



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 Fall Meeting October 23-24, 2012 Lander, Wyoming

In Attendance:

Facilitator Jim Fletcher

Business Manager Brooke Malcolm

Members:

Chair Bob Jones

Vice Chair Ken Kerr

Jay Esperance

Vaughn Jones

Angie Foster

Bill Ott

Mike Davin

David Carter

Ron Graham

Cal Pino

Willie Thompson

Don Westover *(by Telephone)*

Dave Hall *(by Telephone)*

Guests:

Kelly Kane

Paul Hohn

Elise Bowne *(by Telephone)*

Dwight Henninger *(by Telephone)*

Chad Ray

Pete Blume

Todd Pechota

Todd Richardson

Earl Imler

Steve Sorensen

InfoEd Committee

Unavailable:

Ross Hauck

Dan Smith

1. RMCG Succession

All

- Ken Kerr will be 2013 RMCG Chair.
- Vice Chair is responsible for Spring IMT Meeting in April; important to be involved in that process before beginning of new year. Average cost to Vice Chair's agency is \$10,000.
- Stand-downs require discussion and consensus to adjust rotation.
- Next Vice Chair should be from State of Colorado, according to RMCG Operating Plan.
 - State of Colorado needs rotation adjustment to allow for new RMCG member to gain organizational knowledge.
 - Permanent representative has not been determined yet—slated to be hired by January.
 - Ready to assume Vice Chair position in two years.
- Recommendation is to remain with Fed-State-Fed alternating rotation whenever possible.
 - Would put state in Vice Chair position for 2013.
 - Next state in rotation is Wyoming.
- Consensus reached that Ron Graham will assume Vice Chair position for 2013.

- Fish & Wildlife Service will be next for Vice Chair seat in 2014, followed by State of Colorado in 2015.
- **Tasking:** Davin to amend RMCG Operating Plan to add amended Chair/Vice Chair rotation as appendix. Appendix should include past rotation for historical purposes.

2. Operations Committee IC Selection

Kelly Kane

- Priorities in IC selection included strengthening the RMA IMTs through diversity in IC agencies and experience, and exposure to different management styles.
- Operations Committee Issue Paper outlines candidates and Operations Committee recommendations.
- Vacancies in Type 1 IC, Deputy and Trainee positions.
- Vacancy in Team C IC position.
- Vacancies in Deputy IC positions on Type 2 teams.
- Recommendations:
 - Type 1 IC: Pete Blume
 - Jim Thomas applied for Type 1 IC, but did not complete application, so it was thrown out.
 - Type 1 Deputy IC: no recommendation
 - Suggest re-advertisement.
 - Only applicant was Dan Dallas; committee does not feel confident recommending him for Type 1 position before he demonstrates satisfactory performance as IC at Type 2 level.
 - Team A IC: Todd Richardson
 - Team A Deputy IC: Shane DelGrosso
 - Based upon recommendations to provide additional experience and development under a different management style.
 - Confidence that IC & Deputy will be able to work together in a professional manner.
 - Team B IC: Todd Pechota
 - Team B Deputy IC: Chuck Russell & Mark Giacoletto (Job Share)
 - Team C IC: Jay Esperance
 - Great Plains Zone Board did not provide recommendations until after Operations Committee selections were made.
 - GPZ Board recommends Jay Esperance as IC and Shane DelGrosso as Deputy.
 - Dave Hall will notify GPZ Board of consensus decision.
 - Team C Deputy IC: Mark Hatcher
 - Trainee ICs:
 - Confusion about whether or not trainees needed to reapply for 2013.
 - Need deputy for Type 1 team.
 - Suggest re-advertising for all Trainee IC positions and Type 1 Deputy IC position.

- Trainees will be placed under control of GATR to prioritize and assign for each team call-out.
- Suggestion to consider open and continuous roster for C&G positions in the RMA.
 - Region 5 has used this strategy successfully.
 - Other team members would be required to reapply each year.
 - Trainees organized in a pool for rotation through all teams.
- Proposal to contact Todd Pechota to see if he is interested in reapplying for Type 1 Deputy IC.
 - Dan Dallas could then assume Type 2 IC for Team B, for which he applied.
 - Kerr contacted Pechota, and he agreed with RMCG recommendation. Will reapply for (and be assigned to) Type 1 Deputy IC.
 - Dallas will be assigned to Team B IC position.
- Consensus to approve Operations Committee recommendations, with modifications for Pechota and Dallas as described.
- Notifications will be made by conference call from Operations Committee and RMCG leadership.
- Identified need for modification to Mob Guide language on P. 42 regarding requirement for Type 2 service prior to Type 1 assignment.
 - Operations Committee will draft language for approval.

3. RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS Issue Recommendation

Ken Kerr

- Ad hoc task group: Kerr, Boche, Ott, Paul Cooke, Kevin Kline.
- Lower North Fork Prescribed Fire Escape Review Team (Bass) made recommendations regarding RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS data.
 - First recommendation was not related to anything identifiable in report's background.
 - Report did not look at historical actions taken to improve RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS systems and accuracy of information.
 - SAFENET was issued by RMA Predictive Services regarding problems with management of the systems.
- RMA has used SMEs (Jim Brain, et al) to troubleshoot RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS issues, which has resulted in progress toward a more reliable system.
- Boche & Kerr involved with Kevin Kline, Paul Cooke and others to address recommendations.
 - Operations Committee was asked to make recommendations for a response to Governor's office.
- August 21 issue paper from Operations Committee communicated confusion about origin of recommendation from Bass Report, and made recommendations.
 - Recommended creation of RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS committee under RMCG to address issues and develop a RMA NFDRS plan.

- Paul Cooke following up with Bill Bass to get clarification on how Bass Report recommendations were derived.
- Ott expressed concern about potential for liability of RMCG members for problems with RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS systems.
 - RMCG previously endeavored to create a RMA NFDRS plan, but it was stalled.
 - Need alignment with Predictive Services to address issues at hand, but tasking should not be assigned to that group solely.
 - Important to delineate between maintenance of RAWS stations and management of WIMS/NFDRS data.
 - Support standing committee concept and other recommendations from Operations Committee.
 - RMA NFDRS plan should be umbrella over zone plans, providing facilitation and direction for development of consistent plans.
- Should make clear that RMACC and Predictive Services are not responsible for fulfillment of these taskings.
 - Predictive Services personnel were chosen for inclusion because of their expertise and historical knowledge.
 - Not possible to assign one person (including creation of new position at RMACC) to complete this project.
 - Should be an integrated and coordinated interagency/interdisciplinary effort.
- Suggestion to place new committee under Operations Committee dismissed.
 - Operations Committee already has full schedule of tasks.
 - New committee should interface with Operations, but be autonomous under RMCG direction.
- Consensus to approve Operations Committee August 21 issue paper as written, and:
 - Appoint new ad hoc task group to draft its charter for RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS committee under RMCG. Draft requested by Winter Meeting in January.
 - Assign Operations Committee Recommendation #2 to new committee.
 - Assign tasking to new committee for development of RMA NFDRS plan.
 - Write letter for RMCG Executives to Colorado Governor Hickenlooper, outlining actions to be taken. Task group will write letter with Carter's assistance. Letter will be sent to RMCG membership for approval.
 - Assign new committee representatives from each RMCG agency:

▪ John Barbarinas - BIA	▪ Rich Sterry – FWS
▪ TBD - Wyoming	▪ Jay Whicomb – South Dakota
▪ Nate Williamson - NPS	▪ Flint Cheney – USFS
▪ Cheryl King – WY BLM	▪ Tim Matthewson – Predictive Svcs.
▪ Gwenan Poirier – CO BLM	▪ TBD – Nebraska
▪ Rocco Snart – Colorado	
- Liaison for new committee TBD.

4. **RMCG Relationship with State of Colorado**

Vaughn Jones

- House Bill 1283 moved wildland fire responsibilities from Colorado State Forest Service to Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control, nested under Colorado Department of Public Safety.
 - Organizational structure included in handout.
 - Will use State of Colorado All-Hazard regions as template for DFPC boundaries.
 - Overlay fairly closely with dispatch boundaries.
 - Paul Cooke is interim Director until position is permanently filled.
 - Rocco Snart acting as Section Chief until position is permanently filled.
 - Jane Lopez will take over aviation program Nov. 15.
- Aviation program being evaluated for expansion beyond SEATs.
 - May include helicopters and other aviation resources moving forward.
- Still trying to determine DFPC role in fire suppression with relation to county sheriffs, etc.
- Still determining relationship roles with Colorado State Forest Service.
- Working to catch up on payments for fire suppression invoices.
 - Reorganization and state statute restrictions on payments have held up the process.
 - On track to be a record year for payments processed by State of Colorado for fire suppression.

5. **All-Hazard Representation on RMCG**

All

- Representatives from Colorado all-hazard organizations (Chad Ray, Dwight Henninger, Greg Morrison) have been participating with RMCG since April Spring Meeting.
- Good starting point to have presence of all-hazard representatives with RMCG and MAC.
- Need to solidify and formalize roles moving forward with Colorado and other states as needed.
 - Currently non-voting guests.
 - Looking for way to provide support and insight to RMCG with regard to wildland fire and all-hazard incidents and decisions.
 - Hope to provide recruiting base for fire positions, as well as cross-walking with all-hazard qualification system.
- Consensus to support inclusion of all-hazard representative(s) as *ex officio* RMCG member(s).
 - Concerns raised about RMCG mission creep in the future moving from fire to all-hazard.
 - Including other players in the mix may help alleviate current key position staffing and qualifications issues the RMA is facing.
 - Receiving input from FEMA and other all-hazard representatives can help ensure future alignment with all-hazard entities.
 - Need to examine statutory authorities and agreements moving forward with other partners.

- Need to have good alignment with Executive Group before finalizing arrangement for all-hazard inclusion.
- Important to delineate between RMCG and MAC for roles and responsibilities.

6. State of Nebraska Issue Resolution

All

- Earl Imler, Response & Recovery Section Manager & Operations Chief, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.
- High-activity fire season revealed gaps in coordination between RMCG and State of Nebraska.
 - RMCG needs better understanding of organizational structure of and relationships between responsible agencies for emergency and wildland fire management in Nebraska.
 - NEMA plays important role in fire management, along with Nebraska State Forestry.
- NEMA is funding agency for wildland fire; answers to governor's office.
 - Possibly should be representative for RMCG, with Nebraska State Forestry in secondary role.
 - Involvement with Great Plains Zone would also be recommended to solidify roles & relationships.
 - Next GPZ Board meeting is in January in Rapid City. Dave Hall and Jay Esperance will ensure Imler will be invited to attend or participate in some way.
- Westover agrees that NEMA needs a more active role with regard to wildland fire management.
 - Nebraska State Forestry has and will continue to play a pivotal role in training and coordination of wildland fire, but lacks firefighting resources.
 - NEMA operates as a military agency under Nebraska National Guard.
 - Nebraska Forest Service and NEMA, along with many other agencies sign off on the cooperative agreement for wildland fire.
 - Expect to have 5-year agreement for State of Nebraska completed by end of October. McMahill will participate in these discussions.
- Fedrizzi developed issue paper for situation in Nebraska which included recommendations for improvement which may be a good starting point for task group.
- Concerns expressed by ICs on issues related to operational control, delegations of authority, and incident management in Nebraska during 2012 fire season.
 - Recommendation to set up meeting between ICs, RMCG member(s), Operations Committee representative(s), and State of Nebraska representative(s) to iron out details about future fire season coordination.
 - **Tasking:** Jim McMahill to facilitate Nebraska meeting to coordinate fire operations and RMCG representation. Meeting should include input from ICs, incorporate recommendations from Fedrizzi's issue paper, identify roles in delegation of authority for State of Nebraska, and formalize representation to RMCG.

- Ott suggested that both State Forestry and NEMA be represented on RMCG.
- Suggestion to hold Winter Meeting in January in Nebraska.

7. RMACC Update

Jim Fletcher

- Public Information position at RMACC has become a distraction for RMACC away from its principal mission.
 - Steve Segin departing USFS to assume a position with Fish & Wildlife.
 - Segin's position may not be filled, leaving public information role open to reassignment.
 - Requesting guidance from RMCG to improve process by sharing responsibility between all agencies.
 - Interagency approach very difficult when position is hosted by one agency.
 - Need synchronization of information being presented by different agencies in different locations for unity of message.
 - Joint Information Center works well when activity is high.
 - Public Information duty officer arrangement needs to be coordinated strategically.
 - RMACC webpage needs attention to improve navigation and make information more accessible to public.
 - Suggestion to assign tasking to InfoEd Committee to develop plan for public information management at the GACC. Kerr and Ott will attend committee meeting by conference call to prime for tasking.
 - **Tasking:** InfoEd Committee to evaluate public information system used in the RMA. Develop a comprehensive plan for managing public information officers and coordinating fire information across agency boundaries.
- Vacancy at RMACC for Area Dispatcher has gone unfilled for 4 years.
 - Need to fill position to continue providing quality service at RMACC.
 - Funding from Segin's position may be a pathway to flying position.
- State of Colorado-funded term position hosted by BLM will expire next May.
 - BLM cannot extend beyond 4 year term.
 - Looking for another agency to host.
 - State of Colorado also looking at alternative models to ensure position is not lost. Currently awaiting budget resolution for 2013.
- Shortages and vacancies remain in dispatch centers across RMA.
 - Busy seasons causing burnout in dispatchers.
 - Difficulty recruiting and hiring well-qualified individuals.
- Mobilization centers were very successful in 2012.
 - Want to develop "turn-key" system for future to streamline setup process.
 - Mob center plan was developed in 2002.
 - Mob center plan should lay out responsibilities and authorities for activation, probable locations, trigger points for activation, key players and pre-season agreements.

- Should include Operations Committee, MAC group, contracting, and RMACC representatives.
- Suggest contacting Don Scronek and others who were involved in 2012 to assist with coordination. Will present at RMA Center Managers' meeting in November.
- Colorado State (Ray) will assist with coordination. All-hazard teams (Henninger) will also be a source of guidance.
- Transportation will be a critical item for contracting.
- Should be incorporated into RMAIMG Chapter 20 for 2013.
- **Tasking:** Fletcher to work with RMA center managers, in cooperation with Operations Committee, to develop mobilization center plan to be implemented for 2013 fire season.

8. Type 1 Team Follow-Up

Pete Blume

- Type 1 Team had five assignments for 65 days in 2012.
 - Generally good assignments.
 - Biggest issue was overall impact of days out on team members: fatigue, illness, burnout, home unit workload, etc.
 - Nearly impossible to field team by end of season; same problems echoed by other Rocky-Basin teams.
- Will be requesting updates for all trainees on team from C&G.
 - Status of all trainee progress on taskbooks.
 - Plans for taskbook completion for any trainee with incomplete tasks.
- Felt availability of crews was within expectations, with regard for the level of activity and scarcity of resources.

9. Team A Follow-Up

Todd Richardson

- Started in May with Hewlett Fire in Fort Collins.
 - Good on-week assignment with early season activation.
 - Resolved some public information issues.
 - Formed good relationship with Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest.
- Springer Fire in Lake George was next.
 - Interaction with terror task force due to speculation that fire was started by Al Qaeda.
 - Meteorite entered fire airspace.
 - At end of assignment Safety and Operations Section personnel assisted with Waldo Canyon Fire during Type 3 incident management.
- Assisted ARNF and Larimer County with start of High Park fire with Type 3 organization.
- Powell Complex in Meeker, CO was 5 days.
- Wellnitz fire in Nebraska & South Dakota presented some challenges.
 - Safety infractions were evident as a result of the lack of coordination with State of Nebraska.

- Pine Ridge Agency was well-coordinated and capable.
- Alpine Lake fire helped develop partnership with Ft. Washakie BIA.
 - Coordinated effort helped determine appropriate team size for incident.
 - Financial issues and cost containment were resolved quickly and seamlessly.
- Training and Experience
 - 42 trainees throughout season. 21 taskbooks completed: 1 Command, 1 Safety, 1 Information, 5 Plans, 5 Logistics, 3 Operations, 1 Aviation, 4 Finance.
- Favorable evaluations throughout season.
- Concerns about team rotation related to Planning Level addressed with Operations Committee, and will be presented through that committee.

10. Team B Follow-Up

Todd Pechota

- 4 assignments with 8 fires.
 - Out for total of 35 days; longest 14 days, shortest 6 days.
 - Managed 177,444 acres of fire.
 - No serious accidents or injuries.
- Opportunity to manage fires in various management strategies, ranging from confine/contain to highly complex.
- Trainees taskbooks signed off: 4 DIVS, 1 PIO2, 1 PSC2, 1 GISS 1 SCKN 1 RESL 1 EQTR 1 DOCL 1 PTRC 1 SUPL, 1 COML 1 SITL 1 BCMG 1 FSC2.
- Concerns about fires in Nebraska, including Delegation of Authority and command & control of resources.
 - Able to eventually establish relationships with parties involved.
 - Developed span of control that was more comfortable for everyone to ensure safety of operation.
- Russel's Camp fire presented unique challenges.
 - 12 instances of heat-related issues; 2 resulted in medevac to Casper.
 - Difficult terrain and elevation contributed to problems.
 - Also perception that national caterers are not providing food that meets dietary requirements of firefighters.
 - Ordered supplemental foods (including fresh fruit) for firefighters, which seemed to reduce frequency of heat-related problems.
- Overall successful season; positive performance evaluations.

11. Team C Follow-Up

Jay Esperance

- Joe Lowe is attending to family medical issues. Has stepped down as IC of Team C.
- 5 fires this season, 2 complexes.
- Lowe handled external incidents, Esperance handled internal incidents. Trainees were responsible for closeout packages.

- Received favorable performance ratings throughout season.
- Trainee process:
 - A total of 5 C&G positions signed off this year.
 - Team C made strides to improve the process and standards for the use of trainees.
 - Used RMA priority trainees with assistance of GATR and Operations Committee.
- Lowe held daily stakeholder meetings, which worked very well to bring together all parties involved (utilities, Red Cross, sheriffs, etc.). Developed and communicated action points for all cooperators to eliminate confusion and streamline evacuations and other critical activities.
- Buying team issues challenges included sharing the Type 1 buying team which resulted in difficulty obtaining critical resources (i.e. drinking water).
- Some fires in areas with high DUI rates. This caused some safety problems and close calls with fire personnel driving on the same roads with drunk drivers.
- Very successful in bringing in teams from outside the area to cover GPZ when Team C was on assignment.
 - Were able to bring in 5 teams to Black Hills, most of which responded as quickly as Team C.
- Cow Camp fire on Medicine Bow-Routt.
 - Closely followed the Full Suppression Strategies provided by the Agency Administrator.
 - The Forest Supervisor's cost conscience might have effected efficiencies.
 - Experienced a tornado during assignment.
- Guernsey fire was in chaos before team's arrival.
 - No coordination between cooperators in Type 3 management.
 - Wind and weather conditions assisted greatly with suppression efforts.
- Weber fire revealed conflict between county sheriff and BLM agency administrator.
 - Difficulty navigating relationships with those involved.
 - Lowe's use of gel continues to be perceived conflict of interest. To address this concern, Lowe obtained legal statement that no conflict of interest is present.
 - Gel was used to protect critical infrastructure, which was threatened.
 - Great success coordinating and collaborating with locals regarding strategies and tactics, which helped fill gaps in historical knowledge of fires in the area. (For example, local landowner identified an old dozer line for area that was critical.)
- Longhorn Complex presented challenges due to thunderstorm outflows and local Tribal administration.
 - Lost 20,000 acres over two nights.
 - Resources that could have been used were not sent to the fire due to lack of communication between agency and dispatch.
 - Forced to burn sacred ground to protect critical resources, including sacred Sundance site. Some backlash from one tribal medicine man.
- Good experience on Region 23 Complex in Nebraska.
 - Worked well with NEMA and agency administrator for USFS.
 - Excellent cooperation and collaboration with all the Stakeholders.

- RMCG will send letter to Joe Lowe to thank him for his many years of service.

12. MAC After-Action Review

Ken Kerr

- Worked from existing MAC Plan in 2012.
 - Plan needs to be updated and refined so that it is more effective.
 - MAC coordinator and trainee made recommendations for improvement (handouts).
- 2012 MAC process was very successful.
 - Daily evening meeting for prioritizing incidents was added to format, which added consistency to the process.
 - Consolidated briefings into one for everyone, then moved to closed MAC group.
 - Prepositioning resources and mob centers were critical to strategy and incident response.
 - Good safety memos.
 - Type 2 teams responding to incidents ahead of Type 1 team's arrival were tremendously helpful.
 - Aircraft coordinator was very helpful. Should look into Crew coordinator for future.
 - Media and politicians were source of distraction from mission at RMACC.
 - Operations group played crucial role in coordination prior to full MAC activation early in season, and also as advisors and communicators throughout the season.
- Suggestion to consider including additional people in MAC meetings (Operations, etc.) to help inform the process.
 - Need to discuss best options for participants and set sideboards for those involved.
 - Shouldn't be open to everyone, but some key people can help inform MAC members and help disseminate information & decisions.
 - Would help with educating the next generation of MAC members on the process.
 - Could include liaisons for critical decisions and resource areas.
- Need to start early with review and modification of MAC Plan for 2013.
 - Should include RMA mob guide edits, including specific trigger points (planning levels) for activation and ramp-up of MAC.
 - Suggest developing task group for MAC Plan revision.
 - MAC Exercise scheduled for Spring IMT Meeting in April.
 - New MAC Plan draft should be ready in time for that meeting.
 - Fletcher will send out latest version to everyone for review.
 - Suggestion to include any LMAs interested in participating in 2013 MAC exercise.
- Task group members:

○ Mike Davin (lead)	○ Jim Strain
○ Jim Fletcher	○ Angie Foster
○ Willie Thompson	○ Ken Kerr
○ Brooke Malcolm	○ Bob Jones

- Gwenan Poirier
- **Tasking:** New task group to review old MAC Plan, compile recommendations from MACO (including AAR), eliminate items that do not work, determine MAC group invitees/liaisons, outline chapters to be written, develop standard briefing package, assign responsibilities, cross-reference with Mob Guide, and compile new document.
- Bill Ott's MAC Rings
 - Identified need for clarification about MAC meeting attendance.
 - Proposal to use "rings" concept to identify roles & responsibilities of attendees.
 - Will help ensure correct people are at meetings.
 - Will help restrict participation to MAC members without excluding attendance for information-sharing purposes.
 - Will help MAC group monitor and manage attendance during sensitive discussions.
 - Rings can be scaled up and down to meet the needs of the current situation.
 - Four rings make up meeting attendance, with MAC Coordinator oversight.
 - Ring 1: RMACC (Fletcher, Intel, Aircraft Coordinator, Safety, etc.).
 - Ring 2: RMCG-delegated MAC (voting) members.
 - Ring 3: Agency RMCG Operations liaisons (non-voting) as technical advisors to MAC members.
 - Ring 4: Other key agency members that benefit from and contribute to MAC (EOCs, Homeland Security, etc.).
 - MAC Plan Task Group to clearly define roles & responsibilities and attendance procedures (invitation, approval, etc.) for each ring.

13. RMA Succession Planning

Bill Ott/All

- Strategic plan developed in 2008-2009.
 - Identified need for 5 teams in RMA.
 - Recommendation to convert fire use team to IMT and build capacity in existing teams.
 - Executives decided to limit to 4 teams due to constraints in recruitment.
 - Asked Operations Committee to develop action plan based upon strategic plan.
 - Need to formally revisit plan and identify areas for update and improvement.
- National succession planning currently underway.
 - Movement toward 40 federally-sponsored IMTs of same type.
 - Use state teams as surge capacity.
 - Plan took into account maximum number of teams assigned at one time, availability of qualified resources, training/experience time for Type 1 positions, and other factors.
 - USFS identified \$25 million training investment for team positions; only 9% of qualified resources are assigned to teams.
- RMA succession planning on hold until national direction is given.
- Need to strengthen recruitment from non-traditional sources.

- Suggestion to encourage land management agencies to require or promote participation in fire for all employees.
- RMCG next steps:
 - Decide how many federal teams will be hosted in the RMA.
 - Consider and prepare for outreach for next team rotation.
 - Review non-traditional sources for recruitment.
 - Determine role of state/zone team(s).
- Suggestion to be proactive and begin development of Type 1 capabilities for all RMA teams.
 - Look at and make efforts to bolster weak areas (aviation, finance, etc.).
 - Continue encouraging participation from all qualified personnel.
 - Take proactive approach to recruitment and training for Type 1 position development.
 - Concern that we do not yet know the full national succession strategy, so RMCG should not take action until more information is available.
- FEMA Region 8 plans to field a Type 2 Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) within next 2 years, sponsored by either Colorado or Montana.
- Operations Committee investigating succession for IMTs.
 - ICs noted difficulty with keeping rosters filled toward end of season due to high activity and lack of qualified resources.
 - Assessing needs of RMA, with needs identified in finance, aviation, logistics, safety, operations, and information.
 - Effort to use priority trainees to increase qualified ICs has been successful. May need to expand model to other critical positions.
 - Type 3 and zone teams are also competing for limited resources.
 - Need to work locally to draw in “non-traditional” resources who were not previously involved with fire, or for whom fire is not a primary job function.
- Suggestion to organize recruitment program for non-fire personnel.
 - Can put together presentations for regional offices, local units, etc.
 - Need to build and keep interest from “hits”.
- Priority trainee process should be expanded to include all critical positions.
 - Work with GATR and staff to identify and prioritize trainees and recruits.
 - Involve Training Committee with planning and organizing recruitment effort.
 - Need to get line officer support to include more trainees and involve more qualified resources in fire activities.
 - Consider BLM mentoring program as an outreach & training tool.
- Consensus to distribute previous succession plan before December conference call for review.
 - Focus on Executive Summary and a few other key points, with additions of new sections for training and recruitment.
 - Should include strategy for all-hazard positions in larger succession planning.
 - Will be on Winter Meeting agenda to evaluate and revise plan.

14. Zone Team Concept

Bob Jones

- Task group developed four mapped alternatives and narrowed down to best one.
- Consensus of task group was that zone team concept will not work across the geographic area.
 - Not enough resources in any one zone to field a team.
 - No configuration that distributes resources according to activity and need.
 - Recommendation to remain status quo for rest of current 3-year rotation.
- In light of national succession planning, Crapser suggested holding RMCG decision until after fire season.
 - National succession plan implementation still five years away.
- Southwest Area abandoning zone team concept.
 - Attrition has led to disbursement of team members across zones.
 - Effectiveness of Type 3 organizations allows response time for Type 2 organizations.
 - Burnout a factor due to 24/7/365 on-call status.
- Executive group wants final closeout by Winter Meeting in January.
 - Continue being proactive with succession planning in RMA.
 - Provide execs with written recount of task group activities and findings.
 - Keep finger on pulse of national strategy and plan accordingly.
- Perception that request to consider zone team concept was perpetrated by one zone, and didn't necessarily reflect wishes of entire Executive Group.
- Consensus to schedule meeting with Executive Group prior to Bob Jones stepping down as chair.
 - Encourage group to formalize meeting schedule, etc.
 - Provide closeout on Zone Team tasking.
 - Present accomplishments and work plan for RMCG for 2011-2013.
 - Present IC report-outs from 2012 season.
 - Discuss trainees and team member recruitment.

15. Team C Rotation Discussion

All

- Great Plains Zone leaning toward full integration of Team C into GACC team rotation.
 - Governor's office and others want to keep it local due to investment.
 - Most important is to keep Team C operational, regardless of the status on the GACC level.
 - RMCG concerned with deciding on a consistent plan for Team C that either integrates fully with the other teams, or that defines them as a purely zone team.
- Team cannot field entire C&G or majority of team from within zone. Most important factor for Team C is to have IC come from within zone.
 - Contradicts original premise for creating Team C as zone team to allow for fast response to Black Hills.
 - 2012 fire season needs were met by outside teams with great success and to satisfaction of Great Plains Zone.
 - Team is sanctioned by RMCG, which places additional requirements on the team than would be expected if it was a purely zone team.

- Continuing concerns that special provisions and consideration are given to Team C, despite policy as written in Mob Guide.
 - Historical management of team progressed from Type 3 to zone Type 2 to Type 2 hybrid to Type 2 hybrid with PL restrictions.
 - Suggestion from Operations Committee to revert to 2006 Mob Guide language (*NOTE: Correct language to which Operations Committee referred was actually from 2007*):

Type 2 Teams

- a. *RMA Type 2 IMT A and B will be on call for dispatch between the approximate dates of 3/15-11/1 and will be on two-week on-call rotations. Yearly rosters for the Type 2 IMTs will be effective from 3/15-11/1 each year to account for annual selection updates. Team C will be available year-around within the GPC Zone.*
- b. *Once teams A and B are committed or unavailable, the Center Manager, with the RMCG Duty Officer's concurrence, will make the determination to make Team C available within the RMA when the GPC zone is at PL 1&2.*

- Concern expressed by Dave Hall that decision should include input from Jay Esperance and the GPZ board.
 - RMCG should draft report to be presented to Esperance and GPZ board.
 - Clear need to explain decision and rationale to stakeholders for Team C.
- Consensus to revert to 2007 configuration for Type 2 team rotation.
 - 2013 Mob Guide will reflect language from 2007.
 - Puts Teams A & B in GACC rotation, with Team C remaining as a zone team until other teams are assigned and there is a need.
 - RMCG & RMACC will work with Great Plains Zone to determine if Team C can be used outside the zone on an as-needed basis.
 - Retain language added for 2012 regarding 2-assignment disparity between teams.
 - Notify Executive Group that decision was made based upon zone team study and current considerations regarding Team C and needs of Great Plains Zone Board.
 - Apply common sense to team management to ensure that no team is in danger of losing currency.
 - Esperance will be contacted by Chair to discuss decision prior to next RMCG conference call, including historical recount of team rotation configurations in Mob Guide.
 - Further discussion on topic will be added to December conference call.

16. IMT Season & Team Meeting

All

- Need identified to possibly extend on-call time for teams in RMA due to longer fire seasons.
 - Potentially tied to Preparedness Levels.
 - Suggestion to extend season by one month on either end.
 - Would require rescheduling of team meeting to March.

- Proposal to ask Operations Committee to talk to ICs about season length and team meeting dates. **Official tasking needed from RMCG.**
- Team meeting dates will be determined based upon Operations Committee findings.
- Spring meeting will stay scheduled for first week in April for 2013. Season dates should not be changed until 2014, depending on Operations Committee recommendations.

17. InfoEd Committee Tasking

InfoEd Committee

- Public Affairs function at RMACC has become a distraction from primary objective of center.
- With Segin's departure, RMCG wants to examine moving Public Affairs function out of RMACC.
- RMCG preparing written tasking to direct InfoEd Committee to develop RMA plan for fire information management moving forward.
 - Build upon existing structure developed by Segin.
 - Ensure internal and external information is available.
 - Work with Predictive Services to develop and use templates and manage web information.
 - Establish trigger points for joint information center activation and other fire information activities.
 - Will still need central point of contact; could be assigned to rotating duty officer.
 - Create clearinghouse for information to all entities, internal and external.
 - Employ information subject matter experts from all cooperating agencies to help develop plan.
 - Will require examination of committee charter & membership to direct mission toward fire information management in RMA.
- Concern raised that with rotation of duty officers, it will be difficult to develop strong working relationships with media and other entities.
 - Some will be in place if using agency external affairs personnel.
 - May use preparedness level trigger points to determine appropriate mix of information staff.
- Committee experiencing difficulty with representation & attendance from some agencies.
 - Will make outreach to SMEs difficult for those agencies.
 - Asking for help from RMCG to encourage attendance and participation from all agencies.
- Segin will assist with development of plan, and work already done by him will be free for committee to use.
- Currently do not have a RMCG liaison. Rich Homann was previous liaison, but hasn't been replaced. Will be assigned before end of Fall Meeting.
 - Liaison will assist with improving member participation.
 - Lynn Barclay will send list of non-active members to Ken Kerr for review.

18. Operations Committee Report-Out

Kelly Kane

- Met mid-October in Cheyenne.
 - Dick Terry now representative for Wyoming.
 - Rocco Snart now representative for Colorado.
 - Bill Ott now RMCG Liaison to Operations.

- IC report-outs
 - 2 common problems identified: quality of caterers available; issues on Nebraska fires.
 - No serious accidents or injuries reported by any team.
 - High level of leadership demonstrated by all ICs.
 - Level of engagement of line officers was very high.
 - Overall very positive.
 - Created some problems when line officers wanted to be involved at every level, including C&G meetings.
- Committee chairmanship discussion
 - Vice chair for 2012 was State of Wyoming, but representative is new to committee.
 - Next in line would be NPS, but Niemi was not comfortable taking position with only 1 year on committee. Will take vice chair position for 2013
 - 2013 chair will be Colorado BLM, Cliff Hutton; vice chair will be NPS, Dave Niemi; 2nd vice chair will be State of Colorado, Rocco Snart.
 - Concern that RMCG chair and committee chair will be from same agency in supervisor/subordinate roles.
 - Resolved issue with confidence that parties involved will be able to manage relationships and issues professionally.
 - Operating Guide will be amended to defer decisions to vice chair when chairs of RMCG and Operations Committee are from same agency.
- Designated representatives from States of Nebraska and Kansas have not been participating on committee.
 - Decided to list positions as vacant until such time as they ask to be represented.
- Safety Liaison
 - As chair in 2011, LaVerne Hermanson asked Keith Long to be the Safety Liaison for the Operations Committee.
 - No documentation of that conversation exists.
 - Keith wants to participate, but committee needed to decide in what capacity he would be used.
 - Chose to decline creation of a safety liaison position. Instead, decided to keep him in pool of SMEs called upon by the committee as needed.
 - Committee will engage with safety officers from each IMT to determine any safety issues that need to be addressed by the committee.
- Aviation
 - Discussed distribution of workload to all aviation officers, not just Jason Baldwin.
 - VLAT
 - Some confusion about capabilities and use of VLAT in 2012.
 - Request tasking be created for Aviation Committee to develop lessons learned/information sheet for use of the VLAT in the RMA.

- Agreed that Aviation Committee should be able to begin this task without a formal tasking, as their charter contains language to provide information and recommendations to RMCG on important issues.
- Team Meeting
 - Todd Richardson (Team A) has volunteered to head up team meeting plans.
 - Will work with Ron Graham for logistics and communications.
- IC Trainees
 - Will continue with rotation, but GATR will take lead for priority coordination in 2013.
- Team Application Solicitation
 - Will use electronic application process for 2013.
 - Solicitation should be going out by 1st week in November.
- Administrative Assistant
 - Amy Stephens will no longer be performing the administrative duties for the committee.
 - Requested to use RMCG Business Manager, but were told no.
 - Can use Brooke in interim (short-term for January meeting only) until permanent replacement can be found.
 - Outreach has been distributed, but no response yet.
 - Business Manager will distribute another outreach.
 - Suggest contacting Natasha at BLM Colorado State Office.
- Platte Canyon Crew
 - Larry Money worked with Great Basin to standardize process for crews requesting IHC status.
 - Certification team came together in May to evaluate Platte Canyon Type 2IA crew.
 - The crew was not successful in getting certified due to lack of experience.
 - Report was completed and given to State of Colorado and Platte Canyon Fire.
 - Crew decided not to pursue Type 1 status again at this time.

19. Type 1 C&G Trainee Process

Paul Hohn

- Operations Committee request strengthening of language in Mob Guide (P.42, lines 3-7) about requirement for experience at Type 2 level prior to being allowed to perform in C&G positions at the Type 1 level.
 - Will retain language allowing exceptions in rare cases.
 - Agreed it is not necessary to specify examples for exceptions.
 - **Tasking:** Operations Committee will clarify P. 42 Mob Guide language regarding service as Type 2 C&G/IC before going to Type 1.

20. Aviation Committee Leadership/Plans

Steve Sorensen

- Large Airtanker Base certification process being worked on by Committee.
 - Hamilton drafted portable tanker base setup plan; currently under review with committee.

- Recognized need for aviation position succession plan.
 - Attrition has left critical positions vacant.
 - Many trained/qualified resources never use qualifications.
 - May be supervisory involvement in keeping resources from getting field experience.
 - Will be working with Training Committee to develop plan for training and priority trainee process.
 - RMCG also discussing need for aviation succession, as part of big picture of training and succession.
- Reiterated discussion regarding standalone Aviation Committee vs. nesting under Operations.
 - Consensus to keep committee independent, with understanding that it needs to be closely coordinated with Operations.
- Committee's charter limits chairperson's term to one year.
 - Will communicate designation of new chair at RMCG Winter Meeting.
- VLAT Lessons Learned and Best Practices will be developed in cooperation with Operations Committee.
 - Examine experiences in 2012 fire season.
 - Develop guidelines for use, capabilities and reload base information for reference at all levels.
- Suggest obtaining liaison from RMACC in addition to RMCG liaison.
 - Current liaison is Brooke Malcolm.

21. Geo Tech Committee Issue Papers

Elise Bowne

- Data Drives
 - Purchased 4 external hard drives (2 terabytes each), with plans to purchase 2 more.
 - Each GIS team will be assigned a data drive to house background data library for the RMA.
 - Will assist with compilation of GIS data for fires and eliminate the problems with acquiring background data that were experienced in 2012.
 - USGS extremely helpful in providing large quantities of the background data for the drives. USGS relationship with fire community may be changing, but details are not available at this time.
- Certificate of Appreciation requested for John Guthrie, who is retiring. Party planned for November 13.
 - Need to send award form and information to Vice Chair before retirement party to have certificate printed and signed.
- Need for Improved GIS Data Flow Issue Paper
 - GIS data flow had problems this fire season.
 - Problems with posting information to websites.
 - Most technical issues were resolved.
 - Other issues with IR data misuse by public, with data intended for IMTs pulled by public and republished on other websites, with incorrect information about what the IR data represents.

- Data has traditionally been posted to NIFC FTP site for the IMTs, but raw IR data is commonly left on server.
 - Typically the data is posted in a non-password protected folder, read access for everyone in the world. In some instances, data was posted instead to password-protected folders. This was also problematic because some people who needed the data did not have the password (and couldn't get it) to retrieve or post data. On the other hand, passwords have been shared at times where they should not have been and preliminary data was shared without being approved first. Password-protected folders and other measures have not been successful at limiting data access, due to sharing of passwords, etc.
 - Allows preliminary IR data to be viewed and disseminated without being approved by the IMT first.
 - Data should be cleared by SITL/IC or agency administrator before it is released to anyone. This is particularly important when structures are lost.
 - GeoMAC group also mining IR data for posting to public website, mostly because IMTs are not posting fire perimeters regularly enough.
 - Can cause confusion and misuse, particularly at times of heightened activity.
- Have attempted to resolve the issue through NIFC and USFS, but solutions have been slow.
 - Asking RMCG to resolve issue so that it can be presented to NIFC and put in place for 2013 fire season, at least for the RMA.
- Decisions about data sharing reside with IMTs and line officers (may be county sheriffs).
- Needed action to resolve issue extends beyond authority of the committee.
 - RMCG requests committee to draft refined issue paper that RMCG can present to IMTs.
 - Should include description(s) of critical sensitive data in question.
 - Highlight concerns that can be addressed with ICs.
 - Make suggestions for information sharing that can be included in delegations of authority, etc.
 - Could include presentation at Spring Meeting to IMTs regarding information management and protection.
 - Recommend crossover with other committees to synchronize efforts.
 - Info/Ed Committee may be able to assist with Best Management Practices.
 - Operations Committee may also need to be involved.
- Issue Paper approved. Explanation: In coordination with InfoEd & Operations Committees, develop RMA Best Management Practices for IMTs, line officers, etc., for implementing Alternatives 2-5. Draft due by RMCG Winter Meeting. To be completed for presentation at 2013 Spring IMT Meeting.
- GIS Cooperation with State & County Emergency Operations Centers
 - Related to data flow issue: EOCs frequently requesting data directly from IRIN or GIS personnel.
 - Not following established procedures for data dissemination and management.

- Each state will be unique and should be handled separately. Possible to be addressed in same way as data flow issue paper, by developing BMPs for RMA. Ad hoc task group to address tasking:
 - Chad Ray will assist with State of Colorado EOCs.
 - Ron Graham will address issue as lead ESF4 agency in Wyoming.
 - Flint Cheney may be useful contact as PSC1.
 - Vaughn Jones will assist as State of Colorado representative.
 - Todd Pechota will be asked to represent ICs.
 - Other states and committees may also be able to assist with solutions.
- Issue Paper approved with Alternative #4. Explanation: Develop Best Management Practices for delegations of authority in cooperation with SMEs and IMTs. Prepare draft for RMCG Winter Meeting.

22. 2013 RMCG Committee and Dispatch Liaisons

All

- Dispatch Liaison Vacancies/Changes
 - Fort Collins: Rocco Snart
 - Rawlins: Angie Foster
 - Northern Great Plains: Dave Hall
- Committee Liaison Vacancies/Changes
 - Fire Program Analysis: Mike Davin
 - Information & Education: Rocco Snart
 - Training: Angie Foster (pending discussion with Ross Hauck)
 - Hauck has been liaison for several years, and has seemed disengaged from committee recently. Chair will contact him to see if he is still interested in being liaison. If not, Foster has volunteered for 2013.
 - Meeting November 30-31 that RMCG member should try to attend. Kerr will try to attend part.
 - RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS: Dave Carter
- Role of liaison includes:
 - Communication with committee or zone about RMCG business and decisions.
 - Assistance with coordination of LMAC activities and planning, including MAC exercise.
 - Attendance at zone or committee meetings each year.
 - Monitoring of situation in zone or committee, including activity, workload, and needs.
 - Maintaining open lines of communication for efficient exchanges of information.
- Request for all liaisons to update zone board chair contacts and committee chair contacts.
 - Fletcher will ask center managers at Fall Meeting to update information for each zone.
- New liaison and zone contact lists will be updated and posted to RMCG webpage in January.
- Executive Group contact list will be sent out for review and corrections.