



## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP**

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**Bureau of Indian Affairs** (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions)  
**Bureau of Land Management** (Colorado and Wyoming)  
**Fish and Wildlife Service** (Mountain/Prairie Region)  
**Forest Service** (Rocky Mountain Region)  
**National Park Service** (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)  
**State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas**

Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group Winter Meeting  
January 23<sup>rd</sup> thru January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Colby, Kansas

Those in attendance: Ross Hauck, Jim Fletcher, L. Dean Clark, Bill Ott, Ray Weidenhaft, Tom Corbin, Rich Homann, Mike Frary, Dave Carter, Joe Lowe, Beth Hermanson, Dave Clement, Sue Muir, Bob Jones.

Joe Lowe took over the Chair position from Darrell Ausborn. He called the meeting to order, introductions were made and he asked for any items that needed to be added to the agenda.

### **Operations Committee Reported on Team Selections:**

Dave Clement represented the Operations Committee. He went through each roster for the Incident Management Teams explaining what positions were filled this year in the selection process. IMT1 – Martin: RMCG approved the changes that Kim requested for the Type I Team. The Operations Committee was notified in the last couple of days that Buck Wickham is going to go with a South West team, so he is unavailable for the Rocky Mountain team. Operations Committee will need to find a replacement for him. Joe Lowe will check with the Wyoming State Forester and see if Hoss would be available for the time being to do a job-share with the other two Operations Sections Chiefs on the Type I Team. The team also needs some depth in the Finance Section Chief position. Dave Clement said there just aren't people out there for this position. RMCG members are asked to look around and see if they can find someone within their own departments to help back up Finance.

A motion was made to approve the Type I Team Roster. Dean Clark 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Motion was approved by all. IMT2A – Mullenix: Dave Clement stated that the two IMT2 teams would like to add the position of GISS; this position has become very important when fighting larger fires. Some of the RMCG members felt that this position could almost always be found of the agency administrator home unit. When the team is ordered they should check with the ordering unit to see if there is an individual from that unit that could fill this position. It was brought up that this might be the time to remove the Situation Unit Leader and fill that position with the GISS individual. Joe Lowe stated that you still needed to have the Situation Unit Leader on the team because this individual could be very valuable if mapping needed to be done by hand instead of electronically.

It was decided that the Type II Teams would be allowed to add this position to their rosters. Dave Carter made a motion to except IMT2A Team Roster. Ross Hauck 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

IMT2B – Blume: Dave Clement explained that if the PIO2(t) on Pete's team passed S420 this week he would then move to the PIO primary and Pete's primary PIO would then move up to the Type 1 Team as a PIO1(t). Dave Clement was asked to see if Jay Esperance would be willing to move over to the Type 1 Team as an Operation Section Chief. Dave said he would check with him and see if he was interested, then let RMCG know.

Dean Clark made a motion to except IMT2B's roster. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Carter. All move to except the motion. Motion was carried.



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IMT2C – Lowe: Joe Lowe covered all new members of the team. Dave Carter stated that there were several issues brought up at the Operations Committee Meeting about this team. They do not understand where this team is at, is it a Zone Team or is it a Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group team? Bill Ott said that it needs to be made real clear to the other teams that this team is under the umbrella of the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group. They are a zone team therefore the over-site for this team is through the Great Plains Board of Director. It needs to be reaffirmed that this team has restrictions on them as to where and when they can respond. This team is still under the guidelines that if the Great Plains Dispatch Zone goes to a PL3 or higher this team is required to stay within the zone. All of the RMCG members agreed to this policy and that has not changed. Dave Clement stated that one problem was the team roster came to the Operations Committee but none of the applications came thru them. The Operations Committee feels that all applications for teams should come through them whether you are a zone team or not. There were a couple of individuals that applied for the zone team that more then likely would have been put elsewhere, but the Ops Committee did not get a chance to move them. Joe Lowe stated that all individuals that are listed on the roster wanted to be on this team. Joe feels that the other teams should not get access to fill their teams off the members that he has recruited or supplied for IMT2C. When RMCG was first approached about this team it was decided that applications would go through the Great Plains Zone Operations Committee, then the roster was then taken to the Great Plains Board of Directors, once approved by them it would be brought to the RMCG Operations Committee for their review, then brought to the RMCG Committee for their approval. This issue will be resolved by listing in the mob-guide how selections for the Great Plains Interagency Zone Team will be handled. Dave Carter made a motion that RMCG accept the IMT2C roster.

Bill Ott 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted in favor motion was carried.

Fire Use Team – Hahnenberg: Dave Clement went through the Fire Use Team Roster. He said Bill has listed the sixteen positions he would like to carry. Questions were raised as to whether Bill should be allowed to carry sixteen position within the region or if he should follow the National standard that was set in the national mob-guide. This issue was discussed at the December conference call and was voted on at that time, unfortunately there was not a quorum for voting on that conference call therefore any decision that were made on this matter are invalid. Bill H. would like to have RMCG consider adding six positions to his team when responding within the region. Several of the committee members felt that this was not a good idea, Bill H should ask for those positions at the time that he is ordered by an Agency Administrator. After much discussion on this issue a motion was made by Ray Weidenhaft: RMCG approves the roster as submitted by Bill Hahnenberg for the 10 positions that are consistent with the national mob guide. Any additional positions needed by the IC will be negotiated with the ordering agency administrator. Rich Homann 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Roll call vote was taken: Joe Lowe – yes, Bill Ott – no, Bob Jones – yes, Dean Clark – yes, Rich Homann – yes, Mike Frary – yes, Ray Weidenhaft – yes, John Glenn – yes, Dave Carter – asked for clarification; for the use of 10 people outside the area and within the area. Bill H. will need to ask for any additional positions – Dave Carter - no, Ross Hauck – Yes. Yes votes: 8, No votes: 2, motion was carried.

Dave Clement asked that since the motion was carried do they then take the extra members off the roster. It was decided that Bill H. could carry those extra members as alternates for his team if he wishes. Discussion was then held on whether RMCG needed to vote on approving the roster that Operations



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Committee presented to them. It was decided that an amended motion would be voted on; Dave Carter made the motion as follows: We vote to approve for the fire use team roster as presented with the stipulation it identifies the 10 positions that conform to the national mob guide and that the six additional positions are negotiated at the time of order and not automatically sent at the time of the initial dispatch. Dean Clark 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Roll call vote was call for:

Bill Ott – yes, Bob Jones – yes, Dean Clark – yes, Rich Homann – yes, Mike Frary – yes, Ray Weidenhaft – yes, John Glenn – no, Dave Carter – yes, Ross Hauck – yes, Joe Lowe – yes, 9 Yes votes, 1 No vote. Motion was carried.

Rich Homann would like to Thank Dave Clement for all the hard work he has done this past year as the Operations Committee Chairman. All members agreed with Rich.

### **IMT1 Succession & Strategies:**

After some discussion it was decided that Dean Clark would create a letter to Kim Martin's supervisor explaining the plan for succession for the Type 1 Team. After Dean gets the letter created RMCG would review the letter, all agree upon it and Joe Lowe, Chairman would mail the letter. A committee will also be formed with John Glenn the chair, Dan Morford representing the Operations Committee, Jim Fletcher representing the Dispatch Committee, someone from the Training Committee, Joe Lowe, and Bill Ott representing RMCG. They will present a plan with objectives to the RMCG committee members at the Spring Meeting.

Dean Clark also worked on a letter to be forwarded by the Chair of RMCG to Kim Martins supervisor explaining RMCG's plan for the Type I IMT. This letter was reviewed and approved by all RMCG members. Joe Lowe, Chairman will sign it and mail it out.

### **RMCG Team Evaluation Worksheets:**

A great deal of discussion was held on the merits of this worksheet. On the most part the teams appreciated RMCG coming to their incidents and looking at the job they were doing. The evaluation of the teams by the RMCG committee has become a useful tool for the teams. This evaluation was not to replace the operations committee when interacting with the teams; this form was intended to help RMCG committee members stay in touch and involved with the teams. There were quite a few recommended additions brought up to be added to the form. Bill Ott, Susie Muir, someone from the Operations Committee, and Jim Fletcher will review the evaluation worksheets and make improvements and recommendations to the RMCG March conference call. John Glenn also recommends that the IC's are included in the reviewing of this evaluation worksheet.

### **Team Pre-orders:**

It was brought up that RMCG should be going over the IMT's pre-orders. For years IMT's have taken more then their share of the heat for cost containment. RMCG may be able to help the teams out in this area by looking at their pre-orders and making sure that what they have ordered is what they would really need to do their jobs. Some of the members felt that it would be very difficult to decide what a team needs and what would be considered extra. A lot depends on where they team is going and what they will be doing at the time of the order. Many members felt that it is the Agency Administrators job to look at the pre-orders before the team arrives and to negotiate with the IC's on what is ordered. It was decided that a



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committee would be formed to look at all the team's pre-orders. The committee will consist of Ray Weidenhaft as Chair, one Operations Committee member, Pete Blume representing the IC's, and Sherry Bauer as Logistics representative. The committee will report to RMCG at the March conference call.

### **S-420, S-520 Selection Process:**

Discussion was held on the selection process for the S-420 and S-520 candidates. There seems to be an discrepancies between what the Operations Committee Charter has in it and the Training Committee Charter has in it. There needs to be better coordination between the Training Committee and the Operations Committee. It was decided that the two committees need to get together and coordinate on how the selection process will work. The process can then be brought forward to RMCG for their approval.

### **Fuel Information Web-site:**

Tim Mathewson explained the compliance issue that the field has been having with the fuels web-site. He explained why he thought it was necessary for him to shut down the site. He explained that there were two red-flag warnings not issued this year during fire season because the National Weather Service did not have all the information they need to issue these warnings. He feels that this is a Safety issue. Therefore he chooses to shut down the site. RMCG explained to Tim that this was not really an issue they could take on because the members do not have the authority to make the field work with this web-site. It was suggested and agreed upon that this was an issue for the Executive Board. All members agreed to this. Tim will create a letter on the liability issues and what is not happening up to this point. Joe Lowe, Chairman will then take this letter to the Executive Board. Hopefully this will then prompt them to act on this issue within their agencies. All agreed that this was a valuable tool for the region, but felt that it was not an issue the RMCG members could really do anything with other then take it to the Executive Board.

### **Chapter 19 – Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations Accidents, Reviews and Investigations**

Discussion was held on accepting the standards written in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations concerning Accidents, Reviews and Investigations. All agreed that something should be added to the mob-guide about the State organizations within the Rocky Mountain Region accepting this policy. All federal agencies have to now follow these guidelines. The issue comes in when federal personnel are on or responding to a state incident. The federal agencies are required to follow the Chapter 19 guidelines. A motion was made by Rich Homann; it is as follows:

The Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group accepts the guidance for Reviews and Investigations found in Chapter 19, Federal Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviations Operations (Red Book). Review and investigation teams activated for incidents that involve non-federal personnel or non-federal lands should include representation from local, county, or state jurisdictions.

Mike Frary 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

All voted yes, motion was carried.

### **Fishing for Resources:**



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This issue was brought up at the Dispatch Committee meeting. When resources start getting short NIC will send one order to several dispatch centers hoping to fill the order. The problem with this it sometimes causes duplicate orders. The Dispatch Committee is requesting that the RMCG Chair send a letter to NIC asking them not to do this. RMCG asked the Dispatch Committee to create the letter and then Joe will sign it and send it out.

### **Non-Presidential Disasters**

Much discussion was had on this issue. There are many facets to the response to all-risk incidents. RMCG is not sure where their role is on Non-Presidential Disasters and how much they really have to do with these types of disasters. It was decided by the group that Rich Homann, Bill Ott, Suzie Muir, and Bill Wallis will create a presentation for the Executive Board on this issue. They will then ask the Executive Board to give RMCG direction on where they want to go when and if the teams should be responding to all-risk incidents that are not Presidential Disasters.

### **State Fire Compact:**

Joe briefed the committee members on where the State Fire Compact is between South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado. He also explained how the compact will work when ordering resources. Joe also explained that the compact does require federal congressional approval and that South Dakota, Colorado, and Wyoming are sponsoring that legislation. Don Westover with Nebraska stated that they are also interested in join the compact. Joe and Rich will contact Don at a latter date to discuss this.

### **Type III Teams:**

Ray Weidenhaft explained that Wyoming is now looking at starting several Type III Team across the state. As a result of the fire season they had last year they are in the planning stages of trying to put together three teams. These teams would be a on a weekly rotation. One issue that is being discussed right now is the ability to support Type III Teams with a cache. These teams require logistical support. It is starting to be a trend that MAC is now starting to add Type III fires to their boards. As long as they get a 209 they will consider Type III Fires when looking at resources. This is a cost and safety issues, it is much better to have the over-site and support on a small fire then to wait for the fire to grow larger because of the lack of over-site and support. RMCG is in total support of the establishment of Type III Teams.

### **MAC Exercise:**

The MAC Exercise has been scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Denver. Joe stated that the Executive Board Meeting had to be moved from May 7<sup>th</sup> because not enough members could make it.



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It has been reschedule for April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007. There was some concern that the executives would then not come to the MAC Exercise. Joe stated that he will encourage everyone to attend. Everyone wants the format for the exercise to be similar to the one held last year. Bill Ott would like to see the focus on the exercise itself and not so much on the executives themselves.

### **Executive Board Charter:**

Joe Lowe went through the charter. It has been approved by the executive board. RMCG felt that the title should be changed to the Rocky Mountain Area Executive Board and not the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group Executive Board. Joe stated that the board did approve it as the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group Executive Board but he will carry it forward and ask for the name change. It was also decided that a signature page should be included in the charter. Joe will also bring this forward to the board.

Bill Ott said in the second paragraph the board has asked that RMCG prepare ahead of time any issues they feel that the Executive Board needs to deal with. All agreed with this and any issues that need to be brought forward to the executive board will be prepared ahead of time (such as issues papers or presentations).

### **Committee Reports:**

**Fire Business Management Committee:** Sue Miur, Chairperson: Sue went through the accomplishments the FBMC has had this year. Sue brought forward a letter for RMCG chair to sign encouraging other agencies that have not had a rep on the committee to please provide one. The committee also still needs a rep from the Operations Committee.

Discussion was held on the Charter. Sue stated that there seemed to be some confusion on the rotation among the agencies. She requested that RMCG approve a rotation setup by calendar year. Each agency that belongs to RMCG would provide a Chair on a calendar year basis. RMCG agreed this was a good idea. Sue will make the changes to the charter to reflect this. The Business Committee is in the process of configuring the Buying Teams. There was a very good response this year and they have a lot of people to choose from. The committee will vote on these teams next week at their annual meeting. Joe thanked everyone on the committee for all the hard work and leadership they have done this pass year.

**Dispatch:** Jim Fletcher report for the dispatch committee. They are starting the process again this year of inventorying all the communications systems in the region. Asking the dispatch centers if they have a system that isn't working they need to get a work ticket in as soon as possible so it can get fixed. Discussion was held on the Medicine Bow area and the changing going on in the dispatch area. It was decided that Jim Fletcher and Bill Ott will check on the status up at Medicine Bow, Casper Dispatch and see where this situation is. They will report their findings in April at the Spring Meeting. The centers managers meeting in November went really well. Not a lot of huge issues out there. This is a relatively content group. National has asked Jim to figure out how to status in ROSS individuals so that only one or two qualifications show. Right now if you put somebody in ROSS you need to list all their qualifications. They would like to get away from this so an individual only needs to list what they really want to go as.



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There is a shortage of trained dispatchers available on a national scale. When the AD rates were looked at it was decided to raise the dispatch positions a couple of dollars hoping more people will become available to help fill orders. It was decided on a National level that dispatch center will now except name requests. The regional Mob-guide is now being worked on. It will not be printed until after the spring meeting.

It was decided by the group that an analysis would be done by a non-agency outside contractor of the Pueblo Dispatch Center. The Forest Service, Bill Ott will take this request to Mark Boche and Linden Wiebe. What happens with the dispatch center is not really an RMCG decision. The decision lies with the agencies that are paying the bills for the dispatch center. A motion was brought forward: The Forest Service would take the lead on developing the scope of work and if there was any need to study it. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by L. Dean Clark.

All agreed, motion was carried.

Discussion was held on team members. When a team is going to be called out for an assignment, members should not leave for their assignment until an official order has been received by their dispatch centers. It is not unusual for an order to change before a team is even called out. People need to wait until their zone dispatch center calls them with their order. This is not an acceptable practice and Rocky Mountain team members need to wait until their zone dispatches call them with their orders.

**Fuels & Fire Use:** Mike Frary reported that the committee has been working on the Prescribe Fire workshop being held next week. There have been several conference calls setting up the work-shop. Discussion was held on the different topics going to be discussed at the work-shop.

**Information/Education Committee:** Ross Hauck gave a report out about what the committee has been doing. He requested that if one of the RMCG members has an issue they would like the committee to address please forward it to one of the committee members. It was mentioned that the members of RMCG appreciate the e-mails that are sent out by the committee and would like this to continue.

**Training Committee:** Rodney Reddingter reported on the issues that the training committee has been dealing with. The October meeting went well. There were some questions brought up as to how the process for picking S420 and S520 candidates. It seems that the Operations Committee and the Training Committee have different guidelines for picking these candidates. There seems to be some needed clarification on which committee should be doing what when picking these candidates. RMCG asks that the chairs from the Operations Committee and the Training Committee get together and look at the process and come up with a solution. This will be presented to RMCG at a later date on a conference call. The training committee is also looking at the process of hiring private contractors to do training. They feel that it is the hiring agent's responsibility to make sure that if you are hiring a contractor you need to make sure the individual is qualified to do the training. Rodney is working on a paper addressing this issue and will present it to RMCG at a later date. Rodney is also looking at the charter and feels there are things in the charter that the training committee should not be doing. It was requested that Rodney go through the charter mark the changes he would like to see then bring them forward to RMCG. Rodney was asked to not make changes to the charter and this point but to just strike through what he would like to see changed and then present it to RMCG.



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Another issue discussed at the October meeting was how an agency should request 300 and 400 level courses. Concern was that some agencies were not following protocol in these requests. Rodney stated that if the training committee was not paying for the course then they could not really deny the request; this request was really only meant to be a coordination tool. The concern was that if a 300 or 400 level course is being held within the region then the region should have the option of putting their priority candidates into the class first. Joe Lowe explained what was going on with the S420 within the state. He explained that he wouldn't have a problem accepting some of the priority candidates within the region but that if his state was paying for the course then the training committee needed to also accept the fact that the state also may have some priority candidates they wanted in the class. All agreed with this.

**Fire Program Analysis Committee:** Brian Bischof reported for this committee. Handed out the FPA committee report. Discussed some of the brainstorming going on at a national level. Didn't want to go into too much detail simple because it's still in the developmental stages. The national group has hired IBM to come up with a user friendly program for the federal agencies to input data. Several prototypes are out right now. They are looking at trying to have a prototype by June 2007. If this is the case then they are expecting an operational product by June 2008.

**Operations Committee:** Dave Clement reported for the Ops Committee. Dave handed out the list for the S520 candidates. Discussion was held on approving the candidates for the next three years. RMCG did not want to do this. A motion was made to approve the candidates for the 2008 S520 course. Dave Carter 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All agreed motion was carried. It was requested that agencies go to their home areas and look for more candidates for the 2009 and 2010 courses.

**Wish list for teams:** Discussion was held on where this list was at. No one is sure exactly what the teams are looking for. Dave Clement was asked to have the new Ops Chair request from the IC's their wish list. This will be brought to the RMCG committee at the Spring Meeting and they will decide what they can at that time do for the teams.

**Team awards:** It was decided by the RMCG committee that each team member would be given a polo-shirt for their team logo on it as an award for the outstanding job they have done for the Rocky Mountain region. Shirt sizes and colors will be sent to Beth Hermanson from the IC's and Beth will then order the shirts. They will be then given to the IC's at the Spring Meeting in April.

**Mob-guide:** Discussion was held that the Great Plains Zone team needs to be listed in the regional mob-guide. There is nothing in the guide that states how the team will operate. The Operations Committee along with the other IC's feels that a lot of rumors and misunderstanding about this team will be gone if this teams guidelines were list in the regional mob-guide. Joe Lowe and Sheri Fox will work through the guidelines and get them to Jim Fletcher to be included in the regional mob-guide.

**Spring Meeting:** Dave Carter presented the agenda for the spring meeting in Colorado Springs, Co. The meeting will be held the week of April 2<sup>nd</sup> thru the 5<sup>th</sup>. A travel day will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> with teams meetings starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. All teams will meet on April 3<sup>rd</sup> together with presentations done concerning the upcoming fire season. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April teams will have their own individual team meetings. RMCG will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April as a committee. An agenda will be sent out to all IC's to forward on to their team members.



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**Awards:** Dave Carter went over the list concerning who should receive awards this year. Jim Fletcher will inventory the plaques that are at the dispatch center. If more are needed either he or Dave Carter will order more. Dave will then have them engraved to be present at the Spring Meeting.

**Business Manager:** Dave Carter stated that this position was ready to be advertised. The problem is there is still not enough money for this position. It looks like he is short about \$25,000.00 dollars. He requested that agencies go back and look to see if they could contribute more for this position, if not then they may not be able to hire this position.

**Sterling Academy:** Ross Hauck attended the Sterling Academy this year. He reported that the academy is going well and that he was well received by all.

Meeting was adjourned.