



Resilient Neighbors Network **Minutes of Meeting of Friday, *May 18, 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.

AGENDA FOR UPCOMING MEETING OF June 22, 2018:

- 1) Roll call
- 2) Approval of Minutes (April and May 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) 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]
- 7) External Stakeholders Workgroup – Tom Hughes
- 8) **Rebecca Joyce's Membership Memorandum**
- 9) Further Roll Out of RNN/Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum: Hiring a Contractor; Further Presentations in Colorado, South Carolina and Montana
- 10) 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.
- 11) **NHMA and RNN Community Meeting: Natural Hazards Workshop - July 9-12, 2018?**
- 12) Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina
- 13) Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on Reorganization and the many things happening at FEMA
- 14) Status of Island Press Interest, ABA-Houston Success Story
- 15) Comments/Issues/Good News
- 16) Adjourn

Minutes for Meeting of Friday, *May 18, 2018*:

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

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: **Alessandra Jerolleman** (NHMA Board Member); **Janice Roper-Graham** (NHMA Board Member); **Jim Murphy** (NHMA Board Member); **Tom Hughes** (NHMA Board Member); **Veronica Criscitiello** (Wightman & Associates); **Ann Patton** (Orlando, FL); **Chuck Wallace** (Grays Harbor, WA); **Ned Swanberg** (State of Vermont); **Tim Lovell** (Tulsa, OK); **Barb Miller** (formerly Jefferson County, WV); **Traci Sears** (State of Montana); **Roger Faris** (Seattle, WA); **Vincent Brown** (FEMA).

Janice Roper-Graham began the meeting with a live poll of the RNN's with regard to developing an interactive platform. We need clarity about who is the RNN, why do we exist, why should someone be a member – this would help with recruiting. Beyond just getting on a call each month, what is the RNN trying to accomplish with each other? If folks want a knowledge sharing capability, she suggests Reddit as a platform because it is sustainable.

Janice to complete the RNN survey off-line.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April Minutes were tabled for the next meeting.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS – Outstanding Items from the April Meeting:

- **ONGOING:** Roger Faris requested a reminder on the Agenda that success stories are still needed from members of the RNN Community. **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.

Roger's 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.

- **ONGOING:** Barb Miller to present a portion of the DRR Curriculum at the West Virginia Flood Plain Managers Conference in June. **DONE:** Barb Miller reported that the West Virginia Flood Plain Conference will not happen this year.

- **ONGOING:** Vince Brown to offer more information next month on status of inviting Regional Coordinators to participate in the RNN calls.

- **ONGOING:** NHMA Admin to send a contacts list to Barb Miller and Vince Brown.- **DONE.** NHMA Admin to update Contacts List and prepare to post to website.

- **ONGOING:** Barb Miller and Vince Brown to contact RNN Community members to learn how to increase participation in the monthly calls.- **DONE:**

REPORT: Barb Miller and Vince Brown reported on the results of their call-through the RNN Community Contacts list. Tim Lovell reported on status of Tulsa representation:

Barb Miller shared that her conversations with various community representatives show a number of personnel changes - part of the reason we are not getting as many folks on the calls. We have at least 7 people unavailable due just to circumstance changes:

- Barb Miller and Daya Dayananda are no longer community reps, but remain active as individuals and SMEs in the RNN.
- Steve Allen will take over representing Jefferson County, WV in place of Barb Miller.
- Daya Dayananda no longer represents the community of Pasadena, TX. He has limited time, but would like to stay on the list of SMEs. He cannot participate on the monthly calls but says that if there's something specific we want to ask him to do, he will consider it.

- We need to reach out directly to Pasadena, TX to learn if they have someone who can represent them in the RNN. Their representation lapsed when Daya Dayananda's entire department was let go.
- Brad Holcomb will take over representing Rockford, IL in place of Marcy Leach who left almost a year ago.
- Rebecca Joyce is on personal leave. (*She was the RNN Representative on the NHMA Board.)
- Allison Hardin recently suffered a car accident and will be unavailable for some time.
- Barb will incorporate the updates that she and Vince noted and send back an updated contacts list.

Tim Lovell reported on the status of representation for Tulsa:

- Tim explained that he is a contractor with the Disaster Resilience Network, formerly Tulsa Partners. He was one of the original representatives involved in the creation of the RNN, along with Alessandra Jerolleman.
- The original intent was for the City of Tulsa to take on the representation role, and Bill Robison became the representative for Tulsa. Tim reports that Bill has since retired, replaced by Mary Kell, who is no longer Chief Resilience Officer. Laura Hendrix also has moved on and is now in Seattle, WA.
- The Chief Resilience Officer for Tulsa, Devon Douglas, is focused on other aspects related to resilience such as social and racial inequity, though they do still look at natural hazards.
- The person doing Bill Robison's position currently says he's been inundated with the emails he's been getting, and doesn't know what to do with them.
- Tim Lovell will follow up with the City of Tulsa and report back on this phone call. He does support the RNN as well as NHMA, but feels in terms of community representation it should be somebody from the City on the calls with us unless they want Tim to represent them.

Ideas on increasing participation:

- Barb Miller shared that the main reason people are missing calls is that most people are just too darn busy. A different day or time would not make a difference, and Fridays typically work for everybody.

Additionally:

- It was suggested that as much information as possible be put into one email instead of getting a barrage of emails a week prior to the meeting.
- It was suggested that the email include the *final* agenda, the Minutes of the last meeting, and the notes, at least one full week before the meeting, to allow people to look it over and be ready for their comments prior to the call. **NHMA Admin to prioritize this.- Ongoing*
- Tim Lovell suggested that the emails be sent out to everyone as a bcc so there's no 'reply all' feature jamming everybody's in box. He suggested we could include the distribution list at the bottom of each email so people can follow up if they want. **NHMA Admin to organize this.- DONE/Ongoing*
- Chuck Wallace mentioned that in his case it's very early in the morning in Washington State, but he does try to get on the calls. He would like to see more west coast communities participate.
- Some reps unsure about what is expected of them in the representative role; feeling lost when they get on these calls because in some instances they just don't understand what's being talked about.

Proposed changes:

- When emails come out, encourage folks not to hit 'reply all'. **NHMA Admin to do.- DONE/Ongoing*
- Send out a contact list to all the community reps so they can get in touch with each other between meetings and so that everyone knows who else is on the call. New members don't necessarily know who these other voices are on the phone. **NHMA Admin to do and post to website.- DONE/IN PROCESS.*
- Another thought is to possibly elect officers among the Community representatives and allow the President to run the phone call. **Note: The RNN still needs a representative to the NHMA Board. Filling this position could help accomplish this. Rebecca Joyce was the RNN Board Rep to NHMA up until her leave of absence in 2017. This person could be whoever is visiting with old and new members to keep them informed and involved.*
- Instead of a one-hour phone call each month, have a 2-hour phone call every other month.
- Have each person write their own personal or community goals and objectives for their participation within the RNN so everybody understands what they're willing to do or what they're able to do; **Note: Finalizing and implementing the Membership Memorandum and Statement of Participation begun by Rebecca Joyce in 2016-17 may help accomplish this.*

- Make the Agenda and Minutes available on line so folks can go there when they have time and offer suggestions – can be done as part of the website or as part of what Janice is doing? **NHMA Admin will get the Minutes posted to the RNN website ASAP.- **DONE/IN PROCESS***

NOTE: *The RNN must make decision with regard to the interactive platform that Janice Roper-Graham is suggesting.*

Other observations;

- The newer reps seem to be more enthusiastic than the older members; we need to connect with older members to keep in touch and help them get re-involved.
- People noted that the Action Item List is very helpful.

*** April ACTION ITEMS REVIEW, Continued:**

- **ONGOING:** RNN Communities to provide comments to Tom Hughes on Multi-Hazard Mitigation material (copy of Emergency Response Guide and Emergency Checklist).

- **DONE / ONGOING:** RNN Communities to provide feedback to Tom Hughes on External Stakeholders Workgroup PDFs he sent out for their next meeting in August.

- **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.

- **ONGOING:** Discussion of Membership Memorandum to continue on next month’s agenda. –

- **NEW ITEMS:**

- **DONE / ONGOING:** Veronica Criscitiello to provide list of topics to NHMA Admin to forward to the RNN Communities for feedback on Post-Disaster Risk Reduction Materials.

ONGOING: Need recommendations for a good candidate to interview as a real life risk reduction leader for the Leadership Module.

- **DONE:** NHMA Admin to send Vince Brown a link to NHMA’s posted Comments on FEMA Risk Management Division Strategy.

- **DONE / ONGOING:** NHMA Admin to send out Doodle Poll for Montana Meeting (week of July 16th; whole week long event) and Colorado (July 8 - 11th - Broomfield) to learn best time / venue for the RNN. – *IN PROCESS, AWAITING FEEDBACK – **DONE:** Out of 7 replies, 4 could schedule the week of July 8-11, 3 could do part or all of the week of July 16-20. Doodle Poll results were distributed 5-22-18. *Note: The RNN must choose a specific day before or after the Workshop to avoid scheduling conflict.*

- **DONE:** Vince Brown to send copy of April edition of the Risk Management Directorate newsletter - *Risk Management Directorate NewsFlash.*

- **ONGOING:** Tom Hughes and NHMA Admin to collaborate on sending something to Vince Brown to publish about the RNN.

- **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.

4. DECISION ON MONTANA MEETING/RNN PARTICIPATION IN MONTANA TRAINING

NHMA Admin to send out results of Doodle Poll. - **DONE.**

DOODLE POLL RESULTS: RNN Community Meeting 2018 - 7 people responded:

	Availability:	
	July 8 -11 (Colorado):	July 16-20 (Montana):
Tim Lovell	8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th	N/A
Traci Sears	N/A	16 th , 17 th , 18 th , 19 th , 20 th
Alessandra Jerolleman	8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th	N/A
Barb Miller	N/A	N/A
Tim Trautman	8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th	18 th & 19 th

5. VERONICA CRISCITIELLO (WIGHTMAN & ASSOCIATES) DISCUSS AND OBTAIN INPUT ON POST-DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MATERIALS. – (REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK WENT OUT TO RNN COMMUNITIES)

Does anyone have a recommendation for a good candidate to interview as a real life risk reduction leader for the Leadership Module? – ***Need response from the RNN Communities.***

6. 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]

7. EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKGROUP – Tom Hughes

Tom Hughes reported that the 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant and the 2018 Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant will be coming out sometime in August of this year – heads-up to anyone planning to apply for Grants.

8. REBECCA JOYCE'S MEMBERSHIP MEMORANDUM

We need to finalize the Memorandum and establish follow up for the Participation Statement. This is posted on the RNN website under 'Membership'.

9. FURTHER ROLL OUT OF RNN/DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CURRICULUM: HIRING A CONTRACTOR; FURTHER PRESENTATIONS IN COLORADO, SOUTH CAROLINA AND MONTANA

[from April Minutes]: Multi-hazard mitigation material has been sent out per Tom Hughes – Tom Hughes needs RNN feedback please.

10. NHMA DRR CURRICULUM & WORKSHOP STATUS:

[from April Minutes]: The Hazards Workshop has asked us to do a Roundtable / panel discussion this year – we are waiting to get more information from Lori Peek. We may also have either a dinner or breakfast, and sponsor a trivia night, as we did last year. Great opportunity for practitioners to rub shoulders with the Universities.

11. NHMA and RNN Community Meeting: Natural Hazards Workshop - July 9-12, 2018?

[from April Minutes]: Montanna – Week of July 16th – whole week – 1 day for legal, other days waiting to see how to fit into the RNN Schedule.

NHMA Admin to send out a Doodle Poll comparing this scheduled to Colorado (July 8-11th or week of July 16th) to gauge everyone's availability for these two meetings.-
DONE

We need a definite decision on travel reimbursements – send out info to everyone so they can decide how to come. **NHMA Admin to send out travel reimbursement guidelines, list the dates and if it includes the conference, or just a one-day meeting.* ***ONGOING/IN PROCESS - NOTE:** The RNN must still decide on a specific date, time, place, and proposed Agenda for its meeting before the NHMA Treasurer can issue reimbursement guidelines.

12. STATUS OF PRACTICAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

[from April Minutes]: The RNN Community needs to decide where they want to hold their annual meeting this year. We have a terrific opportunity to meet in Montana to do a rollout of the DRR Curriculum with the RNN Community presenting as SMEs.

13. COMMENTS FROM VINCENT BROWN OF FEMA ON THE MANY THINGS HAPPENING AT FEMA

Vince Brown described the organizational changes happening at FEMA and FIMA. An email and an organizational chart were sent out before today's meeting. Basically, there will now be a Directorate set up for Resilience which will include FIMA, and will be merged with the National Preparedness Group. An organization will be set up for Grants programs. National Continuity Programs, which is charged with continuity of government in case of major disaster, is also going under the Resilience Directorate. The Directorate will have a political appointee. More information to come in this as it develops. May 28th starts the new Resilience Directorate. Vince asks the RNN Community to think of some ways that we can tie the RNN into this new Directorate going forward – we want to let folks know that the RNN exists, what it's purpose is, etc., and promote the RNN within FEMA.

14. STATUS OF ISLAND PRESS INTEREST, ABA-HOUSTON SUCCESS STORY

15. COMMENTS/ISSUES/GOOD NEWS

16. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.