

Quick recap

The meeting focused on discussing strategies for transforming public governance institutions to address unprecedented challenges, with participants reviewing a draft paper on transformation approaches and emphasizing the importance of maintaining focus at the institutional level despite complex systems. The group explored NAPA's role in addressing national challenges through examples like Maryland's climate resilience initiatives, while discussing the need to shift focus from federal initiatives to local problem-solving hubs and cataloging different hub models. The conversation ended with discussions on implementing governance and financing innovations to address extreme weather events, including plans for a panel discussion at NAPA's upcoming meeting and the potential for the Hub to operationalize strategic initiatives globally.

Next steps

- John, Mark, and Rich to refine the paper by making it more concise, focusing on action steps rather than historical context, and emphasizing transformation strategies.
- John, Mark, and Rich to organize a panel for the November 3rd NAPA meeting that includes implementers such as state emergency managers, county officials, and association leaders.
- Amanda and Mark to continue developing the Extreme Weather Hub and document lessons learned from their work with Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.
- Louis to share information about the January 20-21 Science-Serving Communities meeting with interested NAPA fellows.
- Dan Guttman to continue international collaboration efforts through the California-China Climate Institute with planned webinars and workshops in early 2026.
- NAPA fellows to send additional ideas and feedback on the paper to John, Mark, and Rich.
- Mark and team to explore how to catalog and assess subnational governance efforts that address extreme weather and other challenges.
- Yan Tang to connect interested fellows with the Haynes Foundation initiatives on governance and democracy in Los Angeles County.

Summary

Public Governance Transformation Strategies

The meeting focused on discussing the transformation of public governance institutions in response to unprecedented challenges. James-Christian emphasized the need for

innovative solutions to address structural, policy, and constitutional issues, while John highlighted the importance of maintaining focus at the institutional level despite the complexity of multi-organizational systems. The group reviewed a draft paper outlining strategies for transformation, including the concept of hubs, and planned to refine their approach based on participant feedback. The session aimed to foster an active conversation among fellows and explore avenues for further engagement and participation.

NAPA's Climate Resilience Initiatives

The meeting focused on NAPA's role in addressing national challenges and fostering governance solutions. Fellow 1 shared insights from Maryland's climate resilience initiatives, highlighting a successful collaboration between universities and local governments to address environmental issues like sea level rise and salinization. The program has gained traction, with increased funding and participation from counties, and Fellow 1 invited NAPA members to attend the upcoming January 20-21 science-serving communities meeting to learn more about these efforts.

Local Governance Solutions Focus

The group discussed the paper on governance and its focus, with Fellow 2 suggesting it should be more focused on extracting lessons from specific examples like Maryland and California through the hub process, rather than spending time on historical context. Mark and Fellow 3 agreed, emphasizing the need to move quickly from constitutional aspects to local-level solutions, as localities will ultimately need to save themselves. The group also discussed the importance of humility in acknowledging potential missed opportunities or the need for different approaches, and the need to formulate a strategy for change and action.

Strengthening Government Problem-Solving Capacity

The group discussed the need to strengthen problem-solving capacity in government, with Fellow 2 emphasizing the importance of developing collaborative relationships and governance roles to address complex, persistent issues. Fellow 4 highlighted the current lack of administrative enthusiasm for change and suggested focusing on finding decision-makers who can implement frameworks, noting that NAPA fellows could play a crucial role in this effort. Fellow 5 recommended creating a summary of the paper to emphasize action items and conclusions, suggesting that the detailed context should be referenced but not the primary focus. The discussion acknowledged the current state of federal government as broken, with Congress, the Supreme Court, and the White House all contributing to this situation.

State and Local Political Strategies

The group discussed strategies for addressing political challenges at the state and local levels, with Fellow 5 highlighting the importance of winning support from governors and local officials to implement change. They noted examples of successful initiatives by governors in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico addressing political violence. Fellow 6 suggested leveraging the "Big Seven" framework for collaboration among state and local governments, while Fellow 4 mentioned NAPA's recent report on AI and local economies, which highlighted the effectiveness of regional groups. Mark emphasized the need to operationalize these ideas, suggesting that NAPA fellows could serve as action agents, and proposed further discussion on tactical steps to implement the proposed changes.

Local Problem-Solving Hubs Initiative

The group discussed shifting focus from federal initiatives to local problem-solving hubs, with Fellow 2 suggesting that hubs should include leaders with authority to act on recommendations and proposed building relationships with county associations and governors. They agreed to move forward by identifying fellows who could contribute to operationalizing the hubs, with John emphasizing the need to abandon the premise of funding programs through debt due to high levels of national debt. The discussion concluded with Rich inviting further input on action items, while John and Fellow 2 highlighted the importance of leveraging lessons learned from other states and localities to avoid costly reinvention of solutions.

Hub Models for Disaster Resilience

The group discussed the value of cataloging different hub models and their effectiveness in addressing wicked problems, with Fellow 7 suggesting a need to understand their strengths and weaknesses. Amanda highlighted the importance of transforming the current disaster recovery system, which is inefficient and not designed to capture pre-disaster investments, and proposed a hub-based approach to drive change. She emphasized the need for collaboration between government, the private sector, and local communities to address the increasing challenges posed by extreme weather events. The group also discussed a specific example of a climate resilience authority in Annapolis, Maryland, which could benefit from expanded geographic reach and expert consultation through a hub framework.

Global Climate Resilience Hub Progress

The meeting focused on the progress and future plans of the Hub, a collaborative initiative aimed at addressing extreme weather challenges globally. Fellow 8 shared insights from

NAPA's work with international partners, highlighting their focus on learning from global comparisons and their upcoming workshops in China and the U.S. in early 2026. Mark discussed the successful implementation of a climate resilience bill in California, which was adapted to address insurance needs during emergencies, and emphasized the importance of political leadership and collaboration in driving change. Both speakers stressed the potential for the Hub to operationalize strategic initiatives and leverage its network of experts to address climate-related challenges effectively.

Climate Resilience Financing Strategies

The group discussed strategies for implementing governance and financing innovations to address extreme weather events and recovery. Mark shared insights from Los Angeles' experience with climate resilience districts, while John explained how infrastructure financing districts could provide flexible solutions for local governments. The participants agreed to organize a panel discussion at NAPA's November 3rd meeting, with Fellow 2 suggesting the inclusion of city managers, mayors, and emergency management officials. The conversation highlighted the need to move beyond traditional emergency management approaches, as emphasized by Dan, who noted that current systems are inadequate for addressing the scale and frequency of modern extreme weather events.