

Resilient Neighbors Network
Minutes of Meeting of Friday, *November 16, 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 December 21, 2018:

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes (November 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

Minutes for Meeting of Friday, *November 16, 2018*:

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

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: **Ed Thomas** (NHMA Board Member); **Jim Murphy** (NHMA Board Member); **Tim Trautman** (Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC); **Ned Swanberg** (State of Vermont); **Joe Rossi** (Marshfield Coastal Coalition); **Veronica Criscitiello** (Wightman & Associates); **Vincent Brown** (FEMA); **Israel Estrada** (NHMA Executive Director)

Quorum not present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: - TABLED.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS:

Significant items on the Action Items List were reviewed:

Learning Objective Report to the RNN Communities:

- Veronica Criscitiello reported that Learning Objectives for the 3 Modules that are slated next up for development were sent out shortly after the last call; she still needs feedback & invites comments.
 - Veronica Criscitiello to send the Learning Objectives Report out again along with a summary or copy of all comments she has received.
 - Veronica Criscitiello to re-distribute her note to the RNN Communities along with the Learning Objectives Report to see if anyone has anything to be included in the remaining Modules.

Marketing the DRR Curriculum:

- Ed Thomas, Jim Mullen and Tom Hughes working on marketing the DRR Curriculum.
 - This effort has expanded to include the whole NHMA Board and the RNN Communities such as are on the call today.

Youth Curriculum materials sent by Vince Brown:

- Ed Thomas and Erin Capps working to see where we stand with Vanderbilt University on developing a Hazard Mitigation Curriculum for high school students;
 - Ed Thomas and Erin Capps to dust off the contacts they had with Vanderbilt University.
 - Ed Thomas to put this back on his list and honk at Erin.

CTP Program Info:

- Vince Brown to get info out to the RNN Communities – DONE.
- Vince Brown to submit info about NHMA to the CTP Awards Committee – Status?

Success Stories:

- Veronica Criscitiello working with Gina Wightman and Roger Faris on Success stories.

RNN Future Activities:

- Discussion needed with regard to having some type of face to face get together for the RNN Communities.

Introduction of the New NHMA Executive Director, Israel Estrada [Bio attached]

Ed Thomas introduced Israel Estrada, NHMA's new part-time Executive Director, to the group.

- Israel's biography was previously distributed.
- Due to the schedule of our accountant which precluded the processing of employee new hires until after the end of the year, Israel will begin as a contract employee through the months of November and December.
- Israel will prepare a report to the NHMA Board of Directors over the months of November and December on his suggestions for NHMA with respect to fund raising and organization.
 - Israel is not an expert on hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, or disaster risk reduction;
 - Between the RNN and the NHMA Board and Committee chairs, we already have what may be the best collection of experts in the world on disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and hazard mitigation.
 - Israel is an expert on non-profit fund raising and management.
 - After much discussion, the Board agreed that what we need is organizational skills and fund-raising acumen, so we can get the messages, comments, and thoughts we have on grass roots, disaster prevention, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction effectively out to the marketplace of ideas.

Israel Estrada introduced himself to the group.

- He is excited to be joining NHMA as Executive Director.
- He is in the learning phase, so is trying to learn as much about the organization as possible.
- He will try to reach out to each of the RNN Community members as he can over the coming weeks.
- Invites anyone with questions, comments, or suggestions on how he may better share with the organization to please reach out to him at any time.

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

- We had hoped Rebecca Joyce could join us on the call.
 - Her personal situation, with regard to long-term caregiving for a close family member, has resolved and she now has time to give back.
- We have missed her dearly and welcome her back.
- We look forward to re-engaging with her in the month of December.

RNN Future Activities

- The RNN needs to decide what it wants to do with regard to its future activities.
 - A quorum is not present for this meeting, nor was one present last month.
 - We need to figure out what we can do with this structure, and how we can use volunteer time effectively to channel it into action that supports people at the local level who are trying to make a difference in terms of disaster risk reduction, flood plain management, wetlands protection, climate adaptation, or whatever they call this thing we do.
- We need a face-to-face meeting of the RNN Communities.
 - We need to energize folks and make sure we reach out to people at the local level, whether they're officials or grass roots activists who know about NHMA, to make sure they know that we're here to support them and try to channel thoughts and education to them in our role as an educational charity.
- What would the RNN Community members on the call today like to see NHMA focus on?

DISCUSSION:

Tim Trautman shared that he missed the last two to three meetings due mainly to rain events, so is a little behind the eight-ball with regard to the RNN.

- Tim Trautman was delegated to work with Chuck Wallace and Vince Brown to figure out options for putting together the *Advisory Committee Meeting*.
 - Tim is trying to find the best location for this and coordinate details.
 - No action on this yet, as they are still in the process of communicating with each other.
- The biggest thing Tim has seen the RNN Communities get involved in and help with, in varying capacities, is the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum, with different RNN members participating to continue its development and promote it to communities nationwide.
 - There are a lot of 'one-offs', whether through RNN or outside the RNN, where we're continuing to talk and share ideas with other communities in trying to be a resource & to learn from others.
 - He has no particular ideas for the RNN outside of continuing to invest in the DRR Curriculum.
 - Is open to anyone else's ideas on whatever products or services the RNN wants to develop.

Ed Thomas shared that Tim Trautman was one of our instructors who helped us put together the Montana series of workshops which RNN member Tracy Sears sponsored with the help of state and FEMA funding.

- Ed shared that he took tremendous joy in the very positive responses from people who attended the Workshop – generally local officials – as well as from the fact that some of the people who attended had previously been to our other workshops and were implementing some of our ideas and materials which have been developed over the years at the local level, including negotiations and how to negotiate for higher standards within one's community.
- The feedback Ed has since gotten is that our materials and presentations are tremendously useful, to the point that we had some folks from the Montana Resilience Initiative and the Montana State Bar attorneys, who were so inspired by the Workshop that they went back to the organization in Montana that does state-wide training for county attorneys and invited Tracy Sears and Ed Thomas to come back again at the end of November to do a short session for them. They have also paid for it - which enables us to do it.
 - In this particular situation, the County attorneys had no knowledge about the Flood Insurance Program, or hazard mitigation planning, *but decided they wanted that knowledge*.
 - This will be, according to the folks at the local flood plain level, enormously important in helping them do their jobs.
 - Attorneys have a grasp, through their great portfolio of activities which includes criminal and civil law, that the one thing they need to have some general knowledge about, and be supportive of, is flood plain management activities.
- We're showing that we can make a difference and it's a matter of getting the word out and having those of you in the RNN that are at the local level work with us to figure out how we can come up with the funding to deploy what we're doing in a way that's useful.

DISCUSSION:

Joe Rossi shared that one of the things his community has started to focus on through the Marshfield Coastal Coalition in Massachusetts is getting a better awareness of CRS (Community Rating System) and working across communities to try to get best practices gathered and implemented.

- Some of the work they're doing is to pioneer how to set up CRS workshops in communities.

- One of the great values of the RNN is in bringing some of that national scope of CRS and best practices together in one place.
- Maybe part of what we can do in the RNN is develop brief memos about what each of our communities are doing with different aspects of CRS; such as, in Marshfield they will be one of only two New England communities that have a Plan for Public Information (PPI); Joe Rossi can put together examples of how they implement it from their perspective.
- Joe Rossi would love to hear how other communities do open space - how does that work, and what do they do?
- This might be a good place to focus some of our time doing.

Ed Thomas added some thoughts about the CRS (Community Rating System):

- When FEMA first started the Community Rating System, Ed Thomas was in the original group who came together to define and establish what higher standards for flood plain management were.
 - A book of basic compliance was in place with the National Flood Insurance Program, and what they were looking for was something that would solve the horrific problem of repetitive losses and also recognize that the minimum standards of the Flood Insurance Program had not been brought up to date in many, many years, which was a problem.
 - They developed the CRS Manual, which has been updated and revised. It is basically (though NEMA may not care to have it described this way) a manual of best practices for higher standards in flood plain management.
 - To some extent, the DRR Curriculum is an effort to, in a short pithy form, collapse these explanations of 'do this but don't do that' with respect to *all* natural hazards, including floods.
 - We're trying to get the Curriculum to function in a way that it can be conveyed through multiple and different respective sources to multiple and different audiences in a form that induces change at the local level.
 - In this activity, working together is incredibly important.
- Floods have historically been our nation's greatest natural hazard. With respect to a change in that, for a period of time were one enormous earthquake, or the continuation of the incineration of the State of California through wildfires. But basically, flood plain management is the foundation of hazard mitigation and climate adaptation; what we're trying to do is build on it.

DISCUSSION:

- Maybe RNN can set up a CRS user's group where we share best practices:
 - Charlotte-Mecklenburg has done an incredible job on public information; Tulsa also has, and Santa Rosa has.
 - Having them share some of their documentation which has been accepted for CRS points would be good, coupled with the messages that we have developed (and which no one else we know of has developed) on negotiations and inspiration for change at the local level.
 - Explaining to people about what a cross-subsidization is; and how people in Arkansas who don't participate in CRS are cross-subsidizing the worthy millionaires on the Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Louisiana, and Florida coast who are greatly participating in the CRS Program.
 - This is a message that community representatives can take back to their mayor and say look, we really need to spend some time on this.
 - Maybe coming up with that as a focus in some of our workshops and showing how elements of the DRR Curriculum can aid in that.
- Joe's idea is a really good thought.

- Coupled with the idea that the brilliant, transformative lecture which Joe Rossi gave when he spoke at the Montana Workshop on how flood insurance, and insurance in general, is an incredibly important part of a *resilience bank account* at the community level.
 - To look at flood insurance not so much from the individual policy perspective, but rather from a community perspective: If you have a lot of flood insurance policies in a community, the community's going to be able to snap back better after a flood, and so too with respect to wildfire, earthquake and other damages.
- 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 say 'hey, here's some really good stuff'; we're really proud of what we did in Tulsa on this element of CRS,' and transfer that out to the marketplace of ideas.
 - This is a great idea and we can support that.

QUESTION: Jim Mullen asked are there any contractual obligations or commitments to FEMA or other organizations that the RNN has made and everyone should be aware of?

RESPONSE: Ed Thomas replied that there are no contractual obligations to FEMA or any other outside organization by the RNN.

- There is an *internal* RNN Membership Memorandum developed by Rebecca Joyce, which some RNN Community members have signed as a sort of informal agreement spelling out what they plan to do within the RNN and how they plan to support it.
- We have not asked people to guaranty they're going to do any particular thing within the RNN other than participate as best they can because it is a voluntary role for folks, not mandatory.

DISCUSSION:

Ned Swanberg shared his thoughts:

- The RNN and Natural Hazard Mitigation Association does a lot of very sophisticated programing.
- Is there a way for the RNN and NHMA to reconstruct this in some way more like a listening-learning session, to show up in the wake of a disaster at the right time and space, to fund and bring people into the conversation from the area, and match that up with RNN participants that have resonant messages and use the Curriculum in and around the event to amplify our message – basically connect these gatherings to a vivid learning process on a couple of levels - internally as well as for a specific area?
- A lot of people have trouble funding travel and unless it's directly relevant to things they are already involved in, it won't get approved and they can't go anywhere.
 - That sort of thing has to be built in to any kind of description.

Ed Thomas concurred:

- Let's put this down as a specific thought with respect to the CTP contract, that one way of achieving what Ned is talking about would be for us to have in place essentially an assistance effort based upon experts coming out to a state or community and offering assistance, and it would have to be some form of credentialed, identified activity whether a facilitator or expert on flooding, wildfire, etc. offering a listening session, some training, coaching, etc.;
- FEMA did fund this with respect to Maria Lamb, who is the current chair of ASFPM, but in her role as the Flood Insurance Coordinator for the State of South Carolina.
 - Maria Lamb went up to Montana when Traci Sears was struggling with some issues of substantial damage after some flooding, and assisted Traci with that in some form of mission assignment or inter-governmental effort which FEMA can fund through the Disaster Fund.

- It has to be set up - but maybe it can be done if we set up an identified thing under the Sharing Agreement between the states funded by FEMA.
- This is a real thought – to come in after a disaster for a ‘listening and learning session’ with basically peer-to-peer networking.
- Maybe we could get that set up, get it put into the formal process that already exists for providing support state-to-state and local-to-local; it’s certainly done with respect to a lot of other elements in terms of response and public assistance.
- Let’s try and capture that and see if we can’t, using the Curriculum as part of the credentialing, send someone that’s certified in negotiations, perhaps in the Facilitations part of the Negotiations Module, to say, “Hey, we’ve got this, it’s an identified thing, and I in Vermont would like to have some of my peers come in that are expert - like Tim Trautman - to help me, and we’re asking under the existing Memorandum of Understanding that exists between and among the states that is an official part of the response effort.” Any comments?

Ned Swanberg added: It’s something that is invited by the local community and would also have to be built into this as some sort of capacity building function for the RNN.

Ed Thomas shared: There is no reason why this couldn’t be funded by the President’s Fund.

- It would be tricky for some aspects of non-declared disasters; but the provision for technical assistance/technical support for Presidentially Declared Disasters is basically limited only by those that approve the mission assignments or use of the Interstate Cooperation Agreement.
 - At one time it was the delegate for the FCO, but now there may be a few other people that want to get their fingers in the pie.
- In terms of the law, it has no limit – FEMA can provide unlimited technical support.
 - As FCO in Iowa for the Midwest Flood in 1993, Ed signed a million-dollar mission assignment for the Division of Mitigation Technical Support to the state.

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**

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

Joe Rossi reported on activities of the Marshfield Coastal Coalition:

- Some of the activities they have been doing in Massachusetts over the past year really began before winter last year but were solidified after a series of severe storms struck which did not receive a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
 - Massachusetts suffered some of the worst Nor’easters the region has seen in the past 40 to 50 years.
 - There was a major storm in January, followed by multiple major storms in March.
 - Each of these storms on their own would have been benchmark storms if they had happened in individual years;
 - However, they all happened in the same winter season, bringing the highest tide Boston has ever seen and the longest duration winter storms since the Blizzard of ’78, causing really significant damage and flooding.

- The Marshfield Coastal Coalition held an Outreach on the South Shore of Boston last night, where there are people still reeling from last year's flooding who haven't even begun yet to get their lives in order.
- There was obviously a need to come up with a Best Practice on what to do when there is no Individual Assistance, Presidentially Declared Disaster, and no assistance coming to the aid of affected communities.
- The Marshfield Coastal Coalition has created some Best Practices to help communities that find themselves in these dire straits.
 - First is the type of community outreach they do where they go into the communities after an event and lay out the options available to them. One of the things they're developing is a Pre-Disaster and Post-Disaster Response Plan.
 - For example, last night's event was a Pre-Disaster Event, focused on getting people prepared for the coming storm, talking to them about how to individually help themselves, but really the goal around all of this is to help individuals and communities become *financially resilient*, not just structurally resilient.
 - One of the ways they've tried to do this is by integrating the idea of the importance of flood insurance to both individuals and the community - not just instilling the urge to purchase flood insurance, but also promoting the idea that flood insurance policies should be used as *a silo of resilience for the community*.
 - I.e., when you look at the number of policies in force within a community, that's how much funding or coverage will come back into the community after a disaster event.
 - The Marshfield Coastal Coalition has also partnered with some local lending companies to educate people about the 203K and other non-disaster funded loans that can be taken out for the purpose of elevating and mitigating homes.
 - While the 203K is a lending tool, sometimes - especially when you don't get a federally declared disaster - there's no other option available except a loan which is lent against the home, and there are higher value loans available by ratios that can be used on some of these loans.
 - What the Marshfield Coastal Coalition has really done is build an entire suite of outreach opportunities around the idea of individuals and communities being *financially independently resilient*.

Ed Thomas urged that Joe Rossi write up a short article or description on that. It is a fantastic best practice.

- Is it Joe's thought that if a community adopts this plan that it should be eligible somehow to receive CRS credits under the Flood Insurance Program?

Joe Rossi responded that this is a great question.

- Anyone who is familiar with CRS knows that when you're doing an outreach you have to have targeted messages which CRS outlines in terms of what they need to say.
- If you're there talking in general about flood insurance and preparing for a storm, you've most likely already triggered those targeted words.
 - But in order to qualify for CRS credits, messages really need to be specifically structured in a way where your talking about protecting property, protecting individuals, buying flood insurance, etc., and all fit within six mandatory outreach topics.
 - As part of their PPI, or Plan for Public Information, the Marshfield Coastal Coalition hired a graphic designer to build out a CRS public outreach plan which actually fits into these six mandatory outreach topics.

- If you're going to a CRS outreach you have to do it in one of those six categories, or a combination of those six messages.
- The Marshfield Coastal Coalition has not just six messages in their outreach program but has added two more because the PPI allows you to add two or three more of those messages of your choosing.
- Joe Rossi will send copies of the Marshfield Coastal Coalition messaging plan out for everyone to see. They are customized towards the Town of Marshfield but are easily editable to any local community where they focus and talk about the messaging of CRS.
- So, yes, they build their presentations around the idea that communities can submit them for CRS credits.

Joe Rossi to capture a few thoughts about this and get it into the Newsletter and up on the NHMA website as a Best Practice and get a short write up about this around to the RNN.

Tim Trautman shared on a related matter regarding the broader topic of Best Practices when you have no Presidential Declaration:

- This is probably an area that communities struggle with the most when there's no funding mechanism to fall back on.
- Looking at the program that Joe Rossi described the material provided is very helpful.
 - If the RNN wants to expand it, we could develop a Guidebook and have other ideas related to that topic also on the website.
- One of the most successful things they've done in Charlotte-Mecklenburg is the simplest in terms of simply having a rainy-day fund for use in disasters that do not meet the Presidential Disaster Declaration threshold.
 - Figuring out a way to create a reserve fund of some sort that so there is some money that an authority can appropriate for the explicit purpose of implementing mitigation immediately after a disaster.
 - Charlotte-Mecklenburg calls this their Quick Buy Program because they do buy-outs for the most part with those funds.
 - They also actually have additional money under a Retrofit Program that can be used to retrofit homes after a flood.
 - Basically, they conscientiously set aside that money in a rainy-day fund and make it sit there until it's needed for a flood related disaster.
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg has information on this program on their website which anybody could access and potentially use if they were interested in creating a Best Practices document that included Joe Rossi's information as well as any other information such as ideas that communities may have on how to deal with disasters and do mitigation and reduce the financial and actual impact of a disaster immediately after an event.

Ed Thomas suggested that we follow through on Tim Trautman's brilliant idea:

- Tim Trautman and Joe Rossi to share this information and get it out.
- NHMA can post it to the website, the Newsletter, etc.
- The beginnings of a little guide book can be started that we just start by adding in Best Practices.
 - Joe Rossi very modestly did not point out that one of the most incredible Best Practices that the Marshfield Coastal Coalition implements is that when they do these workshops around Massachusetts, taking the lead as a non-profit organization, they bring along an architect with them to talk about elevating homes; they also bring along a mortgage lender to talk about how the loan process would work; and they also have somebody along to speak from the perspective of the State's Disaster Mitigation Money; they basically

perform the role that in the past we have seen federal state agencies take the lead on; so their workshops are a one-stop-shop.

Ed Thomas reiterated the value of Tim Trautman's idea as demonstrated by Charlotte-Mecklenburg, that you can also put together your own package of community money.

- Ed Thomas observed that what is happening here, from the viewpoint of someone that used to be involved with the Disaster Declaration process, is that all four of the storms Joe Rossi referenced last year in Massachusetts would potentially have been Presidentially Declared Disasters in every single previous Administration going back to Ford and Nixon. That is no longer the case, and in fact, if you cut to the bottom line, FEMA is actually following the law.
 - A Presidentially Declared Disaster is supposed to be an event beyond state and local capability to handle. What happened on the Massachusetts Coast wasn't beyond state and local capability. This is something NHMA can really provide some leadership on as to how communities could handle that.
 - There are elements of the Curriculum that can be brought to bear on this.
 - Also too, if communities can come up with the funds to get NHMA or the RNN Community members to come in to do some peer-to-peer networking and some teaching, all of this is possible.
- If Joe Rossi and Tim Trautman can get their materials together, let's make this into a project:
 - What to do you when you don't have a Presidentially Declared Disaster?
 - We've got Tim Trautman's ideas, Joe Rossi's ideas, lets pull in some other ideas, and maybe use this as an energizing force for the Resilient Neighbors Network.
 - This is similar to what we did before for a fire in West Virginia; and we got Roger Faris working on that and ran into some political problems with it; so this would circle right back around to something we have done before.

DRR CURRICULUM

RNN Face-to-Face Meeting:

- We are going to be doing a face to face meeting in 2019 and we need to pick a location.
- Ed Thomas would love to do it in the context of some type of educational effort similar to what we did in Montana.
 - We had hoped that the Montana event would be a coming together of all the RNN communities, and we had several (three) RNN members there.
 - We could do this and have a listening session for the RNN and also have some peer-to-peer education for others which would be something to think about.
 - Doing it in an RNN community, like Charlotte-Meckelenberg, would be an optimal educational opportunity for all of us. Charlotte-Meckekberg is one of the premier examples of how to turn around a difficult flooding situation on an ongoing basis.
 - We've done this before in Tulsa, and in other places and it's something to think about.

Marketing the DRR Curriculum:

- As we move forward with the DRR Curriculum, we're going to be trying to get input and basically market this product to a whole lot of folks including FEMA.
 - We're working with Vince Brown to set up an in-person and webinar session talking primarily about the Curriculum as well as other NHMA initiatives with FEMA.
 - We are trying to work with EPA and NOAH; very much trying to work with NAACo and the insurance industry and others.

- We've made a special outreach that Ed Thomas has been involved with to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. Now that Roy Right, our friend formerly of FEMA is the Chief Executive of IBHS, we're hoping to get the Curriculum represented there.
- Any others that you all would like us to be involved with or think that we can reach out to.
 - We are continuing to work through the various folks that we are very friendly with who are on the Association of State Flood Plain Managers Board so that we can create a much closer working relationship with ASFPM and others.
 - Of course working with our Board member who is in charge of the disaster programs at the American Planning Association – we hope to be working with them and many other folks to get their input but especially giving them the opportunity to be part of the deployment of this incredible product that we have developed.

The practical Community Resilience Pilot Project in South Carolina

- We hoped to know more about what is going on with this by now.
 - We spent an enormous amount of time and effort supporting South Carolina, Clemson University and the Army Corps of Engineers / Silver Jackets program effort there.
 - They did a lot of recordings and we are hoping to have some discussions with them on November 26th or so about how they see the Silver Jackets program and others making use of the Curriculum materials that we deployed in South Carolina.
 - There is exciting potential for this Practical Community Resilience Project that Clemson University has developed and deployed very successfully in Haiti, and which they are hoping to deploy in South Carolina, Lawrence County. We'll see how that all goes.

Vincent Brown Report on Activities at FEMA:

- Vincent Brown reported that FEMA has new contractors in place that they are now working with.
 - Vince had just come from a call with the Communications providers across the US Atlantic Directorate where we are and where the Mapping Program is.
 - The Headquarters folks, and the Community Engagement, Regional Communications contract is their vehicle for a lot of their communication, particularly out in the Regions relative to the Mapping Program.
 - This was the fourth meeting that the Program Management Contractor has held.
- One of the things discussed this morning was about **Partnerships**.
 - 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.
 - Vince will try to get us involved in that and make sure the Risk Management Director knows he has the RNN organization.
 - The conversation on the call today about Partnerships immediately went to the RNPN (Resilient Nation Partnership Network) so Vincent Brown mentioned NHMA and the RNN and pointed out that they have another organization that they need to be aware of.
 - 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.
- **The Operating Partners Meeting** is coming up and Vince Brown will be getting NHMA on the Agenda for this.
 - The Operating Partners are mostly composed of folks that do mapping for FEMA or have mapping concerns and are involved in the Mapping Program; it also includes ASFPM (the Association of State Flood Plain Managers), and MAFSMA (National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies).
 - We want to get NHMA on there to let folks know what's going on with the NHMA and the grant FEMA has provided for it. Vincent expects the RNN will probably be mentioned during that

presentation and he will leave explaining its importance up to Ed Thomas and whoever will be making the presentation on behalf of NHMA.

- FEMA has a **Quarterly Call Across Risk Management** which will be coming up in January and includes the Mapping Program, Hazard Mitigation Planning, Advanced Safety Program, Levee Safety Program, and Building Sciences and HQ and Regions.
- FEMA is also working toward their **Annual Workshop** where they pull in all the Regions and HQs for an annual meeting that lasts not quite a week and is coming up in February.
- Also, the **Association of State Flood Plain Managers will be meeting** to discuss aspects at the HQ Review and will be allowed to present at Cleveland, OH.

Vincent Brown reported that he had an interesting conversation with folks about what they're calling **Risk Rating 2.0**.

- This is going to redefine the way we deal with flood risk in terms of floods, the rates for flood insurance and the mapping product.
- They will be looking at a lot of different factors in terms of which maps show flood risk area and how zones are comprised. It will include not only FEMA mapping information but will also include risk assessment information and other kinds of data streams that will be pooled into it.
 - They have so much data from so many places it will be a multi-faceted way of mapping flood hazard areas and setting insurance rates.
 - Its anticipated to be a very powerful tool.

Jim Mullen mentioned that he understood that "interactive" meant that one could go through Google Earth and look up a specific property to see flood risk areas, insurance rates, etc.

- It is expected to be a whole new way of doing mapping. Information is continually updated and is not static. You can conceivably access all the information on a live platform in real time.
 - How they will deal with review requirements and legal requirements, we don't know.

Vince Brown shared that the concept is very interesting.

- It will bring about big changes in terms of how we deal with program areas, particularly with money that is allotted to mapping programs.
- If we make them more interactive, there will be a lot of questions, and a lot of change.
- They have new people taking over the management of the Mapping Program and they're trying to interpolate this data and make the mapping product more technologically advanced.

Ed Thomas mentioned that one of the advantages of the RNN is having an opportunity to comment on these kinds of changes through Vince Brown and also to be knowledgeable about what FEMA's up to with respect to the enormous improvements that are needed in flood mapping.

- Right now the flood maps are, as we pointed out in the Curriculum, very limited and even misleading.

Other Matters:

- Tim Trautman to add ideas to a write up from Joe Rossi for distribution to RNN website, Newsletter, etc.
 - This article to stimulate 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.
- Island Press interested in an article from us about the apparent or real conflict between higher standards that will cost more and making housing resilience in the short term; we are interested in the long term.

- An article on this would be a good op-ed piece in a major national publication.
- Bar Association Newsletter – Joe Rossi mentioned doing something for them, which is getting something out onto the ABA website but also Ed has found that when he can say he’s spoken about, and whenever he can offer to send an article that has been published by the Bar Association or elsewhere it has enhanced credibility,
- Other people will pick up our materials – its just a matter of doing it.
- Roger Faris is being very generous with his time in helping us develop best practices idea and writing articles; he is a brilliant reporter and writer; any other comments?
- Please send Vince Brown articles Ed has done so he can forward to various newsletters.
- Ed is still trying to get the ABA to give him copyright permission on an article he co-wrote; will also send a list of other publications we have done
- 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.
- Vince Brown will send the latest copy of the NewsFlash for November to be sent around to the RNN – add a note and put it up on the website and NHMA members for supporting synergy.

Meeting adjourned 12:12 p.m.

Planning the Advisory Committee Meeting:

- (Nov)-A1. Tim Trautman to work with Chuck Wallace and Vince Brown to figure out options for putting together the *Advisory Committee Meeting*.
- (Nov)-A2. Chuck Wallace and Vince Brown to work with Tim Trautman on planning the Advisory Committee Meeting for the RNN

CRS and Insurance Education:

- (Nov)-A3. 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)-A4. 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)-A5. 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)-A6. 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)-A7. Tim Trautman to add ideas to the write up from Joe Rossi for distribution to RNN, website, Newsletter, etc.

(Nov)-A8. 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)-A9. 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)-A10. Vince Brown will be getting NHMA on the Agenda for The **Operating Partners Meeting**.
- (Nov)-A11. 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)-A12. Vince Brown will try to get us involved and make sure the Risk Management Director knows he has the RNN Communities organization.
- (Nov)-A13. 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)-A14. Ed Thomas to send Vince Brown copies of articles he has done so Vince can forward them to various newsletters.
- (Nov)-A15. Ed Thomas will send Vince a list of other publications we have done.
- (Nov)-A16. NHMA Admin to work with Veronica Criscitiello 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)-A17. 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.

October Action Items:

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

- A1. 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:

- A2. 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.

A3. 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.

A4. 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:

A5. 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.

A6. 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:

A7. Vince Brown to get information to Ed Thomas about the CTP Program for the RNN Communities.

A8. 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.

A9. Vince Brown will submit information about NHMA for the CTP Awards committee for the communication efforts that we're doing.

A10. 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:

A11. Roger Faris will invite Newport, Oregon to participate in an upcoming RNN meeting to introduce themselves as a potential new member of the RNN.

A12. 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.

A13. 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.

- A14. 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:

- A15. 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.
- A16. NHMA Admin to send Vince Brown Word versions of any of these articles.- *IN PROCESS*

BEST PRACTICES / SUCCESS STORIES:

- A17. ***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.
- A18. ***STATUS?:*** 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.
- A19. Ed Thomas to get Joe Rossi's phone number to Roger Faris.
- A20. Ned Swanberg to flesh out this draft into an article from him complete with links for use in the NHMA Newsletter.
- A21. 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.
- A22. ***STATUS?:*** Roger Faris to do another Best Practice story on Vermont for posting.
- A23. ***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

- A24. **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.

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:

- A1. **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.
- A2. **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.
- A3. **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:

- A4. **Who would like to work on a committee to pick a date, location, etc. for the RNN Community in-person meeting?**
- A5. **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.**
- A6. **ONGOING:** Ed Thomas to work with Vince Brown and FEMA to distribute the new post-disaster materials.
- A7. **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.
- A8. **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.
- A9. **STATUS?:** 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:

- A10. **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.
- A11. **ONGOING:** Vince Brown to offer more information next month on status of inviting Regional Coordinators to participate in the RNN calls.
- A12. **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.
- A13. **STATUS?:** RNN Communities to provide comments to Tom Hughes on Multi-Hazard Mitigation material (copy of Emergency Response Guide and Emergency Checklist).
- A14. **STATUS?:** RNN Communities to provide feedback to Tom Hughes on External Stakeholders Workgroup PDFs he sent out for their next meeting in August.
- A15. **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.
- A16. **ONGOING:** Tom Hughes and NHMA Admin to collaborate on sending something to Vince Brown to publish about the RNN.