



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

Conference Call December 16, 2010

On Call:

Bob Jones
Jim McMahill
Mike Davin
Dave Hall
Joe Lowe/ Beth Hermanson
Ken Kerr
Jeff Fedrizzi
Bill Ott
Jim Fletcher (Advisor)
Blair Done (Gen. Council, SDDA)
Ray Weidenhaft
Paul Hohn

Not Available:

Mark Boche
Don Westover
Wendy Heersink (Business Man.)
Dave Carter
Ross Hauck
Dan Smith (NMAC representative)
Cal Pino
Rich Homann

I. NMACC/GMACC Meeting in Boise-Fletcher

- Joe Lowe, Glenn Bartter, and Jim Fletcher attended.
- IMT Succession Strategy: They are looking at numerous options and combination of options. There is going to be time for comment and input on the various proposals.
- Looking at one team type fits all. No more Type 1 or Type 2 Teams. No differentiation between Type 1 and Type 2 Teams.
- New version of WFDS is coming out.
- Dick Bar's presentation on info sharing on implementation of Federal fire policy. Main points:
 - ❖ Lack of unified direction on fires throughout the US. Is a concern to everybody.
 - ❖ Multiple Objective Fires. Two issues came up: 1. Change in the thinking if we're going to accomplish some resource objectives, on a fire, eventually it is going to burn to an area where need to stop it. If conditions mimic what you are trying to accomplish. Get it done so that not having to go long term. 2. Concern with numerous fires on the ground under MM long term. When is enough enough and not spread too thin?
- Incident Business Committee was tasked with looking at different ways of handling AD's and how they handled the oil spill response.

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- Discussion on all hazard and getting agreements in place. Will probably see some changes.
- Wildland Fire Institute: plan in the works.
- Bode Shaw spoke on international support update. Going into agreement with Australia and Israel.
- Billing procedures, USFS proposed changes in the way we bill. Was not received well by most of the GMACC.
- In GMACC meeting everyone supported the Substitution IC Issue Paper. Was brought forward to NMACC and they are going to look into it.
- Some regions are already substituting Type 1 IC's in the GAs.

II. Air to Ground Naming Conventions-Issue Paper -Hohn

- Rocky Mountain and Eastern Great Basin Geographic Area are pilots for this process.
- We are going to go ahead and do on an experimental basis.
- Paul Hohn brought this forward through the Ops Committee and had spoken to the Center Managers.
- Was well received by the Center Managers. Thought it would alleviate the confusion for out of area aviation resources.
- Need to have endorsement from RMCG. Jim asked for member support. All supported

TASKING: RMCG will send a letter out along with this naming system.

III. Team C Issue Paper-Fletcher

- Joe spoke to Kim Christianson while in Boise and apologized for the missed assignment. Kim did not feel this was a big issue.
- NGP Board of Directors has also examined this issue and has written a response to the issue paper stating that mitigation measures have been put in place.
- NGP Board supports leaving the wording in the MOB Guide as is.
- The State of SD has also looked into its processes and has worked with the Board to make changes in the State process including management of the PL process.
- The General Council for SDDA, Blair Dunn, speaking on behalf of the Secretary and the Administration support what the NGP Board has come up with and feel that measures are in place to protect the State resources and addressing the lag time.
- The RMCG members discussed the issue, the NGP letter, and the alternatives.
- The issue was not that a Team was unavailable; rather the appearance that one of the partners would make them (the Team) unavailable.

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- One RMCG member asked that serious consideration be given to the NGP Board letter (December 2, 2010). They have come up with viable alternatives with three specific items that would resolve this issue.
- One member recommended that RMCG should consider the following:
 1. Operations Committee works with the Board so that the Zone mob guide documents those three items on the first page of the NGP letter.
 - ***“Identified additional MAC call after hour procedures and protocols to address changes in preparedness levels during unique weather conditions.”***
 - ***“Obtain a qualified Deputy Incident Commander. If necessary, for political or any other reason, that Team C Incident Commander is not available to respond to a Team dispatch; the qualified Deputy Incident Commander will mobilize a Team”.***
 - ***“Identify additional Command and General Staff operating capacity. In the event, any or all other State personnel cannot be mobilized for political or other reason, identify in alternative staffing plans or contingencies. Team C has enough depth that it could still field a team even if the ATGS, PIO2, FSC2, and PSC2 positions were pulled by State, Team C is two deep in all but one of the Command and General Staff Positions.”***

These should be documented in the Mob Guide.

2. Minor change to the language in the RMAIMG page 37 lines 18-19. Since this is an RMCG sanctioned (sponsored) team, instead of saying *the Great Plains Board provides oversight*, state *“by delegation from the RMCG”, Great Plains Board provides management and oversight.*
- One member suggested that RMCG look at Zone Teams in the succession strategy/planning.
 - Jim solicited comment and discussion from all of the members.
 - Concern was brought up that the “Team C” issue keeps coming up and the perception that Team C falls under a different set of rules verses the other RMCG Teams.
 - Within the Mob Guide there is no direction stating that the Secretary of Agriculture has a say on whether Team C takes and assignment.
 - The topic of Zone Teams and Succession Strategy will be added to the January 6th conference call agenda.
 - There is no signature from any state official on the GPC Board letter.

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Recommendation for Consensus:

Adopt Alternative 2 (of the Consistent Management of RMA Type 2 Incident Management Teams Issue Paper; 11/08/2010) with following caveats.

1. RMCG Operations Committee work with their counterparts on the Great Plains Board to ensure that bullet number one from their December 2 letter, response to Team C Issue Paper, get documented with specific procedures in the Great Plains Zone Mob Guide .
2. Great Plains Zone Board, with cooperation from the Ops Committee, presents their roster for Team C at the January Meeting for approval from RMCG. That roster should incorporate bullets 2 & 3 from their letter including identifying a qualified deputy IC as well as other command and general staff.
3. Restate on page 37 lines 18 and 19 (RMAIMG) by delegation from the RMCG", Great Plains Board provides management and oversight.
4. Replace first sentence of Alternative 2 to "Team C would continue to be managed as in 2010".

General consensus was reached with exception that one member coming to consensus with reservations.

Tasking: Joe will follow up to be sure that the changes are made to the GP Zone Mob Guide are made.

IV. Spring Meeting-Lowe

- Joe has Joe Pelly scheduled to speak again
- Joe will call Kelly Gwett: Rules of Engagement; as speaker
- Todd Conklin is scheduled as key note speaker for Wednesday.
- Contract is done for this year for the hotel
- Need to sign the next two years contract by January 31, 2011 or we will loose the hotel for our specific dates .
- IC's creates the agenda? Joint effort. Last year worked through Operations Committee.
- Have a proposed agenda. Need to be sure we don't have too many processes in place.
- Joe and Ken will talk off line about the Ops Committee involvement with the Spring Agenda.



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V. Operations Committee Charter and Operating Guide-Kerr

- Referring to last Conference Call notes from November the 18th, 2010.
- Issues with Ops Guide: Wording on submitting recommendations to RMCG for actions (page 20). Intent was for RMCG to make the decision. Add the wording "shall recommend" to RMCG. Up to RMCG Chair where it goes from there. Up to the agency to make a final determination.
- Ops Charter: The RMCG Final Consensus Decision Model does allow for the use of Robert's Rule of Order.
- In case of a block, "If the item cannot be resolved after reconsideration, it may be moved to the Executive Coordination Group.
- Purpose and Duty of management oversight of IMTs: Operations Committee should maintain that duty. RMCG provides the oversight. Operations Committee works for RMCG.
- Liaison Rotation: Wording will be added that "it is recommendations".
- Conflict of Interest: Jim will forward what Joe sent to Ken.
- Ken will give feedback to Chuck Russell and revisions will be made and provided to RMCG by the Winter Meeting.

VI. New Fuels and Prescribed Fire Committee Chair-Fedrizzi

- Current Chair is Paul Langowski. He has been chair for over 3 years.
- In Charter states that Chair is only required to serve 2 years.
- Fuels Charter states that Vice Chair would become Chair.
- No one has come forward to take over Chair.
- Current rotation would go to NPS.
- Mike Davin: Andy Bundshuh will take over as Chair.
- Vice Chair would go to a State. Up to Colorado next. If Colorado is unable to take the Vice Chair, then South Dakota will.
- Jeff will coordinate the transition between Langowski and Bundshuh

VII. Request for Dispatch Review for State of Wyoming for BLM-Fedrizzi

- Have a vacancy in Center Manager and other positions as well as infrastructure needs.
- Looking at review to determine options. Also looking at budgets.
- Looking to find most effective and efficient options.
- Sent letters out to interagency players.
- Looking at forming an interagency review team.

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Reminder that input to the RMCG Operating Plan is due to Mike by January 3rd.

Bill Ott will be serving as Acting Director of Region 2 USFS, Fire and Aviation Management through mid January. At that time, Mark Boche will be returning. He will be back half days beginning of January.

Looks like State of Wyoming will be able to continue their helicopter program.

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