

**Resilient Neighbors Network**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Friday, *August 17, 2018*, 11:00 am ET**

**Resilient Neighbors Network (RNN)** is a network of professionals representing communities actively working toward adaptation and resilience from natural hazards.

**RNN Mission**

To increase resilience in existing and developing communities at the grass roots level by documenting and actively sharing best practices, through education, peer to peer collaboration and mentoring.

**RNN Vision**

RNN will be a source for a compilation of community driven hazard resilience best practices that can serve as a resource to people & communities before, during and after a disaster. RNN will also actively bring ground truth and grassroots enlightenment to policy makers, researchers, regulators, and journalists.

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**UPDATED AGENDA FOR UPCOMING MEETING OF September 21, 2018:**

- 1) Roll call
- 2) Approval of Minutes (April, May, June, and July, August, 2018)
- 3) Review of Action Items
- 4) **RNN Participation in Montana Training**
- 5) **Veronica Criscitiello (Wightman & Associates) Request suggestions for good leadership exemplar –**  
(Request for feedback went out to RNN Communities)
  - a) Does anyone have a recommendation for a good candidate to interview as a real life risk reduction leader for the Leadership Module?
- 6) **Veronica Criscitiello (Wightman & Associates)** seeking RNN SMEs for the following:
  - a) Wildfire (review draft module)
  - b) Wildfire-flood connection
  - c) Severe thunderstorm/tornado safe rooms
  - d) Addressing earthquake risks: policy to engineering
- 7) Discussion of Best Practices Documentation-New Best Practice on mitigation based recovery with no Presidential Declaration: Joe Rossi and Coastal Coalition [Material to be sent separately]
- 8) External Stakeholders Workgroup – Tom Hughes
- 9) **Notice of Funding Opportunity, External Stakeholder Working Group**
- 10) **Rebecca Joyce's Membership Memorandum**
- 11) Further Roll Out of RNN/Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum: Hiring a Contractor; Further Presentations in Colorado, South Carolina and Montana
- 12) NHMA DRR Curriculum & Workshop Status:
  - Examining how to further improve fit of the RNN Curriculum to the needs of External Stakeholders; coupling better with existing courses: including FEMA, EPA, NOAA, NGO & private market courses?
  - RNN Volunteers for the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum;
  - How to take advantage of the latest update from the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council on the cost/benefit of Hazard Mitigation.
- 13) **NHMA and RNN Community Meeting: Natural Hazards Workshop - July 9-12, 2018?**
- 14) Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina
- 15) **Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on Reorganization** and the many things happening at FEMA
  - a) **Future of Risk MAP Interviews**
- 16) Status of Island Press Interest, ABA-Houston Success Story
- 17) Comments/Issues/Good News
- 18) Adjourn

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**Minutes for Meeting of Friday, *August 17, 2018:***

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

1. **ROLL CALL:** (Quorum not present)

**Present:** **Ed Thomas** (NHMA Board Member); **Barb Miller** (formerly Jefferson County, WV); **Jim Murphy** (NHMA Board); **John Wiener** (NHMA Board); **Roe Rossi** (Marshfield Coastal Coalition); **Tim Trautman** (Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC); **Chuck Wallace** (Seattle, WA); **Donna Boyce** (NHMA Board); **Roger Faris** (Seattle, WA); **Tim Lovell** (Tulsa Partners, OK); **Veronica Criscitiello** (Wightman & Associates); **Vincent Brown** (FEMA).

- Quorum not met. Minutes tabled until the next meeting.
- Informational discussion ensued.

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2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** - TABLED

3. **REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS** - TABLED

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Action Items from August Meeting

**RNN IN-PERSON COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting:**

- A1: - We'll get a note out that the Community Meeting is an Action item for the RNN Communities and the NHMA Board and the Committee Chairs that we'll come up with a team that's going to organize this meeting;
- A2: - John Weiner's draft called "Brief Note to RNN from John Wiener" to be used as an organizational approach for the Advisory Committee meeting.
- A3: - Tim Trautman, Chuck Wallace, and Vince Brown to work together to figure out options for putting the Advisory Committee Meeting together.
- A4: - Comments from everyone requested on this in about two weeks.

**Success Stories and Blurbs:**

- A5: - Roger Faris to get more info from Joe Rossi to write up a Success Story about his work with the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition and impacted communities in Massachusetts.
- A6: - Barb Miller will write up her experience about her volunteer effort to improve her new community's CRS rating and get it to Roger Faris as an important Success Story.
- A7: - Barb Miller will summarize her comments on helping her new community achieve CRS for Vince Brown;
- A8: - Roger Faris will write up Barb Miller's community CRS story;
- A9: - Ed Thomas will get Roger Faris some materials he promised on Montana.
- A10: - Ed Thomas will get out to everyone a little nugget he put together for the Hazards Workshop on bridging the gap between people who believe in Climate Change, and those who don't believe in Climate Change and the process of de-politicizing the whole concept of hazard mitigation and disaster risk reduction
- A11: - (Wightman & Associates?) will be writing up some additional things on the training we did in Utah, Montana, Colorado, South Carolina, as well as the Hazards Workshop.
- A12: - David Mallory and Ed Thomas will get out some material on Colorado, and will work with Veronica Criscitiello and Gina Wightman to get the South Carolina materials written up.

- A13: - Ed Thomas, Roger Faris and Traci Sears to work together on documenting Traci Sears' work on Substantial Damage Requirements from the South Carolina presentation as a best practice;
- A14: - Veronica Criscitiello to put out Module 15 – the Wildfire Module - as a first operational draft.
- A15: - Vincent Brown will send everybody the latest copy of the Newsflash.
- A16: - Joe Rossi will work with Roger Faris and possibly Ed Thomas to write something up on the presentation he did in Montana, as well as his work with the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition for Vince to use.
- A17: - Veronica Criscitiello will send out descriptions of the Modules to everyone after the meeting for feedback.
- A18: - Veronica Criscitiello to add Mr. Brian Varrella of the ASFPM Board to the distribution as we seek to improve and expand our relationship with the ASFPM Board.
- A19: - Veronica Criscitiello to add Rebecca Joyce to the distribution, as her community is very wild fire and flood prone, and it might be good to include her on this as something that might pull her back into the group.
- A20: - Veronica Criscitiello to add John Weiner's suggestion for an informational Module as a potential new Module.
- A21: - Ed Thomas to follow up with David Vaughn, the Professor of Practice, who is heading that for Clemson University, and see if we can get something written up on the Practical Community Resilient Project effort and how the NHMA and FEMA-funded CTP is used to support that on an ongoing basis.
- A22: - Vince Brown will get information out to us on the Building Codes Report.
- A23: - Vince Brown will send a slide presentation on the Culture of Preparedness for us to look at and see where we can further combine what FEMA is doing with NHMA and RNN, and see where Resilience Organization is going
- A24: - Vince Brown to send us a write-up on the High Water Mark Initiative that we can put out in our Newsletter and up on our website.
- A25: - Barb Miller to write up information on the NOFA and PDA grants for the NHMA Newsletter, so we can get that out and also put in a little plug for her new company.
- A26: - Barb Miller will get a copy of her notes on these to Vince Brown so he can track down these PowerPoint presentations.
- A27: - Barb Miller will communicate directly with Vince and pass these on to the RNN and NHMA communities.
- A28: - Vincent Brown will get us copy of the PowerPoints named: FY2018 FMA NOFO and FY2018 PDM NOFO.

Action Items from July Meeting:

- A29: - Ed Thomas to distribute a copy of our developing responses to FEMA initiatives for the RNN Communities to weigh in on.
- A30: - NHMA Admin to provide good mailing list of the RNN community to Ed Thomas.- **DONE**
- A31: - Roger Faris and/or Veronica Criscitiello to write up the work that Traci Sears is doing, and Florida is doing, as a way of giving people an on-the-ground view of what is required by FEMA which is different from what FEMA used to expect.

- A32: - Roger Faris to work on writing up the Montana Workshop as a model presentation and get out the benefits of the idea of coming to a workshop where you have planners, engineers, flood plain managers, and attorneys in the room at the same time.
- A33: - Veronica Criscitiello to help put a map up on our website showing areas of the country where we have SMEs or at least come up with a way of showing where we have this availability. This would also help identify gaps where we don't yet have expertise to assist in other parts of the country..
- A34: - Ed Thomas to send copy of FEMA post-disaster curriculum materials out to the RNN Community for comment.
- A35: - Veronica Criscitiello to work with NHMA Admin to get today's material out as a draft to folks on the call and then move it forward as one of the elements of our Grant proposal to FEMA.

Action Items from the June Meeting:

- A36: - **Who would like to work on a committee to pick a date, location, etc. for the RNN Community in-person meeting?**
- A37: - Vincent Brown will send the Moonshot materials and FEMA's Strategic Goals for distribution to the RNN Community. – ***DONE (Attached with Minutes)***
- A38: - NHMA Admin to ask Jaime Marso, our webmaster, if there's a way of tracking the downloading of new materials as we turn them out. Can we spot where interest is in topics and location? – ***DONE – awaiting reply.***
- A39: - Ed Thomas to work with Vince Brown and FEMA to distribute the new post-disaster materials.
- A40: - RNN Community members to distribute information about the new materials via word of mouth effort. That's one of the purposes we've designed and carefully put this material out there for.
- A41: - Ned Swanberg and Tim Lovell to write up their thoughts on 'what the RNN means to me' as part of building this into the DRR Curriculum and showing the benefits of involvement in the RNN.
- A42: - NHMA Admin to present Ned Swanberg with a summary of his remarks by way of writing them up. - ***DONE***
- A43: - Ned Swanberg, Ed Thomas, to write up their thoughts on mitigation accountability and think about how we can take this further forward.
- A44: - Vince Brown to get together with David Mallory on the grant application.

Action Items from April & May Meetings:

- A45: - **ONGOING:** Roger Faris requested a reminder on the Agenda that success stories are still needed from members of the RNN Community. His role is to get from each person a little story about what their most proud of that their community has accomplished with regard to hazard mitigation. **STATUS:** Roger Faris reported he has received several excellent Success Stories and is looking now for about ten more. More stories are needed and welcome.
- A46: - **ONGOING:** Vince Brown to offer more information next month on status of inviting Regional Coordinators to participate in the RNN calls.
- A47: - **ONGOING:** NHMA Admin awaiting confirmation from RNN Community members regarding their info in the Contacts List and their approval to post this to the website.
- A48: - **ONGOING:** RNN Communities to provide comments to Tom Hughes on Multi-Hazard Mitigation material (copy of Emergency Response Guide and Emergency Checklist).
- A49: - **ONGOING:** RNN Communities to provide feedback to Tom Hughes on External Stakeholders Workgroup PDFs he sent out for their next meeting in August.
- A50: - **ONGOING:** Still needing feedback from RNN members to Ed Thomas on whether they want to be part of NHMA's response to Keith Porter on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council's draft Cost Benefits of Hazard Mitigation.
- A51: - **ONGOING:** Discussion of Membership Memorandum to continue on next month's agenda.
- A52: - **ONGOING:** Veronica Criscitiello seeks recommendations for a good candidate to interview as a real life risk reduction leader for the Leadership Module.

- A53: - **ONGOING:** Tom Hughes and NHMA Admin to collaborate on sending something to Vince Brown to publish about the RNN.
- A54: - **ONGOING:** Vince Brown to get us information on FIMA's 50th Anniversary Celebration Program. The RNN to let Vince know if there's anything we'd like to get involved with.
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## **PRE-MEETING REMARKS:**

**Ed Thomas recapped topics for today's discussion:**

### **1. FUTURE IN-PERSON RNN MEETING:**

- A major topic of discussion today is getting ourselves organized for an effective future of NHMA, RNN, and the DRR Curriculum.
- John Wiener prepared valuable information on this in a note entitled "Brief Note to RNN from John Wiener" which was sent out to everyone along with the Minutes;
  - We need to identify other organizations that are working at the local level to influence and inspire change.
  - We need to come up with action steps to engage with them going forward.
  - We need a date and location for this future RNN meeting;
- Anyone willing to work with John Wiener and others on moving forward on this?

### **2. RNN PARTICIPATION IN MONTANA TRAINING:**

- Many thanks to Joe Rossi, Tim Trautman and Traci Sears for a very successful workshop in Montana using the DRR Curriculum materials;
  - The Workshop featured an excellent Module presentation developed by Joe Ross on using Flood Insurance as part of the funding resources available for post disaster recovery.
- Ned Swanberg's excellent thoughts were written up and sent around for everyone to review;
  - How we can take this forward?

### **3. FEMA GRANT APPLICATION:**

- Vincent Brown and David Mallory have been working on the Grant application.

### **4. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- Roger Faris's excellent work on RNN Community Success Stories:
  - This is an ongoing item from the April and May meetings;
  - A major success story is the work of Joe Rossi and the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition with regard to their organizing next steps for Massachusetts communities impacted by multiple severe Winter storms which did not result in a Presidential Disaster Declaration;
    - Hoping for a future Success Story on how Joe's non-profit has taken a state-wide lead in developing workshops that are helping with this.
- Roger Faris to get more info from Joe Rossi to write up Success Story about his work with the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition and impacted communities in Massachusetts.
- Barb Miller to write up her experience for Roger Faris in helping her local community take steps to improve their CRS rating.

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## **DISCUSSION:**

### **1. FUTURE IN-PERSON RNN MEETING:**

- **We are looking to set up an Advisory Committee to discuss holding a meeting similar to what we did in January 2014.** With the help of Joe Rossi, we are looking at:
  - How can we organize taking a look at the RNN and expanding its influence?

- What can we do to inspire participation in the RNN, and really get the peer-to-peer networking and education which is so desperately needed, being done by the RNN Communities and their counterparts across the country, out to the nation and to the world at large?
- **We need the thoughts of the RNN Communities as well as the NHMA Board about:**
  - What do we want to do with the CTP funds and the Curriculum?
- Tim Trautman will help figure out options for putting this together if a couple of people could work with him to figure out how to do this.
  - John's draft to be used as an organizational approach;
  - Comments from everyone requested on this in about two weeks.
- Chuck Wallace will be part of the team to help pull this together.
- Vince Brown to also be part of the planning.

#### REMARKS:

- John Wiener shared regarding the scope of the community, there are 2 areas: 1) focus on hazard mitigation as the subject, and 2) focus on the role of peer-to-peer, and the role of social networks.
  - This might be valuable to FEMA & RNN & other groups for getting a sense of how strong the movement is now.
  - This could help identify peers' participation at the local level, NGOs, and local governments.
  - This could work on what FEMA calls the *Whole Community* approach.
  - The first question is how to pitch this for best involvement?
    - Is there a way to do this less expensively?
      - Could we meet in a more central place (like Kansas City or St. Louis, etc.) that everyone can get to with a less expensive venue?
      - The meeting could spend half a day on the role of participatory planning, peer to peer, hazard mitigation, etc. within other kinds of community involvement. Could then spend more time on mitigation, per se.
    - How do we combat what is called "meeting fatigue"? That is, when a lot of groups are asking for your time, attention and vital participation.
      - We may be better off to try to fit this into an event that other people also regard as extremely important.
- Chuck Wallace observed that the challenge he has seen is not so much 'meeting fatigue', per se, but rather how to follow up with attendees after they leave the meeting to help them take the next step? Often participants walk out of an event, are handed a bunch of paperwork, but there's nobody to follow up with them afterwards to lead them in the direction they have to go.
  - 'Meeting fatigue' in this sense is that they walk out of the meetings and don't know what to do with the information they've just received.
  - How do we hook them up with somebody locally who can guide them and help them get started?
- Roger Faris agreed with Chuck Wallace and offered that the central idea of the RNN is that the communities who have had success be mentors to help local communities as the RNN grows. He has seen this work in places where there has been someone locally to help new communities get started.
- Barb Miller concurred and offered that there has to be a local champion to make things work within a community and gave an example of something she's been doing since her move:
  - She was in a very successful CRS community before her move and retirement; the community that she's in now has been wanting to do CRS, but really has no idea how to get started.
  - On a volunteer basis, she went down and worked with the local emergency manager and the local flood plain manager and literally walked them through the CRS process.
  - It turns out that they were doing a lot of things that they could get credit for on CRS but they had no idea how to document that. There just aren't enough people from ISO and state resources to really help the communities through this.
  - This was good experience that she gained locally simply by walking people through the process and is something we can share with other communities along the way.

- Barb Miller will write up her experience about her volunteer effort to improve her new community's CRS rating and get it to Roger Faris as an important Success Story.

**Two persons joined the call. Ed Thomas summarized the discussion.**

- We'll get a note out that the Community Meeting is an Action item for the RNN Communities and the NHMA Board and the Committee Chairs that we'll come up with a team that's going to organize this meeting;
  - This is a major investment on the part of NHMA and proposes significant funding out of the forthcoming CTP budget.
- **As a part of this, we have to show:**
  - How the FEMA Moonshot and the FEMA long term goals for hazard mitigation fit into this meeting;
  - How it helps with results along the lines of Chuck Wallace's suggestion that people emerge from the meetings knowing where they're going, and have some specific direction and steps to follow.
    - We'll refer participants back to the preface of our book, *Hide From the Wind*, which talks about how to perceive the Mileti approach with regard to getting people to change their minds about risk, and what their willing to do about it.
  - Will address the question that Barb Miller raised about how can we, on an ongoing basis, help communities achieve transformative results at the local level?
- Chuck Wallace stressed that when holding meetings where participating jurisdictions are hesitant, he makes sure that when they leave the meeting they have a contact person to reach out to - someone who will follow up with them to help them move forward. No matter how much material they have, it often doesn't translate into action unless there's somebody they can connect with to ask where do they start? We need to say we're going to connect them with someone who can help them get a plan going.

Ed Thomas reiterated for Vincent Brown that we're proposing for the CTP Grant Agreement that we make this a significant part of the Grant;

- How does the RNN view the Curriculum and how can the NHMA support and be an agent for synergy for transformation at the local level?
- How can NHMA participate in supporting this as a whole?

Ed Thomas will get out to everyone a little nugget he put together for the Hazards Workshop on bridging the gap between people who believe in Climate Change, and those who don't believe in Climate Change and the process of de-politicizing the whole concept of hazard mitigation and disaster risk reduction.

- There are many different definitions; it tries to get everyone on the same page.

Vincent Brown concerned about raising the visibility of the Resiliency Organization, the RNN and NHMA – is there anything from this discussion he can socialize around FIMA to let them know what we're doing?

- He manages a Newsletter and wants to get NHMA in to meet the new and existing leadership to showcase what we're doing.
- Is there anything we can give him to showcase around in final form?

Barb Miller will summarize her comments on helping her new community achieve CRS for Vince Brown;

- Roger Faris will write up Barb Miller's community CRS story;
- This piece that can be shopped around FIMA and go up on our website.

Barb Miller confirmed that she will write up her recent experience for Roger Faris about assisting her local community to improve its CRS rating.

- It is still in the beginning stages.
- One of the things they had to do was start educating the local government officials. This is a work in progress. In the beginning there are those issues where you have to educate the local government in moving forward. Fortunately their emergency manager and their flood plain manager understand the importance of this, so it's a work in progress but they are still moving forward.

- After some discussion about how many flood insurance policies they had versus how many vulnerable structures they had, they understood that CRS was a good thing and not something they should be fearful of.

Barb Miller's experience is the very thing that demonstrates what the RNN is about – neighbor helping neighbor - and can show value to FEMA about what NHMA and the RNN are doing.

- We will be writing up some additional things on the training we did in Utah, Montana, Colorado, South Carolina, as well as the Hazards Workshop.
- Ed Thomas will get Roger Faris some materials he promised on Montana.
- David Mallory and Ed Thomas will get out some material on Colorado, and will work with Veronica Criscitiello and Gina Wightman to get the South Carolina materials written up.

## 2. RNN PARTICIPATION IN MONTANA TRAINING

- **The DRR Curriculum materials are being validated**, voted on by the attendees at meetings, who report that they love the material, are finding it useful, and are finding it a way of promoting the Community Rating System, higher standards, better understanding the FEMA Flood Maps, and the tremendous legal impetus for safe, proper design and development.
  - The DRR Curriculum communicates the understanding that safe and proper design and requirements at the state and local level have never been considered a Taking in any case where regulations are clearly shown to require safe and proper development.
- **We can work with John Miller from New Jersey** who will be working with FEMA in the New Jersey Emergency Management office.
  - Ed Thomas sent Vince and John Miller some copies of materials he worked up on Life Safety which was in turn based upon DRR Curriculum materials.
- **We have to give Vince Brown more information about what we're doing**, and what Barb Miller is doing, and how it fits into what Chuck Wallace is talking about - having people not feel abandoned, keeping attendees in contact with an RNN Representative, and through that, expanding and making use of the RNN Community members.
  - Joe Rossi heard a little about this in Montana: One of the most important things that we can do post-disaster is enforce the Substantial Damage and Substantial Improvements Requirement in the Flood Insurance Program.
    - Traci Sears has done an incredible job documenting an approach she worked up based on our work in South Carolina, of an approach at the state level of supporting local folks in the difficult enforcement of the Substantial Damage Requirements of the Flood Insurance Program.
      - Ed Thomas, Roger Faris and Traci Sears to work together on documenting Traci Sears' work on Substantial Damage Requirements materials from the South Carolina presentation as a best practice;
      - Traci's volume on how to support folks struggling with the Substantial Damage Requirements of the Flood Insurance Program is a superb model.
    - Really excellent results on Colorado, Montana and South Carolina;
    - We'll be writing up material on that so we can move forward.
    - Very glad Vincent Brown is on the call today.

## 3. SEEKING RNN SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS FOR WILDFIRE, WILDFIRE-FLOOD CONNECTION, SEVERE THUNDERSTORM/TORNADO SAFE ROOMS, AND ADDRESSING EARTHQUAKE RISKS: POLICY TO ENGINEERING

- The Board had discussions in its meeting yesterday about some Wild Fire experts and an approach for looking at the Wild Fire Module – Module 15 – which is being sent out to the NHMA Board, Committee Chairs and RNN for comment.
  - Veronica Criscitiello to put out Module 15 – the Wildfire Module - as a first operational draft.
- The Wildfire Flood Connection Module still needs a SME.
  - Hoping that Ian Marella and possible Traci Sears will serve.

- Also asked Joe Rossi to take the presentation he did in Montana and work with Wightman & Associates to turn it into a 25<sup>th</sup> Module on Flood Insurance as an Integral Part Of Community Resilience
    - Policy holders as a group, demonstrate that money from the Flood Insurance Program is a vital part of community resilience.
- Vincent Brown requested a blurb on this for the Risk Management Directory *Newsflash* bulletin.
- Vincent Brown will send everybody the latest copy of the *Newsflash*.
  - Joe Rossi will work with Roger Faris and possibly Ed Thomas to write something up on the presentation he did in Montana, as well as his work with the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition for Vince to use.
    - Massachusetts had a major series of winter storms that afflicted about 3,500 homes on the Massachusetts coast, which did not get a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
    - Joe Rossi and his non-profit have taken the state-wide lead in helping the affected homeowners understand about elevation, how to get it done, where to get the money for people who have flood insurance and people who don't have flood insurance, etc.,
    - Joe Rossi is developing a whole series of follow-up actions along that line. He has been working with Roger Faris on writing this up as well as the presentation in Montana, so doing two separate articles would be absolutely outstanding.
  - **A full copy of Joe Rossi's presentation is available** on the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition website <http://www.knowfloods.org> –
    - visit the *Downloads* page, go to the *Presentations* tab; see Flood Insurance Resiliency pdf – this is the full presentation done in Montana and will give an idea of what was talked about.
      - A snapshot article or condensed discussion would be great for an idea of what we're talking about when we discuss these silos of recovery with flood insurance as one of them.
  - Veronica Criscitiello will send out descriptions of the Modules to everyone after the meeting for feedback.
    - Veronica to add Mr. Brian Varrella of the ASFPM Board to the distribution as we seek to improve and expand our relationship with the ASFPM Board.
    - Veronica to add Rebecca Joyce to the distribution, as her community is very wild fire and flood prone, and it might be good to include her on this as something that might pull her back into the group.
    - Chuck Wallace observed that we need to get more practitioners involved; we need more people able to educate the general public about what resilience means to them, especially if they follow through with mitigation recommendations.
      - This is the whole basis for the Curriculum.
    - John Weiner concurred; we also want backup from academics.
- John Weiner requested we contemplate a Module about where to go to get informational materials for planning and response, to be used as part of hazard mitigation, for sets of information required by various different kinds of CRS and FEMA Grants, applications, etc. This could help local governments know where to go to get this information.
  - Ed Thomas agreed this is a potential Module, if that's what the RNN wants.
    - It can be done as part of our Grant.
    - We may want to weave this into the Hazard Mitigation Planning Module, and/or the Risk Identification Module, or it may be a further extension of an existing module.
    - Will have to do a literature search to check with the existing FEMA training modules to see if that's already covered; but may be a good idea.
  - Vincent Brown is willing to help with this.
- Veronica Criscitiello to add John Weiner's suggestion for an informational Module as a potential new Module.

- **We do need volunteers on the Curriculum for further development;**
- Please folks, **we do need SMEs;**
  - We are asking Dr. Keith Porter for his help on the Earthquake Engineering Practice Module;
  - We have Janielle Maffei from the California Earthquake Authority, a former Board Member of NHMA, who should be very useful.

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

- We want to make sure that everyone understands the role that NHMA is planning in the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Counsel and the further development of hazard mitigation materials;
  - We are talking about doing some webinars on that for NHMA and for the ABA and also working with APA on that;
  - **Is anyone interested in this?**
- We are increasingly trying to get the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Counsel to look at the cost benefit of doing zoning in the most hazardous and risky areas, and the best way to improve hazard mitigation is to identify the horribly hazardous location and zone around it.
- **Practical Community Resiliency Project:** The work we did in SC was fundamentally designed to support the Clemson/NHMA Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets Community Resilience Pilot Project and we will report back on where we're going with South Carolina.
  - Ed Thomas to follow up with David Vaughn, the Professor of Practice, who is heading that for Clemson University, and see if we can get something written up on the Practical Community Resilient Project effort and how the NHMA and FEMA-funded CTP is used to support that on an ongoing basis.

#### 5. COMMENTS FROM VINCENT BROWN OF FEMA ON REORGANIZATION AND THE MANY THINGS HAPPENING AT FEMA

##### a) FUTURE OF RISK MAP INTERVIEWS

Vincent Brown gave a brief rundown on FEMA activities.

- FEMA is getting the Grant package together with David Mallory; that is pretty well done.
- **FEMA is developing a High Water Mark Initiative;**
  - They are about to come up with a Tool Kit they will put up online for how communities can develop a high water mark initiative.
  - Vince Brown heads this project.
    - FEMA no longer funds it; they used to pay for science for communities, but have developed a Tool Kit instead to show communities how they can develop a High Water Mark Initiative with a lot of community engagement and awareness around the signs.
    - They are doing anything they can to make it a good CRS related initiative – offering CRS points for high water mark science. That will be coming out any day now.
- **FEMA has an initiative called Mitigation Saves**
  - They have tracked the cost savings of mitigation and now have materials and efforts going on with that;
  - Savings were \$4.00 for every \$1.00 spent on mitigation; that is now up to \$6.00 for every \$1.00 spent.
- **FEMA has just completed a project done in coordination with FLASH – –**
  - They looked at and wrote a report on building codes, how they are pursued, and used;
  - FEMA has a polling on this showing people's concepts of building codes so they are showcasing that;
    - This is an effort on how can we get folks at the community level more aware and involved in establishing strong effective building codes;
  - Vince Brown will get information out to us on the Building Codes Report.
- **FEMA has developed a goal** for building a culture of Preparedness from the new Resilience Organization;
  - There are four objectives:

- 1) incentivizing investment to reduce risk;
  - 2) closing the insurance gap;
  - 3) help people prepare for disasters;
  - 4) better learning from past disasters, improve continually and innovate.
- **Vince Brown will send a slide presentation** on the Culture of Preparedness for us to look at and see where we can further combine what FEMA is doing with NHMA and RNN, and see where Resilience Organization is going.
- **Feedback is welcome.**

Ed Thomas posed a Question for Vince Brown:

- Thinking about Joe Rossi and the need for Massachusetts, in particular, to get back to where it used to be in the Community Rating Systems score:
  - Vince mentioned points for the High Water Mark Initiative;
  - Might this be something that is very low cost and high value, useful for Joe Rossi' work.
  - Might this also be useful to Barb Miller with what she is doing;
    - **The toolkit for the high water mark and cross-link for CRS points would be useful to distribute to the RNN Communities and the NHMA,**
  - Vince Brown to send us a write-up on the High Water Mark Initiative that we can put out in our Newsletter and up on our website.

## 6. GOOD NEWS

- Barb Miller now works as the Preparedness Division Manager for JH Consulting LLC, which is located in Buckhannon, West Virginia.
  - They have 2 divisions: the Preparedness Division and the Safety Division.
    - Preparedness works on risk assessment, operation planning, training exercises, CRS, etc., all phases of emergency management.
    - The Safety Division is working more with the Fire Departments, etc. as well as the oil and gas industry.
  - They are growing very quickly; are now in 12 states, were founded in 2006.
  - **Anything that anyone has coming up that they could help you with** please let her know.
  - **if you'd like to send RPS to her** they would be happy to work with anybody and everybody and go from there.
    - This is a new challenge for her; she just started this past week.
    - She very much looks forward to helping communities in a different way now.
- Barb Miller to get her new contact info out to everyone in the RNN Community.
- Barb Miller to send information about JH Consulting LLC out to everyone as well.
- **Barb Miller sat in on one of the FEMA webinars this week** where they were discussing the NOFA that's come out for the PDA grants and FMA grants etc.,
  - FEMA has finally put out the points you get when you're filing for one of their grants;
    - Communities actually get the most points now for public/private partnerships as far as paying for whatever the project is that their going to do;
    - Communities also get more points now for being a CRS community; and
    - Additional points are given to communities that have adopted the International Building Codes.
  - FEMA is now really giving more points to communities that are doing something that reduces their risk, which is something we've been talking about all along.
  - Barb Miller to write up information on the NOFA and PDA grants for the NHMA Newsletter, so we can get that out and also put in a little plug for her new company.
- Barb Miller was not able to get a copy of the Power Point presentation from this;
- She was told they would only send it to their FEMA Regional offices, who could distribute it from there as they chose.
- Barb Miller will get a copy of her notes on these to Vince Brown so he can track down these PowerPoint presentations.
- Barb will communicate directly with Vince and pass these on to the RNN and NHMA communities.

- Vincent Brown will get us copy of the PowerPoints named: FY2018 FMA NOFO and FY2018 PDM NOFO.
- Ed Thomas shared that in his talks in Arkansas and Montana, when discussing the Community Rating Systems which is what we do as an integral part of the Curriculum, he found that people were most interested in the idea of cross-subsidization and the Community Rating System.
  - When you explain that if you're not in CRS, you're paying extra money in your policy that is going to the CRS Communities.
  - The discounts to CRS communities come out of the overall pool of flood insurance funds.
  - What Barb described is incredibly important and would be a great lead article for our Newsletter.
- Roger Faris shared that everyone in King County gets 45% off on their flood insurance because of all the CRS points that have been accumulating. The theory is that there's a lot less paid out in benefits because of all the work that's been done means there's a lot less damage; so it's not really grabbing that money from Arkansas or somewhere, it's saving the system money.

Meeting adjourned 12:23 p.m.