



## 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 Winter Meeting January 22-23, 2014 Cheyenne, Wyoming

#### In Attendance:

##### Members

- Chair Ron Graham
- Vice Chair Mike Davin
- Jay Esperance
- Rocco Snart
- Kyle Cowan
- Bill Ott
- Willie Thompson
- Todd Richardson
- Bob Jones
- Dave Carter
- Cal Pino
- Dave Hall
- Earl Imler

- Ross Hauck
- Dan Smith
- Jim McMahill
- Robert LaPlant
- Facilitator VACANT
- Business Manager Brooke Malcolm

##### Ex-Officio

- Chad Ray

##### Guests

Mark Menning (SD State)  
Shane DelGrosso (FWS)  
Glenn Bartter (USFS/RMACC)  
RMCG Committee Chairs  
RMA Incident Commanders

#### I. Executive Updates

**Bill Crapser**

- A. Crapser will be Executive Committee liaison to RMCG for at least another year in 2014.
- B. Planning to have an Executive Committee meeting ahead of the Spring IMT Meeting in April. This will include sessions with RMCG and the RMA Incident Commanders.
- C. Understand that it is difficult and frustrating to get execs involved sometimes due to workload and other demands outside of fire.
  - 1. Should be a compliment to RMCG members that execs don't feel it necessary to get involved most of the time.
  - 2. Crapser does not recommend asking Executive Committee to be chartered, but does agree that suggestions for executive meeting agenda items could be helpful.
- D. Concern exists among execs about IMT vacancies and support of IMT development.
  - 1. Encourage use of trainees and development of "bench strength" for teams.
  - 2. RMCG will rely on executive direction and guidance for upcoming NWCG EIM reduction to three RMA teams.
  - 3. Continued struggle with role of type 3 teams to increase capacity for complex incidents
  - 4. Non-traditional partners are an option to build IMT capacity, but each one has its limitations and considerations.

- E. Execs feel there has been better communication with RMCG over past few years; Crapser commits to more involvement in 2014 to further improve exchange of information.
- F. Davin proposes two Executive Committee meetings per year – April and Fall. Crapser feels two meetings will be a challenge.
- G. Crapser opposes increasing RMCG membership to include other “non-traditional” partner agencies; feels this creates too many moving parts to be effective. Suggests leaving decision up to state representatives to bring in their partners as needed for specific purposes.

## II. 2014 Executive Summary Review

All

- A. RMCG summary reviewed and edited in session.
  - 1. Final draft will include actual service years for retired members.
  - 2. 2013 trainee numbers are available from GATR.
- B. **Tasking:** Business Manager will add additional content to document:
  - 1. RMA season review of fires and acres, IMT deployments, etc.
  - 2. Summaries of key committee accomplishments and/or challenges.
- C. Final document will be complete by last week in February for delivery to Executive Committee no later than March 1.

## III. RMCG Organizational Document Review & Update

All

- A. Review of RMCG Charter, Operating Plan, Revised Consensus Decision Model, MAC Plan, Mob Center Plan and related attachments.
  - 1. Bartter has distributed Mob Center Plan to dispatch centers for input.
  - 2. **TASKING:** Operations Committee and ICs asked to provide RMCG with input on Mob Center Plan on March Conference Call.
- B. Changes to documents made by Davin and Malcolm presented and amended as requested in session.
- C. New format presented, which nests Charter and Consensus Model in Operating Plan.
  - 1. Should make future maintenance of documents easier by putting everything in one place and ensuring consistency among all pieces.
  - 2. Executive approval still only required for Charter, which will be separated and signed independently of the Operating Plan.
- D. Consensus to approve new format as long as approval process will not be more complicated or confusing.
- E. Question from LaPlant regarding individual agency requirements for opening meetings with announcement that meeting is open and all proceedings are public record.
  - 1. **Tasking:** All state agency representatives asked to consult with agency executives or legal departments to identify requirements. Report back on February conference call if special requirements exist.
  - 2. Appropriate verbiage will be added to Operating Plan if necessary.
- F. Potential future changes to RMCG committees may require adjustment to committee section of Charter.
- G. Questions raised about status and role of Communications Council, and how that group fits with RMCG.

1. Ott recalls that Communications Council is shown as equal to RMCG on the organization chart.
  2. Graham requests that RMCG make a proposal to Executive Committee for improved coordination strategy with the Communications Council.
- H. Finalized documents will be prepared and presented for Chair and Executive signatures.
- I. **Tasking: Business Manager will prepare generic Consensus Decision Model template for distribution to RMCG Committees.**

#### IV. Incident Commander Report-Outs

- A. Type 1 Team - Pete Blume (**Presentation Attached**)
1. West Fork fire overview
    - a. Complex incident involving multiple jurisdictions.
    - b. Fire behavior was extreme and unpredictable due to heavy beetle kill in area.
    - c. Concerns about interaction of Area Command, NIMO & other IMTs currently being addressed by RMCG, Nat'l AC/IC Conference.
      - i. NIMO team involvement added another layer of complexity and confusion at beginning.
      - ii. Saw need for more pre-planning (winter work) before implementation of complex incident management structure like what was used on West Fork.
      - iii. Policy decision needs to be made at national level about use of NIMO as part of non-standard ICS before Geographic Areas will be able to formulate direction.
  2. Propose elevating to NWCG:
    - a. IMTs in staging will be placed on 21-day work-rest schedule instead of 14 day cycle.
    - b. Prevents mandatory days off being necessary after days in staging where rest is not a problem.
    - c. Prevents loss of assets due to timeout before they are able to be used.
    - d. Investment spent to stage resources should not be lost due to timeout on 14-day schedule.
    - e. Issue has already been discussed at GACGAC meeting, and is currently being addressed by NWCG.
    - f. Niemi submitted proposed change to 2014 Mob Guide for this issue, but believes that change must be approved at national level before change to RMA policy will be appropriate.
    - g. RMCG supports concept; should be written into Issue Paper and submitted to NWCG. Graham suggests waiting to see what comes out of AC/IC meeting before RMCG takes action.
  3. Serious shortage of qualified individuals needed to fill out 3 Type 1 IMTs for NWCG EIM plan.
    - a. Chart presented shows a large portion of those with Type 1 C&G qualifications are retired or otherwise unavailable for C&G position.

- b. Very few agency employees are qualified for Type 1 IMT—most of the pool of qualified resources have multiple qualifications (i.e. OSC1 also qualified as IC) and/or are not able to commit to IMT rotation.
  - c. Next step is to look at current trainees and Type 2 C&G qualified individuals.
  - d. Type 2 qualified resources must complete taskbook for Type 1 position (after desired experience at Type 2 level) and attend S-520.
  - e. Increased S-520 offerings would improve timeline for moving resources up from Type 2 positions.
  - f. State of Wyoming scheduled to offer SIMSI course in 2015—accepted equivalency to S-520. Will have opportunity to fill out teams for the course in whatever way possible to get RMA team members through.
4. Highlighted challenges of rostering Type 1 IMT through “off-season.”
- a. Rotation with Great Basin teams means that Type 1 team is rostering an entire team for a one-week rotation every month.
  - b. Better alternative might be to lengthen rotation to two weeks or longer per team through winter season.
  - c. **TASKING: Niemi will follow-up with Operations Committee on issue and make contact with Great Basin counterparts to discuss proposed change.**
- B. Type 2 Team A – Shane DelGrosso (**Hard-Copy Handout on File**)
1. Big Meadows Fire
    - a. Experimented with QR codes for check-in & safety. Continued to use for rest of season
    - b. Incident within Incident with medical evac
    - c. Went perfectly according to plan.
    - d. Well-documented in lessons learned documents and video
    - e. Developed several plans with good success
  2. Wild Rose & Collins Fires
    - a. Fires in oil & gas country; required direct coordination with oil & gas entities.
    - b. Examined effectiveness of VLAT.
    - c. Difficulties filling line-qualified EMTs; used Wilderness Medics with good results
  3. Fairfield Fire
    - a. IMT instructed not to use VLAT due to ineffectiveness in incident terrain; used Wyoming SEATs instead.
    - b. Concerns about aquatic invasive species; potential for limitations if decontamination products are not available.
    - c. Questions arose about the laws governing EMTs in Wyoming on Federal lands.
      - i. EMT administered IV fluids without Wyoming license.
      - ii. Notification to State Health Dept. resulted in warning without sanctions.
  4. Red Canyon Fire

- a. Type 3 incident at 120 acres when Team A was mobilized.
- b. Limited operational resources available.
- c. Heavy use of aviation resources.
- d. Fire might have remained Type 3 incident, but Type 2 IMT was ordered due to lack of other resources.
- 5. **ONC Staging**
  - a. Took advantage of being at training center to improve/update training for team members.
  - b. Demobed on day 8 from staging without an assignment
- 6. **Colorado Flooding – Larimer County**
  - a. Team B arrived 1 ½ days earlier for Larimer County.
  - b. Took several days to receive a tasking from FEMA.
  - c. Delegation of Authority from Larimer County conflicted with the FEMA tasking.
  - d. Disconnect with FEMA being located at Federal Center instead of locally; real-time information being received by team conflicted with other information being received by FEMA.
  - e. Coordination and cooperation with State of Colorado and local county officials was excellent.
  - f. 1,000 individuals and 700 pets extracted.
  - g. Over 1,000 missing persons when IMT arrived; that number down to 1 missing person when the team demobed.
  - h. FEMA IST and urban SAR team cooperation very successful once each side learned roles & responsibilities.
    - i. Combined IAP for all cooperating entities; FEMA looking at this model for future incidents.
    - ii. Currently working with Operations Committee to develop AAR presentation for IMT meeting in April.
  - i. Overview of talking points presented to Operations Committee (Attached)
    - i. Proposed new format for IMT rosters—currently being worked on cooperatively with RMACC, ICs and roster managers.
    - ii. Difficulties finding consistent MEDL; also experienced shortages in Aviation.
- C. **Type 2 Team B – Dan Dallas (*Presentation Attached*)**
  - 1. Very successful 2013 season; mobilized four times for six incidents.
  - 2. C&G stayed together for most of the season.
    - a. Minimal other problems identified with filling out team positions except FSC2 & FDUL.
    - b. Able to trade among all three Type 2 teams to fill needs for assignments.

- c. Worked heavily on trainees with IMT; most agency administrators were cooperative with allowing trainees on incidents.
  - 3. Suggest looking into using NIMO teams with Type 2 teams for training and development purposes.
    - a. Type 1 incident would use a NIMO to provide oversight for a Type 2 IMT, which runs the incident.
    - b. Allows opportunity to advance training and qualifications of Type 2 individuals up to Type 1.
    - c. Fits with design of NWCG Evolving Incident Management planning.
  - 4. Very little turnover for 2014—same C&G as 2013. Some moving of trainees and newly qualified resources.
- D. Type 2 Team C – Jay Esperance (***Hard-Copy Presentation on File***)
  - 1. Challenging to be Team C last year due to inequity of assignments between Type 2 IMTs; Ops Committee notes contain specific issues that have already been addressed.
  - 2. Wetmore fire (October 2012)
    - a. Fast, wind-driven fire.
    - b. Lost several houses, livestock and pets; Esperance spent significant time talking to residents, which was a good use of time and made inroads with locals.
    - c. Felt agency administrator from State of CO was too harsh; possibly due to inexperience with significant fire incidents. Smart followed up, and situation has improved since.
  - 3. East Peak fire
    - a. Active & challenging fire behavior.
    - b. Fire spread from private land to USFS, with same agency administrators as for Wetmore.
    - c. Several considerations with both agency administrators and differing objectives.
      - i. USFS concerns about suppressing fire in wilderness.
      - ii. Continued spread from USFS back to private/state land would threaten homes.
      - iii. Received approval to use retardant with VLAT and were able to save residences.
    - d. Excellent coordination with Lt. Col Utterback as National Guard liaison.
    - e. Wide response to community outreach; able to communicate effectively to residents using community meetings and radio broadcasts.
    - f. Spent time working on cost-share agreement development with USFS and CO State agency administrators.
  - 4. Miscellaneous Topics

- a. Assisted other Type 2 IMTs to fill out rosters when they experienced shortages.
  - b. Coordinated pre-season with NEMA and Rosebud Agency officials on incident management scenarios in light of extreme drought in those areas.
  - c. Conducted comprehensive pre-season scenario (420/520 style), which was highly successful and contributed greatly to team preparedness.
  - d. Experienced lots of problems with ADs assigned to team, which led to changes in 2014 roster.
    - i. Individuals capitalized on paid training, then were not available for assignments.
    - ii. Priority was not given to Team C unless no other assignments were available.
  - e. Implemented IDP for all C&G and unit leaders on team to encourage team member development; all C&G will be Type 1 qualified soon, except for one who is retiring.
  - f. State of South Dakota completed upgrades to team trailer for state-of-the-art IT support.
- E. Question raised by Davin: Is it necessary/considerate of ICs' time to require a report-out to Ops Committee and one to RMCG? Is there a more efficient way to do this?
- 1. ICs agree that another arrangement to combine the report-out will be more efficient
  - 2. Richardson suggests a combined meeting with RMCG/Ops/ICs for report-outs.
    - a. Davin adds that execs should be invited to this.
    - b. Would allow for more candid discussion and reduce/eliminate duplication.
  - 3. Concerns that some ICs were not sure what their presentation should include.
  - 4. **TASKING: Business Manager will develop report-out template for Committees and ICs, including expectations for presentations and season reviews. Requirement will also include submission and discussion of evaluations.**
- F. Comment from Carter that fielding 3 Type 2 IMTs may not have been possible if Team C hadn't had a slow season.
- 1. Likely that, even with current trainees in pipeline, RMA will only be able to host 3 teams under EIM.
  - 2. Operations Committee working with Training Committee to evaluate/improve Priority Trainee process for future IMT development.

## V. Operations Committee Report-Out

Dave Niemi

- A. Niemi will be 2014 Chair; Vaughn Jones Vice Chair; Neal Beetch 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Amy Bauldauf (USFS - RMACC) Operations Committee Administrative Assistant.
- B. Team Selections for third year of IMT rotation took place early January.
  1. 2<sup>nd</sup> year using ICAP, and general feeling is that system works well.
    - a. Looking into changes to how ICAP is used for IMT member applications and selections to incorporate ICs more into process and streamline notification of selection/non-selection.
    - b. Identified need for better tracking of qualifications, supervisor approvals, AD status, etc.; IQS/IQCS do not integrate with ICAP, so all checks must be done manually.
    - c. Trainee selections followed RMA Priority Trainee process.
      - i. All trainees were asked to apply to the pool in ICAP, but many applied to specific teams.
      - ii. GATR asking for feedback from ICs and others about performance of trainees on IMTs so that selection process can be more informed.
      - iii. Coordinated efforts to push IC and Aviation trainees has made noticeable difference.
  2. Review of all IMT selections made by ICs and Ops Committee
    - a. 142 vacancies on teams for 2014 rosters before 2<sup>nd</sup> round of selections.
    - b. Rationale presented for all out-of-area and other exception selections.
    - c. Applicants to IMTs in other GACCs forwarded to RMACC manager for vetting and RMCG approval.
      - i. GACGAC meeting included discussion about “poaching” IMT members from other GACCs.
      - ii. Issue may have some impact on RMA’s ability to fill out IMT rosters, particularly in shortage positions.
    - d. Created report to highlight vacancies on RMA teams.
      - i. Removed redundancies (multiple positions filled with same individual) by listing individual in highest qualified position.
      - ii. Helps display more clearly where shortages are, which helps illustrate more clearly where succession efforts should be focused.
    - e. Consensus to approve all selections.
  3. **RMCG will review selections from re-advertisement of 27 positions closing 2/14 before March conference call; Ops Committee will send selections and rationales to Business Manager for e-mail approval or special conference call if needed.**
- C. Developed new IMT site visit form with added interviews with Finance and other positions.
  1. Considering asking Business Committee to help with interviews of incident finance personnel



2. Prefer to have RMCG member present for site visit also.
- D. Site visits performed for all IMT fires in GACC for 2013; Niemi sending site visit form to all other GACC Ops Chairs as a heads-up if they send a team to the RMA.
- E. Will be working with IHCs in 2014 to improve readiness review process to ensure they are completed prior to IHC going available for assignment.
  1. One example: Horseshoe IHC arrived at Big Meadows without current incident qualification cards.
  2. All RMA IHCs required to submit checklist to RMACC prior to being statused available nationally.
- F. S-420 field session in the works for 2014; Kim Bang working on issue paper and request for IMT to volunteer to run course with cadre provided by GATR.
  1. Kitty Ortman & Paul Fieldhouse are Northern Rockies contacts that coordinated that geographic area's field 420 session.
  2. Robert LaPlant offered to assist wherever requested to help with coordination.
- G. Committee requests consideration for changing 3-year IMT commitment to one year for everyone except C&G.
- H. Sugg facilitated CO Flood AAR in January.
  1. RMACC, ICs & ESF4 participated.
  2. Will also be presented in summary at Spring IMT Meeting.
- I. Awards nominations coming from Operations.
- J. Review of proposed Mob Guide changes (handouts distributed)

## **VI. Committee Report-Outs**

- A. Information & Education Committee – David Eaker
  1. Jeni Lawver (SD State) will be Chair in 2014; Jeff Moyer (BIA), Vice Chair.
  2. Supported FPET outreach to RMA in 2013.
    - a. Request to make improvements to education efforts for outreach during extreme fire danger periods.
    - b. One FPET member trainee signed off and went on assignment to Wyoming.
    - c. Currently looking for applicants for 2014 season – advertisement on RMACC website currently; some concerns about filling out FPET teams in 2014.
  3. RMACC took over hosting/maintenance of InfoEd website from Colorado State Forest Service; CSFS will continue to host grants database.
  4. No identified need to amend Charter for 2014, but currently in process of looking at examples of mission statements from peer committees for ideas to improve current mission statement.
  5. Continue to interface with USFS Regional Prevention Committee for coordination of messages, etc.

6. Public info/communication plan draft finalized by RMACC detailer (Anne Rys-Sikora) in 2013; continue to work on finalizing draft.
  7. Vetted S-520 PIO candidates with training officer.
  8. Currently no representative from NE State or FWS (after Steve Segin)
  9. Continuing coordination of interagency fire restriction information and dissemination.
  10. Continuing outreach for fire prevention technicians.
- B. Aviation Committee – Steve Sorensen/Chris Fallbeck (**Presentation Attached**)
1. Chris Fallbeck will be 2014 Chair; Vice Chair TBA.
  2. Good safety lessons learned in 2012, which carried over into 2013 season.
    - a. Accident-free season.
    - b. ASTATs were very helpful without being intrusive or distracting to operations.
  3. Suppression SEATs
    - a. Initial concerns with pairing SEATs—in reality, assigning assets to incidents seemed to work fairly well.
    - b. Information is soft as contracts are still pending.
    - c. BLM (Glen Claypool) will administer the contract, but these SEATs are DOI funded and intended for use by the entire interagency fire community.
    - d. Intent will be for these SEATs to be managed nationally as large air tankers are managed.
    - e. Expect 2014 operations to be similar to 2013, including “SEAT Pairing.”
  4. VLAT Capabilities
    - a. Aviation Committee provided a VLAT Capabilities paper to RMCG to address concerns for where/when the VLAT should be considered for use.
    - b. Provided a cost comparison for cost/ gallon delivered, which showed the VLAT costs were favorable to the LAT and MAFFS when used appropriately.
    - c. VLAT vendor (10 Tanker) is now based out of Albuquerque.
  5. Aviation Operations in High Density Altitudes
    - a. Committee provided input to a letter sent to ICs regarding differences in aircraft behavior/pilot workload at high density altitude when the issue became apparent on some of the 2013 fires occurring at higher elevations.
    - b. Expect initial learning curve from pilots as they become accustomed to flying in the high density altitude environment.
    - c. Brief firefighters to expect the same and to allow the pilot to determine which kind of drop to make (spot drop, trail drop, etc.), as some types of drops may not be possible at high density altitudes and may put the ship into a dangerous flight regime.

6. CO State Update for 2014
    - a. Expect CO SEAT support similar to 2013.
    - b. Budget for other aircraft is still being determined; will update when more information is available.
    - c. Senate Bill 245 (CO firefighting aviation fleet) is still being pushed in State legislature.
    - d. Concerns with some National Guard operations have led to an aviation summit scheduled for January 28-30, followed by fire refresher with the National Guard (and hopefully some active duty) at Buckley AFB.
  7. Short-Haul/Hoist Ships
    - a. Short-haul/hoist extraction has grown into bigger favor with ICs as the capability became more well known.
    - b. Keep in mind that this capability is limited by the number of trained crews available, so not all incidents can have their own dedicated extraction asset.
    - c. Short-haul crews can reconfigure from bucket to short-haul in 20-30 minutes; ICs and others should be advised not to use them as pad alert assets, as their primary purpose is for fighting fire.
    - d. Keep in mind that environmental factors (winds/ceilings/night) or maintenance issues will require a fallback plan for meeting Dutch Creek protocols.
  8. Training
    - a. Ensuring courses are spread out enough geographically to support everyone's needs.
    - b. Ensuring training courses are meeting requirements and that enough qualified instructors are available to present quality courses.
    - c. Clark Hammond has volunteered to be the Aviation Committee rep to the Training Committee to mitigate these issues and coordinate future opportunities.
    - d. Esperance suggests capitalizing on National Guard and other training exercises to afford opportunities for taskbook completion (ex: ENGB coordination of retardant drops, etc.).
  9. Possibility that 2014 BJC facility work will require tanker base to relocate temporarily to FNL.
- C. Geospatial Technology Committee – Elise Bowne **(Presentation Attached)**
1. Data Flow plan developed in response to Waldo Canyon fire; presented at April 2013 IMT meeting.
    1. Focused on handling of sensitive data, including security of FTP site to prevent public sharing of homes burning, etc.
    2. Good opportunity to implement new plan on Black Forest fire in 2013.

- a. One challenge was out-of-area IMT on Black Forest; IC was educated on new plan, but plan was not implemented effectively due to lack of coordination with GISS.
  - b. Sensitive data was not shared publicly, but there were problems with IMT access to sensitive IR data.
- 2. Coordinated interagency effort to assemble GISS data drives.
  - a. Enabled faster sharing of consistent data on incidents.
  - b. Accommodated RMA and out-of-area IMT requests for copies of the drive.
  - c. Incorporated converted GeoPDF topo maps, which can be used on mobile devices; working with counterpart in California to complete data for Western U.S.
  - d. Considering sending one drive to Great Basin for dissemination to IMTs from that area.
  - e. May also house one drive at RMACC.
- 3. Looking for ways to improve communication of data flow procedures to out-of-area IMTs.
  - a. Comfortable with current methods for in-area IMTs.
  - b. Asking for RMCG to assist by incorporating into inbriefing for visiting teams, assisted by GISS or GeoTech Committee rep.
- 4. Training
  - a. Experienced difficulties in 2013 with filling GISS requests; qualified resources not always available.
  - b. Looking into hosting S-341 class in RMA to improve GISS pool.
    - i. Class not required, but very helpful.
    - ii. Often helps people determine whether or not they wish to pursue fire assignments as GISS.
- 5. **TASKING:** Graham will follow-up with committee on GeoTech tasking for EOC coordination from 2012; full tasking (all issues) was well beyond scope of one committee—still in progress.
- D. NFDRS Committee – Flint Cheney (**Presentation Attached**)
  - 1. Rocco Snart will be 2014 Chair; Gwenan Poirier Vice Chair.
  - 2. Committee chartered in 2013; tasked with developing area-wide strategic plan for managing NFDRS on interagency basis.
  - 3. Draft strategic plan presented (attached), which incorporates all committee duties listed in charter.
    - a. Largely refers to agency standards already listed in individual Fire Danger Rating System operating plans.
    - b. Intended to be umbrella document for geographic area, encompassing all existing unit plans.

4. Ott re-emphasized that committee is not and should not be responsible for maintenance or operation of agency RAWs stations or WIMS inputs. Rather, committee was tasked with coordinating separate plans and agency activities and provide guidance where needed.
    - a. Consensus that draft plan meets requirements set out in committee tasking.
    - b. **RMCG will review and approve draft plan as soon as possible.**
  5. Two issues over summer of 2013 required attention from the committee:
    - a. Montrose BLM WIMS issue resolved between Cheney and Gwenan Poirier.
    - b. Two Pike-San Isabel NF RAWs stations needed attention; Cheney worked personally to provide maintenance/repair in a timely fashion.
  6. Cheney anticipates continuing to be active on committee even in new position with USFS.
- E. Fire Program Analysis Committee – Mark Nelson (***Presentation Attached***)
1. FPA intended to be an interagency budget model used to formulate preparedness budget requests at departmental level.
  2. Currently, FPA is being phased out at national level.
    - a. Support Working Team currently evaluating program nationally.
    - b. Very little direction given from national level in past couple of years.
  3. Support Working Team scheduled to be disbanded March 2014, but still awaiting outputs from that group for direction moving forward.
  4. Expect to have very little impact to field in 2014.
    - a. May have some contact with Fire Program Unit leads to coordinate unit-level analysis.
    - b. Significant work is still being done on FPA data input sources.
  5. Future of FPA Committee
    - a. Currently looking at other geographic areas and NWCG for models to adopt after FPA is discontinued nationally.
      - i. Includes Planning Committee concept that can incorporate fire management plans, decision support, cohesive strategy and budget/resource planning coordination.
      - ii. Considerations include movement by USFS to discontinue fire management plan system; replace with combination of spatial planning/WFDSS, etc.
    - b. Not making recommendation to RMCG at this time; awaiting memo of direction from national program.
    - c. Will update via Business Manager to add agenda item to future conference call/meeting when decision needs to be made.
- F. Incident Business Committee – Lynda Berckefeldt

1. Karrie Davin will be 2014 Chair; Molly Keating Vice Chair; Diane Cartney Secretary.
  2. Will be selecting Buying Teams end of January.
    - a. Hoping to select Type 2 BUYT for RMA staffed entirely with RMA resources.
    - b. Goal is to have Type 1 and Type 2 BUYTs in 2015, pending training and qualification of resources needed to fill out teams.
    - c. Region 4 and Region 1 will combine purchasing & contracting groups in 2017; need for Region 2 to be self-sufficient before that time.
  3. Critical need identified for PROCs for IMTs; great benefit to teams when they're available, but current shortage means that many teams go without that position.
    - a. Berckefeldt recommends tapping into retired agency employees and upcoming resources to fill gaps.
    - b. Some needs being filled by new contract inspector position, but PROC is more versatile.
    - c. Common for multiple finance qualifications to be held by same resource, who is frequently a critical finance person on the home unit.
  4. Graham suggests marrying Business Committee with Operations and Training Committees to coordinate recruitment and training of finance resources.
    - a. Need to explore possibilities to work with non-traditional partners.
    - b. Procurement training class in Denver March 3-7 hosted by NPS; some concerns that class was not filling up but enough have applied that class can be held.
    - c. **TASKING: Business Committee to identify critical shortage finance positions and potential pool of resources for development.**
  5. February meeting scheduled to be in Lincoln, Nebraska; hoping to improve participation of Nebraska representatives.
  6. Need new Kansas representative after previous rep left; Carol Robinson will be new USFS representative when she assumes her new position in February.
  7. Request for FWS and BIA RMCG members to provide Berckefeldt with contact information for who should receive bills for 2013 season; still waiting for bills from USFS.
- G. Training Committee – Mike Bournazian
1. Bournazian will be 2014-2015 Chair.
  2. Goals for upcoming 2 years:
    - a. Improve communications; hoping that filling vacancies on committee will help with this.
    - b. Improve coordination with GATR to establish training website to serve as clearinghouse for all committee documents and provide continuity between chairs.

- c. Improve relations with Colorado DFPC and NWCG.
- 3. 2013 was second full season of using Priority Trainee system, and it has helped tremendously.
  - a. 80 priority trainees were mobilized in 2013 (inside and outside GACC); 25 were in Operations.
  - b. One current challenge is tracking of priority trainees/assignments.
    - i. Management of priority trainee list relies on local zones providing lists of trainees to GATR (over 1,000 resources listed in total).
    - ii. Contact information provided for resources not always dependable; problems identified with reaching resources on weekends/evenings if only office number or e-mail is provided.
    - iii. Workload on GATR is becoming overwhelming; Richardson states that 2014 will see more restrictions put on additional work for her.
    - iv. Training Committee will be working on strategy to assist GATR with workload, including putting more responsibility on zone training representatives.
    - v. Building trust climate will be important for future, so that GATR can delegate more to TNSPs and zone reps and alleviate bottleneck.
  - c. TNSPs are critical positions on IMTs which are currently in shortage.
    - i. Bournazian recommends that these positions be filled by agency employees from within the Geographic Area.
    - ii. Imperative that the TNSP be well-connected with zone training reps and GATR to maximize opportunities and coordination with priority trainee program.
  - d. Esperance highlighted importance of IMT trainee selection, including GATR participation during team selection.
    - i. Challenges with some agencies not processing taskbook certifications frequently enough.
    - ii. Suggestion to use Training Committee to review taskbooks and recommend for certification in order to fast track qualification.
  - e. LaPlant suggests using MAC Group to help push trainee opportunities in coordination with GATR.
- 4. Identified need to evolve role of TNSP position to provide more versatility in finding and capitalizing on training opportunities, particularly in areas of critical shortage.
- 5. Some problems with GATR network not utilizing closest forces to fill priority trainee assignments.

- a. Working relationships between specific GATRs may lend preference to resources that are further away than others.
- b. Also problematic for state training coordinators to help trainees that reside in another geographic area (i.e. State of Wyoming is split between RMA and EGB).
- 6. Possible taskings to be developed for Operations Committee & Training Committee to improve Priority Trainee program.
- 7. USFS has filled Training Specialist position with Diane Bolt.
- 8. BIA representative needed on Training Committee.
- 9. Esperance would like to see performance integrated into Priority Trainee scoring system to better inform decisions for trainee assignments/team selections; Mike Bournazian was very helpful in 2012.
- 10. S-420 is priority for Training Committee; working to coordinate with GATR on field session under development.
- 11. Pueblo Community College MOU
  - a. Previous presentation raised some questions from RMCG about authorities needed to sign agreement.
  - b. Will be added to February Conference Call agenda for further discussion.

**VII. RMACC Report-Out (*Presentation Attached*)**

**Glenn Bartter**

- A. Trend in 2013 to mobilize multiple IMTs on same day.
- B. Overview of workload for RMACC, including breakdown of resource orders by functional area.
  - 1. Workload also includes travel CBA reconciliation, which was previously handled at USFS regional office.
  - 2. Weather notifications (Red Flags/Fire Weather Watches) sometimes require multiple notifications per bulletin; required as part of South Canyon mitigation.
- C. Considerable challenges due to current and past vacancies; core staff supplemented by supplemental staff during season, but still critical need to fill those vacancies.
  - 1. Dispatch positions in critical shortage due to challenges with retention and recruitment.
  - 2. 90-day fireline experience requirement making it hard even for existing dispatchers to compete for their own positions; need for RMCG members to discuss requirements, then coordinate with agency HR offices to interpret regulations and solutions.
  - 3. Logistics Dispatcher positions top out at about GS-5, and all are seasonal.
- D. Overview of staffing used in 2013, with breakdowns by trainee/qualified, agency/AD, etc.
  - 1. Considerable difficulties with filling supplemental dispatch positions during height of season.
  - 2. Resource orders may circulate national system for full 48 hours before being returned "unable to fill."



3. Suggestion from Ott to try developing dispatch modules or teams in order to have faster response for ramp-up.
  - a. Problem filling out dispatch teams without ADs.
  - b. Very hard to get commitment for entire season as members of dispatch team.
- E. **TASKING: Bartter will develop/update staffing plan from 2009 – will be revisited each year. Deadline February Conference Call.**
  1. All agencies need to participate in discussion about financial support to RMACC.
  2. Suggestion from several agencies to use severity funding for part of RMACC staffing support during fire season.
  3. BIA committed to providing a fire code during season to support RMACC operations.
- F. IDIPP studies in some GACCs (SW) looking at centralizing dispatch into fewer offices.
- G. Incident Business Support critical need for dispatch; considerations to bring in IBA or similar person to coordinate business issues at RMACC.

**VIII. Closeout of Remaining SAT Report Action Items All**

- A. USFS reported on January Conference Call that no further updates would be given for items tasked to that agency.
- B. Review of Action Log to update status of items.
  1. Policy: Carter will review SAT Report and update on status.
  2. Dispatch: Originally assigned to Fletcher, then to Bartter; **will update status on March Conference Call.**
  3. Mobilization: Smart reports that Colorado LEAN process stalled due to floods; more information will be shared when available.
  4. Environmental: Pino updated H<sub>2</sub>S considerations & mitigation at Fall Meeting; maps have been distributed to RMCG members; suggestion to incorporate same information on GIS data drives being developed by GeoTech Committee.
    - a. **TASKING: Business Manager will post information on RMACC webpage for easier access and dissemination.**

**IX. FEMA Role with MAC Group Smart**

- A. Consulted with Donovan Puffer for input on role & value of incorporating FEMA with MAC.
  1. Benefited FEMA with better situational awareness on FMAG incidents.
  2. Allowed FEMA to support RMACC & RMCG for those incidents.
- B. Requested heads-up to FEMA when RMA elevates to PL3 so that they can have representative available for conference calls, etc.; Puffer will write draft language for Mob Guide or MAC Plan to that end.

## X. All-Hazard Teams Update (*Presentation Attached*) Chad Ray & Dwight Henninger

- A. FEMA Region 8 guidelines & certification process for Type 3 qualifications exists at state level, but process needs to be developed at local level.
  - 1. Colorado OEM runs all-hazard training and team certification system; State of Colorado hiring person specifically for rural and IMT training.
  - 2. Goal is to bring working group together for all-hazards IMT training; roadblock with FEMA not mandating certain training for positions, which is giving local agencies ability to opt out.
- B. Looking forward to helping to supporting national IMTs and providing surge capacity for non-line functions.
- C. Asking for RMCG support to provide opportunities for training, taskbook support and mentoring to all-hazard IMT members; larger benefits for trainees to access multi-operational period incidents, which are rare in all-hazard incidents.
- D. Five Type 3 IMTs applied for certification in Colorado in 2013.
- E. S-420 All-Hazard class offered Jan 2013 at CWFIMA; looking into opportunities future offerings.
- F. 2013 Mob Center – Grand Junction
  - 1. Type 1 operation was more complex than expected by Type 3 IMT.
  - 2. Finance section adds complexity, cost and slows process of moving resources— recommend eliminating this function from mob center in the future.
  - 3. Experienced difficulties meeting 30 minute turnaround goal for resources.
  - 4. AHIMT works well to come in and get operation rolling, then turn over to long-term management (regional team, etc.), due to limitations in capacity for length of assignment for all-hazards personnel.
- G. Planned exercise with Department of Energy in Grand Junction in April; RMCG members encouraged to participate.

## XI. Predictive Services Staffing

- A. BLM committed to funding May-August; whenever possible, other agencies will provide codes for cost sharing.
  - 1. Agency representatives agree that funding support will be available if requested; timely billing to states is imperative to ensure funds are available.
  - 2. Additional funding may be in the form of increase in agency contribution to RMACC, provided that it is allocated appropriately to support Predictive Services.
- B. USFS, BLM, NPS, FWS will get together to discuss workload and cost sharing; 2014 dispatch AOP still under construction.
- C. Ott requests comprehensive staffing plan and financial plan for RMACC to include Predictive Services.
- D. Davin requests that we continue to re-evaluate work plans, etc. to capitalize on efficiencies wherever possible.
- E. **TASKING:** Richardson will draft a formal response to Issue Paper (with others). Due by February Conference Call.

- XII. Issue Paper – Watchouts and Common Denominators Jones**
- A. Presentation of Issue Paper and review of recommendation; identified need to bring hazards and safety issues to light when WUI fires are concerned.
  - B. Submitted to BIA Safety Advisory Board for consideration.
  - C. Issue paper will be submitted to NWCG Operations Workforce Development Committee in time for next meeting in February.
  - D. Chair requests strengthening with historical examples of WUI fires that resulted in fatalities.
    - 1. Jones will add content to issue paper for discussion on February Conference Call.
    - 2. Graham will write support paper for submission with Issue Paper.
    - 3. **Update:** Issue paper and RMCG support letter submitted to Chair of NWCG Risk Management Committee; requires consideration by other NWCG entities.
- XIII. Issue Paper – Dispatch Center IT Support Cowan**
- A. FYI for impacts of changes in IT policy on dispatch centers.
    - 1. Issue already being addressed at national level; Bartter presented this paper at national coordinators meeting in January.
    - 2. Supported by Flint Cheney’s paper regarding loss of IT support previously provided by USFS regional office positions.
  - B. **TASKING: RMCG will write response to Issue Paper (needs to be assigned).**
- XIV. Development of RMACC Center Manager Tasking All**
- A. Questions about what ability RMCG possesses to create a delegation to RMACC Manager.
  - B. Ott points out that position description for RMACC Manager contains authorities and expectations already.
  - C. Davin suggests including more language in Dispatch AOP to cover RMACC Manager.
  - D. Glenn refers to Red Book Ch. 19 for roles & responsibilities for GACCs.
  - E. Graham suggests tasking for updates to AOP; LaPlant cautions that dealing with authorities can get into succession issues.
  - F. Ott recommends that RMACC Manager Delegation of Authority be limited to actions that require a delegation and no more.
  - G. **TASKING: Richardson will take lead on editing AOP and developing RMACC Center Manager expectations from RMCG. Due for March Conference Call.**

**XV. Spring Meeting Updates**

**Davin**

- A. Review of draft IMT meeting agenda.
- B. Similar format for RMCG/IC/Executive meeting, with addition of Operations Committee.
- C. Davin will work on creating time for Training Committee to address IMTs re: priority trainee program, etc.
- D. E-iSuite will not be ready for implementation in 2014; ROSS training will still be on agenda.
- E. Request for teams to be responsible for their own copies, etc. to reduce cost to NPS from hotel; effort to coordinate team trailers and other equipment.
- F. ICs should provide Davin with any specific needs for A/V support or other capability in their meeting rooms.

**XVI. Administrative Items**

**All**

- A. Reminder to all members to provide 2014 Delegation of Authority if it needs to be renewed or updated.
- B. Review and updates to contact lists, calendars, etc.
  - 1. Reminder to RMCG members to review & update Executive listed for respective agency.
  - 2. Business Manager will send final updated contact list for review.
- C. Committee & Dispatch Center Liaison updates:
  - 1. Operations Committee: Richardson
  - 2. Incident Business Committee: Thompson
  - 3. Montrose Dispatch Center: Richardson
  - 4. Pueblo Dispatch Center: Thompson
  - 5. Casper Dispatch Center: Esperance
  - 6. Fort Collins Dispatch Center: Graham
  - 7. Durango Dispatch Center: Smart

**XVII. Round-Robin**

**All**

- A. Ott: Working on filling vacancies at USFS, including Operations, RMACC Manager, IBA and others; Ott preparing to move into new position for Washington Office.
- B. Esperance: State of South Dakota has two dispatcher vacancies, but may only fill one due to budget; two air attack platforms owned by state, but they are not competitive with others available; planning to move to new office in Rapid City when it is complete; planning to attend IHC meeting in Utah.
- C. Richardson: BLM Colorado acting State Director took new position elsewhere; Ruth Welch will be acting; approved to hire fuels position, but Hammond and Oxiter will be handling operations issues until filled.

- D. Cowan: Vacancy in Assistant Center Manager at Rawlins; working on agreement for DOR fire suppression agreement; working to recruit emergency medical director to help with EMT certifications.
- E. Snart: New CRRF being issued this year, which will include all-hazard resources; must be updated prior to May 1—working to supplement RMACC staffing to handle workload.
- F. Jones: Vacant helicopter manager position being re-flown.
- G. LaPlant: New regional director TBA; Wind River superintendent still vacant; BIA will make its resources available to assist whenever/wherever possible.
- H. Hall: Vacant Pine Ridge Agency FMO.
- I. Carter: Regional Fire Coordinator Jim Kelton retired—Carter acting through mid-May; underwent significant budget cuts over past few years; regional fire staff down to 5 ½ FTEs, including RMCG Business Manager.