

Natural Hazard Mitigation Association
2014 NHMA International Practitioners Symposium
Omni Interlocken Resort, Broomfield, CO
Program Agenda

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

4:00 – 4:15 p.m. **Registration** Centennial E

4:15 – 4:45 p.m. **Welcome** Centennial E

Overview of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association
Edward A. Thomas, President, NHMA
Alessandra Jerolleman, Executive Director, NHMA

Overview of the 2014 Program Agenda and Theme, by Symposium Co-Chairs:
Lincoln Walther, Planning Director, CSA Ocean Sciences Inc.
J. Barry Hokanson, Urban Planning Consultant

4:45 – 6:15 p.m. Webinar Accessible Centennial E

Keynote Address: The Elected Official and Hazard Mitigation

Introduction: David Miller, FEMA Associate Administrator for Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

Keynote Speaker: Linda Langston, President, National Association of Counties

In addition to her NACO leadership position, Linda Langston is also County Supervisor for Linn County, Iowa, and has been a leader in various hazard mitigation issues. The county is the home of Cedar Rapids, widely cited for its innovative resilience and recovery strategies after an unprecedented 2008 flood of the city center, including major Linn County facilities. Upon election to NACO's presidency, Ms. Langston initiated a bold and ambitious program of resiliency, mitigation, strength and sustainability – all oriented to betterment in our nation's 3,079 counties. She will enlighten us about the many initiatives and programs focused on sustainability, infrastructure, and building resilient, vibrant, thriving counties. She will also explain the importance of the practitioner to the elected official. Ms. Langston will share with us answers to questions such as why did she become involved in hazard mitigation and climate adaptation? What advice would she give to local practitioners as ways to cultivate and sustain their interest in hazard mitigation and climate change?

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. **Joint Reception with Researchers** Lobby Court

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. ***Offsite casual dinner with update from FEMA and NOAA leadership*** TBD

Thursday, June 26, 2014

7:15 – 8:15 a.m. **Continental Breakfast** Centennial Foyer

7:15 – 8:15 a.m. **Informal Meeting Time for NHMA Committees** Centennial E

Breakfast Roundtable #1:

What They Didn't Tell You: Transitioning from academia to hazard mitigation Practitioner

Breakfast Roundtable #2:

Climate Adaptation: Atmospheric Science meets Hazard Practitioner

8:15 – 9:45 a.m.

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Centennial E

Plenary: Resilient Cities at the Cutting Edge

Moderator: Lincoln Walther, Planning Director, CSA Ocean Sciences, Inc.

Speakers:

- Jeff Hebert, Executive Director, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
- Grant Ervin, Sustainability Manager, City of Pittsburgh
- Micah Hilt, Planner, San Francisco Earthquake Safety Implementation Program

Is city resiliency a measurable reality or an attitude? Against what risks must one “bounce back?” Mitigating risks takes many forms. A development company, the Grosvenor Group, ranked Pittsburgh number five, worldwide. San Francisco is on the Rockefeller list, as is New Orleans, both survivors of major disasters and yet continued vulnerability. Pittsburgh did well on a scale that measures “ability to accommodate change in areas such as governance, technical capacity and planning systems.” San Francisco is touted for its core of financial institutions and high-tech industrial might. New Orleans is change oriented since Hurricane Katrina. This session asks representatives of these three cities:

1. How did your city become interested in sustainability and mitigation, and what difference has it made?
2. What are the best ways a mitigation practitioner can cultivate and sustain the interest of the elected official in these aspects of resiliency and risk management?
3. What are the most important lessons you have learned about making your community resilient and sustainable?

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Break

Centennial Foyer

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

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Centennial E

Integrating Hazards in Local Planning Efforts

Moderator: Darrin Punchard, MWH Global

Speakers:

- Kasey Jacobs, Partnership and Outreach Coordinator, Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Charles Latini, Jr., CWL Planning LLC, and President of the American Planning Association, New Jersey Chapter (APA-NJ)

Is sustainability always in sync with hazard planning objectives? Are there ever competing agendas? Are we doing our best to integrate?

In order to truly increase the resiliency of communities to all hazards, mitigation and adaptation strategies must be integrated throughout the local planning framework – that is, the collection of plans, policies, codes, programs and other instruments that guide community development or redevelopment. This session will share practical examples and best practices for achieving such integration in a holistic manner that not only reduces future disaster risk, but also effectively supports other social, economic, and environmental objectives.

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

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Understanding Catastrophe Insurance

Moderator: Bruce Patton, California Earthquake Authority

Speakers:

- Janiele Maffei, California Earthquake Authority
- Shana Ackerman, California Earthquake Authority
- Andrew Castaldi, Swiss Re

Presenters will discuss the insurance issues that natural catastrophes present. This will be a high-level overview of various insurance programs that exist to cover natural catastrophes, how insurance and reinsurance cover and price these perils. The panel will also discuss how mitigation and insurance can work together to facilitate a more rapid recovery to affected communities.

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

[Webinar Accessible](#)

[Centennial E](#)

Tips, Hints & Tricks for Successful Grant Programs

Moderator: Darrin PUNCHARD, MWH Global

Speakers:

- Annie Mack Vest, Oklahoma State Hazard Mitigation Officer
- Adele Balmer, Florida Division of Emergency Management

This session will feature information on how some great mitigation programs from around the nation take advantage of available mitigation grant funding resources. Hear what they have to say about outreach, technical assistance, streamlining and more!

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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Making Community Growth and Development a Hazard-Friendly Process

Moderator: Molly Mowery, Wildfire Planning International

Speakers:

- Tareq Wafaie, Clarion Associates, Denver
- Gene Henry, Hillsborough County, FL

This will be a discussion of hazard policies, tools and resources that land use planners can employ when making community growth, development and redevelopment/post-disaster decisions. This session will share key insights into the hazard mitigation process, including the importance of better communication and coordination, tips for having positive relationships with the development community, and how hazards can best be addressed while still planning for community growth.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

[Outdoor Pavilion](#)

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

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[Centennial E](#)

Improving Local Hazard Mitigation Planning

Moderator: Darrin PUNCHARD, MWH Global

Speakers:

- Erin Capps, H2O Partners, and Co-Chair of NHMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
- Rebecca Joyce, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
- Nathan Slaughter, Atkins

More than a decade has passed since the implementation of the US Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and to date more than 28,000 communities have adopted federally-approved hazard mitigation plans. In recent years FEMA has prepared updates to its national guidance for plan reviewers and plan developers, and many communities are in the midst of preparing a third generation of local hazard mitigation plans. This roundtable discussion will focus on the successes and failures of these plans to achieve long-term risk reduction, with an emphasis on the challenges and opportunities facing local practitioners to create more meaningful and effective plans.

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

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Communicating: Reaching the Public

Moderator: Kevin Nelson, US Environmental Protection Agency

Speakers:

- Adam Crowe, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Rebecca Williams, Joplin, MO
- Genevieve Williams, Joplin, MO

This session will explore how communities have used new and traditional communication resources for reaching out to the public to disseminate information before, during, and after disasters. Rebecca and Genevieve Williams created Joplin Tornado Info, a website and Facebook page that has become a model for social-media engagement. They have written a resource guide for communities that need to communicate with its population related to natural hazards. Adam Crowe is a researcher and author studying social media and its use during disasters. He will provide an analysis of efforts that have been undertaken thus far, and describe ways that this trend will go.

2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

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Mitigation in Short and Long Term Recovery: Colorado and Vermont Case Studies

Moderator: David Mallory, Jeff Brislaw

Speakers:

- Nezette Rydell, National Weather Service
- Marilyn Gally, Colorado Office of Emergency Management, Mitigation and Recovery Section
- The Honorable Tara Schoedinger, Mayor, Jamestown, CO
- Victoria Simonsen, Town Administrator, Lyons, CO
- Joshua Schwartz, Mad River Valley (VT) Planning District
- Faith Ingulsrude, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development
- Mike Kline, Vermont Rivers Program

This session will discuss how mitigation opportunities and funding opportunities are being leveraged in the post disaster environment over the short and long term in the wake of devastating flooding in Vermont (2011) and Colorado (2013).

2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

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State and Federal Assistance Programs for Practitioners

Moderator: Kevin Nelson, US Environmental Protection Agency

Speakers:

- Julie Baxter, US Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 8
- Adele Balmer, Florida Division of Emergency Management.

This session will present representatives from US EPA, FEMA and the State of Florida to describe and discuss national and state programs that focus on hazard mitigation. These speakers will provide the following: an overview of EPA's technical assistance work geared toward better planning and outcome oriented results to achieve environmental benefits, an explanation of the collaboration between EPA and FEMA to better serve communities with assistance that meets their needs, a review of FEMA's efforts to help cities and town mitigate hazards including a regional perspective, and finally an overview of how the State of Florida is working diligently to prepare its populous to face mitigation needs.

4:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Break

Centennial Foyer

4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

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Learning from Peer Community Networks

Moderator: Tim Lovell, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa Partners, Inc

Speakers:

- Brett KenCairn, Boulder, CO, Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Challenge Cohort
- Molly Mowery, Denver, CO, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
- Bill Robinson, Tulsa, OK, CRS Users Group
- Terri Turner, Augusta, GA, Resilient Neighbors Network

This session will provide a brief overview of four peer community networks, where communities share knowledge and experience with one another on specific issues; where community representatives support one another in these endeavors; and where network participants sometime provide feedback to other parties on national policy and best practices. Session attendees will then have an open discussion of how such networks operate, whether they are scalable, and the effectiveness of such networks in mutual support, knowledge sharing and best practice replication.

4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

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Legal/Legislative Issues Update

Moderator: Ed Thomas

Speakers:

- Jim Mullen, Consultant, past president of the National Emergency Management Association
- Windell Curole, General Manager, South Lafourche Levee District, Louisiana
- Rachael Sears, Team Lead, Community Compliance, Floodplain Management Branch, FEMA

This will be an interactive panel which will begin by surveying the participants as to topics concerning the law and hazard mitigation, and climate adaptation **they wish to discuss**. Potential areas for discussion include:

- 1) Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act
- 2) US Supreme Court's decision in *Koontz v. St Johns River Water Management District* potential impact on hazard mitigation/climate adaptation/wetlands protection
- 3) Limitations on immunity and other impacts of the US Supreme Court *Arkansas Game and Fish* case on hazard mitigation, climate adaptation and the protection of wetlands
- 4) Noteworthy mitigation/adaptation legal cases from 2013 & 2014

5:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Closing, Next Steps, and Acknowledgements

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