



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

Spring Meeting RMCG Notes

April 5, 2010

RMCG in Attendance:

Joe Lowe
Mike Davin
Bill Ott
Mark Boche
Ray Weidenhaft
Rich Homann
Dave Carter
Dave Martin (for Dave Hall)
Cal Pino
Ken Kerr
Jeff Fedrizzi

Other:

Dave Johnson
Jim Fletcher
Wendy Hall
Paul Summerfelt
Todd Pechota
Bill Hahnenberg
Dan Smith

I. RMCG Incident Commander Letter of Expectations-Mark Boche

- Each IC was given the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the Expectations Letter
- Bill Hahnenberg thought it was good and that he would share with his team.
- These ethics and conduct go beyond incidents; rather off incidents as well.
- ICs were asked to sign the letter.

II. Social Media-Mark Boche

- USFS policy on the use of various forms of social media will be out soon.
- Delegations of Authority from line officers will need to spell out allowable use of social media on an incident.

III. RMCG IMT Qualifications Review

- The recent review of IMT member applications and qualification review has left some IMT members confused and frustrated. Some fully support.
- The ICs were concerned that moral and the team building ability for the RMA Teams maybe negatively impacted due to the review was identified.
- The ICs recognize the issue of credibility.
- The issue of needing to firm-up the application process and requirements was identified.

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- The electronic submission of applications will be revisited.

IV. Update from Dan Smith-RMCG Representative to NWCG

- RMCG is heading in the right direction with the recent work that has been accomplished.
- A national template for master cooperative agreements will be out soon.
- NMAC Issues with Incident Operations: More attention needs to be directed towards the IMTs handling of incidents within an incident.
- More attention is being focused on how national resources are being handled, how to better utilize these resources, and mobilization. There will be a need on the resources,
- The question was asked if funding or support codes for national resources be made available.
- Two issues were brought forward to Dan: Tracking NIMO resources through Fort Collins and the additional work load to that dispatch and the constant changes in A/G frequencies. Dan will look into these.

April 8, 2010

RMCG in Attendance:

Ken Kerr
Ross Hauck
Bob Jones
Ray Weidenhaft
Rich Homann
Dave Carter
Mike Davin
Jeff Fedrizzi

Other:

Jim Fletcher
Wendy Hall

I. Feedback from ICs- Mark

- They were pretty pleased, thought it was a good meeting.
- Had no issues that needed to be brought to this group.
- Type 1 Team has enough people to be up and available.

II. AAR of Consensus Model-Ken

- What was planned? Review of Draft Consensus Model.
- Provided frame work for discussion.

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- F. Is “overwhelming majority” applicable? Allowed for going back and renegotiating in a structured format. Is still an intermediate step. A summary still needs to be written.
- G. gives one more “gut” check. Even though an agreement has been reached, still have to put it down on paper.
- On G should also capture points of disagreement.
- Definition of “overwhelming” majority: indicated may come to some decisions that are not 100%. If someone is really against something, this group would step back and discuss it further.
- Where you Dissent: three ways Declare reservations, Stand Aside, or Block (see document).
- May have used block before having a good discussion on what intermediate measures might be. But still got us where we needed to be.
- Consensus model may not be used for everyday basis, only in formal discussions with critical or serious decisions.
- Almost need to have something between Stand Aside and Block. If we are able to agree to how to use or what Block means; we are able to use it and still come back to the center to come to a better consensus decision.
- If there is a Block then stopping and going back and work towards an agreement. Provided opportunity to “tweak” a proposal.
- May have Agency Policy or Authorities that does not allow for a Consensus Decision.
- Under Block; if goes against Agency Policy or Authority it “endanger(s)” and Agency. Can’t go back and renegotiate. Don’t have anything that states a conflict of interest. A Block is the end all.
- If have a Block based on Agency Policy or Authority, can capture under Meeting Rules item G. ...points of agreement AND disagreement.
- Also the opportunity when there is a conflict of interest or Policy/Authority to state such in a Stand Aside.
- All three methods of Dissent allow opportunity to modify a proposal.
- Taking a Stand Aside is a red flag to the rest of the Group to revisit an issue and go back.
- As written, this is a good model that provides flexibility and it is acceptable to have different interpretations of what the three Dissent’s means. It is up to the facilitator to follow procedure to get to everybody in a mind set to listen to all sides. The objective of all the three Dissents is to get to a point where a decision is made.
- The Group agreed to leave the model as is and give it the test of time.
- Would be necessary at times to go back through the discussion of the model. Especially when there are new people.
- There was a concern that the model did seem to take a long time to work through during the Executive Sessions. However, the model itself did allow the Group to come to the point where they came to Consensus.
- Continue to use the Model and see how it works in the future. Don’t use the model for everything. Identify when and when not to use it.

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- Use all the time and only use in a formal sense on tough decisions.

III. Review of Application Process for Team Selection-Ken

- RMCG should not get into how the application should look; we should frame the end product then give to Ops Group.
- The Ops Group already is working on the issues.
- Originally a hard copy of the application was sent to the agency representative. Then the representative entered into the computer program all the applications.
- It is a significant work load for the representatives so went to an online process.
- Problem with electronic signatures.
- Online process: either needs to make sure there is no disconnect or discontinue with the online applications.
- The software does a good job of collecting and sorting data. When put online; it crossed over as being looked at as an application. It is only a database. Allows the representative to avoid having to enter a large number of applications. Should not be confused with the application itself. Need to get clear information and direction to applicants that have to enter data online with a hard copy application.
- Confusion in the field is that the online process is the application when it is not.

Frame for Ops Committee

1. Review and Resolve all issues with the online application process [Signatures, Red Cards, and Qualifications/Master Record]
 2. Continue to use the CSFS database software to enable Ops Committee Reps to manage applicants.
 3. Signatures, Qualification Records, and Red Card Copies must be hard copied to each Agency Repetitive on Ops Committee.
 4. For Command and General Staff applicants, keep a hard copy on file at RMACC.
 5. Outside of Command and General Staff, the Ops Rep needs to keep copies of the applications.
 6. Draft of process by July 1, 2010.
- Wendy will draft the Ops Committee tasking and get it out for the next call.

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Line of Succession of RMCG Chair and Vice Chair

| YEAR | CHAIR | VICE CHAIR |
|------|---------|------------|
| 2011 | Lowe-SD | BIA |
| 2012 | BIA | BLM |
| 2013 | BLM | FWS |
| 2014 | FWS | NPS |

IV. Spring Meeting AAR

- Facilities: Many positive comments. A lot of comments about wanting to have it at Embassy Suites again. Some issues with lunch first day. Buffet worked better.
- Team Break Outs: A lot of comments about more time with the teams and team building exercises. They liked that the ICs made the agenda.
- General Session: Where most of the negative comments were; could have done without the RMCG panel; a lot of questions about the NIMO presentation;
- Other: The fire refresher needs to be improved;
- Comments about the RMCG panel included not understanding what RMCG does and what purpose is.
- Develop a power point explaining what RMCG did then take questions.
- Mike D. did get a power point from Tom Corbin from the NRCG.
- Functional Breakouts: Comments were received that these need to be better organized, was a waste of time. Need to bring this to the ICs attention and develop an agenda for what each of the functional are is suppose to do.
- In October need to start developing a plan for the Spring Meeting and who's in charge of what.
- Incoming Vice Chair puts together next year's meeting.
- Possibility of a Spring Meeting "Committee" consisting of the incoming Vice Chair, the RMCG Business Manager, one each of the team ICs, Logistics, and Planning Chiefs to put the Spring Meeting Plan
- AAR of Spring Meeting with Bill, Joe, Rich, and Wendy during MAC Exercise.
- Letters of Appreciation.
- Payment of future meetings: Federal agencies, through master agreements do have ways to contribute in the form of grants. Can do several small grants.
- Combined Spring Meeting: not going to be able to work that out in the near future. If combined all program into one day, could cover it all in one day.
- Need to make it clear to the ICs that we are getting comments that there is not enough time for the teams. Most people did not stick around for Thursday's morning meetings. The meeting is suppose to last 3 days. Need to eliminate the "optional" Thursday morning sessions.

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- There is a benefit of having a separate Logistics person to take care of the meeting agenda and speakers. This allowed the RMCG Business Manager to take care of some of the hotel and RMCG specific issues.
- The teams all have qualified Planners and Logistics people to take care of those parts.
- After May 5th exercise, there will be recommendations put together from the Spring Meeting AAR.
- Need to check with Joe about location of next Spring Meeting.
- Traditionally the first full week in April.

V. Incoming Vice Chair

- The incoming Vice Chair needs to be identified by the Fall Meeting to allow for transition in leading the coming year's Spring Meeting.
- Incoming Vice Chair will be from BIA. Will be identified by May conference call.

VI. Who pays for the Spring Meeting?

- If from USFS, can be done with a grant from State and Private Forestry.
- From DOI, from task orders or specific MOUs.
- All include some cost share by the State.
- Cost is about \$12,000.
- Tentatively BLM CO and WY will pay for 2011 Spring Meeting.
- If each agency could put a line item in their budget annually, would be less of an impact.
- Just have to figure out how to transfer that to whomever.
- Could be part of agency contribution to the RMAC Operating Plan.

VII. Committee Charters

- All committee charters had issues with voting, membership make-up, and distribution of notes.
- Wendy will write a tasking and send to the RMCG members for review.

VIII. USFS Representation to RMCG

- Mark Boche and Bill Ott have dual designation in the USFS delegation of authority.
- Mark is the primary, Bill is the alternate. Will have one voice at the table.
- Several of the delegations of authority (other agencies) list alternates.

X. Closing

- Meeting with ICs; continue to work through credentials of State folks.
- Tentative conference call with ICs to further discussions.
- Wendy will check with Debbie on letters.
- Record will be put in locked file at RMACC.

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Action Items:

1. RMCG PPT development (Davin and Homann)
2. Functional Breakouts Agenda-IC's need to develop
3. Start in September 2010 to organize Spring IMTs Meeting
4. Thank yous (Mark)
5. Task ICs to include more time for teams at next year's Spring Meeting (need to write a Tasking).
6. Draft Letter to committee chairs on the date of the next Spring Meeting (Wendy)
7. RMCG put out a news release from Spring Meeting covering preparedness covered during the meeting, availability of the teams, and verification of credentials (Mark-next week).
8. Revision of Agreement to fund Spring Meeting via line item payments from Agencies. By next fiscal year, October 1st. (Assigned to Bob Jones).
9. Bill Ott, Joe Lowe, Rich Homann, Beth Hermanson, and Wendy Hall have a Spring Meeting AAR during MAC exercise. (will put guidelines together by Sept. 1)
10. Will confirm location during May conference call.

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