

**Resilient Neighbors Network**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Friday, *February 22, 2019*, 11:00 am ET**

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

**RNN Mission**

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

**RNN Vision**

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

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**AGENDA FOR UPCOMING MEETING OF March 22, 2019:**

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes (February 2019) (to follow)
3. Review of Action Items
4. **Comments/Issues/RNN Community Sharing/Good News**
5. **Presentation on Mitigation Planning by Laura Duff, Planner at FEMA**
6. RNN Future Activities
7. 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
8. 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
  - b. NHMA DRR Curriculum & Workshop Status:
    - i. 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?
    - ii. RNN Volunteers for the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum;
    - iii. How to take advantage of the latest update from the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council on the cost/benefit of Hazard Mitigation.
  - c. Natural Hazard Conference
9. *CTP Collaboration Monthly March Call for Topics* (due April 3, 2019)
10. Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina & Silver Jackets link
11. Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on the many things happening at FEMA
12. Status of Island Press Interest, Articles for NHMA Newsletter and/or ABA
13. Adjourn

## Minutes for Meeting of Friday, *February 22, 2019*:

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

#### 1) ROLL CALL:

Present:

**Ed Thomas** (NHMA Board Member);  
**Joe Rossi** (Marshfield Coastal Coalition, MA);  
**Roger Faris** (Seattle, WA);  
**Jim Murphy** (NHMA Board Member);  
**Veronica Criscitiello** (Wightman & Associates);  
**Rebecca Joyce** (Shenandoah Valley Region, VA);  
**Vincent Brown** (FEMA);  
**Ned Swanberg** (State of Vermont);  
**Alessandra Jerolleman** (Lowlander Center)  
**Erin Capps** (NHMA Board)  
**Tim Trautman** (Mecklenburg County)

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#### 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (November, December 2018, and January 2019)

A **Motion** was made by Jim Murphy to accept the Minutes.

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

There being no discussion, it was

VOTED: The Minutes for November and December 2018 and January 2019 are approved.

#### 3) Review of Action Items

Rebecca Joyce will send out a very short on-line survey (via Survey Monkey) with questions to the RNN Community to see how we can increase involvement of the RNN Communities going forward.

- We have had some transitions within the original RNN charter communities, as some representatives left for new positions.
  - A good thing for the RNN in this is that the original charter community representatives who have transitioned out of their respective roles have remained involved in the RNN and continue to contribute and advise and share their experience with us.

Ned Swanberg completed writing up a short article on Vermont which has been posted to the NHMA and RNN websites and also published in the NHMA Newsletter.

Roger Faris has been looking into wildfire best practices and has gathered a lot of excellent information which he will forward on to NHMA for posting on the website.

- Most communities at risk for wildfire do not yet have protection plans in place.
- Approximately 2% of communities that are at risk for wildfire have joined FireWise, which is really a minimal first step in getting prepared.
  - Rebecca Joyce agreed it is a challenge just getting people to recognize that they are vulnerable.

Vince Brown requested clarification on a webex series Action Item – were these to be produced by FEMA or NHMA?

- Ed Thomas explained that he and Vince Brown had submitted a detailed proposal to FEMA for NHMA to come in and present to them on the DRR Curriculum. The intent was to bring FEMA up to date on the status of their investment in our development of these materials.

- Our efforts on this were sidetracked by the government shutdown, and Vincent Brown confirmed that this is still the case. He is working to get it back on track.
- A second set of webinars we are hoping to be involved in with FEMA is support to FEMA by making the DRR Curriculum available to them to use and having RNN Community members come in and present as subject matter experts on any parts or pieces of it that FEMA may wish to use: by having Traci Sears and Ned Swanberg, and maybe someone from South Carolina talking about substantial damages, for example - if that would be useful and desirable to FEMA.
- We also have the ABA webinar presentation that Ed Thomas and Erin Capps will be doing later today talking about the importance of looking at under-represented populations and low-income people with respect to disaster recovery.
- Ed Thomas is also working with John Marshall on the question of disparate outcomes depending upon income levels and skin color, that frankly we're seeing following disasters, and how there really is a conflict between the desire for communities to recover, and recover at a higher income and property value level, and how this is pushing out the population that was originally present in a way that will have a disparate impact.
  - Ed has a very nice colloquy going on with Professor John Marshall about this that folks will be hearing more about.
  - Island Press is very interested in seeing articles on this and the ABA is interested in working with Ed and John Marshall on it as well.
  - This would also be a great topic for a webinar. We really need to raise awareness about the impacts of all this on local populations.
  - Ed will speak later about the American Law Institute, which is the group of folks who bring suits against government and governmental agencies in support of property owners and property rights yet are very strong supporters of disaster risk reduction.
    - We hope to find a way to approach them about the DRR Curriculum.
- Vincent Brown reported that he has met with the Branch Chief on the future of webinars for the Risk Management Directorate and is in the process of developing a list of proposed webinars for them to review – it will include titles for two potential webinars by NHMA. The list will then be presented to upper management for final approval.
  - Which top two titles does NHMA want Vince to put on the list for approval?
    - Vince and Ed will discuss this more in another call.
  - The Risk Management Directorate Branch Chief is aware that Vince Brown wants to bring NHMA in as a grantee to brief the head of the Directorate on what it is that we're doing, have accomplished, etc.
    - Vince is working to set this up by finishing the list of webinar descriptions and proposals.
    - Vince suggested a separate briefing for the executives at FEMA and FIMA about enlarging the audience for the DRR Curriculum through those two agencies.
  - Ed Thomas noted that it is important to pull the new leadership for NHMA and the RNN into these discussions: Erin Capps, Rebecca Joyce, Roger Faris, and others.
    - Vince Brown will use this as a supporting point to make in bringing NHMA and RNN in to present at FEMA.
- Jim Murphy observed that we tend to overlook the fact that Ed Thomas, our President Emeritus, and Erin Capps, our President, are both attorneys and can give recommendations and explain the legal aspects of resilience in a way that can beneficially address the pros and cons of the impact of resilience on communities. We should make FEMA aware that our leadership understands not just the traditional benefits of resilience, but also the legal aspects it.
  - Vince will weave this into his discussions at FEMA.
- Roger Faris shared that he just found something in the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center which is where firefighters share their failures and successes so that they'll get better, and their motto is: "A lesson is learned when we change our behavior."
- Eleven years ago Anne Patton did an article that put a bright light on a high end development that focused a lot of attention on mitigation and it paid off in a very big way – the neighborhood had no damage after Hurricane Ike and all around them was devastation. That best practices

story in in our NHMA website under Resources / Best Practices, under “Galveston Neighborhood Gets High Marks in Hurricane Test”. If you want to reach the communities that are movers and shakers with lots of resources, send them a copy of that article – its really good. It came to mind when Ed was talking about how you need to include the rich and famous as part of the whole community.

- Roger will send the link to this to NHMA Admin so she can get it out to people.

#### 4) RNN Future Activities

Rebecca Joyce mentioned that Erin Capps is now the new President of the NHMA and will be taking over Ed’s role. Ed Thomas is stepping down as President but will continue as President Emeritus and will stay very involved in the RNN and NHMA.

Jim Murphy asked for clarification on Ed Thomas’s new title which is President Emeritus and General or Special Counsel.

Erin Capps reported on the Natural Hazards Center conference in July.

- The NHMA Board discussed what is involved with participating there again and found it requires sponsorships and some expenses. We prefer the idea of doing a one or two-day DRR Curriculum workshop of our own and inviting the RNN Communities to participate.
  - There could be a fee for non-members and a workshop fee for NHMA members.
- The Board decided to continue these discussions and is looking at doing a 1 or 2 day summit involving the RNN versus doing an evening event at the Natural Hazard Center.
  - We are looking at central locations that would be easy for people to get to.

Ed Thomas shared with regard to why NHMA will not be spending as much time formally at the Natural Hazards Center but will instead do informal meetings there, is that the Natural Hazards Center has a particular group of folks that they focus on – students and professors, in particular - and people who are already completely converted to the reality of climate change and significant regulation in hazard mitigation. What we’re not seeing represented there are elected officials and the money-bags decision makers, who are part of the whole community too.

- Though we focus on under-represented people, people of color, Native Americans, etc., we also have to talk to property owners and the people who make the decisions about property development.
  - Ed will continue reaching out to ‘convert the unconverted’ in this regard.
- The reality is that being pro-property rights is not anti-ethical to being pro-resilience.

A meeting Ed attended had some people present from the American Law Institute who actually argued some significant property rights cases before the Supreme Court that we had written about.

- What they are saying is, ‘Show us the harm that you’re preventing; show us why you want to dedicate funds and money and land; what harm was Koontz doing with his development? What harm is being prevented?’
  - This is exactly the nature of the DRR Curriculum. This is what the ALI (American Law Institute) would call a ‘nexus statement’ – *What is the linkage between what you’re regulating and what you’re telling the property owner they have to do?*
- If we can present to FEMA Management that there is a linkage with decision makers that is unique to our organization – we’re not a ‘pro-development-at-any-cost’ kind of group, and we’re not anti-development; we’re pro-good development - and we can reach out, as Jim Murphy said, to attorneys in their lingo. That may lead to easier development of higher standards and linkage to the Community Rating System, higher standards for wind codes, and the kind of things that Roger Faris is talking about – encouraging communities to do the right thing with respect to wildfire, earthquake and the like.

Vince Brown suggested a call next week to start pinning this stuff down.

- NHMA Admin will work with Vincent to learn what time he’s available and we’ll get a poll out.

Vince Brown expressed he really wants to get folks from FEMA onto the RNN agenda so if he can line up a date for the next meeting, that will help him line up staff that can come on and expound on different topics we might want to hear on.

- His thought initially was to get someone from their Planning Branch to come on and talk about the world of hazard mitigation planning;
  - Also about the fact that FEMA is about to put out a Tribal Guidance on planning which will deal with the tribes across America;
  - Also their Building Science folks who just recently released a report from Hurricane Maria and are about to come out with the Harvey report. Would like them to come on and talk about those two reports and their implications.
- Vince will run a list of potential topics by everyone at the phone meeting next week.

Vince mentioned the next CERC webinar on Behavioral Science – FEMA is getting into behavioral science to figure out how they can affect people’s behavior in regard to mitigation. This is a very important and wildly well received topic. Did the Invitation reach us?

- NHMA Admin confirmed that we did receive this notice and it has been posted and sent to the membership. She will re-send it to everyone on the call per Jim Murphy’s request.

**5) 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 that he is in the process of getting this formalized for two reasons:

- 1) because he sits on the Massachusetts Silver Jackets Committee and they’re going to submit this as a Silver Jackets project - he has a March deadline for this. And
- 2) he’s putting together a formalized chapter for the book Ed has mentioned several times, so they’re moving forward on those pieces. Additionally, he did an abstract on this topic and it was selected to be presented at ASFPM this year as well.

Rebecca Joyce mentioned that Erin Capps and Tom Hughes of on the NHMA Board will also be at that conference so maybe you can connect up.

**6) 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**

Rebecca Joyce mentioned that in yesterday’s NHMA Board call there was a discussion about the CTP Grant, which is the Grant that NHMA receives from FEMA which has helped us with the Resilient Neighbors Network and also the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum that we’ve been working on so hard. One of the things the new Grant requires is that we form an Advisory Committee and hold a meeting possibly in Washington, D.C.

**b) NHMA DRR Curriculum & Workshop Status:**

- i) **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?**
- ii) **RNN Volunteers for the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum;**
- iii) **How to take advantage of the latest update from the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council on the cost/benefit of Hazard Mitigation.**

Rebecca Joyce explained that Wightman and Associates have been helping with the DRR Curriculum that some of us have helped with some of the Modules for.

- Wightman is getting to the point now where they're completing the last few Modules and wrapping everything up.
- We had a request yesterday if any of the RNN Communities would be willing to review a Module or two Modules or whatever they were interested in, to help make sure the material is readable and understandable, has a good flow and there aren't any critical errors in it.
  - Yesterday afternoon Gina Wightman sent Rebecca a list of the different Modules that need review.
  - Rebecca will send the list out to everyone along with the survey this weekend.
    - If anyone is willing to review one or more of the Modules that would be a great help.
  - Rebecca will include the contact information for Veronica Criscitiello, who is the contact for Wightman and Associates.
- The modules are not too terribly burdensome to review, and if you find one your particularly interested in and willing to review that would be a big help.

### c) Natural Hazard Conference

As Erin Capps mentioned earlier, we are thinking of trying to do something on our own and more geared to our audience.

Tim Trautman asked if anyone has a feel for how many modules of the Curriculum were presented in 2018? Have they been presented monthly, for example?

Rebecca Joyce explained she doesn't know of any presentations other than the ones Tim is already aware of. They have probably not been presented as often as monthly.

- Gina Wightman proposed on the call yesterday that the NHMA Board and RNN Communities have a meeting to come up with a plan for what to do with the Curriculum now that it is complete. How to promote it, present it, and keep it fresh and current etc.
- A meeting in the Spring was suggested to work on this.
  - It would be great if the Curriculum were being used as often as monthly, especially as so much work has gone into it.

Ed Thomas mentioned that we have a report on this that Veronica can send around. It certainly has not been monthly, but it was presented in 2018 on either one or two occasions we used pieces of the Curriculum in Utah, we have used it of course in a major session we had in S.C, major sessions in Colorado and Montana, and believes a couple of other sessions where we used them in workshops. We are hoping with the new Webinar series that Alessandra will be heading up for NHMA, we will be able to present not only topical webinars but also regular presentations of pieces of the Curriculum throughout the year. A great question, Tim. We've got 16 Modules that are available and have found that typically they have to be particularized to the locality; we certainly find that with the legal modules, people want to know what their state courts have to say on a variety of issues. But it is available, and we want to present this to FEMA so that we can widely disseminate the availability of the Modules so that they are used more than they are right now.

Veronca shared that she does have a document called the DRR Curriculum Update which was sent out in January, but she will send it out again. It has a status update on development, implementation and future plans for the Curriculum.

Tim Trautman asked about status of the DRR certification.

Ed Thomas explained that we do want to do this.

- We put out an RFP for academic institutions to partner with us in the fielding of that Certification and it was decided – we had one or two institutions that were interested in this – one that was extremely interested if we had a whole lot more money that we had designated, and the institution we negotiated with said no, come back to us when you've got all 24 modules available as a complete package. Presumably we will be doing something much like that; Since we are taking a very different

tack on what we're teaching with the Mileti approach of specificity with what needs to be done and having multiple different sources saying the same thing in the lingo of different people, the approach of saying we are zealously protecting the property of everybody in the community, all seems to be a different approach than what most organizations take on this. So the Certification which is a great idea, is a matter of getting the Curriculum further along and then probably putting out an RFP.

#### **7) CTP Collaboration Monthly Call for Topics**

They are looking for topics for their newsletter – any suggestions are welcome.

#### **8) Status of Practical Community Resilience Project in South Carolina & Silver Jackets link**

#### **9) Comments from Vincent Brown of FEMA on the many things happening at FEMA**

Vince Brown mentioned that FEMA is hiring new folks so the organization in FIMA and the Risk Management Directorate within FIMA is expanding rapidly. We have a couple of new folks on the Communications side and in our Branch just coming on Board: Michelle Matouine (?) from EPA; Vince will try to get her on the next call so folks can meet her

There is a lot going on with how we are going to look at Insurance mapping in the future. There's a big push with Risk Map 2.0. Will be developing a mapping process that looks like the models you see with reinsurance folks where they use a whole bunch of different bands of information, putting them together to model predictions of what's going to happen. Our flood maps are going to change to look more like that to better visualize the flood hazard, and how we use it for not only mitigating the flood plan but also using it for insurance.

There's also a big push for getting ahold of all the data we have on all our programs – insurance program, flood plain management program, mapping program, dam safety program, planning program – we have amassed a lot of data and the question is what are we going to do with all that? So were trying to figure out how to handle it all analytically. So, look for some interesting data management and data analytical things to come out from us.

More to come on this and other things.

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

Ed Thomas has tried to get Island Press interested in an article he wrote with Keith Porter from the University of Colorado about earthquakes, not climate change related stuff, which they were not interested in, but they will probably be highly interested in the material that Ed is having a colloquy with John Marshall on and just sent to NHMA Admin for distribution to the RNN Communities. If anyone wants to co-author, Ed suggested Island Press will find that very marketable - talking about the conflict between safe and proper construction and the low income disadvantaged people in communities.

We also want to continue to work very hard with anyone who is interested in writing something like the article that Ned Swanberg prepared; the more we can link that stuff with the work Maria Lamb did in South Carolina, the work of Traci Sears in Montana – Traci did an incredible job of putting together a whole program in the state for substantial damage enforcement even through they didn't get a Presidential declaration. Linking that with the incredible work that was pioneered by Joe Rossi – all is very excellent for us, putting out these best practices, much as Ann Patton did and Roger Faris is doing. The more we can get that within our floodplain management/ hazard risk reduction / hazard mitigation community the better, looping in FEMA but also seeing what we can get out into the general press and getting into legal press and into planning organizations and anybody that will listen to us with a different and hopeful message about disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation.

Anyone interested please contact Ed Thomas.

## 11) Comments/Issues/Good News

Rebecca Joyce mentioned that one of the things Barb Miller and she did talk about that she is hoping we can implement on the March call is that when we first started RNN, and for a long while after that, we would have updates from the Communities that were on the call. We've kind of gotten such packed agendas that we haven't been able to do that as much.

- Rebecca suggested that we bump this item up to one of the first items on the agenda, so we can hear about what's going on with all the RNN members.
- We want to be able to hear about when people are having challenges their dealing with, or something that's working well for them that can help another community, and it leads to a good opportunity for communities to network with each other and share resources.

Rebecca will work with Erin Capps, Ed Thomas and NHMA Admin to see if we can bump this item up on the Agenda so we can spend more time on the call hearing about what's going on with the Community members who are all doing really incredible things.

- It might also help with other communities wanting to be engaged.

Vince Brown asked are the participants in the meeting listed in the Minutes that we send out? Rebecca responded that the roll call is certainly included in all the Minutes we send out.

Roger Faris shared about a good news publication he just came across – “Overcoming Common Barriers To Action - Talking Point And References To Move Individuals To Mitigate”. It is focused a little bit on wildfire but has some really good tips. Six-pager, colorful, with photos: “Overcoming Common Barriers To Action Talking Point And References To Move Individuals To Mitigate”.

## 12) Adjourn

A **Motion** was made by Ed Thomas to adjourn.  
The motion was **seconded** by Jim Murphy.  
There being no discussion, it was  
**VOTED**: Meeting is adjourned.

Meeting ended at 12:11 p.m.

Next meeting is March 22, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.



## ACTION ITEMS:

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### REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2019:

- Rebecca Joyce to send out a short survey to RNN communities and find out what they need to be more engaged; Rebecca will follow up with NHMA Admin.
- Vince Brown to get some FEMA staff to come on the calls and discuss happenings in FEMA.
- Ed Thomas to run suggestions on the ABA book past Roger Faris who is looking for a wildfire author.
  - Could Roger find somebody with specific solutions or examples of what communities have done with regard to wildfire?
- Vince Brown to speak to Ed Thomas and talk about who he can round up for a presentation or presentations to his people.
- Rebecca Joyce to be looped into that discussion with Barb Miller and anybody else Rebecca says is appropriate so that we can do a more exciting agenda for the next RNN call and attract more folks into it.
- Tom Hughes to do several Action Items within the next month:
  - Get together with Alessandra Jerolleman on a webinar / webex to talk about the document and harvesting;
  - Get a copy of the checklist document approved to use in the webex;
  - Reach out to the states of Illinois and New Jersey for information about their mutual aid for flood plain administrators – they have a team name and responsibilities – to hear how they are able to build capacity for local communities.
  - Get with Alessandra Jerolleman to learn her schedule and when she would be available for a follow-on meeting.
- Donna Boyce will send Tom Hughes her thoughts on harvesting so he can include New Jersey's experience as part of the template strategy – the greater the integrity of the template, the better.
- Veronica Criscitiello to loop in Gina Wightman on the webex series as she has been working with Michael Gumpert from FEMA on related topics.
- Vince Brown to get information developed on ideas for the webex series and loop in his management who will likely be very interested in what we're trying to do.
- Tom, Alessandra, Veronica, and Gina to loop in Roger Faris on the webex series and get folks working with Roger on wildfire best practices for it.

Veronica Criscitiello to send out an e-mail with questions for the RNN about the Technical Assistance Post Disaster Handout. People can respond with some bullet items and then perhaps follow up with a phone call for more information.

- NHMA Admin to assist Veronica in getting this out to all RNN members.
- Vince Brown to be included on this so he can socialize the information around FEMA and let folks know that the Grant is working and has produced a group that is doing some wonderful things; whether it's a meeting set up or a whole program, please keep him informed.

Veronica Criscitiello to forward links to Vince Brown on:

- Status update of the DRR Curriculum and the workshops that have gone on;
- Post disaster resource on funding from the NHMA website (skinnied-down version developed for Florida)
- Ned Swanberg to write up a short article about what they are doing in Vermont and include a copy of their checklist as an approach on substantial damage estimation.
- Tom Hughes and Alessandra Jerolleman to incorporate this into the webex series to help people think about how to maximize the opportunity that's presented by horrific natural disaster in their lives.
- Ned Swanberg to send out a link to the Checklist for the RNN and Vince Brown.
- NHMA Admin to write up Gene's Henry's remarks.

## REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS, JANUARY 18, 2019:

- A1. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will invite Newport, Oregon to participate in an upcoming RNN meeting to introduce themselves as a potential new member of the RNN.
- A2. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will coordinate with Jim Mullen on any ideas he may have about other communities that would be good for us to approach in the Pacific Northwest or any of their friends at FEMA.
- A3. **Ongoing** - Roger Faris will find out if Newport, Oregon has done anything curriculum-wise for the school system in terms of mitigation, resilience, flood mapping, etc.
- A4. **Status?** - Vince Brown will send Roger Faris some materials from New Jersey that would be great to show the folks at Newport, Oregon.

### REPORT:

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

### REPORT:

- We're talking about following up further with what Joe Rossi has done in Massachusetts and what Traci Sears has done in Montana, with regard to what to do when you don't have an individual assistance disaster declaration, but you've got people that are substantially damaged.
  - This involves working with others who have done things on that because:
    - More and more we're going to be seeing folks that need to be doing mitigation, to be encouraged to be doing mitigation, or just simply to rebuild their lives following a disaster that is non-declared.
    - We've got some incredibly good materials on what to do following a declared disaster:

- The old *Patchwork Quilt* that we're now calling the *Roadmap to Resilience*;
    - Other simplified materials that we developed more recently - this is something that will be forthcoming;
  - Hopefully Barb Miller will be able to work with Roger Faris, Rebecca Joyce and Joe Rossi on this.
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- A1. **STATUS?**: Ned Swanberg and Tim Lovell to write up their thoughts on 'what the RNN means to me' as part of building this into the DRR Curriculum and showing the benefits of involvement in the RNN.
- A2. **STATUS?**: Ned Swanberg, Ed Thomas, to write up their thoughts on mitigation accountability and think about how we can take this further forward.

#### REPORT:

- Ned Swanberg and Tim Lovell have not yet written up their thoughts on these.
  - Ed Thomas also has not yet written up his thoughts on mitigation accountability. He is trying to fold this into the ABA Book that he will mention later.
  - At the top of the list with regard to writing stuff up everyone is urged to please consider:
    - The NHMA Newsletter and the NHMA website are always seeking articles from the RNN
    - The door is wide open at FEMA for contributed articles for the FEMA Newsletter on mitigation;
    - The ABA is also seeking articles on mitigation if anyone has something they want to put in there;
  - Anyone that feels like writing - it would be well worth doing and can have a tremendous and powerful impact.
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- A5. **IN PROCESS** - Veronica Criscitiello to work with Gina Wightman, Roger Faris, and anybody else that wants to chime in, to get Success Stories and any other information on what we're doing out to Vince Brown to make it easy for him to promote our activities with the Curriculum for the CTP Award.

#### REPORT:

- Roger Faris continues looking for success stories;
  - We want to fold in the Success Story that Traci Sears did with the help of Maria Lamb on doing substantial damage enforcement in Montana, coupled with:
    - What do you do when you don't have a disaster declaration?
    - How can you help people?
  - There is a lot that can be done, as we saw from Joe Rossi, and that is something well worth doing.
  - Tom Hughes also had some excellent ideas on how they approached this in Pennsylvania.
- Roger is still hoping to get more info about the Montana story.
  - He did get some information about the community outreach efforts and programs that Joe Rossi produced and is almost done with that;

- He would love to hear more about Montana, so if anyone could send him anything about that it would be great.
  - Ed Thomas and Traci Sears to work on getting Montana materials to Roger Faris to write up including materials on the workshop, and the series of training sessions that Traci got special funding for as a best practice.
    - Ed reported that the people who attended these events were very pleased.
    - This gives us a chance to talk about the Montana Resilience Effort as well as the incredible work that Traci Sears has done in Montana as the State Emergency Coordinator;
    - All this is well worth doing.
- Veronica Criscitiello and Gina Wightman want to improve our updates for FEMA (and everyone else) on what we're doing with the Curriculum and the work we did in Montana and Utah, as well as the work in South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Colorado.
  - These workshops really need to be better documented.
  - Many thanks to Roger Faris for the reminder and the opportunity to work with him on this.
  - This effort is incredibly important for our marketing of the Curriculum.
- Traci Sears is happy to provide materials on the Montana workshops; she will send them over along with her response to Ed's recent e-mail to her.
  - If there's anything that Montana produced or has, she will be happy to provide that information.
  - Traci reported that she has also been helping another community with recovery.
    - She got a call from Oregon; they have a new NIP Coordinator whom she knows.
      - They were asking for assistance because of a major storm that went through and they were struggling with recovery.
      - They might be another community to reach out to with an invitation for membership in the RNN as well.
  - This is great news;
    - A lot of their involvement will require some effort on their part to reach out to us;
    - We are very excited to try to help with that in any way we can.
    - Many thanks to Traci Sears for everything she is doing.

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- We've got a lot of stuff on the Action Item list - we will continue pinging on these as long as we can.
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December 2018 Action Items:

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

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

**Planning the Advisory Committee Meeting:**

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

**CRS and Insurance Education:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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October Action Items:

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

- A6. Ed Thomas to get Jim Murphy copies of presentations forthwith by Jo Anne Howard, John Marshall and Erin Capps, as well as an attorney from Dallas working with the impoverished in the South Dallas area, along with descriptions of the workshops which will be available on the ABA website shortly as webinars.

**DRR CURRICULUM / Wightman Associates:**

- A7. Veronica Criscitiello to get out some material and a report to the RNN communities:
- a. Veronica Criscitiello and NHMA Admin to get this material out in writing:
    - i. We want to emphasize in our note to the RNN Communities the outcome that we want from the Training which are actionable steps that can be taken by communities and individuals right now - what they can do to achieve disaster risk reduction along the lines of the concepts developed so incredibly well by Dr. Dennis Mileti. – STATUS?
    - ii. These concepts are most clearly articulated in the NHMA publication *Hide from the Wind*, in the preface, talking about Dr. Mileti's theories and how they can be implemented.
    - iii. We've got an incredibly fine product. There is nobody else with material that combines Dr. Mileti's thoughts with actionable material across the hazards along with a clear understanding of the enormous benefits of the Flood Insurance Program as well as its limitations.
    - iv. We've really got some incredible expertise that has gone into this material and we need to get it into the marketplace of ideas.
    - v. What we're doing now is developing the material that NHMA Admin with the help of Veronica Criscitiello will get out in writing to the RNN Communities for those not on the call.
    - vi. We have notes from yesterday's Board Meeting that we can include in this.
- A8. Veronica Criscitiello to put out a note to the RNN to see if anyone has anything they think should or should not be included in the remaining Modules of the Curriculum as well as any learning objectives.
- A9. Ed Thomas to work with Jim Mullen and Tom Hughes to see what we can do to market the DRR Curriculum and get it included as a normal part of funded training by the states and within NEMA.

**YOUTH CURRICULUM:**

- A10. Ed Thomas to look at materials sent him by Vince Brown about what some folks are doing with regard to youth curriculum materials. If appropriate Ed to have it distributed to the Board or put into the Newsletter. No rush on this.
- A11. Ed Thomas and Erin Capps to see where we stand with regard to Vanderbilt University on developing a hazard mitigation curriculum for high school students, get info on that out to the group, and produce an article for the Newsletter & post to social media.

**CTP PROGRAM:**

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

- A13. Ed Thomas will have NHMA get this information out to the CTPs and out on social media as well, to the extent that FEMA wants to promote CTP involvement.
- A14. Vince Brown will submit information about NHMA for the CTP Awards committee for the communication efforts that we're doing.
- A15. **ONGOING** - Veronica Criscitiello to work with Gina Wightman, Roger Faris, and anybody else that wants to chime in, to get Success Stories and any other information on what we're doing out to Vince Brown to make it easy for him to promote our activities with the Curriculum for the CTP Award.

**NEW RNN COMMUNITY MEMBER:**

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

**NEWSLETTER MATERIALS FOR FEMA:**

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

**BEST PRACTICES / SUCCESS STORIES:**

- A22. **ONGOING:** Ed Thomas shared that one of the things really worth talking about is RNN Community member Joe Rossi and his Massachusetts Coastal Coalition – the stuff they did for hazard mitigation, harm prevention and for the people after the flooding on the Massachusetts coast was fantastic.
- A23. **ONGOING:** Roger Faris will work with Joe Rossi on coming up with a best practice success story to document the efforts of the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition in hazard mitigation and harm prevention and produce an article for Vince Brown focusing on how tremendously successful their presentations were.
- A24. Ed Thomas to get Joe Rossi's phone number to Roger Faris.
- A25. Ned Swanberg to flesh out this draft into an article from him complete with links for use in the NHMA Newsletter.



- A26. A copy of Ned's finished article to be posted to the NHMA and RNN websites, included in the NHMA Newsletter, distributed through social media, and sent to Vince Brown for distribution through FEMA to the marketplace of ideas.
- A27. **STATUS?:** Roger Faris to do another Best Practice story on Vermont for posting.
- A28. **STATUS?:** Roger Faris to write up his own observations about the Vermont practices as a testimonial for publishing and posting to the NHMA website and Newsletter, as well as distribute it through social media and forward to Vince Brown along with links to the Vermont story.

**INCREASING RNN PARTICIPATION**

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

Action Items from September Meeting

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

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

**Success Stories and Blurbs:**

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

- A12: - **ONGOING:** David Mallory and Ed Thomas will get out some material on Colorado and will work with Veronica Criscitiello and Gina Wightman to get the South Carolina materials written up.
- A13: - **STATUS?:** Ed Thomas, Roger Faris and Traci Sears to work together on documenting Traci Sears' work on Substantial Damage Requirements from the South Carolina presentation as a best practice;
- A14: - **ONGOING:** Vincent Brown will send everybody the latest copy of the Newsflash.
- A15: - **STATUS?:** Joe Rossi will work with Roger Faris and possibly Ed Thomas to write something up on the presentation he did in Montana, as well as his work with the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition for Vince to use.
- A16: - **STATUS?:** Veronica Criscitiello to add Mr. Brian Varrella of the ASFPM Board to the distribution as we seek to improve and expand our relationship with the ASFPM Board.
- A17: - **STATUS?:** Veronica Criscitiello to add Rebecca Joyce to the distribution, as her community is very wild fire and flood prone, and it might be good to include her on this as something that might pull her back into the group.
- A18: - **STATUS?:** Veronica Criscitiello to add John Weiner's suggestion for an informational Module as a potential new Module.
- A19: - **STATUS?:** Ed Thomas to follow up with David Vaughn, the Professor of Practice, who is heading that for Clemson University, and see if we can get something written up on the Practical Community Resilient Project effort and how the NHMA and FEMA-funded CTP is used to support that on an ongoing basis.
- A20: - **STATUS?:** Vince Brown will get information out to us on the Building Codes Report.
- A21: - **STATUS?:** Vince Brown will send a slide presentation on the Culture of Preparedness for us to look at and see where we can further combine what FEMA is doing with NHMA and RNN, and see where Resilience Organization is going
- A22: - **STATUS?:** Vince Brown to send us a write-up on the High-Water Mark Initiative that we can put out in our Newsletter and up on our website.
- A23: - **STATUS?:** Barb Miller to write up information on the NOFA and PDA grants for the NHMA Newsletter, so we can get that out and also put in a little plug for her new company.
- A24: - **STATUS?:** Barb Miller will get a copy of her notes on these to Vince Brown so he can track down these PowerPoint presentations.
- A25: - **STATUS?:** Barb Miller will communicate directly with Vince and pass these on to the RNN and NHMA communities.
- A26: - **STATUS?:** Vincent Brown will get us copy of the PowerPoints named: FY2018 FMA NOFO and FY2018 PDM NOFO.

Action Items from July Meeting:

- A3. **STATUS?:** Roger Faris and/or Veronica Criscitiello to write up the work that Traci Sears is doing, and Florida is doing, as a way of giving people an on-the-ground view of what is required by FEMA which is different from what FEMA used to expect.
- A4. **STATUS?:** Roger Faris to work on writing up the Montana Workshop as a model presentation and get out the benefits of the idea of coming to a workshop where you have planners, engineers, flood plain managers, and attorneys in the room at the same time.

- A5. **STATUS?** Veronica Criscitiello to help put a map up on our website showing areas of the country where we have SMEs or at least come up with a way of showing where we have this availability. This would also help identify gaps where we don't yet have expertise to assist in other parts of the country.

Action Items from the June Meeting:

- A6. **Who would like to work on a committee to pick a date, location, etc. for the RNN Community in-person meeting?**
- A7. **ONGOING:** NHMA Admin to ask Jaime Marso, our webmaster, if there's a way of tracking the downloading of new materials as we turn them out. Can we spot where interest is in topics and location? – **DONE – Report in process.**
- A8. **ONGOING:** Ed Thomas to work with Vince Brown and FEMA to distribute the new post-disaster materials.
- A9. **ONGOING:** RNN Community members to distribute information about the new materials via word of mouth effort. That's one of the purposes we've designed and carefully put this material out there for.
- A10. **ONGOING -** Ned Swanberg and Tim Lovell to write up their thoughts on 'what the RNN means to me' as part of building this into the DRR Curriculum and showing the benefits of involvement in the RNN.
- A11. **ONGOING -** Ned Swanberg, Ed Thomas, to write up their thoughts on mitigation accountability and think about how we can take this further forward.

Action Items from April & May Meetings:

- A12. **ONGOING:** Roger Faris requested a reminder on the Agenda that success stories are still needed from members of the RNN Community. His role is to get from each person a little story about what their most proud of that their community has accomplished with regard to hazard mitigation. **STATUS:** Roger Faris reported he has received several excellent Success Stories and is looking now for about ten more. More stories are needed and welcome.
- A13. **ONGOING:** Vince Brown to offer more information next month on status of inviting Regional Coordinators to participate in the RNN calls.
- A14. **ONGOING:** NHMA Admin awaiting confirmation from RNN Community members regarding their info in the Contacts List and their approval to post this to the website.
- A15. **STATUS?:** RNN Communities to provide comments to Tom Hughes on Multi-Hazard Mitigation material (copy of Emergency Response Guide and Emergency Checklist).
- A16. **STATUS?:** RNN Communities to provide feedback to Tom Hughes on External Stakeholders Workgroup PDFs he sent out for their next meeting in August.
- A17. **STATUS?:** Still needing feedback from RNN members to Ed Thomas on whether they want to be part of NHMA's response to Keith Porter on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council's draft Cost Benefits of Hazard Mitigation.
- A18. **ONGOING:** Tom Hughes and NHMA Admin to collaborate on sending something to Vince Brown to publish about the RNN.