

RAUG

Risk Assessment Users Group



Meeting Notes, November 06, 2013, 16:30 – 17:20 Blue Lounge, Radisson Hotel, Regina, Saskatchewan

Context:

The Risk Assessment Users Group meets by telephone on the first Wednesday of every month, 10:30 - 11:30 am Pacific Time. It meets in person with the Hazus User Group at the annual Canadian Risk and Hazards Network Symposium. The forum is to share knowledge about incorporating Risk Assessment into disaster reduction decisions in Canada. It is a forum supported by NRCan's Quantitative Risk Assessment Project of the Public Safety Geoscience Program until March 2014.

<http://raug.mhrisk.ca>

 @RiskAUG

The CanHUG forum is the 23rd of monthly opportunities to share knowledge about incorporating Hazus and Risk Assessment into disaster reduction decisions in Canada. The NRCan Quantitative Risk Assessment Project of the Public Safety Geoscience Program supports the forum until February 2014 (or so – part of meeting update).

<http://www.hazuscanada.ca>

 CanHUG on LinkedIn

Attendees:

Connie Cheuing, PSC
Phil Dawe, DRDC
Emdad Hague, U. Man.
Nicky Hastings, NRCan
Harvey Hill, Ag-AF Canada
Jacinthe Lacroix, EC
Ernie MacGillivray, GNB
Hassan Madam, U. Man.
Jay Saglin, U. Sask.

Lee Spencer, Man.EMO
Bert Struik, NRCan
Simona Verga, DRDC
Tim Webb, ESSA

Agenda

Joint meeting of the CanHazus Users Group and Risk Assessment Users Group

Greetings to CanHUG and RAUG meeting attendees

Updates and news:

CanHUG update and outlook for 2014

RAUG update and outlook for 2014 and beyond

Discussion

Updates

CanHUG

CanHUG will continue to be supported by Natural Resources Canada for the foreseeable future (a few years). Nicky Hastings and Malaika Ulmi, Geological Survey of Canada, will facilitate the national level user group. As the use of Hazus (or equivalents) matures in Canada, it is anticipated that other organizations will want to facilitate the group, and that local chapters will form.

Local Hazus user groups generally build around local needs and projects. They share expertise and opportunities for using Hazus. They tackle joint issues such as access to relevant input data (inventory and hazards), interpreting outputs and building capacity, and sharing case studies of the many ways Hazus can be used within the four pillars of emergency management and disaster risk reduction. They support the needs of loss reduction policy, users of Hazus and academic pursuits. It can be a challenge to address all user needs in a Hazus user group.

Most participants are in the early adaptation stage of Hazus and are developing business cases as to why Hazus should be used. Looking for support in proposal writing with a key motivation to produce risk assessments for the National Disaster Mitigation Program. This could encourage more participation.

The national CanHUG is looking for a project it can tackle through 2014. The project is meant to contribute to the addressing of common issues in using Hazus and applying its outputs. Please share your ideas for such a project directly with Nicky or through the forum on the www.hazuscanada.ca website.

Lee Spencer, Manitoba EMO, Emdad Hague and David Walker, University of Manitoba have set up a Hazus project to evaluate potential flood losses in Manitoba. The project will work with community members. It is at the formulation stages.

One way to help your fellow Hazus user or prospective user is to help them with putting together project proposals for granting agencies that support such work.

A key motivation for doing Hazus loss estimates is the need to produce risk assessments for the National Disaster Mitigation Program. Such work may encourage more participation in the user group and in using Hazus.

If you have an existing project please send the information to Bert.Struik@nrcan.gc.ca for posting on the www.hazuscanada.ca and <http://raug.mhrisk.ca> websites

Hazuscanada.ca is a place you can pose questions about using Hazus. The discussion forums are monitored and they will get a response.

For those interested in loss-estimation research, Hazus comparative studies are a very useful tool in evaluating the value of loss-estimation versus real losses.

RAUG

NRCan will be passing on facilitation of the Risk Assessment User Group in the next fiscal year.

Options for continued facilitation and contribution of the RAUG were held through the Canadian Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Roundtable and the CRHNet 2013 Symposium meetings. The most valuable option seems to be joining a yet to be formed Risk Assessment Working Group of the Canadian Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Such a working group would provide a mechanism to have cross-sectoral conversations about risk assessment and its application to risk reduction. The RAUG could support such a working group as a way to support conversations about the needs and aspirations of risk assessment users. It could be a way to produce some outputs and outcomes that could formally further support for risk assessment and for incorporating the technique in national risk reduction policy decisions. Another option was for the RAUG to become part of the Public Safety Canada community of practice for the All Hazards Risk Assessment. Presently that community of practice is restricted to members of federal departments because the All Hazards Risk Assessment is a tool for assessing the risks of hazards for Federal departments.

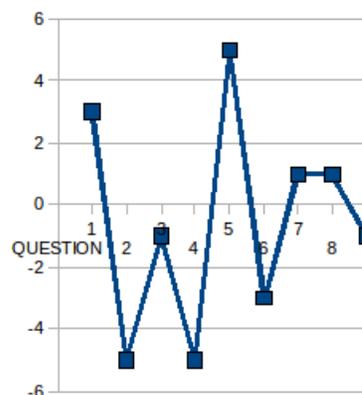
Delegates at the Risk Assessment breakout at the Canadian Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Roundtable and the RAUG meeting each supported the idea of a Risk Assessment Working of the Platform and support for a user group from that that working group.

RAUG projects

Bert presented the results of a SurveyMonkey poll on potential projects that the RAUG could undertake. Seven people had responded to the poll at the time of the Platform and CRHNet meetings. Delegates attending the RAUG meeting were encouraged to add their contributions to the poll. As of November 20, 2013, nine responses were gathered, not a statistically valid study, considering that the mailing list for RAUG has 132 persons. The results in graph form are:

Project ideas in poll.

1. Project catalogue
2. Thesis topic list
3. Risk tools list
4. Rating scheme for tools
5. Risk dialect dictionary:
6. Assets management tool
7. Bibliography
8. Provincial risk programs



9. Pocket guide to risk

The two additional contributions to the poll bolstered the support for a Project list and a Risk Dialect Dictionary.

Two other ideas were posted to the poll (and I like both):

1. Define standards for risk assessment outputs for a national catalogue
2. Make youtube intros to risk topics

The Geological Survey of Canada, with Environment Canada and Public Safety Canada have proposed a project that includes “define(ing) standards for risk assessment outputs for a national catalogue” in the context of building such an online catalogue of risk calculation inputs and outputs.

Web site material

Send [Bert](#) your project outlines and they will be posted. Want to do it yourself: let Bert know.

Blogs are written to the site occasionally. Last one was on risk assessment dialects.