.

Congressman Rose from New York, who had proposed legislation to postpone Risk Rating 2.0 until it could be reviewed by Congress, was recently defeated in his race for re-election. It will be interesting to see who takes up the torch for legislative postponement of Risk Rating 2.0. Per a legislative call yesterday with one of the Boards he sits on as Co-Chair, Joe Rossi reported that Craig Hughes is part of the Biden Transition Team.

**Ed Hecker** shared that the Board meeting yesterday also discussed looking at who is on the Biden Transition Team and the potential this offers for disaster risk reduction/hazard mitigation. We will continue tracking that, particularly if folks we have prior relations with are moving into the new Administration and might be open to resiliency discussions.

**Ed Hecker** shared that over the past two months he developed a White Paper to look at how we can better leverage the progress made with respect to the Silver Jackets Program coordinated by the US Army Corps of Engineers - which he had a significant role in developing, with the Resilient Neighbors Network and NHMA. Looking ahead to the challenges the nation faces, and further focus on the DRR Curriculum with some of the initiatives we're discussing across academia, it made perfect sense to forge a more direct engagement between the NHMA, RNN and the Silver Jackets Program.

Annie Vest has been actively involved with the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers over the past few years assisting with specific flood risk management efforts in Miama, Oklahoma. This led us to have a discussion with Bill Smiley, the Emergency Manager for Tulsa District and the Silver Jackets Team. We saw significant opportunities to collaborate with more direct participation between the Silver Jackets Team in general and the NHMA and RNN in support of their Pilot Project. It's an emerging opportunity to use this project as a case study for identifying where we can achieve increased investment in helping a community like Miama, Oklahoma as a touchstone for other communities around the nation, and looping all of that back to the Resilient Neighbors Network.

**Bill Smiley** reported on the unique project in Miama, OK. They have had a long-term relationship with the Silver Jackets Program, whose forte is bringing together different key organizations, adding existing community organizations, and leveraging those relationships into a partnership to identify and utilize existing and assessed risk programs in order to reduce risk impacts by evaluating response planning and gearing it all more effectively toward mitigation efforts.

What's unique about this project in Miama, are the many studies they've done since 2019 which focused on structural and non-structural projects and how this project will uniquely look at the entire spectrum of mitigation - whether through BRIC, Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs and other grants available from Federal Agencies, mostly with their inherent authorities such as feasibility studies with the Corps - and then incorporate community education and risk communication.

Miama has a great program and great relationships already in place. They've had one meeting with the locals that resulted in somebody standing up to ask if they could put some funding toward buyouts. The next meeting will talk more about leveraging grant funds, what the risks are, and the public-private partnerships that we have in place.

Their overall focus is on performance. They know this won't be a short-term effort but will go on for many years. Setting performance standards to measure economic impacts, etc. is crucial because it is through these efforts that they identify how to reduce impacts to people, homes, businesses, political and social systems, and whole communities. Miama is one of the most highly flooded areas in the State of Oklahoma. They are ready to bring locals and other people interested in helping to the table and are ready to go with any partnership they can get going on this project.

**Ed Hecker** noted that this program is an example of where we're going with the RNN and NHMA overall, in context with the Strategic Plan and Operations Plan. We have a handful of other communities and states that we're looking at working with during this next phase. We want to be able to look back, look ahead, and see where we can engage more with the Corps, and various agencies across FEMA, EPA, and others, who are looking at programs, grants, and objectives to help communities like Miama, Oklahoma, which represents a number of smaller communities around the nation.

We see NHMA and the RNN translating takeaways from efforts like this into our dialogue at the national level so we can help shape policy, bring back ideas for improving federal programs to help communities achieve the disaster risk reduction they've planned to do. We've done work in Lawrence County, SC, we've got Clemson University standing up to help us across the nation and will talk about that in the next call. We're developing a Work Group to drill into and shape this in the most effective way, and it's important that we get feedback from the RNN Communities and our partners and other folks who have worked with us over the past decade to make sure that we're shaping this in the right way. Miama is a good example of what we're trying to do.

**John Wiener** asked if the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers is involved with the Cherokee Nation. **Bill Smiley** responded that they definitely are and are bringing the Tribal Nations in those areas to the table as part of the overall theme of Thinking Nationally and Acting Locally. The Tribal Nations bring a wealth of information, both historically and in some of the funding that they're able to leverage. For instance, if a Tribe at some point is the lead agency on mitigation efforts, the Tribes do not have cost shares. It is most interesting to be able to bring them to the table in areas of shared responsibility. There are many ideas and many avenues that will all play a great role in making this a very performance-oriented project which delivers local impact.

**John Wiener** expressed concern that a lot of Tribes have very limited resources - the Cherokee Nation may be better off than most - but they are also downstream from a great deal of risky water quality situations, not least of which includes degraded water quality from high-intensity precipitation running from poor farming land or land that is being poorly used. John has posted some material on his website about this but thinks it is widely understood. The change in precipitation intensity and acidity, along with distortions and destructions of the Clean Water Act by the Trump Administration, will affect downstream water quality for everybody.

**Donna Boyce** concurred. This is a fascinating subject, and she will follow up with John Wiener on that; the question was asked: Will we consider the recent decision that says a Nation controls most of the land in Oklahoma that was not previously recognized due to a treaty?

**John Wiener** responded that historical ownership is not the same thing as control: It might be, if these were non-Native Americans, but it's not clear what Native jurisdiction, or historical ownership will mean; and that is what the State of Oklahoma is reluctant to engage with them on. So, this is, so far as their victory is concerned, symbolic.

**Bill Smiley** added that the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers has their own tribal liaison who will be working on this and has a great relationship with the Tribes. These are the exact kind of things they will have discussions about throughout the process. In many respects it's almost like a mini-feasibility study, but at a more deliberate pace.

With regard to John Wiener's comment on water quality, Bill Smiley mentioned that they have a study going on right now primarily regarding the impact of chicken farms along the Arkansas border and its impact on water quality for the Illinois River.

**John Wiener** commented that one of the most under-appreciated problems with CAFOS is not just overflow and flooding of wastewater lagoons, but that *what's in* those wastewater lagoons is not only unmetabolized antibiotics, but also *antibiotic-resistant pathogens*. This is far more serious than seems to be appreciated. North Carolina alone produces more anti-biotic resistant pathogens through the endless overflow of their very poorly regulated CAFOS than many states, but it is a widespread problem. The Illinois River might or might not be fully examined for the presence of antibiotics and pathogens. Usually these are not tested for by most people or agencies. Water treatment facilities are also not generally, or universally equipped to handle this.

**Bill Smiley** concurred - that is an excellent point. During the study analysis, they want to make things better, and with regard to anything up or downstream, they certainly don't want to make things worse. The EPA will be one of their key partners along with non-profits such as NHMA. Leveraging all the information and education that these groups bring to the table is key for these communities. There is a potential area close to Miama called Pitcher, Oklahoma, which is on their radar as well.

**Ed Hecker** offered that we can certainly see the value of the proposition emerging here and Bill Smiley can see some of the expertise that NHMA can bring to bear as he moves forward with this study. We look forward to drilling into this more over time and to be as helpful as possible.

**Ed Thomas** noted this is a great discussion. He was involved in some previous flooding events in Miama, Oklahoma, and wrote an article on this topic which was published by ASFPM. This discussion fits in beautifully with next Tuesday's Region VI webinar, and also fits into NHMA potentially updating our *Patchwork Quilt* concept. The *Patchwork Quilt* concept helped in the last flooding that he was involved in with Miama several years ago.

**Ed Thomas** will get information about his article on flooding in Miama, Oklahoma from several years ago to Ed Hecker and Annie Vest, along with information on the *Patchwork Quilt* concept, including suggested higher standards which is a mantra of NHMA. It is important that we are not misled by looking at a 1% flood when we want to speak to and understand better about what base flood

elevation is and is not. The webinar next Tuesday will go into that. Region VI has invited everyone to participate, even folks who are outside of Region VI.

**Ed Thomas** shared that he will start his webinar presentation next Tuesday with NHMA's Module 20 on the DRR Curriculum, along with a short introduction to the Curriculum and the *ABA Community Resilience Handbook*, which just got published. The webinar will talk about an Introduction to the Curriculum, understanding where other resources exist, and discuss the NHMA website, some of our publications posted there which are free to download, and better understand what a 1% flood is, what a base flood elevation is, and what a FEMA Map showing flood hazard is and what it is not; that FEMA doesn't map flood plains, FEMA maps special flood hazard areas; the limitations of looking at something that is an active, ever-changing thought such as, what is a 1% flood or a hundred year flood in a time of climate change? Also coming up with resources to link flood disaster risk reduction with other forms of disaster risk reduction and the like. That's what they are going to try and cover in a 1-hour webinar with lots of time for Q&A. Its an opportunity for NHMA to get some of our product - that we've been working on for so long - out into the hands of people who really can use it.

**Ed Hecker** stated that we will get that announcement out so people can register.

**Shaye Bodine** reported that Montana is planning a series of trainings in the New Year. They have had a lot of turnover and are planning new Flood Plain Administrator Training in January - very nuts and bolts. They will follow that training up with an Enforcement Training, which Ed Thomas will be supporting, and Traci Sears and Ed Thomas have been working on that.

**Shaye Bodine** shared that the Silver Jackets discussion was very helpful. Montana is revamping Silver Jackets in their state as well. They just had a pre-Silver Jackets meeting before their official meeting in December. It was obvious to everyone, including the Corps, that sometimes the Silver Jackets projects move on to bigger and better things and lose the connection with the community. There are a lot of opportunities for an organization like NHMA to help build those relationships at the community level and make sure that the wonderful Silver Jackets projects grow to their full potential. Montana looks forward to hearing more updates coming out of Oklahoma.

**Ed Hecker** shared that a key aspect of the discussion between NHMA and the Silver Jackets Team is better linking what the Silver Jackets do in pre-disaster mitigation to what occurs in post-flood recovery. They covered some ideas on that with the Tulsa District this week.

**Ed Hecker** reported that the NHMA Strategic Plan was approved by the Board yesterday, with the understanding that start taking actions and achieving measurable progress through the Operations Plan. As part of that effort, we have formed the Resilience Neighbors Network Future Direction Work Group. We want to populate that Workgroup with as many interested folks from the RNN as possible, going all the way back to its inception, so we can capture best practices and good results that we've achieved to date. We also want to look ahead to challenges we face and the direction we're taking with NHMA overall. What can we do with the RNN going forward to better enable this important feature of NHMA which supports our communities?

Everything we've talked about today is part of this effort. Shaye Bodine, Annie Vest, Clemson University, and Manuela Johnson from Indiana are part of that Workgroup, and will be starting within the next two weeks. The Operations Plan lays out clearly what we're trying to achieve and we've already had a discussion with USACE Headquarters, the new Silver Jackets Program Manager, Ellen Berggren and their Flood Risk Management Program Lead, Stephanie Bray, who are all on board, but encouraged us to work from the bottoms up at the grass roots level to build constituency for the changes they want to develop and improve on. We're all on board and eager to move forward. We'll be putting out another note for anybody in the RNN Community who wants to participate to please let us know.

**Annie Vest** added that if anyone on the call wants information about what's going on in Oklahoma, or what has gone on in the Oklahoma Silver Jackets Group which has flown under the radar nationally for a long time yet has done some incredible things, to please let her know. Tulsa, Oklahoma used to be one of our RNN Communities, and though it hasn't been active in and of itself, the Corps of Engineers has been directly responsible for some of their Community Rating System activities. The discussions that she and Bill Smiley have had over the years evolved from asking, "How can we operationalize, or amplify this program, and make it much more meaningful and better in the way it has grown in Tulsa and other communities?" Anyone wanting more information or to be part of that, please let her know. **Ed Hecker** added that this will be one of the most critical initiatives that we launch.

**Tim Trautman** reported that Charlotte-Mecklenburg had some flooding yesterday. Though it could have been worse, it did hit the maximum level in nine out of 50 of their USGS flood gauges in the history of their gauge period of record - which doesn't go back over a hundred years for all of them, but most of them have been in place for 40 to 75 or 80 years. The good news/bad news is that they had lots of road flooding and lots of impacts; but once they get all of their data collected, he is confident that they will have avoided much more damage than they actually had. He expects a little over 100 buildings to be flooded inside their living space; but they probably avoided having 300 to 400 other buildings impacted in those same areas, which were mitigated. He will try to tell both sides of this story, as he looks at what was and what could have been from all the mitigation and mapping work they've done over the last 20 to 30 years, and is working to pull a report on that together.

As he mentioned about a month ago, Charlotte-Mecklenburg has been working on a project with Homeland Security to place a series of low-cost flood sensors which have now been deployed throughout the community. Since those sensors are in place, one of the things they were able to do yesterday and today, was to generate mapping boundaries during the event and update them after the event to see affected areas. This morning they had an inundation boundary on all their streams estimated from their mapping data, overlaid it with their elevation data, and were able to target the houses from that data which they felt were most likely to have flooded inside the living space. His crews are out there today to see those 100 houses. They've never had that ability before - to map an inundation boundary and then overlay it with location data; so, they now have something new that's going to help them do assessments faster and recover faster as well. He will keep us updated as this plays out in the weeks ahead.

**Ed Hecker** asked if Tim Trautman could make a report on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg flood mitigation success available to be shared with the rest of the RNN Communities?

**Tim Trautman** responded that yes, he could. It's part of a dual project with DHS - the report is a *Community Guidebook on Risk Assessments*. One part of it is individual risk assessments, and the other part is flood sensors which they have deployed in the community. There's also inundation mapping, and merging those two together to show all the house data, then overlay it with the creek level data collected through the low cost sensors during and after an event so they can plot boundaries and do calculations. They still have not gotten permission from DHS to release that Community Guidebook. Hopefully, it will be forthcoming.

**Tim Trautman** shared that it felt good in the Emergency Operations Center yesterday when they could pull up a layer and show on the big screens where they thought the inundation boundary was. Also, it's still under development and they weren't scheduled to have it complete and more automated until the Spring of next year; but their consultant, who's doing it, had it far enough along that they were able to contact them and process the data based upon what they'd built so far and send it through. In the future it will be automatically generated and updated as sensor data comes in. That should be over the next six or nine months.

**David Mallory** commented that what Tim just described is a phenomenal advancement in real time flood response. He hopes that at some point this gets developed into information that can be spread around through webinars or presentations at conferences, etc., as it's just amazing that Charlotte-Mecklenburg was able to respond that quickly during a flood event - well done!

**John Wiener** asked if Charlotte-Mecklenburg could please make sure their inundation maps - and any subsequent inundation maps done in similar fashion - are overlaid with the FEMA Maps? He expressed that it's critically important for everyone to understand the limitations of the FEMA maps, that they are understood to be based on USGS Bulletin 17C, and that 17C requires use of the entire handle of the hockey stick as well as the blade - that it's a climate denier maneuver within the USGS upper level of key management and is very misleading and profoundly affects FEMA's ability to do decent mapping.

**Tim Trautman** explained that the FEMA Maps they have, which are all digital and that they helped manage and create, are the underlying piece of their inundation maps. They are the multi-frequency probability grids that were part of the FEMA Map development which are developing these inundation boundaries. So, they are able to use all the FEMA digital data from those maps to generate the boundaries and then process the depth estimates as well.

**Ed Thomas** responded that virtually every map currently in existence has its fundamental roots in both the 17B and the C maps, which John very correctly characterized are just starting to come out now. But the contractual stuff on virtually everything that's out there was based on 17B - and he will be talking about that in the webinar on Tuesday.

**John Wiener** asked Tim Trautman if he could add a little more information about costs and savings from their flood mitigation project. Could he estimate how much was saved, or how much loss was avoided through their mitigation efforts?

**Tim Trautman** responded that they will have a number estimated next week. Because the inundation maps have an overlay of the depth of water over all their buyout areas and house elevations, they can run tools that will estimate costs and avoided costs in the flood plain areas.

**Ed Hecker** shared that once Tim Trautman has something that is releasable, we can have a broader discussion. He has had a number of discussions with other folks regarding tools of this nature and it would be good to compare notes on them. This is a discussion that some folks at FEMA Risk Management Division may be interested in as well.

**Alyssa Henry** reported that Lycoming County is working on Hazard Mitigation Plan updates and COVID Grant stuff, and these have been taking up a lot of their time. She will look at the Strategic Plan and Operations Plan and forward any of comments or feedback she may have to Ed Hecker.

**Ned Swanberg** reported that he forwarded a link for everyone to a recording of a presentation on Environmental Justice and Climate Affects which was very well done and very worthwhile watching. We have so much ahead that we have to plan for. The effects of substantial damage determinations on people with marginal housing is one of those places where the intersection of insurance programs and people's lives are particularly vulnerable and really deserves careful study about how to house people safely. One thing that has come to him over the past few days was a request from Barre City, Vermont, a small town nearby that he works with, which was asking about rep loss feet - how do they get that? Because the Hazard Mitigation Plan cites a number, Ned looked it up on CIS; and of course the number is larger now; but he can't give them a big map of where these are, and can't get the addresses directly, so now has directed them back to FEMA Region I to get permission and signed agreements in order to be able to have some sort of personal data such as street addresses released to the City. He hopes that will work out. It's an awkward process for communities that are looking at increasing levels of rep loss - there must be a way to make this work better.

**Ed Hecker** remarked that that is specifically something the RNN Work Group will look at in terms of better serving communities - exactly as Ned just described. A lot of our discussion today goes to the past, present and future challenge that we have.

**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**

**Ed Thomas** reported that the *ABA Community Resilience Book* is out, published, and available through ABA. Information on how to order it was sent out to everyone. It has a hefty price tag - around \$60 to \$80, depending on who you are. He hopes we can persuade states to put it in their state libraries and that the RNN Communities can persuade their local public library and local schools to buy it. It's designed not just for lawyers - it is a statement of how to do hazard mitigation from a lot of different people and points of view - including materials written by Donna Boyce, John Wiener, Ed Hecker, and a lot of different professions, describing how to go about community resilience.

**Ed Thomas** will try to get ahold of the ABA to see if we can get a special discount code for NHMA members or something like that. **John Wiener** suggested that if universities get the book, they can distribute it through inter-library loans.

**Ed Thomas** reiterated that we definitely want to spread the word, and get folks understanding that this is not a book by lawyers for lawyers, but rather for more people who are in other professions. It's a product of the Resilient Neighbors Network and NHMA in a lot of ways. The whole thought process that went into this book is *un-lawyerlike*. It's making the case for higher standards, that people may better understand the use of flood maps, better understand the linkages between the many, many silos and foreseeable natural events. What we want is foreseeable natural events to not become disasters. A lot of work went into this. Chuck Wallace was one of the authors; a lot of different folks spent significant

time on it. Please think about getting a copy or making a copy available to your community. Those of you that have some end-of-year money, end-of-the-fiscal or calendar-year, please think about buying it.

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

**Ed Hecker** reported that we've covered everything on the Action Item list from last meeting. At one point we were going to have a Special Session of the RNN just to discuss the Strategic Plan, but weren't able to get a good group of folks to participate on a particular date, so played it forward to this call. Hopefully, everyone has now seen the final Strategic Plan and the draft Operational Plan to comment on. We're looking for active participation contributions from our Communities as we initiate this Working Group! We appreciate in advance your participation and help with that.

**Ed Hecker** mentioned that the NHMA leadership held a briefing and discussion with FEMA Risk Management Division, working through our VOC and PM Vince Brown, and Vince had an opportunity to bring a broader knowledge and awareness of what NHMA is doing - even beyond what we have embraced in our Grant from the Risk Management Division and where we're at with that - and how we're broadening our efforts through the Strategic Plan. It was a very good discussion.

**Ed Hecker** will put out a summary of the NHMA leadership briefing with FEMA in the next week in terms of what the way forward is. We will have interactive video sessions with Vince Brown and his team quarterly, to make sure that as we continue to make progress with the objectives and Strategic Plan for Risk Management Directorate, we are both aligning with where the Risk Management Directorate is going and also providing good feedback to them on Community reactions and needs and serving as an ombudsman for communities within various Directorates of FEMA.

**Vincent Brown** reported that FEMA has been coming together with the NHMA very well in terms of how grant money is being effectively spent by NHMA in its pursuits and how those pursuits are becoming more and better aligned with FEMA, FIMA and RMD initiatives, goals and objectives. FIMA is the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, which is the part of FEMA that we are in, and we are the Risk Management Directorate. We have several Divisions within Risk Management, and we are the Directorate and that's where the CTP Grant is located. The people that we keep apprised of what's going on are our Flagship Division levels, and they are looking at what's being done by NHMA. The budget with Clemson looks good; they're also interested in the smaller contract with Millersville University. Pulling universities into what we're doing is good because they have so many essential resources. Once we get involved with universities, there's potential for working with their Planning Department, Engineering Department, Architectural Department, etc. FEMA sees a lot of potential there and looks forward to helping NHMA explore that. Overall, we have impressed Management, and within the Risk Management Directorate we should keep going strong and allow Vince to keep briefing our Management and we'll have good things going before too long. Vince Brown does have some updates from FEMA, but will offer that to us later just to let us know what kinds of things they're working on. The NHMA Leadership briefing meeting went well, and they are looking forward to the next quarterly meeting with NHMA. We're on the right track.

## 7) CTP Collaboration Monthly Call for Topics

Please remember that if any of you are willing to craft a short article, it is a direct way to get visibility for successes and other things happening at the community level. We have the opportunity to have Vince Brown get them published in the Cooperating Technical Partner monthly publication or the Risk Management Division monthly publication, as appropriate. Everyone is encouraged to think about that - if you can spend a half hour crafting something, NHMA would be happy to help finalize it for publication. Shaye Bodine developed an excellent article on the Montana Workshop in September that was extremely well received. We want to take advantage of this opportunity more directly going forward.

## 8) Publication opportunities and virtual speaking opportunities

**Ed Thomas** again encouraged everyone to take a little time to write up something about what they are doing in their communities that can be published and distributed to many different publications.



Shaye Bodine's effort in writing up Montana's excellent Resources Seminar was wonderful and we would love to see something from Charlotte-Mecklenburg about what Tim Trautman described on the successes and challenges with inundation mapping there - that 100 buildings were flooded, but that number was down from a potential of 300 or 400, and how Charlotte-Mecklenburg has managed that through their approach to future conditions. We would also love to see something on what the Silver Jackets and others are doing in Miama, Oklahoma. There's so much that the RNN Communities are doing that is important and needs to be communicated throughout the nation and the world. Something from Ned Swanberg on his reaction to the excellent webinar on environmental justice and treating people decently and fairly in a non-discriminatory way would be excellent. Short little pieces that give you a chance to have a whole list of publications publish them so you can read them, share them, and smile about that and get the word out on things that are particularly of interest to you and your community. **Ed Hecker** added that the Silver Jackets Newsletter and other publications are available to us as well.

**9) Any comments from Vincent Brown for FEMA updates**

**Vince Brown** reported that FEMA has a National Mitigation Investment Strategy that they've been implementing, and they have figures on that which he can send us showing how every dollar spent on mitigation saved 6 dollars.

**Vince Brown** will also send us information on the exciting National Risk Index that will be rolling out next week which has information on 18 different hazards and the data part of that project; also a Building Codes project rolling out next week about the importance and effectiveness of a strong building code; then the High Risk Potential Dam program - it's only \$10,000,000.00 per year but will go towards identifying high potential hazard dams, and communities can help protect themselves by applying for those funds and making their dams safer.

**10) Adjourn**

**Ed Hecker** reiterated that anyone who has an interest in participating in any of the Work Groups going forward, please shoot him or Annie Vest a note and they will incorporate you into the Work Group. Even if it's just to look over their shoulder and provide advice from time to time, your active participation and support is very much needed!

**A Motion to adjourn** was made by Ed Hecker.

**The Motion was seconded** by Ed Thomas.

There being no discussion, it was

**VOTED:** The meeting was adjourned.

The meeting ended at 4:09 p.m.

The next RNN meeting is **December 11, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

---

## November 2020 Action Items List

---

- (Nov.)-A1. **Ed Hecker** to put out a summary of the NHMA leadership briefing with FEMA in the next week in terms of what the way forward is.
- (Nov.)-A2. **Alyssa Henry** to look at the Strategic Plan and Operations Plan and forward her comments or feedback to Ed Hecker.
- (Nov.)-A3. **Ed Thomas** to get information about his article on flooding in Miama, Oklahoma from several years ago to Ed Hecker and Annie Vest, along with information on the *Patchwork Quilt* concept, including suggested higher standards and 1% flood info.
- (Nov.)-A4. **Ed Thomas** to try to get ahold of the ABA to see if we can get a special discount code for NHMA members who want to purchase the ABA Community Resilience Handbook.
- (Nov.)-A5. **NHMA Admin** to get out an announcement about Ed Thomas's presentation on the Region VI webinar so people can register. - ***DONE***
- (Nov.)-A6. **NHMA Admin** to send out a note to the RNN Communities urging anyone interested in participating in the Resilience Neighbors Network Future Direction Work Group to let Ed Hecker know. - ***IN PROCESS***
- (Nov.)-A7. **Annie Vest** to get information out to anyone on the call who is interested in what's going on in Miama, Oklahoma and the Silver Jackets initiatives there.
- (Nov.)-A8. **Tim Trautman** to make a report on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg flood mitigation and inundation mapping success available to the rest of the RNN Communities.
- (Nov.)-A9. **Tim Trautman** to get an estimate of how much money was saved, or how much loss was prevented through the flood mitigation and inundation mapping efforts of Charlotte-Mecklenburg out to John Weiner and the RNN Community.
- (Nov.)-A10. **Donna Boyce** to follow up with John Wiener on water quality issues and the Tribal Nations.
- (Nov.)-A11. **Vince Brown** to send us figures on how the National Mitigation Investment Strategy saves \$6 for every dollar spent.
- (Nov.)-A12. **Vince Brown** to send us information on the National Risk Index which has information on 18 different hazards and the data part of that project.
- (Nov.)-A13. **Vince Brown** to send us information on a Building Codes project about the importance and effectiveness of a strong building code.
- (Nov.)-A14. **Vince Brown** to send us information on the High Risk Potential Dam program - \$10,000,000.00 per year to go towards identifying high potential hazard dams, for communities to help protect themselves by applying for those funds and making their dams safer.