

Meeting Minutes – Resilient Neighbors Network **11:00 am ET Friday, June 16, 2017**

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:

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Review of May Action Items
4. RNN Community Membership – Rebecca Joyce Memorandum
5. Pilot of the RNN/Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum in Harrisburg, PA
Next Steps
6. NHMA DRR Curriculum & Workshop Status:
Where are we with respect to the RNN and DRR Curriculum's further rollout?
7. Natural Hazards Workshop - July 9-12, 2017
8. Report from Beth Gibbons of American Society of Adaptation Professionals
on their Resilience Activity
9. Status of Island Press Interest, ABA
10. Comments/Issues/Good News

11:00 am EDT - CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Ed Thomas asked NHMA Admin to distribute Daya Dayananda's corrected email address to the RNN Communities so everyone can keep in touch with him. Daya is our RNN Representative from Pasadena, Texas, where he and the whole staff he worked with were laid off. The RNN would still like to keep in touch with Daya, and continue his participation in whatever form we care to have. The RNN does not have any formal written relations with the member communities, per se, only with the individual representatives from each community. More about that in Item 4 of the Agenda.

Vincent Brown will try to keep the RNN apprised of the many things that are happening in FEMA Headquarters. Ed Thomas will add this to the Agenda.

The floor was opened to group introductions.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: Ed Thomas (NHMA Board Member); Chuck Wallace (Grays Harbor, WA); Tim Trautman (Mecklenburg County, NC); Gene Henry (Hillsborough County, FL); Rebecca Joyce (Shenandoah Valley Region, VA); Roger Faris (Seattle, WA); Beth Gibbons (American Society of Adaptation Professionals); Vince Brown (FEMA)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The floor was opened to discussion of the May 2017 Minutes as corrected. There being no comments,

A Motion was made by Tim Trautman to approve the Minutes.

The Motion was seconded by Rebecca Joyce.

There being no further discussion, it was

VOTED: Unanimous approval of the Minutes.

3. REVIEW OF MAY ACTION ITEMS:

Item No. 2: Ed Thomas reported that review of the Action Item List has been added to the Agenda as a regular part of the call. NHMA Admin was tasked to get the Action Item List out by the Monday following each call so that all have time to work on it during the course of the intervening month to ensure we are making progress.

Item No. 8: Ed Thomas reported that we have not yet made any significant headway on the addition of a 25th module to the Curriculum (per George Huff) on *Continuity of Operations*. This Module is incredibly important for hazard mitigation because when a government or business begins to think about continuity of operations during or post-disaster, it's much easier to introduce the idea of applying mitigation principles through zoning codes, building codes, participation in the Community Rating system, etc.

Item No. 9: Ed Thomas reported that he and Jim Mullen continue working actively with Pierce Community College, a Community College in Washington State which is a Homeland Security Center of Excellence. They are very interested in developing NHMA's DRR Curriculum into a credentialed college-level course that would be transferable between colleges, and could be done, possibly, in cooperation with the University of Washington in both on-line and in-person courses for college credit. This is very exciting and has immediate potential for getting knowledgeable mitigation practices out into the mainstream.

This effort is also part of something that Ed Thomas and Karen Helbrecht from FEMA are working on with respect to an overall mitigation credentialing effort. Karen Helbrecht is working on ways to educate Flood Plain Managers and Hazard Mitigation Specialists. More to come on that.

Item No. 10: We continue to work with the University of New Orleans, and another University that is interested in using the materials we've developed.

Item No. 11: Ed Thomas continues working with Erin Capps and Jim Mullen (but primarily Erin Capps) to do an add-on to the Texas Flood Plain Managers Conference. The Texas Flood Plain Managers are interested in something similar to what we're talking about with Tim Trautman from Charlotte Mecklenburg.

Item No. 14: Ed Thomas corrected an error on the Action Item List: the reference to "Cargo Foundation" should be "Cargill Foundation" – the huge grain group. They are funding an effort with the American Bar Association and we are trying to work with them on best practices. One of the best practices we are trying to get across to them is how to respond to a disaster when you don't have a Presidential Declaration of disaster, or even an SBA disaster. You do that the way it was done in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia with the RNN Communities' mutual help and Jim Mullens' and Ed Thomas's suggestions.

Ed Thomas is working actively with NACo on how they would like to use our Curriculum.

Item 15 is a new event regarding FEMA funds to do something with the Curriculum in West Virginia, either at the NOAH Training Center (the leading alternative) for an RNN Retreat and educational effort; or in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Charlotte-Mecklenburg is itself an incredible story we can all learn from, much as we did in Tulsa. Ed Thomas hopes to discuss Charlotte-Mecklenburg in today's call.

Item 16 will include a discussion about Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Item 17 will address Ed Thomas's and Erin Capps' efforts to promote the Curriculum as part of the State Flood Plain Managers Association's educational efforts, probably in the form of an add-on session at the Texas Flood Plain Managers' event. We want to reach out to their emergency managers who generally do the hazard mitigation planning. The Association wants to educate their member managers on things we

are doing in the Curriculum. This discussion to happen later in the agenda. We will explore where we want to meet: Charlotte Mecklenburg, Shepherdstown WV, or Texas.

Item 22: Ed Thomas spoke on behalf of Erin Capps regarding this year's Hazards Workshop. There will be a breakfast meeting Wednesday Morning and something Monday evening. We will get information out to everybody on that.

Item 23, We continue to work with Clemson University. Ed Thomas has not heard anything from them about their June meeting. It is unclear whether that will happen. Things are progressing much slower with respect to their Lawrence County efforts than anticipated. Ed Thomas to follow up with them.

The Resilience Book: Not much interest from the RNN Communities on this. However, Ed Thomas plans to loop some of the RNN Community members in on it with regard to producing short articles on what we as resilience specialists and climate adaptation specialists want to say to an American Bar Association audience. He envisions this to look much like expert witness testimony at a trial: The articles would build upon each other to make the case for resilience, disaster risk reduction, and weave in the products we have developed through the DRR Curriculum.

The Booklet by the ABA is not going anywhere and will take some effort to find funding. They would like to have somebody put together a booklet that talks about disaster assistance from the perspective of individual families, the people who are afflicted, and what would be their best next steps.

Ed Thomas ended his report and called on NHMA Admin for her report.

NHMA Admin reported on her follow up to Barb Miller's effort to reconnect with Daya Dayananda. Daya's email address was scrubbed over the past couple of weeks, and his corrected email was just sent out. Everyone in the RNN Community should have received it.

NHMA Admin also reported that the spelling of Lori Peek's name was corrected in the April Meeting Minutes. The Minutes and Action Items List were sent out within a day or two of last month's call. A copy of Rebecca Joyce's latest Memorandum of Membership was distributed to everyone to review and respond with a two-week deadline for comments.

The floor was opened to questions. There being none,

Rebecca Joyce reported with regard to Item 26, an article she offered to write for the Newsletter, that this is still in work. The last Newsletter was pretty tightly focused on one topic. Since she will be doing a workshop for some of the human service organizations in her Region at the end of June, she will plan to put some information together about the new Medicare/Medicaid emergency planning requirements.

NHMA Admin to remind Shannon Burke and Allison Hardin to get out information on the APA webinar and to check with Roger Faris about his follow up items.

Item 18 will be talked about in the call today.

There being no comments, the report on Action Items was concluded.

4. RNN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP – REBECCA JOYCE MEMORANDUM

Ed Thomas thanked Rebecca Joyce for her excellent work on the Membership Memorandum. In the last call, the RNN Community adopted this as a working document for commitment by the RNN as to what a member can expect from NHMA, and what someone is willing to contribute as an RNN member.

Rebecca Joyce offered to take this to the next level and come up with some action steps from these items for the next RNN meeting along with a time line. It could be discussed and adjusted or changed as everyone saw fit. She will 'tread lightly' as to the statement of participation, in order to make sure this is something people feel comfortable signing and is not something that makes them feel like they're over-committing themselves or signing their lives away.

Ed Thomas agreed that we don't want people to sign their lives way or overcommit to the RNN, but we do want them to commit to whatever they can do. Then we'll all know who can do what.

5. PILOT OF THE RNN/DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CURRICULUM IN HARRISBURG, PA: NEXT STEPS

Pilot of the RNN/Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum in Harrisburg, PA

Next Steps: Partnerships [see attached] Complete Curriculum- More?

Ed Thomas sent out an updated Partnership Report that needs to be finalized as part of our submission to FEMA. He asked everyone to look at it and see if there were any partners missing. All are invited to take action on anything they'd like to personally do with respect to any of these partners. This is a

working document intending to convey to FEMA where we're heading and give them and their staff in Washington a chance to advise and comment.

Ed Thomas shared that one of the partnerships he is most excited about is Pierce College, which fortunately has a very deep commitment to the Native American community. This is one of the groups that NHMA needs and desires to do more with. This has potential to expand some of our other efforts with respect to under-represented people. More discussion about the Partnership Document in the next call.

Comments and feedback on the draft Partnership Report were requested within seven days. Especially from anyone with connections to IAEM or other emergency management organizations. IAEM is a huge audience for our materials, they need them, and they need to be educated about their role in hazard mitigation and preparedness as part of their overall emergency management response efforts.

DISCUSSION:

Tim Trautman asked if we had an updated contact for the APA as Tim Schwab retired a couple weeks ago

Ed Thomas announced that we absolutely do, and the NHMA Board Secretary, Shannon Burke, has been appointed to the role that was formerly occupied by Jim Schwab in the APA. This is a huge advantage for NHMA to really help bring the planners together with Hazard Mitigation. Ed will make that update to the Partnership Report.

Ed Thomas also announced that another RNN Community member, Allison Hardin, will be taking over as the Chair of the APA Disaster Division. Another update of the Partnership Report will be rolling along.

There being no objection, it was agreed to put the Partnership Report down as an Action Item for the RNN Community. NHMA Admin to emphasize the need to get out the Action Item List out with a special note to the RNN for their comments and thoughts on the Partnership Report.

Chuck Wallace in particular was asked with respect to his role in Emergency Management, to please think about how we can reach out to IAEM, or to other emergency management organizations along the lines of what the Texas Flood Plain Managers are trying to do.

6. NHMA DRR CURRICULUM & WORKSHOP STATUS: WHERE ARE WE WITH RESPECT TO THE RNN AND DRR CURRICULUM'S FURTHER ROLLOUT?

Ed Thomas announced that NHMA will be seeking a contractor to finish up the Curriculum. We will be looking for volunteers from the RNN Communities to help, particularly with regard to the Leadership Module. This module floundered, Jim Mullen has offered to help with it. Some other RNN members have offered to help and Ed may have one or two people lined up to take the lead on developing it.

With regard to the Leadership Module, Ed Thomas suggested that what we want to talk about is not leadership in general, but rather what does it take to be successful; how can you, at the grass roots level, encourage a leader along the lines of what we have seen in Tulsa, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and so many other places; someone who steps up and says, 'alright, we're going to fix this, and we're going to fix this right'. He mentioned a Community that, in the face of tremendous opposition, adopted a much, much higher wind code, and lo and behold, it did not bring the earth spinning to a stop, the communities continued to grow, and the local businesses have adapted to higher standards of wind load without any great fuss. He mentioned that there's a great study out on that.

Ed Thomas asked Tim Trautman for a status report with respect to the ad-on for doing the next roll out of the Curriculum as part of the North Carolina Flood Plain Managers Conference.

Tim Trautman reported that he forwarded the contact information for the facilitators on to Ed Thomas. He reported that he has spoken with them, they have discussed it and said that it would be essentially a good idea; they just need to talk to someone about logistics and how to advertise for it. He believes they are waiting to be contacted.

Tim Trautman asked if the RNN had firmly decided that most people could make it to Charlotte, and if so, maybe we could try to do a dual-purpose event, with a module as well as an RNN Meeting.

Ed Thomas asked if everyone was okay with the dates of October 24-27 for doing something in the way of an RNN Retreat and some type of an educational session, to be negotiated with the North Carolina Flood Plain Managers, or if everyone wanted to go instead to Texas, or Shepherdstown, or someplace else?

Rebecca Joyce shared that since Charlotte seems to have already got a meeting set up around that time, with hotels and logistics in place, it might be good to do the DRR Curriculum there. We could connect

with other people and also do a meeting of the RNN. Charlotte's been so proactive, it would offer a good chance for us to see the many great things they've done.

Ed Thomas agreed, and said he plans to go. He shared that Charlotte-Mecklenburg is a great example of what in social psychology is a fundamental principle for achieving change by rewarding good conduct and dis-rewarding bad conduct. Even though Charlotte-Mecklenburg is high up in the CRS and all that, they don't get the funding that flows to communities that are doing an atrocious job with respect to hazard mitigation, because they don't get the post-disaster money. This is a real dis-incentive to some extent, so they are creative and do incredibly fine work. Charlotte's story is very powerful and needs to be told with respect to national policy.

Ed Thomas stated that, unless anybody objects, the group will start negotiations with Tim Trautman. We're going to need support from Tim's organization in terms of who's doing registrations and what we're going to do. We will also be using some of FEMA's money (many thanks to Vice Brown and to FEMA) to support the operation, and to the maximum extent possible - just like in Texas, and just like the work we're doing in Utah and other places - we're going to try and make this event as self-supporting as possible so that we can make the grant go further.

There being no objections, it was agreed that the RNN Communities will plan to meet in Charlotte as part of the North Carolina Flood Plain Managers Conference at the end of October.

DISCUSSION: Tim Trautman asked that we capture an Action Item with regard to the RNN Meeting /DRR Curriculum event in Charlotte. We need to set up a call with the folks that are putting on the North Carolina Floodplain Managers' meeting in the next week or so to discuss logistics and make sure that we can make it work.

Ed Thomas stated that we need to have Erin Capps and probably Tom Hughes involved as well. We want to link in the state mitigation officers and maybe even persuade some of them to attend.

NHMA Admin to work with Ed Thomas to organize Action Items.

Ed Thomas, Tim Trautman, Erin Capps and Tom Hughes to set up a call with David Goode, the Conference Chair.

Tim Trautman to meander down the hall and discuss with David Goode what kind of presentation they want to do and give him a copy of the latest DRR Curriculum Plan.

Ed Thomas explained that what we're trying to do in Texas is sort of a one or one & ½ day add-on to the Texas Flood Plain Managers Association meeting that's focused more towards emergency managers; however, that doesn't mean we have to do the same thing in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. So, we need to discuss what they want.

With regard to the DRR Curriculum, we've got 16 Modules done. Four of them closely deal with flood plain management. All of them deal one way or another with hazard mitigation and climate adaptation, so they're going to have to pick from a menu.

We're going to discuss money. Are they going to weave this into the conference, are they going to do a separate charge for it, and who's the audience?

Ed Thomas suggested that both David Goode and Tim Trautman be thinking about what they really want to do: Do we want to reach out to the emergency managers, do we want to reach out to the planners; do we want to go for APA credit - which Ed would suggest - as well as other credits? Is there a way that we can reach out to the folks at IAEM as we're doing this as well? Do we want to do anything while we're there for local attorneys? Which, between Erin Capps and Ed Thomas, we can easily do; or if they want to do something on continuity of operations to reach out emergency managers and to business and industry, we'd bring in George Huff from the Continuity Project and Nancy McMann, the Architect from the Continuity Project. There are many different ways we can approach this event.

Ed Thomas shared that by October, George Huff will have a complete Module that he will have presented in Utah, so it will be easy to do something on Continuity. Also, the presentation doesn't have to all be as part of the Flood Plain Managers Conference: In other locales we've done, the day after the event we've asked Ed or Erin to stick around and do something for the lawyers, or we could do something for continuity operations planners if we were bringing in Huff and McNair, so there's a lot of different ways we can approach this without making it overly large; but once we bring in the speakers, if we could get them to do two or three or four presentations, it would just be enormously more efficient.

Ed Thomas suggested an Action Item for NHMA Admin, for Ed, for Erin, and also for Tim to talk a little bit with David to start the ball rolling.

Ed Thomas asked Tim Trautman, since he is right there, to make sure David Goode gets a copy of the current DRR Curriculum Plan in addition to the Harrisburg information that Tim already gave him.

Ed Thomas to distribute the latest copy of the DRR Curriculum plan along with the Partnership Report to the RNN Communities.

Ed Thomas next spoke to Chuck Wallace, who had mentioned before our need to get more RNN Communities from the West Coast. We would love in the future to do something on the West Coast, as we've done an event in the central part of the United States, and this would be two events we've done on the East Coast. Ed Thomas invited Chuck Wallace to think about how we can get more RNN Community members, and anything he can do as a volunteer to help steer us in that direction would be very good. Ed suggested doing a session somewhere close to Grays Harbor so we can all see this incredible tsunami shelter success story.

There being no further comments, discussion moved on to Item 7.

7. NATURAL HAZARDS WORKSHOP - JULY 9-12, 2017

Ed Thomas mentioned that Erin Capps and Tom Hughes have put together some materials so we can do a little presentation about NHMA, the RNN Communities and the DRR Curriculum at the Natural Hazards Workshop.

8. REPORT FROM BETH GIBBONS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADAPTATION PROFESSIONALS ON THEIR RESILIENCE ACTIVITY

Beth Gibbons, from the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, introduced herself and thanked the RNN Communities for the opportunity to join the call and hear about what's happening with the RNN, talk a little bit about what the American Society of Adaptation Professionals is doing and then speak more specifically about the Resilience Dialogues Initiative. She asked for a time check from Ed Thomas who stated that unless anyone objected, he would say that Beth had fifteen minutes. **There being no objection**, Beth Gibbons was given fifteen minutes.

Beth Gibbons gave a recap of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP) which was founded four years ago. It is a program under the Institute for Sustainable Communities, but is at a point of its development that they are beginning final preparations to spin it out into an independent 501 (c) (3) organization.

ASAP as an organization is dedicated to supporting and connecting climate adaptation professionals across the country and enhancing excellence and innovation in the field of adaptation. Across their membership, the main platform by which people engage is via the ASAP website, where they have over 1,000 people who are active. They have open memberships offering access to the website, and paid memberships offering much more functionality behind the website where folks can network, share resources, and participate in group projects.

Of their paying members network, they have just over 300 people that are part of the ASAP professional paid membership. They have a collection of partnerships as well that range from other professional societies across the adaptation community including Eco-Dash, Climate Access, and several agencies.

ASAP uses special partnerships and information sharing agreements, wherein if you become an ASAP member and you have a profile online, then rather than having to dig through the internet on your own to find resources pertinent to you, the information sharing agreements connect with these other information providers and bring resources directly to your profile page on the site.

ASAP has members across 48 states and in different countries, so there is an international gathering. They have members from across all sectors of government. Their biggest membership cohort is in the non-profit world. In many cases, people who are running service organizations or have been part of either central or state government in the past are now 'popped out' as their own consulting group. ASAP has a pretty significant cohort of public employees ranging from local, state and federal, as well as a smattering of people from the private sector, though not much activity by tribes at this point.

The ASAP mission and program has four core areas:

1. Their Member Network and Support which is driven by the website. This now has eight different *affinity groups* where people come together either to share interests or resources in a pretty open format, to *working groups* that come together on a specific task item. They have one working group writing a

code of ethics for a society; they have another working group setting up a metro program to convene ASAP members with Resilience AmeriCorps members and put together a nine-month ethical training or mentorship program. This gives members an opportunity to serve the community, which is something that they often seek to do, and of course helps Resilience AmeriCorps' members include their service on the site and be part of the broader network.

2. ASAP's second core is Field Advancement and Standardization. This is where ASAP sees itself as taking a lead in supporting science in the field of adaptation which is something that stands apart from other fields of practice, and thinking about adaptation as needing to be more than simply the integration of future-looking climate information. In order to do this, they have to bring a wholistic approach to thinking about equity concerns, economic concerns, environmental concerns, as well as future climate information.

ASAP's view is to help professions and people who are climate-impacted, but wouldn't necessarily become climate adaptation professionals, to improve their own practice. For example, they have a group working on what was initially a literary review of documents over the last couple of years, now saying that they know what the processes and practices of adaptation are. Looking at the processes, ranking how often they are occurring, and seeing if they can find action grounded in one area, to hold up by the end of this year and say, 'this is what a principal of adaptation process is, and what it looks like on the ground, and if you're going to be participating in this work, then you need to embody these types of principles.'

3. ASAP's third core is Education and Advocacy. ASAP has been talking for a long time about leaving the Institute for Sustainable Communities, which was a parent to them, and becoming independent. With the political transitions at the federal level – which is also happening in a lot of states - the need for a voice in the field that can actually speak to adaptation, and the cause that is the opposite side of the coin from mitigation, which also needs a voice at the table. There is an infrastructure bill that may be introduced. ASAP feels that as a society they need to have a stronger foothold at the policy level. A lot of their work on this is something that is going to come out by the end of this year.

4. ASAP's fourth core is Flash of Progress. This is a bi-annual award process where they look across innovation in the field and award one winner in a series of runners-up to celebrate what is innovative practice and then tell that story. ASAP tries to tell these stories of innovation and excellent practice broadly and widely so that practitioners can stay focused on doing the work and not bearing the burden of having to tell their story as well.

ASAP is committed to providing resources and tools across the adaptation field which need to be managed and cultivated. They've seen a tremendous emergence of the private sector in the climate resilience space, and a lot of the understood principles of this field have been driven by non-profit and public-sector work. As the private sector moves in more strongly, it is important that ASAP actually put those established principles out and have a mechanism by which to give voice to them and potentially hold practitioners to as a standard. It's not good enough to just have an engineering firm say they practice adaptation if in fact they don't understand what adaptation principles are to them. ASAP's job is to inform what needs to go into the adaptation process when somebody does decide to hang up a shingle or perhaps write that on the bottom of their existing sign. They try to address this in the flesh-meet between resources and federal programs which they see as cost structures and cost scales.

In the last year, ASAP became a partner to what's called the Resilience Dialogue. Resilience Dialogue is part of what the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) describes as their *resilience ecosystem*. It is a system of federal resources that were developed mostly under the Obama Administration, which are intended to drive public-private partnerships and to extend not only the reach of federal agency work, but to create easy off-ramps for federal resources to flow out into the private sectors. Within it, a group of scientist-members can come together to say they want to use their science to make a change for good. The American Meteorological Society is a part of this, as well as the Meridian Institute who are experts in facilitation. They've now developed the Resilience Dialogue.

The intent of the Resilience Dialogue is to be able to reach into communities that are at a '101' level in their thinking about resilience, climate, etc., help them frame what their climate challenge is and connect with the resources in their area or that are relevant to them. This is done through a week-long course intensive facilitated on-line dialogue.

ASAP knows that many times in-person communications are the gold standard for trying to build trust and advance this kind of work in a single place but can't do in-person communication in every instance. Instead, they try to reduce the transaction cost to create dialogue, build trust and help communities advance over their '101' hump to get people thinking about the challenges they have and the opportunities they can be facing and taking advantage of in a changing climate future.

The Dialogues bring together about five to ten section members with five to ten community members and facilitators, who then go back and forth over the course of the week working through specific module

questions that help to identify the risks they can be facing, some of the climate information they can bring to the table, and then frame where the community is at and urge them into the next module which is a second week of dialogues held several weeks later because these are pretty intense courses.

The Dialogues take up to five hours a week of any participant's time and more on the order of 10 to 15 hours a week to facilitate. When the participants come back and say, 'now that we've framed, let's connect', the facilitators help them reach out to the resource providers and subject matter experts in their own community. So, this is a process of digging deep into their own community systems and figuring out how to start addressing the challenges that they've framed.

When ASAP looks at the Dialogues up until now (they've worked in over fifteen communities, all over different parts of the U.S.), 94% of the participants said that they'd go through the Dialogues again, and 73% said that they'd recommend it to a colleague. In the case of Mount Shasta in California, having gone through the Dialogue, the community decided to go back and look at their mitigation plan to rewrite it. So, ASAP has the sense that they're making a meaningful impact in communities. The subject matter experts that come have found it to be very valuable. It's challenging for them to open themselves to up to shear across a spectrum of needs. What ASAP is trying to do is a kind of co-production, wherein some of the climate resources are "de-expertized" in order to build trust so these communities and experts can then go ahead and work together in the future.

Beth Gibbons stated that she is happy, either now or by email or another call, to talk about ways that ASAP can get engaged between Resilience Dialogues and the RNN and to think about ways that ASAP and NHMA can continue to work together in the future.

Ed Thomas thanked Beth for an excellent briefing. He observed that this has obvious and tremendous implications for a close working relationship with the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum, taking a wonderful group of very high-level, talented people and bringing them into the grass roots Dialogues would be a valuable addition.

Ed Thomas shared that he and Beth have been talking for some time about the possibility of ASAP actually being the lead on developing one of the DRR Curriculum Modules, and that has been in his reports as we've gone along. Ed observed that we seem to be getting a little bit closer to a 'yes' on that. He will give Beth a full response to an email she sent about the purpose of the Module and will work on that thought.

The floor was opened to questions for Beth.

DISCUSSION:

A question was asked whether there are certain hazards from an adaption standpoint that ASAP focuses on more than others, and how that works.

Beth Gibbons responded that ASAP does not focus on any particular kind of hazard over another. Their forum is pretty open to wherever people are at on the topic, and whatever hazards that they're facing in their location will drive communication.

Beth stated that there is a need for ASAP to get better about the language that they use. In her perception, adaptation *is* hazard mitigation. To her, adaptation and hazard mitigation go hand in hand, if they're not almost exactly alike. She expressed that when one goes into a community, whatever language one needs to use to get the job done is the language one should be using. Once you're on the ground, it only matters what people want to hear and that's what you say to them.

Vincent Brown asked Beth about a comment she once made about [AmeriCorps](#). He shared that FEMA also has [FEMA Corps](#), and asked if ASAP has been in touch with anybody in FEMA Corps with regard to what they've got going on with AmeriCorps.

Beth Gibbons said they had not, but that she would love to be. She explained that ASAP has a partner/mentor relationship with AmeriCorps that is almost analogous to the NHMA/FEMA Corp mentorship. The idea of this whole group convening, and the tremendous brain trust it could create, as well as the young leaders it would bring together, would be a very exciting coordinated effort.

Beth Gibbons also shared that ASAP has just about finished its Mentorship Guide. They are setting it up as a nine-month program and its being designed to either specifically address a technical question that Resilience AmeriCorps volunteers have brought, or a professional development question as a starting point so that there's something to ground the discussion. She clarified that this is a pilot, so she would love to chat and share the resources that they're developing for the program.

Vincent Brown suggested that they be in touch; he would love to pitch in with the FEMA Corps folks; Ed Thomas will forward Beth's contact information to Vincent Brown.

Roger Faris shared that he got a chance to conduct some mitigation training for FEMA Corps folks, and it was very exciting and rewarding to do. He would love to help explore the possibilities of what FEMA Corps can do with mitigation and help try to carry that forward.

Ed Thomas suggested a three-way introduction between Roger, Beth, and Vincent.

Ed Thomas stated that he really would like to get something written up for the folks from the American Bar Association who are really interested, on behalf of the Cargill Foundation, in writing up what happened with respect to Harpers Ferry, the suggestions of the RNN Communities, and how that worked out on the ground so they can use it as part of their efforts on how to respond if you don't get a Presidential disaster declaration or an SBA disaster.

Roger Faris stated that, having done some research he has preliminary information on this, but will get together with the folks that really know and get going on that this week.

Ed Thomas will let the folks from the ABA know that this is being resuscitated.

There being no other questions for Beth Gibbons, discussion turned to Item 9 on the Agenda.

9. STATUS OF ISLAND PRESS INTEREST, ABA

Ed Thomas stated that he continues to work very hard with a number of people affiliated with NHMA to build on the ABA Resilience Resolution. There is an event coming up the month after next in New York City which is called '*Engaged in Resilience by Flirting With Disaster*'. This is an effort to try to get across the idea that a lot of people say that what they're doing is related to resilience, but it's basically nonsense; what they're really doing is making things worse for future disasters. It is also important to get ideas across to people about the limitations of flood elevations mapping. Rethinking the way that people have done things - in places like Tulsa and Charlotte-Mecklenburg - and the need to find a way to work with available resources as they did in Grays Harbor, Washington and Harpers Ferry, and other locations. Anybody who'd like more information on that he is happy to loop them in.

10. COMMENTS/ISSUES/GOOD NEWS

Ed Thomas thanked Rebecca Joyce for her offer to help with getting the CTP materials ready to go to FEMA; it was much appreciated and he will be in touch with her.

There being no further discussion, the Meeting adjourned:12:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next RNN meeting will be on 7/21/2017 at 11:00 a.m., EST.