



ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP

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

Minutes of Conference Call March 1, 2012 – 09:30

In Attendance:

Members

Chair Bob Jones
Vice Chair Ken Kerr
Rich Homann
Jeff Fedrizzi
Mike Davin
Dan Smith
Dave Carter
Ron Graham
Jay Esperance
Cal Pino
Dave Hall
Bill Ott
Ron Graham

Unavailable

Blair Dunn
Mark Boche
Ross Hauck
Don Westover

Guests

Ron Simpson (Training Committee)
Kim Bang (Training Committee)
Dave Martin (BIA)

Facilitator

Jim Fletcher

Business Manager

Brooke Malcolm

1. Training Committee Tasking Update

Kerr/Simpson/Bang

- S-372 decision tasking complete and explanation has been distributed to RMCG.
 - Clarification by Business Manager: Initial distribution was only to Chair, committee liaison (Hauck) and Kerr. Re-distribution to all RMCG members following conference call.
- Training Committee requests that State of Wyoming remove S-372 from their website or advertise it as “local only” so that it does not compete with the course scheduled for Grand Junction.
 - Clarification on “local only” designation by Bang: course is being provided outside the recommendation of the Training Committee and RMCG. Therefore, NWCG certificates cannot be issued to attendees.
- Process for 300- and 400-level course approval was reaffirmed by committee.
- Request that RMCG honor decision of the Training Committee to follow process in place.
- Rationale for decision:
 - Process for course approval was established 8 years ago.
 - Following that process, Grand Junction requested to host S-372 first, which was the request that was granted.
 - Policy and process was documented in letter and package e-mailed to RMCG.
- Concern expressed that internal communication in the Training Committee may need to be examined and refined.

- Training Committee will be clarifying and defining process at Spring conference call, including definition of roles, etc.
- This will address the written tasking to evaluate the approval process. Report back to RMCG only if changes to process are recommended.
- Reiteration of importance of working relationships between agencies and zone training representative for facilitation of course requests and approval.
 - Lack of continuity in zone training representatives contributes to difficulty in relationship-building.
 - Issue of continuity lies with individual dispatch zone board charters, not with Training Committee.
 - Simpson will provide RMCG with a written document regarding this issue.
- Fedrizzi recommended use of existing spreadsheet decision tool for training location planning.
 - Currently, training is coordinated through zone training representatives according to needs analysis, availability of instructors, and relationships.
- Consensus reached to support the decision of the Training Committee for S-372 course. Verbal tasking considered resolved.
 - Written tasking to evaluate process will be addressed on committee's Spring conference call. Considered resolved unless Training Committee returns issue to RMCG with recommendations for changes.
- Graham requested his position be noted for the record as strongly not in support of the Training Committee decision regarding S-372.

2. Zone Team Task Group Update

Jones

- Last Conference call Feb. 23.
 - Decided to identify zones on geographic area map and determine most feasible configuration.
 - Data being refined to better describe the availability of team resources.
- Next conference call March 13 to review data and map configurations.

3. Incident Business Committee

Graham

- Charter revision and Operating Guide completed.
- Will be submitting an action log soon.
- Question about how to handle meeting minutes.
- Committee looking for definition of "mentee".
- Chair requesting status of award for Tom Underwood.
- Inquiry about award submission for Scott Wintemute. No award nomination from RM IBC. Perhaps something that is being addressed from Great Basin side.

4. Platte Canyon IHC

Fedrizzi

- Initial certification process taking somewhat longer than anticipated.
- Operations Committee expects certification by May 21.

5. Personal Conduct Issue Papers

Fedrizzi

- Have presented new ethical conduct language to BLM Solicitor's office. Was given approval.
 - Commented that verbiage doesn't have much legal leverage.
 - Concerned that words "ethics violations" were removed.
- Clarification that this language was approved by USFS counsel and agreed to be included in the IC expectations and RMCG Operating Guide.

6. Information Education Committee

Homann

- Have completed Fire Prevention & Education Team roster for 2012.
 - Confirmed with Operations Committee that no conflicts exist with IMT rosters.
 - Asking for approval of roster from RMCG.
- Consensus reached to approve roster.

7. Spring Meeting

Fletcher

- Clarification on when RMCG will meet in Grand Junction:
 - At minimum, will meet on Monday afternoon (April 2), and possibly at end of team meeting as well.
 - Business Manager may not be available to attend latter meeting, depending on time and length.

8. Round-Robin

- Davin: Operating Plan still being reviewed. Currently with Business Manager for revisions.
- Pino: Southwest Area anticipating early fire season, including 4-Corners area. Expect to have resource shortages this season in aviation and elsewhere.
- Hall: 4,700 acre fire at Rosebud Agency, then snow across area.
- Jones: Hamilton looking for time at Spring Meeting to discuss aerial supervision issues and concerns. Also requesting assignment of a liaison to Aviation Committee. Jones has accepted. Regional fuels position and assistant to be advertised soon.
- Graham: Will be cancelling S-372 course in Wyoming. Expressed disappointment with decision not to support course.
- Esperance: Completed two full weeks as Director of Fire Suppression for State of South Dakota. Will continue to shadow Dunn on RMCG until comfortable with taking over. Letter from supervisor will be forthcoming.
- Homann: Recent meetings with Colorado agency partners to discuss reimbursement and new AOP. New vendor for SEATs is AeroTech from New Mexico. First SEAT on in May. DOC Juniper Valley Crew is available. More crews currently in training. State engine resources also available.
- Kerr: No report.
- Ott: Lead line officer Geri Marr from Pueblo looking to engage counterparts in discussions about workload, service level, staffing and cost sharing. Encourage local line officers to take part. All entry-level firefighting positions in USFS will now go through wildland fire apprenticeship program. Tracking GMUG reorganization transition. Many vacancies and budgetary concerns creating distractions, particularly in aviation management.
- Fedrizzi: FMO/AFMO in Casper Zone vacant. Executives have been updated on dispatch review process in Wyoming. Execs looking for more information on locations being considered. Currently working on developing a tasking paper to more clearly define mission of dispatch review group. Phil Cruz from Medicine Bow-Routt NF will be joining the task group.
- Carter: Budget cuts, particularly in fuels programs. Worked on RMCG Operating Guide. Participating in Zone Team Task Group.
- Smith: Planning to attend Spring Meeting on Monday afternoon. Also available to present summary of NWCG succession planning if necessary.
- Malcolm: Website updates ongoing.