

Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function



CPCB – Reaching Out and Connecting

Welcome to the third quarterly newsletter for partner agencies and organizations of the Community Planning and Capacity Building (CPCB) Recovery Support Function (RSF). This newsletter will be a forum for communication where CPCB partners can learn of recent and ongoing programs and activities. We hope to hear from you all in the upcoming newsletters so that we can highlight the activities of your organizations as you aid communities with planning, leading, managing, and building capacity for disaster recovery.

The Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function supports and builds the community planning resources and recovery capacities of Tribal, State and local governments needed to effectively plan for, manage, and implement disaster recovery activities in large, unique, or catastrophic incidents.

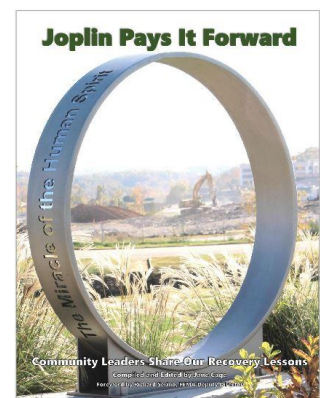
Matt Campbell, National CPCB RSF Coordinator

Notes from the Field: Faulkner County, Joplin Tornado Survivors Meet to Share Recovery Ideas

By Vanessa Winans, External Affairs Liaison, FEMA Region 6

CONWAY, AR – In August, three survivors of the 2011 Joplin, Mo., tornado traveled to Faulkner County, Ark., to meet with local officials and community leaders active in helping the county recover from the tornado that struck the area on April 27.

Jane Cage, Tony Robyn, and Kirstie Smith represent three areas of disaster recovery: Cage chairs Joplin’s Citizens Advisory Recovery Team, Robyn serves as Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the city, and Smith is communications director for the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. The trio came to Faulkner County after local officials asked to hear from other communities that had also suffered tornado-related losses. During a 24-hour period starting on August 13, they met with local, county, and federal officials and other community stakeholders to share their experiences and insights into disaster recovery. FEMA Region 6 and support staff assigned to DR-4174-AR coordinated and supported the visit.



This newsletter provides information of interest to CPCB federal and non-federal partners to improve their understanding and engagement in CPCB pre- and post-disaster activities, as well as enhances partner’s ability to link CPCB activity to their own mission interests. Please provide suggestions for content to Kehla.West@fema.dhs.gov.

“Going into it, we didn’t know how naïve we were,” Cage told the group during a panel discussion moderated by Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator Wayne Rickard. “We thought, a year and we’d be done. It’s going to take longer than you think.”

The group met informally on the afternoon of August 13, touring the damaged areas throughout Faulkner County. The following day, the Faulkner County steering committee met with the three before dividing up for three breakout sessions: economic, planning, and oversight. Those sessions generated ideas and advice on a variety of topics, including locating and leveraging resources such as grants, donations, and volunteers; the roles different agencies, organizations, and levels of government play during the recovery process; and attending to the mental health recovery of the community.

Cage stressed the importance of keeping people’s spirits up and encouraged the officials and community leaders to foster that in any way possible.

“Celebrate any progress – it’s important for community morale. Otherwise, people lose hope and momentum,” Cage said.

In Joplin, morale builders included giving flashlights to schoolchildren so they would no longer fear being without power and in the dark; memorial services; and, as time passed, celebrations such as the five-mile “Walk Across Joplin” to mark the progress made since the disaster. Mercy Hospital funded dinners at various locations to allow people from devastated neighborhoods the chance to visit and reconnect in a calm atmosphere.

Three months after the April 27 tornado leveled much of the business districts in Mayflower and Vilonia and damaged other parts of Faulkner County, the Arkansas participants appreciated the opportunity to meet with people who have already spent three years on the road to recovery. Beyond the specific ideas presented, the meeting left the local group ready to continue their own work of rebuilding their communities.

Community and recovery leaders detailed their journey forward from the May 22, 2011, tornado in a book compiled by Cage. To access “Joplin Pays It Forward: Community Leaders Share Our Recovery Lessons,” click on <http://www.joplinmo.org/joplinpaysitforward>.

Gathering Partners to Discuss Economic Resilience and the NDRF in FEMA Region V

Economic revitalization, resilience and the National Disaster Recovery Framework are natural partners in FEMA Region V. While the Region rarely makes catastrophic disaster headlines, urban and rural communities across the region are frequently impacted by flooding, severe storms, and tornadoes, which are devastating at the local level and can overturn economic revitalization efforts. Through participation in the Region 5 Partners for Sustainable Communities Livability working group, Lillian Thompson, FEMA’s

Region V coordinator for the CPCB RSF, has connected with partners working on revitalization projects and encouraged them to make pre-disaster recovery planning part of their strategy.

CPCB RSF partners U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) invited FEMA to participate in a convening of HUD Region 5 Sustainable Communities Grantees in Chicago, on October 2, 2014. The topic was Economic Resilience. Grantees came from 12 cities, counties, regional planning organizations, and councils of government that have received funds to revitalize and strengthen the resilience of communities in Region V states in 2014.

In addition to sharing experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, the group was addressed by the Regional Administrators of HUD, EPA, the Federal Transit Administration, and Colleen Callahan, Illinois Director of USDA Rural Development, who was also appointed to oversee the NDRF response to drought nationwide.



Panel members (from left to right): Antonio Riley (HUD), Marisol Simon (FTA), Bharat Mathur (EPA), Colleen Callahan (USDA). Photo courtesy of NADO.

Thompson organized the panel session on Economic Resilience and Disaster

Preparedness and Recovery which featured Jim Schwab, Manager of the Hazards Planning Research Center of the American Planning Association (APA), Bob Dean, Deputy Executive Director for Local Planning at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), and Earl Zuelke, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator for FEMA Region V.

Zuelke introduced the NDRF as a federal initiative grounded in the nationwide need for resilient communities. Schwab and Dean showed how the silos of planning, programs, and grants can and should be bridged at the local level to increase economic vitality, provide physical and economic security, and set the stage for rapid recovery from disasters—all key components of community resilience.

With Jim Schwab's leadership, the APA has been at the forefront of planning for resilience and has worked closely with the CPCB RSF. Schwab led the production of *Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction*, in partnership with FEMA, in 1998. He is an advocate for integrating hazard mitigation planning into all efforts in disaster recovery and land use planning. In the forthcoming update, *Planning for Post Disaster Recovery: Next Generation*, the net widens to focus on thinking ahead about all aspects of planning and building in resilience, including such things as establishing multi-sector relationships in advance that enable communities to bounce back more effectively. The APA's Recovery News [blog](#) is full of examples and insights on effective recovery.

As leader of CMAP's Local Planning practice, Bob Dean's focus is on the planning needs of 284 local governments in the Chicago Metropolitan area. Flooding is frequently a significant disaster-related planning issue which crosses numerous planning areas from flood plain management to storm water management. Dean reinforced Schwab's point that planning for these issues has to be integrated into local comprehensive planning. One challenge is planning across sectors and funding sources. While diversifying funding sources can help, grant requirements are often designed for specific purposes, which can work against comprehensive, holistic approaches. Dean's observation stimulated discussion of possible solutions, including the need for a comprehensive, multi-agency funding platform.

While multi-agency funding platforms may be hard to achieve, the intent to collaborate for resilience provided a clear and good end-note for a day devoted to resilience.

Column: CPCB Regional Coordinators gather in Washington, DC for a week of strategic planning, in-depth discussion

On September 8, I had the opportunity to join my nine Regional counterparts and National CPCB colleagues and leaders at the Community Planning and Capacity Building Coordinators' Workshop at FEMA headquarters, in Washington, D.C. The workshop was a three-day long group discussion and work-session among the ten CPCB Regional Coordinators, the National Coordinator, OFDC leadership, and key FEMA headquarters staff to solicit input and foster collaboration on the development of CPCB RSF policies, procedures, and long-range plans.

The workshop's primary focus was on building knowledge and consensus between CPCB HQ and Regional Coordinators on important elements of the mission, scope, and management expectations, and processes for field operations. The coming year will see more structure, consistency, and evaluation of field operations. This workshop was key to improving consistency and establishing clear expectations.

Some of the outcomes and objectives of the workshop included: the development of enhanced knowledge and consistency of the CPCB RSF and Community Recovery Technical Assistance missions and pre- and post-disaster field implementation; development of agreed-upon short- and long-range national and regional objectives; strategies and courses of action for building and evolving the CPCB RSF; identifying courses of action for enhancing the capabilities and resilience of state and local governments to recover effectively; support in non-Presidential events without a CPCB activation; and coordinated partnership development and management.



*By Michelle Diamond,
CPCB Region III Coordinator*

Having had the opportunity to spend three full days with my colleagues, I learned many lessons and best practices from their CPCB field experiences. Some of the CPCB engagements we discussed in detail included tornado activity in Pilger, Nebraska in June 2014, flooding in Colorado in September 2013, ongoing Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts in New York and New Jersey, and the April 2014 tornado events in Mayflower and Vilonia, Arkansas. From my CPCB colleagues, I gained insight into how better to scope and execute the CPCB mission and how to more effectively coordinate CPCB partners for the benefit of state and local recovery.



From left: HQ Partnership Coordinator Kehla West, HQ Deputy CPCB Branch Chief Erin Miles, Region VII Coordinator Kathleen Fitzgerald, Region VI Coordinator Charlie Cook, HQ RSF National Coordinator Matt Campbell, Region II Coordinator Marianne Luhrs, Region IX Coordinator Emily Meyer, Region V Coordinator Lillian Thompson, Region X Coordinator Tom Donnelly, Region VIII Coordinator Tim Gelston, Region III Coordinator Michelle Diamond, Region IV Representative Lynda Lowe. Region I Coordinator Corey Nygaard attended the workshop virtually (pictured on screen).

Notes from the Field – Current CPCB Activations

Arkansas – The Central Arkansas Planning and Development District is currently hiring a local disaster recovery manager to oversee recovery efforts in Faulkner County and resilience planning in the greater Little Rock area. The National Association of Development Organizations will be hosting a workshop that brings in recovery experts from across the country to focus on rebuilding strong, sustainable and disaster resilient communities on November 18th and 19th. This workshop will have a national audience, with a focus on recovery needs in Faulkner County. For more info, click [here](#).

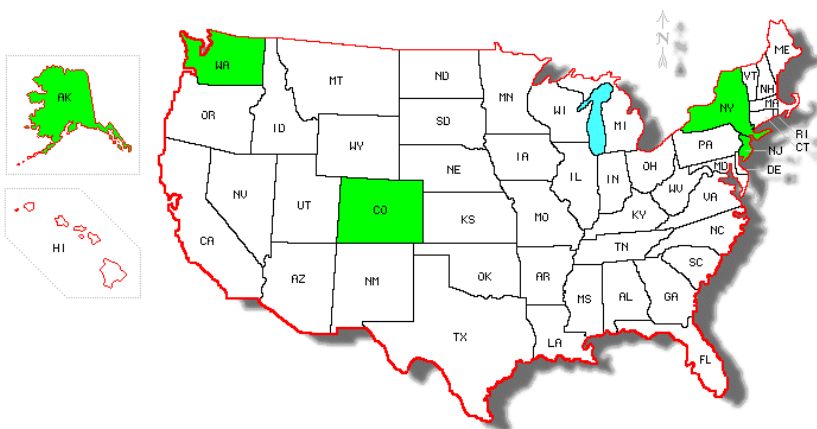
Colorado – The Colorado Recovery Coordination Center continues to consolidate recovery support operations. The major supporting role is in providing project management and process support to the state as state agencies prepare a resiliency strategic plan. The plan is intended to guide recovery decision-making so that investments are coordinated and directed to making the state resilient to a

broad spectrum of hazards. Partners in the planning effort include numerous state and federal agencies, universities, non-profit professional organizations, and philanthropies.

New Jersey – The group had a meeting addressing the mission of the Academic Recovery Team (ART). The meeting centered on the engagement of Princeton University’s Department of Operations and Financial Engineering (which provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to collaborate on recovery and preparedness projects) and the University’s participation with the ART. Meeting participants viewed a demonstration of a storm simulator and resource response models.

New York – As the 2-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy approaches, CPCB NY continues to work with the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery and Department of State Office of Smart Growth to implement recovery and resilience initiatives. To date CPCB has 1) convened technical workshops specific to community engagement, visioning, resilient planning and zoning, and community health impact assessments, 2) coordinated multidisciplinary and cross-sector stakeholders to create formalized groups, such as the Long Island Smart Growth Resilience Partnership, and 3) leveraged sustainable local resources to recovery efforts, for example connecting students from academic institutions to work with NY Rising communities.

Washington – The Carlton Complex wildfire, which was the largest in the state’s history, destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses in central Washington and burned nearly 400,000 acres, including valuable grazing and agricultural areas. Region X CPCB Coordinator Tom Donnelly has been providing advisory assistance to the recovery organizations in the Brewster-Pateros area, the Methow Valley, and other portions of Okanogan County. Donnelly is also currently working to facilitate relationships among partners who are not familiar with the long-term recovery planning process.



As the map on the left shows, CPCB RSF representatives are active in five states.

State	Field Coordinator for CPCB Operations
AR	Charlie Cook
CO	Thom Rounds
NJ	Marianne Luhrs
NY	Christine Meissner
WA	Tom Donnelly

News Items of Interest

NADO to offer resilience workshop Nov. 18-19 in Arkansas – click [here](#) for more information.

Resilience, smart growth, and equitable development after Hurricane Sandy – click [here](#) for the five-part series.

National Brownfields Conference puts out [call for session ideas](#) – information courtesy of the International City County Management Association.

[Tips](#) for disaster responders working in Indian country – information courtesy of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

International disaster recovery news: six months after the flood in the Balkans – click [here](#) for photos.

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