

Resilient Neighbors Network
Minutes of Meeting of Friday, *September 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.

AGENDA FOR UPCOMING MEETING OF October 19, 2018:

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes (September 2018)
3. Review of Action Items
4. **RNN Future Activities**
5. **Veronica Criscitiello (Wightman & Associates)** seeking RNN SMEs for the following:
 1. Wildfire (review draft module)
 2. Wildfire-flood connection
 3. Severe thunderstorm/tornado safe rooms
 4. 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]
7. **Next Steps for RNN-DRR Curriculum Future Meeting? Discussion of CTP Grant**
 1. **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 Reorganization and 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, *September 21, 2018*:

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

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: **Donna Boyce** (NHMA Board Member); **Erin Capps** (NHMA Board Member); **Jim Murphy** (NHMA Board Member); **Eugene Henry** (Hillsborough County, FL); **Traci Sears** (State of Montana); **Ned Swanberg** (State of Vermont).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

DISCUSSION:

- Minutes for August were sent out yesterday. July minutes were also re-sent, along with Minutes for April, May, and June, still needing to be approved.
- It was suggested we adopt the Minutes and allow for future corrections if anyone has changes.

A Motion was made by Gene Henry to accept the Minutes for August, as well as April, May, June, and July, with the understanding that if there are any changes the Minutes can be corrected.

The Motion was seconded by Ned Swanberg.

There being no further discussion, it was

VOTED: The Minutes were adopted.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Action Items from September Meeting

RNN IN-PERSON COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting:

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

Success Stories and Blurbs:

- A5: - Roger Faris to get more info from Joe Rossi to write up a Success Story about his work with the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition and impacted communities in Massachusetts.
- A6: - Barb Miller will write up her experience about her volunteer effort to improve her new community's CRS rating and get it to Roger Faris as an important Success Story.
- A7: - Barb Miller will summarize her comments on helping her new community achieve CRS for Vince Brown;
- A8: - Roger Faris will write up Barb Miller's community CRS story;
- A9: - Ed Thomas will get Roger Faris some materials he promised on Montana.

- A10: - Ed Thomas will get out to everyone a little nugget he put together for the Hazards Workshop on bridging the gap between people who believe in Climate Change, and those who don't believe in Climate Change and the process of de-politicizing the whole concept of hazard mitigation and disaster risk reduction
- A11: - (Wightman & Associates?) will be writing up some additional things on the training we did in Utah, Montana, Colorado, South Carolina, as well as the Hazards Workshop.
- A12: - David Mallory and Ed Thomas will get out some material on Colorado, and will work with Veronica Criscitiello and Gina Wightman to get the South Carolina materials written up.
- A13: - Ed Thomas, Roger Faris and Traci Sears to work together on documenting Traci Sears' work on Substantial Damage Requirements from the South Carolina presentation as a best practice;
- A14: - Veronica Criscitiello to put out Module 15 – the Wildfire Module - as a first operational draft.
- A15: - Vincent Brown will send everybody the latest copy of the Newsflash.
- A16: - Joe Rossi will work with Roger Faris and possibly Ed Thomas to write something up on the presentation he did in Montana, as well as his work with the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition for Vince to use.
- A17: - Veronica Criscitiello will send out descriptions of the Modules to everyone after the meeting for feedback.
- A18: - Veronica Criscitiello to add Mr. Brian Varrella of the ASFPM Board to the distribution as we seek to improve and expand our relationship with the ASFPM Board.
- A19: - Veronica Criscitiello to add Rebecca Joyce to the distribution, as her community is very wild fire and flood prone, and it might be good to include her on this as something that might pull her back into the group.
- A20: - Veronica Criscitiello to add John Weiner's suggestion for an informational Module as a potential new Module.
- A21: - Ed Thomas to follow up with David Vaughn, the Professor of Practice, who is heading that for Clemson University, and see if we can get something written up on the Practical Community Resilient Project effort and how the NHMA and FEMA-funded CTP is used to support that on an ongoing basis.
- A22: - Vince Brown will get information out to us on the Building Codes Report.
- A23: - Vince Brown will send a slide presentation on the Culture of Preparedness for us to look at and see where we can further combine what FEMA is doing with NHMA and RNN, and see where Resilience Organization is going
- A24: - Vince Brown to send us a write-up on the High Water Mark Initiative that we can put out in our Newsletter and up on our website.
- A25: - Barb Miller to write up information on the NOFA and PDA grants for the NHMA Newsletter, so we can get that out and also put in a little plug for her new company.
- A26: - Barb Miller will get a copy of her notes on these to Vince Brown so he can track down these PowerPoint presentations.
- A27: - Barb Miller will communicate directly with Vince and pass these on to the RNN and NHMA communities.
- A28: - Vincent Brown will get us copy of the PowerPoints named: FY2018 FMA NOFO and FY2018 PDM NOFO.

Action Items from July Meeting:

- A29: - Ed Thomas to distribute a copy of our developing responses to FEMA initiatives for the RNN Communities to weigh in on.
- A30: - 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.
- A31: - 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.
- A32: - 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.
- A33: - Ed Thomas to send copy of FEMA post-disaster curriculum materials out to the RNN Community for comment.
- A34: - Veronica Criscitiello to work with NHMA Admin to get today's material out as a draft to folks on the call and then move it forward as one of the elements of our Grant proposal to FEMA.

Action Items from the June Meeting:

- A35: - **Who would like to work on a committee to pick a date, location, etc. for the RNN Community in-person meeting?**
- A36: - NHMA Admin to ask Jaime Marso, our webmaster, if there's a way of tracking the downloading of new materials as we turn them out. Can we spot where interest is in topics and location? – ***DONE – awaiting reply.***
- A37: - Ed Thomas to work with Vince Brown and FEMA to distribute the new post-disaster materials.
- A38: - 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.
- A39: - 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.
- A40: - Ned Swanberg, Ed Thomas, to write up their thoughts on mitigation accountability and think about how we can take this further forward.
- A41: - Vince Brown to get together with David Mallory on the grant application.

Action Items from April & May Meetings:

- A42: - **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.
- A43: - **ONGOING:** Vince Brown to offer more information next month on status of inviting Regional Coordinators to participate in the RNN calls.
- A44: - **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.
- A45: - **ONGOING:** RNN Communities to provide comments to Tom Hughes on Multi-Hazard Mitigation material (copy of Emergency Response Guide and Emergency Checklist).
- A46: - **ONGOING:** RNN Communities to provide feedback to Tom Hughes on External Stakeholders Workgroup PDFs he sent out for their next meeting in August.
- A47: - **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.

- A48: - **ONGOING:** Discussion of Membership Memorandum to continue on next month's agenda.
- A49: - **ONGOING:** Veronica Criscitiello seeks recommendations for a good candidate to interview as a real life risk reduction leader for the Leadership Module.
- A50: - **ONGOING:** Tom Hughes and NHMA Admin to collaborate on sending something to Vince Brown to publish about the RNN.
- A51: - **ONGOING:** Vince Brown to get us information on FIMA's 50th Anniversary Celebration Program. The RNN to let Vince know if there's anything we'd like to get involved with.
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4. RNN Participation in Montana, Colorado, and South Carolina Training

South Carolina:

- Donna Boyce reported on the training events held in South Carolina.
 - The event was heroically attended by some of our presenters who were challenged by difficult weather and/or traffic conditions.
 - The audience was well represented from all over the state of South Carolina.
 - There were enthusiastic participants, not just listeners, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy asking some tough cross-presenter questions, evidencing they were really paying attention.
 - It was a well-done event and received positive feedback from the Corp and Silver Jackets who thought so as well.
 - We are waiting to see an article on it included in the Silver Jackets Newsletter.

Montana:

- Traci Sears reported on the workshop in Montana.
 - They held a week-long event, it was successfully received.
 - Various stakeholders and departments throughout the state attended and a lot of community members came to the different workshops.
 - In total about 125 attendees participated throughout the week.
 - We had requests for all the speakers to return and Ed Thomas has been approached to come back and present at another conference for Montana attorneys.
 - We continue to get feedback from people who attended, and those that were unable to come have asked if we can put it on again.
 - Thanks to everyone for their support and help in putting on this event.
 - There is an upcoming conference with the State Bar; we did work with them on the July event to have continuing education credits for one of the workshops. They were pleased with the feedback they received, and that's why they reached out again to request another workshop designed to fit a wider audience of attorneys throughout the state.

Colorado:

- Erin Capps reported that Colorado was a smaller event but was successful as well.

5. **Veronica Criscitiello (Wightman & Associates)** seeking RNN SMEs for the following:

1. Wildfire (review draft module)
2. Wildfire-flood connection
3. Severe thunderstorm/tornado safe rooms
4. Addressing earthquake risks: policy to engineering

Gina Wightman unable to be on the call today – report is TABLED.

- NHMA has sent out the Wildfire Module for review and comment.
- Modules are still in process.

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] – *(NHMA Admin to redistribute with the current Minutes.)*
7. **Next Steps for RNN-DRR Curriculum Future Meeting? Discussion of CTP Grant**
 1. **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.]
 - John Wiener’s memo was discussed. Has there been a discussion of setting a meeting in DC to work with others and forming an advisory committee?
 - Tim Trautman working on this with Chuck Wallace and Vince Brown, using John’s note as an organizational approach.
 - We’re expected to have an in-person meeting in DC so Vince Brown can introduce us to the new Resilience Directorate there.
 - It was suggested we combine this with Item 8 of this Agenda (below) and put on a Curriculum workshop at the same time. Idea of meeting with NOAA and other organizations in D.C. is very attractive.
 - Need to look at feasibility and what other opportunities we can make out of meeting together.
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, 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.
 - We continue to develop the modules.
 - Presentation venues / schedules were discussed along with targets for next workshops. Florida and Texas were discussed. Erin Capps continues trying to get on the schedule for the Texas Floodplain Managers and looking at whether they would let us do an add-on for the DRR Curriculum. Module One would be ideal.
 - There is a call in February of the Flood Emergency Preparedness Association Conference. Gene Henry will take the lead on doing a DRR Curriculum presentation next Spring in Florida for the floodplain managers. There may be a limit to the number of presentations allowed, but he will verify that and send that information out. This would be great to do in Florida for the floodplain managers because a lot of the Florida communities are up to their eyebrows trying to figure out what Resiliency means. Suggested that offering CEC’s for AICP Planners and State APA chapters would be very good too.
 - Erin Capps asked for copies of calls for abstracts; Gene Henry will forward copies of these to her for follow-up.
 - Erin Capps mentioned that we want to do ongoing webinars throughout the year and start notifying communities and getting the word out about the DRR Curriculum.
 - Will look at state chapters for the next conferences in Florida and Texas.
9. Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina
10. **Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on Reorganization and the many things happening at FEMA**

Vince Brown was not present on the call today - his report is TABLED.

- Future Risk MAP interviews were discussed.
 - Erin Capps explained that FEMA is trying to gather direct feedback from RNN and communities on Risk MAP. They have hired a contractor to conduct the interviews. Our role is to identify people who are interested in participating in the interviews and they will reach out to coordinate.
 - Anyone interested in doing an interview or know of anyone who would be interested to please notify Ed Thomas.

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

12. Comments/Issues/Good News

Adjourn

A Motion was made by Gene Henry to adjourn the meeting.

The Motion was seconded by Ned Swanberg.

There being no discussion, it was

VOTED: The meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned 11:59 a.m.

Next RNN Meeting is October 19, 2018.