

RMACC Information/Education Committee Conference Call Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2013
1500-1630

In attendance:

David Eaker (Chair)	Shawna Hartman	Traci Weaver
Lynn Barclay	Jeni Lawver	Sheryl Page
Chris Barth	Bill Kight	Cathy Lujan
Brenda Bowen	Andy Rothleutner	

Charter

- According to those on the call, the charter was approved two years ago.
- There was a discussion as to whether there was a need to review/revise the charter.
- Sheryl shared that there are examples from other similar groups (PNW). **Sheryl will share the other examples with this group via email. DONE**
- *Recommendation to add a description of the relationship with the GACC in the charter.*
- *Recommendation to check that the charter includes a "Mission Statement" INCLUDED*
- The current version (03/2013) is on the RMACC website: http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/administrative/rmcg/fireinfo_committee/20130320_InfoEdCommitteeCharter.pdf
- **ALL – Review current charter and examples provided by Sheryl and submit any comments by 12/06/2013**

EOY Report

- Does anyone have examples of previous year's reports as an example? **Lynn will send EOY Report template**

Communications/Info Plan

- The Communication/Info Plan is currently in DRAFT form. The current DRAFT is lengthy and detailed.
- It is understood that a detailer is currently working with RMACC to get the DRAFT approved.
- Vice-Segin is currently being outreached.
 - Public Affairs Specialist, GS-1035 11/12 (Fire Communication)
 - U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Regional Office
 - The Rocky Mountain Region's External Affairs Staff will be filling a full time, permanent position GS-1035-11/12 Public Affairs Specialist/Fire Communication. The position is located in the Regional Office in Golden, Colorado. This is a tremendous opportunity to work with talented staff in a high-profile region.
 - This outreach notice is in effect from November 14, 2013 through December 4, 2013. If interested in this opportunity, please complete the attached form and return it to vbaca@fs.fed.us by December 4, 2013.

Chair Rotation

- As per the charter, the Chair position is to be rotated annually by agency.

- Current rotation is for a BIA representative, but with no BIA representative, it will roll to the next on the list.
- South Dakota Division of Forestry is next on the list. *Jeni Lawver has agreed to fill the role of Chair for the 2014.*

2014 Issues

Fire Restriction Initiative

- USFS is working to standardize fire restrictions for R2
- Eventually, USFS would like to move to a consistent interagency approach
- USFS will be submitting an issue paper on the topic

Fire Adapted Communities

- There seems to be challenges getting information about FAC out to those who need it. Further, some felt there is a lack of consistent messaging.
- **Develop FAC talking points to share with this committee (and partners), as well as other PIO groups**

Cohesive Strategy

- Similar discussion as “issue” above.
- Working group is currently in Phase III of the process and will be working to get out some communication tools/talking points about CS and FAC in the near future.

Other

Prevention Teams

- Typically, the process for solicitation includes:
 1. a call for applicants within the RMA
 2. review of applicants / recommendation to Ops Committee
 3. Approve Roster (RMCG →NICC)
- Currently this process is behind schedule. With Shannon leaving, Jason will need assistance with the process.
- It has been challenging in filling a Roster for a Prevention Team (lack of interest)
- There was a suggestion to combine with Great Basin to fill one Prevention Team to cover both areas
- **Sheryl will check on pursuing a joint Prevention Team**
- **Sheryl will confirm time slots for the 2014 fire season Prevention Team rotation**

Smokey's 70th Birthday

- Smokey's 70th is in 2014

Action Items

Summary of Action Items from Conference Call:

- **ALL - Develop FAC talking points to share with this committee (and partners), as well as other PIO groups**

- **ALL** – Review current charter and examples provided by Sheryl and submit any comments by 12/06/2013
- **Lynn** will send EOY Report template
- **Sheryl** will share other examples of info/ed charters with this group via email. **DONE**
- **Sheryl** will check on pursuing a joint Prevention Team
- **Sheryl** will confirm time slots for the 2014 fire season Prevention Team rotation

Round Robin

USFS – R2 is currently reorganizing. Shannon will be leaving R2 for another position. Program Manager should be in place by beginning of 2014

Wyoming State Forestry – no comment

Kansas State Forestry – working on a joint press release with Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council (KIWC)

BLM – working on a statewide mechanism to educate about planned Rx with CPAW, developing Lessons Learned from 2013 Flood Response, CWFIMA in January will offer a joint 952/403 course

NPS – working on events and plans for the 2014 National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. NPS is also facing budget cuts that could impact the program

South Dakota – beginning to work on a wildfire prevention program, planning for a wildfire awareness week [in tandem with national preparedness day (mentioned above)], education for safe pile burning for landowners, Great Plains Fire Safe Council, and PSAs (4/yr) including social media

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL: Wednesday, January 29th at 1000 hrs