



October 2016

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October Newsletter

A Few Words from our President

The Ed Thomas Challenge

NHMA is essentially an all-volunteer organization. All any of us can do to support the organizations efforts are to donate some combination of:

- **Time**
- **Talent**
- **Treasure**

For those of you who cannot donate much time and talent, please consider donating Treasure-money-appreciated stocks. Donations can be made online and for the next two months will be matched by Ed Thomas-up to an amount disclosed to our Treasurer, David Mallory. Thank you and please give generously.

[DONATE](#)

Disaster Risk Reduction Ambassador Curriculum

NHMA is making excellent progress on the development of a Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum. Following some intense competition by many excellent

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Ed Thomas Challenge going on through December!

[?](#)

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contractors, we have hired noted Gina Wightman and Associates to help the many volunteers who are working on this project.

Volunteering for NHMA

If you are interested in volunteering to help with NHMA please keep in mind that there are always many opportunities to help with the DRR Curriculum, developing comments on important regulations, representing NHMA at meetings and so many other possible ways of contributing to developing a safer better, more just and resilient future. Contact Ed Thomas [ed.nhma@gmail.com] or Kim Thiele at nathazma@gmail.com if you are interested.



Volunteers!

NHMA exists and prospers as an important voice urging Disaster Risk Reduction as an element of Resilience because of Volunteers. The NHMA Nominating Committee has been established for 2016 and is actively soliciting volunteers to serve in many ways, including the Advisory Committee, the various committees, and the Board. Due to his incredibly busy schedule long time NHMA Treasurer, David Mallory must step down at the end of December. The Nominating Committee really needs a volunteer to step forward very soon to understudy David and assume this role. **Interested?**

NHMA Transition Team Documents

Announcing the NHMA Transition Team Documents: NHMA is working to produce a set of Transition Team Documents to assist the new Administration in getting up to speed on the state of hazard mitigation, community resilience, disaster preparedness, and recovery. The effect of climate change on flood plain hazards and other mitigation events will be addressed, as well as a consensus regarding unbuilt infrastructure and other vital issues. John Wiener to take the lead on pulling this together on behalf of NHMA. Jim Mullen, Ed Thomas and others will submit materials to him for this.

White House Initiative on Resilience by Building Community Capacity

Last Thursday the White House announced a major initiative to roll out a major federal initiative to support building local community capacity for resilience. The initiative involves FEMA, HUD, NIST, and other agency support and tools for supporting local efforts to build a safer more just Nation.

The materials presented in the White House announcement are well worth a look: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/27/fact-sheet-obama-administration-announces-new-efforts-increase-national>

This federal effort will also support and help guide NHMA efforts in areas such as the development of both the resilient Neighbors Network and the Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum, as well as our development of materials for peer-to peer consultations & workshops.

We will continue to analyze the materials issued and keep you all informed as to how these materials can be of use to you, in your daily work.

FEMA DRAFT Regulations on the Flood Insurance Program-HUD Regulations Now Available for Comment

One example of volunteering just took place. Under the volunteer leadership of **Shannon Burke**, NHMA developed and submitted comments on the first major overhaul of the Flood Insurance Program Regulations in 30 years. **Thanks to Shannon and the other volunteers who worked on this. The comments are on the NHMA website:**

www.nhma.info

HUD issued their DRAFT Regulations to implement Executive Order 13690 on Floodplain Standards tomorrow. [NHMA is seeking volunteers to submit comments on these DRAFT Regulations-Interested?](#)

To comply with EO 13690 and in the face of increased flooding risks and rising sea levels, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today proposed new elevation standards for all HUD-supported properties. For the first time in nearly 40 years, HUD is proposing to establish higher elevation requirements than local minimum standards [Yes!!] for properties seeking HUD assistance or Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance. The Proposed Rule is on display for Public Inspection and will be published tomorrow.

Public comment will remain open until December 27th, 2016.

Press Release:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-165



Aspen Global Change Institute Materials

Several of us have been working with the Aspen Global Change Institute to discuss Resilience. The NHMA contribution has been to primarily in three areas:

- a) promoting the idea that any concept of true Resilience must include a strong component of Disaster Risk Reduction [including Hazard Mitigation/Climate Adaptation/Floodplain Management];
- b) emphasizing the strong legal, moral and equitable foundation of higher community development and planning standards that support Disaster Risk Reduction;
- c) ensuring that any discussion of Resilience or Sustainability always includes the "Whole Community" most especially including underrepresented or otherwise disadvantaged persons and communities.

The Kresge Foundation provided additional resources to AGCI to develop outreach to diverse communities of practice working on resilience.

- **Fostering Dialogue to Support Community Resilience**

- **The *Possibility of Resilience*:** Guiding Principles for More Just and Resilient Communities

For both of these themes, AGCI has produced fact sheets and presentation slides will be posted on the NHMA website shortly, if they are not already there.

AGCI wishes to enable anyone interested in sharing key themes from our Resilience Project to use these materials their own work. Each feature some direct insights from practitioners working on the ground. We welcome all of you to incorporate and share as you find useful. They will be organizing these resources on a project webpage still undergoing some development: www.agci.org/resilience

AGCI would love to hear positive and critical feedback! Contact them directly or let Ed Thomas know if you have thoughts.

Happy Halloween!!

ET

New Policy Report Highlighting 5 River-Smart Recommendations Released

In the publication [Supporting New England Communities to Become River-Smart: Policies and Programs that can Help New England Towns Thrive Despite River Floods](#), published September 1, 2016 by *Eve Vogel and her UMass Amherst River Smart project colleagues*, residents, as well as the governments that serve them can learn how to better deal with and adjust to river floods. The report points to practical policy solutions at federal, state and regional levels that can support New England communities to become what we call *river-smart*.

[Click here to read more](#)

Florida SHMPoints Newsletter

Eugene Henry created a brief write up for the Division of Emergency Management for the State of Florida for the State Hazard Mitigation Planning Advisory on how they look at zoning and all hazard planning with the zoning and development applications for horizontal development.

[Click here to read more](#)

New report released by Emergency Management stating communities were "not ready" for Hurricane Matthew



A storm that toppled trees, dumped up to eight inches of rain and left thousands without power, caught Scotland, N.C. officials and residents by surprise.

[Click here to read more](#)

Mayor De Blasio and FEMA Announce Plan to Revise NYC's Flood Maps

Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced an agreement to revise New York City's flood maps. This is the result of the de Blasio administration's 2015 appeal of FEMA's flood risk calculations for New York City and the region, which mapped 35,000 more homes and buildings across the city into highest flood risk areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is accepting applications for individuals to serve on the new Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, or IPAWs, subcommittee of the [National Advisory Council \(NAC\)](#).

[Click here to read more](#)

FEMA Announces Release of State Mitigation Planning Key Topics Bulletin - Mitigation Capabilities

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the [State Mitigation Plan Review Guide](#) in March 2015. This Guide, which became effective March 6, 2016, presents FEMA's official policy on and interpretation of the natural hazard mitigation planning requirements for states established in the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR Part 201). The State Mitigation Planning Key Topics Bulletins ("Bulletins") are a series of brief documents aimed at informing states on how to meet the regulatory and policy requirements described in the Guide. The series covers all components of the mitigation planning process. The Bulletins are not intended to clarify policy, but instead to provide state officials approaches and resources for updating state hazard mitigation plans.

[Click here to read more](#)



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