

**Resilient Neighbors Network**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Friday, *December 21, 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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**AGENDA FOR UPCOMING MEETING OF January 18, 2018:**

1. Roll call
  2. Approval of Minutes (November and December 2018)
  3. Review of Action Items  
**Rebecca Joyce is back with RNN and the NHMA Board!!**
  4. RNN Future Activities
  5. Veronica Criscitiello (Wightman & Associates) seeking RNN SMEs for the following:
    - a. Wildfire-flood connection
    - b. Severe thunderstorm/tornado safe rooms
    - c. Addressing earthquake risks: policy to engineering
  6. Discussion of Best Practices Documentation-New Best Practice on mitigation-based recovery with no Presidential Declaration: Joe Rossi and Coastal Coalition [Material sent separately] and Traci Sears from Montana
  7. Next Steps for RNN-DRR Curriculum Future Meeting? Discussion of CTP Grant
    - a. New Grant requires NHMA and RNN to participate with and recommend other possible interested agencies for an advisory committee meeting in Washington D.C. – [Detail by John Wiener circulated with Minutes.] Possible other locations/dates
  8. 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, NACo, 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.
  9. Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina & Silver Jackets link
  10. Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on the many things happening at FEMA
  11. Status of Island Press Interest, Articles for NHMA Newsletter and/or ABA
  12. Comments/Issues/Good News
  13. Adjourn
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## Minutes for Meeting of Friday, *December 21, 2018*:

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

#### 1. ROLL CALL:

Present: **Ed Thomas** (NHMA Board Member); **Traci Sears** (Montana); **Ned Swanberg** (State of Vermont); **Tim Lovell** (Tulsa Partners); **Roger Faris** (Seattle, WA); **Barb Miller** (Jefferson County, WV); **Veronica Criscitiello** (Wightman & Associates); **Rebecca Joyce** (Shenandoah Valley Region, VA);

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#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**A Motion to approve the Minutes** was made by Ned Swanberg.

**The Motion was Seconded** by Rebecca Joyce.

There being no discussion, it was

**VOTED**: The Minutes are approved.

#### 3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS:

- Joe Rossi was unable to join the call today because he is travelling but he has expressed great interest in many of the things that we're doing.
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A1. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will invite Newport, Oregon to participate in an upcoming RNN meeting to introduce themselves as a potential new member of the RNN.

A2. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will coordinate with Jim Mullen on any ideas he may have about other communities that would be good for us to approach in the Pacific Northwest or any of their friends at FEMA.

A3. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will find out if Newport, Oregon has done anything curriculum-wise for the school system in terms of mitigation, resilience, flood mapping, etc.

A4. **Status?** - Vince Brown will send Roger Faris some materials from New Jersey that would be great to show the folks at Newport, Oregon.

These items are ongoing.

#### REPORT:

- Roger Faris has not gotten together yet with Jim Mullen, but did reach out to Lincoln County, Newport, Oregon, and is very hopeful that it will work out that they will become a new RNN Community member.
    - He is still waiting to hear back from them;
    - He is very excited about the many things they are doing.
    - Roger will follow up with them.
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- (Nov)-A1. **ONGOING** - Joe Rossi to capture a few thoughts about activities of the Marshfield Coastal Coalition for the NHMA Newsletter, website and as a Best Practice to send around to the RNN, including links to the website, etc.
- (Nov)-A2. **ONGOING** - Joe Rossi to send copies of the Marshfield Coastal Coalition Messaging Plan out for everyone in the RNN to see how it talks about CRS messaging.
- (Nov)-A3. **ONGOING** - Tim Trautman to add ideas to the write up from Joe Rossi for distribution to RNN, website, Newsletter, etc.
- (Nov)-A4. **ONGOING** - Tim Trautman and Joe Rossi to share information on their respective Best Practices and write up something for posting to the website, the Newsletter, and the RNN Communities.
  - This article to stimulate the RNN with ideas on things like how to do mitigation, pre-disaster preparation, terms of community resilience, better design, rainy day fund to help minimize flood risk, etc.

These items are ongoing.

#### REPORT:

- We're talking about following up further with what Joe Rossi has done in Massachusetts and what Traci Sears has done in Montana, with regard to what to do when you don't have an individual assistance disaster declaration, but you've got people that are substantially damaged.
  - This involves working with others who have done things on that because:
    - More and more we're going to be seeing folks that need to be doing mitigation, to be encouraged to be doing mitigation, or just simply to rebuild their lives following a disaster that is non-declared.
    - We've got some incredibly good materials on what to do following a declared disaster:
      - The old *Patchwork Quilt* that we're now calling the *Roadmap to Resilience*;
      - Other simplified materials that we developed more recently - this is something that will be forthcoming;
- Hopefully Barb Miller will be able to work with Roger Faris, Rebecca Joyce and Joe Rossi on this.

- A1. **STATUS?:** 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.
- A2. **STATUS?:** Ned Swanberg, Ed Thomas, to write up their thoughts on mitigation accountability and think about how we can take this further forward.

These items are ongoing.

#### REPORT:

- Ned Swanberg and Tim Lovell have not yet written up their thoughts on these.
- Ed Thomas also has not yet written up his thoughts on mitigation accountability. He is trying to fold this into the ABA Book that he will mention later.
- At the top of the list with regard to writing stuff up everyone is urged to please consider:
  - The NHMA Newsletter and the NHMA website are always seeking articles from the RNN
  - The door is wide open at FEMA for contributed articles for the FEMA Newsletter on mitigation;

- The ABA is also seeking articles on mitigation if anyone has something they want to put in there;
  - Anyone that feels like writing - it would be well worth doing and can have a tremendous and powerful impact.
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A5. ***IN PROCESS*** - Veronica Criscitiello to work with Gina Wightman, Roger Faris, and anybody else that wants to chime in, to get Success Stories and any other information on what we're doing out to Vince Brown to make it easy for him to promote our activities with the Curriculum for the CTP Award.

This item is ongoing.

#### **REPORT:**

- Roger Faris continues looking for success stories;
  - We want to fold in the Success Story that Traci Sears did with the help of Maria Lamb on doing substantial damage enforcement in Montana, coupled with:
    - What do you do when you don't have a disaster declaration?
    - How can you help people?
  - There is a lot that can be done, as we saw from Joe Rossi, and that is something well worth doing.
  - Tom Hughes also had some excellent ideas on how they approached this in Pennsylvania.
- Roger is still hoping to get more info about the Montana story.
  - He did get some information about the community outreach efforts and programs that Joe Rossi produced and is almost done with that;
  - He would love to hear more about Montana, so if anyone could send him anything about that it would be great.
    - Ed Thomas and Traci Sears to work on getting Montana materials to Roger Faris to write up including materials on the workshop, and the series of training sessions that Traci got special funding for as a best practice.
      - Ed reported that the people who attended these events were very pleased.
      - This gives us a chance to talk about the Montana Resilience Effort as well as the incredible work that Traci Sears has done in Montana as the State Emergency Coordinator;
      - All this is well worth doing.
- Veronica Criscitiello and Gina Wightman want to improve our updates for FEMA (and everyone else) on what we're doing with the Curriculum and the work we did in Montana and Utah, as well as the work in South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Colorado.
  - These workshops really need to be better documented.
  - Many thanks to Roger Faris for the reminder and the opportunity to work with him on this.
  - This effort is incredibly important for our marketing of the Curriculum.
- Traci Sears is happy to provide materials on the Montana workshops; she will send them over along with her response to Ed's recent e-mail to her.
  - If there's anything that Montana produced or has, she will be happy to provide that information.
  - Traci reported that she has also been helping another community with recovery.
    - She got a call from Oregon; they have a new NIP Coordinator whom she knows.
      - They were asking for assistance because of a major storm that went through and they were struggling with recovery.

- They might be another community to reach out to with an invitation for membership in the RNN as well.
  - This is great news;
    - A lot of their involvement will require some effort on their part to reach out to us;
    - We are very excited to try to help with that in any way we can.
    - Many thanks to Traci Sears for everything she is doing.
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- We've got a lot of stuff on the Action Item list - we will continue pinging on these as long as we can.

### **Rebecca Joyce is back with RNN and the NHMA Board!!**

- Ed Thomas announced that Rebeca Joyce has rejoined NHMA as a Board member. Rebecca has also nominated another RNN member to serve on the NHMA Board for the upcoming election. Ed invited that person to say a few words.
- Barb Miller responded and shared that though she was caught off guard yesterday when she was nominated to the NHMA Board, it is something she has been kicking around in her mind for a while.
  - She has got a little bit more time now and feels she is in a better position to serve on the Board than she would have been perhaps a year ago.
  - Barb has served on the NHMA Board before – briefly, back when it was just getting started.
  - She looks forward to serving on the Board again if her nomination is accepted and she is elected.
- Ed Thomas shared that he has little or no doubt that NHMA will gratefully accept Barb's service.
  - We have long wanted to have additional RNN community representation on the Board and are delighted at the prospect of having one more RNN member on the Board.
  - The RNN Community is the very group that NHMA wishes to serve so its outstanding from our perspective to have Barb serve and is wonderful news.

### **4. Wightman & Associates seeking RNN SMEs for the following:**

- a. Wildfire-flood connection
  - b. Severe thunderstorm/tornado safe rooms
  - c. Addressing earthquake risks: policy to engineering
- Wightman Associates is looking for subject matter experts to contribute to the Wildfire, Wildfire-Flood Connection modules, and the Severe Thunderstorm Saferooms.
  - With respect to the Severe Thunderstorm and Saferooms module:
    - Can Tim Lovell or any of the Tulsa folks help in reviewing these?
      - Tim Lovell's input is sought as he is one of the authors of the *Hide From the Wind* Report;
      - He is well situated in Tulsa, sort of the home of the business of above-ground saferoom construction and is near the folks at the weather service who handle tornado events.
    - Gina believes the Severe Thunderstorm Saferoom module is pretty well set with materials from a presentation made a couple of years ago which Erin Capps took the lead on putting together with folks from around the country;
    - Can Alessandra Jerolleman also chime in on reviewing this as she is one of the co-authors for the *Hide From the Wind* Report.
  - Tim Lovell agreed to review this module.
    - Veronica Wightman will finalize the internal draft and get it to Tim sometime in the next two weeks;
    - Tim Lovell will comment and get it back to Wightman a few weeks after that, depending on what's easier for him.

- Tim Lovell will share the draft with all those originally involved in the high wind report as well as Ann Patton and the folks at the National Weather Service in Norman; and anyone else he can think of whose input would be meaningful and appropriate.
  - **How else we can use this once it is developed?**
    - As something that can be used around the country, particularly in Tornado Alley.
    - We're always looking for ways to raise some money, so any ideas around that would be wonderful.
    - Would any of the companies making Safe Rooms be willing to sponsor this module in return for a mention of their product and/or patronage of NHMA?
- Traci Sears also volunteered to review the module:
  - Though they don't have as much experience as Colorado, Montana will be working to help coordinate some efforts around wildfire-flood connection events;
    - There are a lot of agencies - especially on the federal side - that are throwing a lot of money into this area of mitigation.
    - Montana is realizing they are going to have to be coordinated as a state, part of the constant call rotation, and how they can we help with the situation.
    - They have this money and many times only have about a week to turn around some of the demands.
    - Montana is trying to work with their fire side on this as well.
  - Please let Traci Sears know if there's anything she can do to help with the module.
- **The Earthquake policy and Engineering module also needs SME review.**
  - Wightman & Associates is working to get some help from Keith Porter on this.
- Rebecca Joyce volunteered to assist Wightman & Associates with general review.
  - if they need an extra set of eyes, she would be glad to help look anything over.
  - Though definitely not an expert on wildfires or tornados, Rebecca is happy to help with spell-checking or reading for sense, or something like that.
- Wightman & Associates will be reaching out in January.

## 5. 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, NACo, 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.
- NHMA Admin and Veronica Criscitiello to get an updated status on the Modules out to the RNN Communities.
  - Veronica Criscitiello and Gina Wightman to get more information out on what we did in Montana, Colorado and Utah, especially with regard to innovative use of the Curriculum with different audiences.
    - We want links to a really well written best practices on Montana, possibly also Colorado
    - Would like to use a best practice on the week-long session we did in Colorado which was incredibly well received and particularly mentions:
      - How it was used by the State Association of Flood Plain Managers coupled with the state doing the workshops in several different sessions much as we had done previously in Montana.
      - How this was really well received – a look at the evaluations and how grateful people were for the materials we presented which are unique and are not given elsewhere.
      - A testimonial about how a longtime member of the ASFPM in Colorado, came up to Ed Thomas and wagged his finger in Ed's face and said, "You – Ed Thomas - need to work with ASFPM to get these materials incorporated into their program."
- Roger Faris shared that the NHMA website has a section called *Resources*, and under that there's a section called *Best Practices*, under which there are *Featured Best Practices*, and then way down at the bottom, there are three bullets with a whole lot of wildfire materials that are just excellent.

- He discovered how excellent these materials are while researching what the experts do before, during and after wildfires; there's a lot about the flooding that follows wildfires, but there's so much about communities coming together and taking action to prevent those kinds of disasters from happening over and over again.
  - The strategies and practices we list are just so excellent.
  - He hopes these can be worked into the Wildfire modules because there's so much good material.
    - For example, there's a case study with some great nuggets about the mudslide/landslide issues around wildfire and what to do about it.
    - The really expert people did the hard work of all this stuff and some of these best practices just briefly describe what they did.
    - He just wanted to get that in there.
- Ed Thomas noted that Veronica Criscitiello has heard and will comply.
- This is exactly the kind of discussion we need to have.

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

- We definitely need Joe Rossi, Traci Sears, Roger Faris, and Tom Hughes working on some best practices stuff including what do you do when you don't get a disaster declaration?
  - Hopefully that's something that Barb Miller and Rebecca Joyce can assist with.
  - I don't know of anybody who has written up anything on this anywhere; It's incredibly needed.
- Barb Miller commented:
  - There was a great project that's been ongoing ever since the 2015 flooding in West Virginia.
    - The West Virginia VOAD was rebuilding private bridges which are not covered under the Stafford Act; they built quite few here, its quite a success story, and the lady in charge of VOAD in West Virginia was given a national award on it.
  - Barb Miller will try to get some information and write that up – It's really a good success story.

## 7. Next Steps for RNN-DRR Curriculum Future Meeting? Discussion of CTP Grant

- a. New Grant requires NHMA and RNN to participate with and recommend other possible interested agencies for an advisory committee meeting in Washington D.C. – [Detail by John Wiener circulated with Minutes.] Possible other locations/dates
- Ed Thomas shared another opportunity for folks to participate in marketing the Curriculum:
    - Is anyone interested in preparing all or part of a chapter in a book on resilience and disaster risk reduction? The book will be forthcoming within the next year from the American Bar Association.
      - Ed Thomas is one of the editors, along with a couple of close friends and associates, one of whom is an architect, and one who is an expert on continuity, business planning and operations regarding continuity.
      - Anyone is welcome who wants to chime in on this.
      - It's an opportunity to write;
      - Ed will be happy share where they are on the outline anytime anybody wants.
  - Vince Brown has mentioned that the door is wide open for an article in the FEMA newsletter.
    - The kind of thing that Barb Miller was talking about definitely has a place in that.
  - Ed Thomas shared that he has a very close association with the Voluntary Lawyers who work post-disaster for low income people.
    - The ABA has a Letter Agreement with FEMA to represent low-income clients and veterans.
      - Barb Miller's information about VOAD would be excellent to share with them because the training that these young lawyers have received to date is a dolorously inadequate.

- Ed has been trying to educate them and open them up to best practice materials;
  - If we could start introducing materials like Barb mentioned to that group, it would be tremendous.
    - o Again, they're mostly young lawyers, volunteers, and they need to be educated;
    - o Stuff like Barb's is great - we could try and get them to publish it and pass it around and maybe get Barb on a call with them, or with the Disaster Recovery Housing Coalition - they're always looking for new, innovative ways of doing things.
  - Again, a lot of these folks are totally clueless about what a VOAD can do and Barb's material and the stuff that Tom Hughes talked about on the phone yesterday would be outstanding to put in front of them.
    - o Ed Thomas to try to get together with Barb Miller to move that forward.
- Tim Lovell shared about events in noncoastal communities:
    - o In Oklahoma they just had an EF2 tornado hit an area which is the tribal seat of the Cherokee Nation.
    - o A multi-agency coordination was sent there to provide assistance because the EF2 tornado did not trigger a disaster declaration but there was a lot of damage to the residents' mobile homes – most of the people that live in the area live in mobile homes.
      - The tornado struck about a week ago.
      - VOAD and Oklahoma Emergency Management were out there, and apparently VOAD is working on responding.
    - o It is absolutely correct that a lot of the people who are knowledgeable in emergency management still don't know much about VOAD.
      - Tim has been surprised that when he mentions VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster), he gets blank looks because folks don't know what VOAD is.
    - o It's important to educate people about what VOAD is and what it means.
  - Ed Thomas remarked that as an FTO at a time when he could essentially spend any money that he wanted, there were many times when, as they analyzed the needs of individuals in the community, nevertheless it was the VOAD - or particular components of the VOAD - that were best able to provide the needed assistance. It is just remarkable what they can do.
    - o Ed observed that it's important to make sure that folks at the VOAD level are educated as to how to leverage their charitable dollars.
      - One of the things he learned with the *Patchwork Quilt* is that the VOAD didn't realize there were some things that the federal family was responsible for, or that there was a way of going to other private donors for support so they themselves didn't have to go to Home Depot all the time to buy things.
      - It was quite possible with innovative use of what Ed termed 'the begging bowl', to say to people this is what they need and ask them to give.
        - Working with the VOAD would be a wonderful thing.
    - o This whole idea of what do you do when you don't have a disaster declaration could become an entire Module in the Curriculum.
  - Tim Lovell shared that as the Chair of the Community Preparedness Committee for the second year for the Oklahoma VOAD, he'll be chairing the Oklahoma Preparedness Committee for statewide things there.
    - o Ed Thomas thanked Tim on behalf of the RNN for all that he does there.

## 8. 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, NACo, 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.
- Ed Thomas suggested that we want to continue to think about where we want to meet as a group in 2019 and hoped that Rebecca Joyce and Barb Miller may help us find a place where we can both do some business and learn some additional stuff.
- Rebecca Joyce asked if the group had any ideas about places they were interested in going to, or about availability, or were interested in meeting or anything like that?
  - More to come on this.
- Ed Thomas shared that one of the things we hope to get out of 2019 is a firmer idea of what we all want to do with the RNN, and how can we use it and leverage it and make it a worthwhile experience for everyone.

### **9. Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina & Silver Jackets link**

- They are working on they're next steps forward;
- There is talk about putting our materials up on the Silver Jackets website.
- Though we had talked about training Silver jackets people as instructors in the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum, that has not come to fruition yet, but we hope it will go forward in the future.

### **10. Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on the many things happening at FEMA**

Vincent Brown not on the phone today.

### **11. Status of Island Press Interest, Articles for NHMA Newsletter and/or ABA**

- With respect to news articles, this is an opportunity for any of you to write something and publish it.
  - Roger Faris is a brilliant professional writer and is available to help us all with that; whether its the NHMA newsletter, the FEMA newsletter, the ABA newsletter, or other groups and organizations such as the Low Income Housing Coalition, or the Young Lawyers that do disaster stuff who really need to know a lot more about VOAD.
  - Barb Miller's remarks about VOAD are inspiring – she presented the case for 'this is VOAD' and 'this is how a VOAD can help.'
    - This is exactly the sort of thing that will help open people's eyes to say, wait a minute, what is this VOAD, and how does it work and how can it help my clients?
    - Maybe we can get folks to be more interested in the whole *Patchwork Quilt* universe of stuff beyond the FEMA programs, and get them to understand the HUD programs and the USDA programs and the all the rest of that.
  - As a former manager, Ed loved it when his folks wrote articles and got the word out about the things they were doing to a larger audience, whether national or international.
    - There's so much wonderful stuff the RNN community does every day.
    - What Traci Sears and Maria Lamb did in South Carolina to help people with substantial improvement in Montana is extraordinary.
      - It was Ed's group that first ever documented substantial damage enforcement in 1978 and it's wonderful to see how it is blossoming and growing in a way that will make communities enormously more resilient.

- Ed Thomas looks forward to getting the information that Traci did on substantial damage and make it into a best practice and get the wonderful book of materials she put together pushed out to the RNN Communities, put up on the website, and also get an award for it. Ed stated that both she and Maria Lamb deserve an award for the work they did in Montana.
- o Again, this is a great opportunity to not hide your light under a bushel but say 'hey - we've got something we want to talk about.'
  - That's got to be a big part of what we do - sharing that and saying we're proud of this.
- Roger Faris suggested again that if anybody can send him a paragraph or two and a photo about anything they're proud of, or a website link that has a photo that's a reasonably resolution, he can do the rest.
  - o He just needs a paragraph or two and then some clues about where to go for more information.
    - What he typically does is highlight something good that happened in a community and write up the maximum amount of praise so that people don't have to toot their own horn, he can do it for them.
- Ed thanked Roger for so generously giving of his time to do this and reminded everyone it is an incredible opportunity.
  - o Roger asked everyone to send anything to him at [RogerFaris@hotmail.com](mailto:RogerFaris@hotmail.com) – it will get to him and he'll hop on it immediately if he gets something.
- Rebecca Joyce will look at some things going on in Virginia and see what I she can come up with submit to Roger Faris.
- Traci Sears will try to send Roger Faris something on Montana today.

## 12. Comments/Issues/Good News

### **Barb Miller spoke about Project Impact 2:**

For those of you who were involved or know about Project Impact back in 1998 in the early years, it was developed under FEMA Director James Lee Whitt and was a positive step toward changing how we dealt with disasters in this country and getting people motivated to do things.

Folks might know there were 250 Project Impact communities back in 2001; then politics happened, and the project went away. So, **Project Impact 2** has now been announced. It's going to be launched probably in late January, and again, it's a framework to help communities capitalize on the resources that they have in their own communities.

Project Impact 2 is sort of the same thing we saw the first time around: Creating a team, assessing the needs of the community, creating plans and generating support. The huge difference this time is that FEMA is not at the head of this - it's entirely under private industry this time around.

They will be developing Community Enterprise Partners as well as Community Members and they do have a website up: it's a very small website at this point, but if you want to take a look at it, see: [www.projectimpact2.com](http://www.projectimpact2.com) There is a little bit of information in it - that James Lee Whitt will be leading this initiative, and again there are some familiar faces that will be helping him do that.

This is something we definitely need to keep an eye on, get in early if we can, and help out with. Barb has already sent messages to James Lee Whitt and heard very briefly back from him. Also, Teri Turner has sent some things on to him. Barb encourages everyone to go to our LinkedIn page and send him a note saying 'Hey, I see your doing this and how can I get involved?' We want to encourage them in any way we can and figure out how we can help.

**Can NHMA put a link on their website to the Project Impact 2 website?**

**Yes.** Anyone who wants to see that link up, what we need is just two or three lines that say why this is important and why you should look at it. It will then be posted under Latest News – “Project Impact 2.0 Has Started,” and that will go up on the website forthwith. Send the lines to Ed Thomas and NHMA Admin both and we’ll get that right to our webmaster.

Roger Faris shared that Project Impact made a real difference in the Seattle area that is still having quite the effect today – it brought together so many organizations to work together that still are working together. So the original Project Impact effort made a lasting difference. There are so many different kinds of organizations that continue to work well together that never did in the past; so that launch in 1998 really did make a difference. In fact, Seattle has kept the name Project Impact and kept it going with our earthquake programs. On the plans that we give out at libraries and in the classes, it still says “Project Impact” right there on the cover.

Barb Miller tipped her hat to Rebecca Joyce because the Shenandoah Valley Project Impact still has the Facebook Page up and still operates under it, so she gives credit for that to Rebecca.

Rebecca Joyce acknowledge that a lot of us are doing great stuff.

Ed Thomas shared that he was so tickled when he saw the coloring book that came out of Central Shenandoah Valley that was translated into Spanish, and there it was: Central Shenandoah Valley Project Impact. So maybe you, Roger and Barb, want to put in a plug for the folks that sort of kept the faith of Project Impact and kept that torch burning. In a lot of ways, the RNN Communities are a continuation of Project Impact. They’re certainly not Project Impact 2, but they’ve tried to keep the thought alive, and we hope you will share that with James Lee Whitt when you run into him.

Tim Lovell shared that Tulsa celebrated the Project Impact Science Ceremony 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at their Annual Meeting in October, and he did a presentation on the “20 Impacts of Project Impact.” One of those impacts was NHMA and the RNN – and the reason he mentioned NHMA was because NHMA came from the communities of Louisiana and Oklahoma and formed from an idea that Alessandra Jerolleman had come up with of wanting to create an organization to work on the impact in 2008 on hazard mitigation. It follows with that idea of collaboration with public/private partnerships. It was a direct pass-through of the whole concept of Project Impact.

And the reason why Tim mentioned the RNN in his presentation is that it grew out of the public/private partnership presentation that NHMA did at the add-on session at the Natural Hazards Workshop which NHMA hosted where we developed this thing that eventually became the RNN. And the member communities were all Project Impact communities - including Tulsa. NHMA deliberately went after Project Impact communities in forming the RNN. The idea was trying to come up with a Project Impact-like program of collaboration – that’s what we were aiming for. Its not too far off to say that NHMA and RNN grew out of that, and Tim made that argument and wrote that out in his presentation at their annual meeting. At the time, he didn’t write a script, he only had slides. He just said it. Tim could share the slides; he just wanted to say that he believes that NHMA and RNN were one of the impacts that came out of something that Project Impact set the stage for back when it started.

Ed Thomas stated that this thought is worth an enormous amount. He wondered if he could impose on people to write these comments up. If Tim can get that to Roger Faris – and himself, Ed would like to see it too, we can then work with the thoughts that Barb Miller articulated and the reality of the Central Shenandoah Valley Project Impact. There may be some thoughts from Jim Mullen about the ongoing continued efforts with respect to the earthquake area, and we could make that into a lovely article – maybe a lead article that NHMA could publish in its Newsletter, and possibly even get FEMA to put in their Newsletter; we don’t know how they’d react to that in this current political climate, but certainly we can get other people to look at that, we can get it up on LinkedIn and the NHMA Facebook page and we can get it out as Special News, and it will be very heartening to James Lee Whitt for his Project Impact people, like Ann Patton, and Barb Miller, and Rebecca Joyce, and Jim Mullen, to share that too. Jim Mullen would probably be happy to get that to the NEMA Mitigation Committee, and we could spread it around. Ed is very, very proud that we did keep the candle of the Project Impact concept burning bright in NHMA.

Roger Faris expressed that he is right on it and will do that. He shared that former Director Whitt was smart to target the private sector this time around as the driving force, partly because if you ask banks and

insurance companies and others who have a big stake in preserving our infrastructure, they say yes – and big corporations too. They said Yes, every time Project Impact asked them to come to the table and bring their resources, they were amazingly generous. So, it's really good to partner with them.

Ed Thomas shared that a lot of that generosity had to do with the personal support of President Clinton and his wife and of course James Lee Whitt as he was sitting as a member of the President's Cabinet – all that put together was incredibly valuable, and unfortunately, as Barb pointed out, when the political climate changed, that identification of individual people with Project Impact who were no longer in power, faded somewhat - sort of like in the Bible, where it said 'and there came unto Egypt a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph'; so there came a 'pharaoh' who knew Bill Clinton and didn't like him. And that was the end of Project Impact, real quick. So, Tim, you were brilliant; it was wonderful to hear this.

It would be great for us to look forward to at least a lead article in our Newsletter, and think about where we can shop this around to encourage folks to build excitement about this new Project Impact 2 – that's a good role for NHMA.

Barb Miller shared one thing she failed to mention when talking about Project Impact 2, was that James Lee was already in partnership with the National Association of Counties and Cities, so they are a part of it as well.

Ed Thomas added that that gives us an opportunity to take another run at NAACO and the National Association of Cities and whomever else since we've got some materials that are Project Impact-ish. We've got good education materials, we're trying to convince people about higher standards, we're trying to do things that will support a more resilient future, and hopefully it's not just us trying to promote Project Impact 2, but maybe then they'll see some of the stuff that we've done and start promoting it as well.

### 13. Adjourn

**A Motion to adjourn** was made by Rebecca Joyce.

**The Motion was seconded** by Ned Swanberg.

There being no discussion, it was

**VOTED**, the meeting was adjourned.

Ed Thomas thanked everyone for all that they have done to make the world a better place and wished all a Merry Christmas; whatever holidays you enjoy, may they be happy.

Meeting ended 12:12 p.m.

### ACTION ITEMS:

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December 2018 Action Items:

- (Dec)-A1. Tim Lovell and Traci Sears to review the Severe Thunderstorm and Saferooms module.
- (Dec)-A2. Tim Lovell will share the draft of the Severe Thunderstorm and Saferooms module with those originally involved in the *Hide From the Wind* report as well as Ann Patton and the folks at the National Weather Service in Norman; and anyone else he can think of whose input would be meaningful and appropriate.
- (Dec)-A3. Rebecca Joyce to assist Wightman & Associates as needed with general review of the modules.
- (Dec)-A4. NHMA Admin and Veronica Criscitiello to get an updated status on the Modules out to the RNN Communities.

- (Dec)-A5. Veronica Criscitiello and Gina Wightman to get more information out on what we did in Montana, Colorado and Utah, especially with regard to innovative use of the Curriculum with different audiences.
  - (Dec)-A6. Veronica Criscitiello to incorporate the strategies and practices from the NHMA best practices as shown on the website into the Wildfire modules.
  - (Dec)-A7. Joe Rossi, Traci Sears, Roger Faris, and Tom Hughes to working up some best practices including what do you do when you don't get a disaster declaration. Barb Miller and Rebecca Joyce also to assist on this.
  - (Dec)-A8. Barb Miller to get some information for Roger Faris on The West Virginia VOAD and write up some material on that as a really a good success story.
  - (Dec)-A9. Ed Thomas to try to get together with Barb Miller to move forward writing up something about VOAD for the ABA, the Young Lawyers group and others.
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November Action Items:

**Planning the Advisory Committee Meeting:**

- (Nov)-A5. Tim Trautman to work with Chuck Wallace and Vince Brown to figure out options for putting together the *Advisory Committee Meeting*.
- (Nov)-A6. Chuck Wallace and Vince Brown to work with Tim Trautman on planning the Advisory Committee Meeting for the RNN

**CRS and Insurance Education:**

- (Nov)-A7. Joe Rossi and Ed Thomas to think about CRS with regard to insurance and how we can transfer that knowledge – maybe put it up on the RNN website - and couple it with some Roger Faris materials on Best Practices to bang the drum on Tulsa along with this element of the CRS and get it out to the marketplace of ideas.

**CTP to Address Travel Funding for the RNN:**

- (Nov)-A8. CTP Manager (David Mallory) and Contractor (Gina Wightman) to examine how to set up RNN post-disaster 'listening and learning sessions' and peer-to-peer networking activities to cover travel by RNN Community members under the Provision for Technical Assistance/Technical Support for Presidentially Declared Disasters by FEMA through the Sharing Agreement between the states.

**Joe Rossi to Write up Best Practices on the Marshfield Coastal Coalition:**

- (Nov)-A9. **ONGOING** - Joe Rossi to capture a few thoughts about activities of the Marshfield Coastal Coalition for the NHMA Newsletter, website and as a Best Practice to send around to the RNN, including links to the website, etc.
- (Nov)-A10. **ONGOING** - Joe Rossi to send copies of the Marshfield Coastal Coalition Messaging Plan out for everyone in the RNN to see how it talks about CRS messaging.

**Tim Trautman to Add Ideas to the Write Up from Joe Rossi**

(Nov)-A11. **ONGOING** - Tim Trautman to add ideas to the write up from Joe Rossi for distribution to RNN, website, Newsletter, etc.

(Nov)-A12. **ONGOING** - Tim Trautman and Joe Rossi to share information on their respective Best Practices and write up something for posting to the website, the Newsletter, and the RNN Communities.

- This article to stimulate the RNN with ideas on things like how to do mitigation, pre-disaster preparation, terms of community resilience, better design, rainy day fund to help minimize flood risk, etc.

### **RNN to Put Together A Little Guide Book**

(Nov)-A13. The RNN Communities to put together a little Guide Book on “What to Do When You Don’t Have a Presidentially Declared Disaster”.

- This can be started now just by adding in Best Practices from each community, beginning with contributions from Joe Rossi, Tim Trautman and Ned Swanberg.

### **FEMA Operating Partners Meeting/Other FEMA Meetings**

(Nov)-A14. Vince Brown will be getting NHMA on the Agenda for The **Operating Partners Meeting**.

(Nov)-A15. Vince Brown will try to home in on what the Risk Management Directorate of FIMA/FEMA plans to do in terms of Partnerships with their new Contractor.

(Nov)-A16. Vince Brown will try to get us involved and make sure the Risk Management Director knows he has the RNN Communities organization.

(Nov)-A17. There is some opportunity to let this new Contractor know what the RNN is and stands for, and that is something we might want to do.

### **Articles for Vincent Brown of FEMA**

(Nov)-A18. Ed Thomas to send Vince Brown copies of articles he has done so Vince can forward them to various newsletters.

(Nov)-A19. Ed Thomas will send Vince a list of other publications we have done.

(Nov)-A20. NHMA Admin to work with Veronica Crisciatiello on sending out some of the other things we have that Vince can distribute to the new contractor and other folks that would be interested in the material we’ve developed. - **Ongoing**

(Nov)-A21. Vince Brown will send the latest copy of the NewsFlash for distribution to the RNN Communities.

- Ed Thomas (?) to add a note and put it up on the website and distribute to NHMA members for supporting synergy.

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October Action Items:

### **JIM MURPHY MEMO On Under-Represented, Disadvantaged, and Economically Challenged Communities with GIS Overlay Suggestion for FEMA:**

A6. Ed Thomas to get Jim Murphy copies of presentations forthwith by Jo Anne Howard, John Marshall and Erin Capps, as well as an attorney from Dallas working with the impoverished in

the South Dallas area, along with descriptions of the workshops which will be available on the ABA website shortly as webinars.

#### **DRR CURRICULUM / Wightman Associates:**

A7. Veronica Criscitiello to get out some material and a report to the RNN communities:

- a. Veronica Criscitiello and NHMA Admin to get this material out in writing:
  - i. We want to emphasize in our note to the RNN Communities the outcome that we want from the Training which are actionable steps that can be taken by communities and individuals right now - what they can do to achieve disaster risk reduction along the lines of the concepts developed so incredibly well by Dr. Dennis Mileti. – STATUS?
  - ii. These concepts are most clearly articulated in the NHMA publication *Hide from the Wind*, in the preface, talking about Dr. Mileti's theories and how they can be implemented.
  - iii. We've got an incredibly fine product. There is nobody else with material that combines Dr. Mileti's thoughts with actionable material across the hazards along with a clear understanding of the enormous benefits of the Flood Insurance Program as well as its limitations.
  - iv. We've really got some incredible expertise that has gone into this material and we need to get it into the marketplace of ideas.
  - v. What we're doing now is developing the material that NHMA Admin with the help of Veronica Criscitiello will get out in writing to the RNN Communities for those not on the call.
  - vi. We have notes from yesterday's Board Meeting that we can include in this.

A8. Veronica Criscitiello to put out a note to the RNN to see if anyone has anything they think should or should not be included in the remaining Modules of the Curriculum as well as any learning objectives.

A9. Ed Thomas to work with Jim Mullen and Tom Hughes to see what we can do to market the DRR Curriculum and get it included as a normal part of funded training by the states and within NEMA.

#### **YOUTH CURRICULUM:**

A10. Ed Thomas to look at materials sent him by Vince Brown about what some folks are doing with regard to youth curriculum materials. If appropriate Ed to have it distributed to the Board or put into the Newsletter. No rush on this.

A11. Ed Thomas and Erin Capps to see where we stand with regard to Vanderbilt University on developing a hazard mitigation curriculum for high school students, get info on that out to the group, and produce an article for the Newsletter & post to social media.

#### **CTP PROGRAM:**

A12. Vince Brown to get information to Ed Thomas about the CTP Program for the RNN Communities.

A13. Ed Thomas will have NHMA get this information out to the CTPs and out on social media as well, to the extent that FEMA wants to promote CTP involvement.

- A14. Vince Brown will submit information about NHMA for the CTP Awards committee for the communication efforts that we're doing.
- A15. **ONGOING** - Veronica Criscitiello to work with Gina Wightman, Roger Faris, and anybody else that wants to chime in, to get Success Stories and any other information on what we're doing out to Vince Brown to make it easy for him to promote our activities with the Curriculum for the CTP Award.

**NEW RNN COMMUNITY MEMBER:**

- A16. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will invite Newport, Oregon to participate in an upcoming RNN meeting to introduce themselves as a potential new member of the RNN.
- A17. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will coordinate with Jim Mullen on any ideas he may have about other communities that would be good for us to approach in the Pacific Northwest or any of their friends at FEMA.
- A18. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will find out if Newport, Oregon has done anything curriculum-wise for the school system in terms of mitigation, resilience, flood mapping, etc.
- A19. **Status?** - Vince Brown will send Roger Faris some materials from New Jersey that would be great to show the folks at Newport, Oregon.

**NEWSLETTER MATERIALS FOR FEMA:**

- A20. Vince Brown to pick something out of the NHMA Newsletter to put into the FEMA Newsletter (the NewsFlash), which comes out monthly, as well as the CTP Newsletter.
- A21. NHMA Admin to send Vince Brown Word versions of any of these articles.- *IN PROCESS*

**BEST PRACTICES / SUCCESS STORIES:**

- A22. **ONGOING:** Ed Thomas shared that one of the things really worth talking about is RNN Community member Joe Rossi and his Massachusetts Coastal Coalition – the stuff they did for hazard mitigation, harm prevention and for the people after the flooding on the Massachusetts coast was fantastic.
- A23. **ONGOING:** Roger Faris will work with Joe Rossi on coming up with a best practice success story to document the efforts of the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition in hazard mitigation and harm prevention and produce an article for Vince Brown focusing on how tremendously successful their presentations were.
- A24. Ed Thomas to get Joe Rossi's phone number to Roger Faris.
- A25. Ned Swanberg to flesh out this draft into an article from him complete with links for use in the NHMA Newsletter.
- A26. A copy of Ned's finished article to be posted to the NHMA and RNN websites, included in the NHMA Newsletter, distributed through social media, and sent to Vince Brown for distribution through FEMA to the marketplace of ideas.
- A27. **STATUS?:** Roger Faris to do another Best Practice story on Vermont for posting.



- A28. **STATUS?:** Roger Faris to write up his own observations about the Vermont practices as a testimonial for publishing and posting to the NHMA website and Newsletter, as well as distribute it through social media and forward to Vince Brown along with links to the Vermont story.

### **INCREASING RNN PARTICIPATION**

- A29. **STATUS?:** The RNN to consider whether they want to put out a Doodle Poll or something to the RNN communities to ask if a different meeting time would be better and ask them to pick the day and time that they want to meet in order to increase participation.

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#### Action Items from September Meeting

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

- A1: - **STATUS?:** 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: - **ONGOING:** 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: - **ONGOING:** 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.

#### **Success Stories and Blurbs:**

- A5: - **STATUS?:** 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: - **STATUS?:** 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: - **STATUS?:** Barb Miller will summarize her comments on helping her new community achieve CRS for Vince Brown;
- A8: - **STATUS?:** 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: - **STATUS?:** (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: - **ONGOING:** 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: - **STATUS?:** 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: - **ONGOING:** Vincent Brown will send everybody the latest copy of the Newsflash.
- A15: - **STATUS?:** 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.
- A16: - **STATUS?:** 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.
- A17: - **STATUS?:** 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.
- A18: - **STATUS?:** Veronica Criscitiello to add John Weiner's suggestion for an informational Module as a potential new Module.
- A19: - **STATUS?:** 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.
- A20: - **STATUS?:** Vince Brown will get information out to us on the Building Codes Report.
- A21: - **STATUS?:** 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
- A22: - **STATUS?:** 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.
- A23: - **STATUS?:** 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.
- A24: - **STATUS?:** Barb Miller will get a copy of her notes on these to Vince Brown so he can track down these PowerPoint presentations.
- A25: - **STATUS?:** Barb Miller will communicate directly with Vince and pass these on to the RNN and NHMA communities.
- A26: - **STATUS?:** Vincent Brown will get us copy of the PowerPoints named: FY2018 FMA NOFO and FY2018 PDM NOFO.

Action Items from July Meeting:

- A3. **STATUS?:** 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.
- A4. **STATUS?:** 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.
- A5. **STATUS?:** 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.

Action Items from the June Meeting:

- A6. **Who would like to work on a committee to pick a date, location, etc. for the RNN Community in-person meeting?**
- A7. **ONGOING:** 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 – Report in process.**
- A8. **ONGOING:** Ed Thomas to work with Vince Brown and FEMA to distribute the new post-disaster materials.
- A9. **ONGOING:** 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.
- A10. **ONGOING -** 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.
- A11. **ONGOING -** Ned Swanberg, Ed Thomas, to write up their thoughts on mitigation accountability and think about how we can take this further forward.

Action Items from April & May Meetings:

- A12. **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.
- A13. **ONGOING:** Vince Brown to offer more information next month on status of inviting Regional Coordinators to participate in the RNN calls.
- A14. **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.
- A15. **STATUS?:** RNN Communities to provide comments to Tom Hughes on Multi-Hazard Mitigation material (copy of Emergency Response Guide and Emergency Checklist).
- A16. **STATUS?:** RNN Communities to provide feedback to Tom Hughes on External Stakeholders Workgroup PDFs he sent out for their next meeting in August.
- A17. **STATUS?:** 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.
- A18. **ONGOING:** Tom Hughes and NHMA Admin to collaborate on sending something to Vince Brown to publish about the RNN.