

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADAPTATION PROFESSIONALS

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## 2021 Member Led Interest Group Application

Thank you for submitting an ASAP interest group topic! We are now moving into Phase II: Member Interest Group Refinement.

During this phase you will connect with colleagues who submitted similar topics; flesh out the concept for your Interest Group, including group purpose, anticipated meeting structure, likely outcomes, and proposed group leaders; and submit your group's full application.

To ensure your group can be considered, complete this application by November 23rd.

Following the application period, ASAP Members will vote on which topics should move forward as 2021 Member Led Interest Groups.

Reach out to ASAP Program Coordinator, Breana Nehls ([bnehl@adaptpros.org](mailto:bnehl@adaptpros.org)) with any questions.

First Name of Group Contact Person \*

Jim

Last Name of Group Contact Person \*

Fox

## Email Address of Group Contact Person \*

jfox@nemacfernleaf.com

## Group Name \*

(10 words maximum)

Private Sector (for profit) Adaptation Professionals

## Group Purpose \*

Please include a description of the main theme(s) for this group. You may also consider what goals or objectives might be achieved by forming a group around this interest. (500 words maximum)

Theme One, Setting Professional Standards for Adaptation Work - As our profession continues to grow, there is a move from being dominated by government, nonprofit and academia to many more private sector businesses. This trend will probably continue and accelerate as the demand for climate services increases due to the increasing impact from extreme weather hazards. Unfortunately, there are many businesses in this sector that offer adaptation services but are not following national best practice. Here is where ASAP is meeting the challenge – by providing a professional society to establish these standards and to provide a network to support the growth of high-quality adaptation work. Theme Two, Building Examples of Quality Adaptation Work - At the current time, the private (for profit) sector is represented in ASAP by consultants, climate service providers, engineering companies and others. To ensure a continuing strategic fit with ASAP, this group will meet to help define this sector and establish some best practices as we build the adaptation community in each of our businesses. We envision that this group will provide examples of high-quality work in each of our sectors and then start to establish a way to build national capacity while at the same time generating a profit. Theme Three, Building Trust and Learning Together as we build our Network – Through building the foundation for our society, we will be building trust as we develop these national best practices. As other professional societies before us, such as APA, we will grow this sector through work over the years. We have already been building trust in our network through ASAP, and we will deepen those relationships through this interest group. Theme Four, Build on Innovation and Collaboration - Because there is more demand for resilience solutions than there are dollars to pay for the work, this group will also look at innovations to provide the work at a fair price, but also explore how to grow the capital it is going to require to support this enterprise.

### Group Structure \*

How will the group be managed and facilitated? (Approx. 75 words)

A steering committee for the first year will scope the breadth of the discussion topics and focus areas. This steering committee will represent the diversity of jobs that fit into this sector and will undoubtedly evolve as the discussion continues. At the current time, this steering committee is envisioned to be up to five people and will provide the strategic focus for the rest of the members.

### Anticipated Meeting Structure \*

Questions to consider can include: How often will the group meet? Will there be invited presenters or other notable activities? Are there any specific or unique audio/visual tech support needs? (200 words maximum)

To begin, we will have a monthly one-hour zoom meeting with a fixed agenda and action items. The meeting will include time for two-three short member presentations (5 minutes each) to serve as growing a shared understanding of how adaptation is being practiced in each firm. Because this group is geographically dispersed, we do not anticipate any in-person meetings and will be using Zoom or similar online meeting platforms. We will have a share folder for key documents and meeting minutes. Until we see the composition of the group, it is hard to put more details than this at the current time.

### Likely Outcomes \*

Outcomes might include things such as knowledge gain, professional networking, reports, creative works, etc. (200 words maximum)

This is a new field, and we have a lot to learn from one another. The adaptation work that we are all paid to do is driven by customer demand, and we want to understand and grow our customers to grow our field. In addition, we need to support of others, both professionally and socially. Of course, this brings up the concept of "coopetition (cooperation/competition)". In the private sector, many of us compete with one another for work through bids and RFPs. We are going to have to establish a level of trust amongst the interest group participants. Once we establish this trust, we envision this group setting professional standards for adaptation work in the marketplace. We would then determine how to provide these standards to funders so that they can include these as minimum expectations in their solicitations for products and services.

**Name(s) of Proposed Group Leader(s) (if known) \***

Note: If you do not wish to identify group leaders at this time, the Group Contact Person will be responsible for attending the ASAP Member-Led Interest Group orientation and assume responsibilities of Group Leader until the group decides on who the leaders should be.

Jim Fox is happy to lead this group for the initial cycle, and then the group can choose/elect the leader as time progresses. Jim anticipates that some of the key players that have already started these conversations (Sascha Petersen, Jessica Cahill, Janice Barnes, Devon McGee) will attend the first meetings and then we can determine the steering committee after a couple of meetings. With this being a new group, there will be changes and a necessary evolution.

**Any other relevant information you would like to share**

This group has already unofficially formed through numerous one-on-one and small group conversations, but it would be better to formalize the group to broaden and deepen the discussion.

This form was created inside of American Society of Adaptation Professionals.

Google Forms