

**Fall Center Managers Conference Call  
October 11, 2011**

**Attendees:**

NRCC – Judy, Barb, Ray, Alyssa (notetaker), Tim, Pam Okon, Tracey Nimlos	GDC – Gail
BDC – Mark	CDC – Sally
MCC – Amy	GVC – Dennis
LEC – Jay	BRC – Tony
BZC – Gaylen	MDC – Cobey
DDC – Doug	KDC – Jeff
HDC – Karla	NDC – Andy

**Missing:**

KIC

**Action items are in red and bolded.**

***Dispatchers Workshop***

Judy: RMCC, California have cancelled their dispatcher workshops. If we hold a meeting that has costs over \$10,000 including per diem & meeting facilities, on FS must get WO approval. If over 15 FS people attend, we'd need approval based on per diem alone. Tracey Nimlos isn't sure if we also have to account for interagency partners too.

Mark: Maybe Tracey can do some research and see if it's only FS affected by that? We've talked about not having a workshop for a few years but we always have it, and people find it worthwhile. Will have new leadership at GACC level, makes me think we should have a workshop, but doesn't have any feedback on whether or not we should have one. Only topic so far has been Julie Stewart/Airspace Coordination.

- Sally would like to see agenda dictate if we need a meeting or not. Explore video conferencing. Dennis would also like to explore videoconferencing. Jeff agrees that makes a lot of sense, Karla as well. Gail, Doug, Jay OK.
- Cobey thinks with new faces, changing leadership we should have a face-to-face meeting, real value to meeting/knowing people. Andy, Tony agree.
- Judy: with budget restraints, including travel budget, sounds like we should come up with an interval for a meeting, and talk about exploring options.
- Ray: there is always some valuable agenda items at these workshops. Emerging technologies, contracting, purchasing, normal things like changing to policy and things specific to desk. Should explore low-cost options, new technologies.
- **Mark will send out an email asking for dispatcher workshop agenda topics and we'll go from there.**
- M-480 is scheduled in Missoula the last two days of the scheduled workshop dates.
- We would like Julie Stewart to make an airspace presentation. Can she do it remotely?

## Dispatcher Classes

No D-300 level classes on currently on NRTC schedule. Needs analysis shows:

- D-100 44
- D-310 25
- D-311 27
- D-312 18

Do we want to try and send people afar to get classes or do we as a group want to host a class, get it on a training calendar somewhere? New national guard armory here at Missoula has meeting facilities, cost is free. Adequate parking, 5 miles from NRTC. Nice facility. No dorm accommodations, though. Not on NRTC calendar, and we're sure it's full. May have passed last time to make dorm reservations? Open slots for class? We can hold a class at alternative location for free without a slot on the schedule right now. The FS hangar is another option.

Mark: if we send people through these courses, will they be available for trainee assignments?

**Everyone should aggregate names of candidates for 300 level classes with their willingness to work as dispatchers and send it to Judy by 1<sup>st</sup> week of November. Also include available instructors.**

Centers should manage travel cap locally, but will doing a dispatcher class effect dispatch travel to center managers meetings, workshop?

## Ross Items

### Incident Replacement Cache Orders & Supplies in ROSS

White paper went out. Some confusion, hopefully some clarification will come out. Pat Nooney will process incident replacement cache orders no matter how you send them as long as it has a valid incident order number/management code.

- Amy: what is a definition of an incident replacement? Judy will contact Pat Nooney and ask, Sally says it's in the IBMH.
  - consumable goods or durable goods with a justification
  - With their local cache, when they restock their local cache is that an incident replacement?
    - what incident number block would we use?
- Mark's cache said they don't have the people needed/can't handle workload of team placing orders direct to them
- Barb: does the S# carry over to the cache?
  - Judy thinks they can see the numbers
  - The 100,000 block is for items without S#s assigned for the cache to generate them

**Judy will ask Pat Nooney for clarification and send it out.**

### Crew Mob #s in ROSS

Sally: trying to understand why we have to add the mob # to the resource name.

- Judy: It has to do with the number of crews available in your system, and people running reports and getting false numbers, looking at resource totals instead of resource status. It makes sense at the GACC and local level, but when people at the national level run these reports to determine crew capacity they can get false number

- Ray:
  - Numbering crews sequentially by # is from the paper resource ordering, now that we have assignment history in ROSS, not sure why we have to add the mob # to the resource name.
    - Barb: adding the mob # is an option in the NRMG, the mob # should match the # of assignments in the resource history
    - Karla: agree that ROSS does the counting for us now, so why do we need mob #?
  - NICC is adamant that you can only put in the number of crews in ROSS that you'll have at any given time.
    - **Ray will revisit with NICC and determine exactly why they need this** – think it's a workload issue

### **ROSS Contract Management**

Barb & Ray are working with Rex on ROSS issues, looking for a better solution for 2012. It may be that NRCC will end up owning the contracts for vendors with line items in multiple dispatch zones.

### ***Equipment Items***

#### **Contract Equipment – Tim Murphy**

NRCG board has commissioned a white paper on issues during Aug/Sept fire season. Mike McMeekin will be finishing up his report in the next couple of weeks, he may be contacting some center managers for input/information.

Vendors are making calls because they haven't been paid by the BIA in Eastern Montana for fires in August. Prompt Payments Act requires government to pay within 30 days. Those phone calls should be referred to the Rocky Mountain Region Payment Center for the BIA.

Meeting with the Governor and contractors on October 24. Issue of fire departments vs. contractors still alive. Barb working on year-end statistics.

Sally: Texas and accepting local government resources? The reason Texas won't accept fire dept resources because the state of Texas isn't paying their volunteer fire departments and didn't want to bring in fire departments from out of state that were getting paid. They won't take contractors because they can't meet the Prompt Payment Act requirements.

#### **Rental Cars, Tracking – Mark Heppler**

If a neighboring dispatch center runs out of rental cars in their area, can they go direct to a vendor on a DPL and order direct, can the ordering dispatch center send an inspector over before they hit the road, or have them all show up and have them inspected? Or does an order have to go to Billings Dispatch, they start the payment package, do the inspection, but can the payment package be done on the ordering dispatch level?

- Judy: Not on DPL, on a resource list. If a dispatch center runs out of rental cars, they can
  - Send an order to their neighbor
  - Call the vendor directly and order that way. We agreed that if we were going to be doing this, we'd make a courtesy call to the dispatch center.

Either method is acceptable, so it's up to dispatch centers to work it out. It's up to the incident to determine where they want them inspected.

- If there aren't any vendors on a resource list locally, dispatch centers can do an incident-only EERA for a local non-resource list vendor

Amy: we don't have any vendors on a resource list locally or for an EERA, so we have to go to Billings, Great Falls, but it's hard for us to get an inspector over there. For tracking we're assuming that misc. overhead on demob are turning their vehicles in, etc. but sometimes they get lost. Individuals need to be accountable for the vehicles and we need to hold them accountable as well.

**Tracey: Employee travelling from Eastern Montana to Idaho, vehicle was not put on EERA, temporary employee put it on his personal credit card, vehicle was damaged at the incident. Employee will have to go through process of submitting an employee claim. Employees should never be putting their rental cars on their personal cards. AD team members cannot put cars on their cards, but the incident/dispatch can get one for them on agreement.**

- Sally: is this information getting out to all the dispatch centers nationally? **Tracey can submit that as item for the update to the IBMH.**

### **DPL Equipment**

Judy: Scathing email from the bus contract CO is that we tell the vendor what agreement we're ordering them under, and tell them they must have a valid copy of the agreement when they get to the incident.

Tim: Most agreements require the contractor to have two copies of the agreement, we need to ensure that they are current.

Judy: You can get the agreements off of viper, no signature on them but they're signed electronically, you can get the rates off of them.

### ***Incident Management Team Pre-Orders***

Tony: team came for a short duration and they had one pre-order, at the close-out, talked to them about having different pre-order for different situation

Amy: agree, teams should have a Plan A, Plan B type pre-order to meet the needs of the incidents

Judy: will be going to ops meeting, we can work with our teams over the winter on different size pre-orders. **Mark/Cobey/Dennis agree they can help their teams get those into ROSS.**

### ***Other Items***

#### **Assignment Extension Request Form**

Sally: sending dispatch is not longer on the loop? Incident → supervisor → sending gacc → nicc → receiving gacc, would like to be back in the loop.

**Ray: process isn't great, we should look at it and make some recommendations.** 14 days is mainly for crews & national resources, do we have to do the overhead extensions past 21 days?

Karla: can we get it into ROSS? Check with change board?

Gail: had some people out for 58 days

Tim: we can make some recommendations, run it up at NRCG, see if it needs to go NWCG/NMAC  
**FTP/IAPs – File system**

Access to IAPs – need to live in password protected folder for frequencies/PII? Would be helpful to capture how-tos and maybe get it in the mob guide. Already a link on our website? **For help with this, contact Anne RysSikora, 406-329-1005, [aryssikora@fs.fed.us](mailto:aryssikora@fs.fed.us), or see the webpage <http://ftpinfo.nifc.gov/help.html>.**

### **Frequency Zone Map**

**Kim sent out an email, Alyssa will resend it.**

### **DEW Group Update – Judy**

Chapter 19 will be added to the redbook with dispatch information in it, will not be in 2012, will be in 2013. Address dispatch support, staffing.

### **Fire Business – Tracey Nimlos & Pam Okon**

Tracey:

- Rental cars, last page of solicitation is a form to assist people. Tracey will send out a condensed version to the centers, should be helpful.
- Lots of concerns/consternation with the FS R1/R3 agreement this season, there will be a group of finance/ops/dispatch people discussing the agreement this winter

Pam:

- Type 3 caterers that turns down a dispatch, please provide that documentation to Pam Okon
- DNRC solicitations may be coming into Missoula to Pam instead of at Helena, please send any concerns/problems as well as possible solutions/simplifications to Pam

### **WildGACC**

Judy: next year NRCC is going to attempt to run WildGACC to improve internal communications among the desk, better desk logs. It might help with notification of national resources that we currently require commits for and improve external communications. With WildGACC, when centers commit a national resource, we would see it immediately at the GACC. Won't be until mid-March.

### **Bin Items**

Cobey: Would be great to see those attributes on the DPL. Per Tim, can see the attributes that are in the solicitation, but the next time we solicit we can add attributes

Cobey: Hurdles in moving FS operating people from place to place across GACC boundaries – are there discussions on how to do this easier? Per Tracey, NICC is the hurdle. That's why we have R1/R3 agreement. One of the reasons we don't shuffle people around is because hard dollars is out of the budget, P codes aren't, and when the order goes through, NICC will look for the closest resource.

- Barb: you can just change the dispatch center in ROSS instead of doing an order. Amy/MCC, that's how the FWS does it.

- Sally: if you were to put in agency/agency agreement on a P-code? NICC will always call. Per Tim, these discussions have happened at the national level, and we haven't gotten anywhere.
- Tracey: severity is treated the same as suppression. With the R1/R3 agreement? That will be clarified this winter in the discussions on the R1/R3 agreement.

Sally:

Issue purchase cards to crew bosses, incident-only? Per Tracey, there are probably opportunities for a FS crew boss to get a purchase cards, try through the AQM.

Reformatting of IBMH? Send comments in email to Tracey.