

Tuesday, February 26 – General Session

This is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

Predictive Services Briefing

- (See NRCC Website for pre-season Outlook details)
- “Normal” fire potential is expected throughout the pre-season.
 - March/April: Normal fire potential, but close monitoring for short periods of enhanced potential in Central and Eastern Montana during warmer/windy events.
 - May/June: Normal all PSAs (green-up)

NRCC Spring Report (Kathy Pipkin)

- The PSOG is meeting to discuss the recommendations as set forth in the Phase II report. Now is the time to provide feedback on the recommendations. The alternatives cannot be changed; however, the NRCG can address the NWS contracting GACC Met positions. This will limit both the Northern Rockies Geographical Area capabilities to perform any special projects, and the smoke dispersion forecasting, as it would be a national contract and may not meet the needs of the NRCG.
- Position updates
 - Judy Heintz retired January 3rd and Julie Polutnik will detail into the position for 120 days.
 - NRCC will outreach the Intelligence Coordinator position for NTE 120 days.
 - The National Park Service is working on the vacancy announcement for vice Jolly (Assistant Intelligence Coordinator position).
 - NRCC will be outreaching for a NTE 120 day Fire Analyst to begin in May.

National Update / Report (Aitor Bidaburu)

- National Aviation group working on completing compact aircraft inspections by April 1st.
- NIFC radio shop working on getting IHC crew frequencies standardized and assigned.
- NIIC working on revisions to the IMSR (Incident Management Situation Report).
- NMAC planning to meet in conjunction with CGAC in mid-April in Boise.

Northern Rockies Operations Spring Report (Craig Goodell)

- ICAP closed 2/15/19 for team rosters. IC's have their rosters mostly completed with only a few modifications needed to be complete.
- CGAC meeting in January was cancelled due to the furlough and rescheduled for mid-April in Boise. Same week as the NR IMT meetings.
- I'm working with Phil Ketel to coordinate with the States of MT/ID and Canada to get compact aircraft and pilots inspected prior to fire season this year.
- Jordan McKnight (R1 Assistant Director for Operations) will be supervising the Smokejumpers, NR Fire Cache, NR Contract Operations and NR Fire IT.
- Please forward any awards for IMT members and from NRCG that should be presented at the IMT meeting. Please submit that information as soon as possible.
- Working with staff at NRTC to incorporate Spring MAC Exercise into the M581 class.

Northern Rockies Contracting Update (Tim Murphy)

- 2019 Solicitation Plan and Impacts of Fed Govt shutdown.
 - DNRC handling portable toilet contracts.
 - BLM putting out “request for interest” in office trailers.
 - NPS slated to handle tents and yurts; due to shut down these will be handled through incident specific agreements.
 - FS handling medical agreements and water handling equipment related items.
 - Water handling equipment being handled through extension of 2016 agreement.
 - Workarounds in place for new companies, and existing companies adding new services.
 - Next solicitation in 2020.
 - Medical agreements will also be extended through 2019; then seek new three-year agreements in 2020.
 - New companies can sign up and will be used if all resources under contract are exhausted.
- Heavy Equipment task force - Video developed in cooperation with Montana Logging Association. Plan to go live with video in 2019.
- Contracting/Acquisition Management in FS is going through reorganization. Likely implementation in 2020.
- Rapid Extraction Module Task Group update. (See white paper)
 - Module is in use both in and out of region, when appropriate.
 - Continuing to refine module make-up; recognition given that this is a unique and expensive resource.
 - Need exists to tap local county fire and rescue entities; also some contractors interested in providing this service.
 - Each state should submit resources to NRCG.
 - After business committee approves, this will be incorporated into the mobilization guide.
 - Patrick Lonergan preparing an out of area resource packet on this module.
 - Need exists to establish national criteria for when to order this resource.

NRTC Update / Trainee Priorities (Melissa Wegner)

- Three courses canceled due to furlough; unable to reschedule (S-310; S-482; S-490).
- Other affected courses have been rescheduled.
- Northern Rockies Priority Trainee Program - Announcement is out, closes May 3.
 - Geographic area training representatives are working to coordinate programs for better alignment.

IT Update (Patrick Murphy)

- IT realignment taking place within USDA.
- All staff doing IT work must be reclassified and reassigned to report to a CIO.
- Phase 2 and 3 realignment still being planned, but no details available at this time.
- 2019 fire and training season should not see changes.
- This will be included on agency administrator’s agenda. Should also request including on NASF agenda.
- Need exists to develop contingencies past 2019 as the FS IT resources may no longer be available.

Leader’s Intent for 2019 IMT Members’ (Diane Mann-Klager / Mike DeGrosky)

- Draft document was distributed in advance for review.
- Similar letter to 2018 with minor edits.
- Discussion around reason for two letters (one for NR Teams; second for teams coming in from outside the region).
 - Agreement that there are different audiences for each letter and substantive merit for each

- letter. Scope is different for each.
- Agreement of need to revise second bullet in “Preparing for the Future” section.
 - Need to revise so the messaging is to agency administrators and other leadership, rather than individual team members.
 - Action Item: Diane Mann-Klager will work on revising the language in the Leaders’ Intent for 2019 IMT Memebers’ letter by the end of this week.

Delegation of Authority for Operations and NRCC Manager (Corey Buhl)

- Same delegations as 2018 with date change to 2019.
- Approved – unanimous consent.

Structure Protection Guidelines (Rich Cowger)

- Date will be changed to 2019; will keep the guidelines “as is” for 2019.

MAC Plan Changes (JT Wensman / Kathy Pipkin)

- (Proposed edits handout)
- Discussed edits clarifying inclusion of MAC group representation on in-briefings and close-outs.
 - Key is remembering role/responsibility as liaison.
- Kathy will incorporate changes (PIO and In-brief/close-out) and send out a draft for review.
- Action Item: Pam Jolly will put this topic on the agenda for the March Board of Directors conference call.

Mob Guide Updates (PL Descriptions) (Craig Goodell / Jake Ganieany)

- Changes suggested between PL levels.
- PIO function needs to be incorporated into PL 3.
- Need for additional support staffing to be incorporated into PL 3.
- Discussion around availability of resources and how/when to best address.
 - This will be an agenda topic for the agency administrators.

Out-of-Area Team Briefing Letter (Patrick Lonergan)

- Action Item: Patrick Lonergan will continue work on the Out-of-Area Team Briefing letter and this topic will be address on the March conference call.

Guidelines for Private Firefighting Resources Letter (Mike DeGrosky)

- Draft contains minor edits; no substantive changes from 2018.
- Approved – unanimous consent.

NRCG Operating Plan Update (Craig Goodell / Kathy Pipkin)

- Simple majority of board members will be decision process when the group is unable to reach a consensus.
- Some items, such as financial obligations, must be elevated to agency level.

- This is already reflected in the Plan (page 5).
- NRCG Board Chair rotation schedule - agreed that agencies with multiple representatives on the board (e.g. BIA has three representatives on the Board) should only come up for Chair rotation once, rather than based on each individual on the Board.
 - Motioned by Diane; second by Mike.
 - **Approved - unanimous consent.**
- Rich Cowger has sent inquiry to ND and ID Fire Chiefs Associations to determine whether he can represent them on the Board, or if they each want to be represented or to rotate membership between states, with only one representative. He will report back when they respond.
- Recommendation to follow the same approach for DES and Sheriff's & Peace Officers Association.
 - Jake has initiated this communication with the DES organizations.
- Diane brought up concern that Tribes are not represented, and they each have their own DES and Law Enforcement functions. Also, noted that each Tribe is sovereign.

UTV Guidance (Corey Buhl)

- Nothing formal to report; receiving good feedback.
- **Action Item: Corey Buhl will incorporating the feedback into the UTV Guidance letter for consideration on the May 2019 conference call.**

Spring Meeting Dates Discussion (Mike DeGrosky)

- Concerns have been expressed about the February date set for our Spring meeting.
- Many of the committees haven't had time to meet, and they need to meet prior to the Board's Spring meeting.
- Team meetings are in third week in April (for the next three years), and need exists to assure the Board meeting takes place prior; to ensure the Board members can attend team meetings as liaisons to the teams.
- **Approved - unanimous consent.**
- **Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will compose a memo correcting the Spring NRCG Meeting timeframe to reflect on or near the first week in April starting in 2020-22.**

Action Item Review and Prioritization (Mike DeGrosky)

- Communications/PIO Plan/Messaging.
 - **Action Item: Mike DeGrosky is working on standardizing and finalizing the messaging in this plan. Target date: prior to 2019 fire season.**
- Request support from IDL seeking PIO support.
 - Agreed Craig, Mike and Kathy are working on a PIO plan -will table this item for now and assume the plan that is developed will address overarching PIO needs.
- IMT Transition.
 - **Action Item: Mike Granger and Dan Warthin are working on a tasking document to the IC Committee. Target date: completion by the end of this week.**
- Cost-share for IT tasking. Delete this item based on FEMA decision.
- NRCG website - Table until Pam is available.
 - NR Incident Organizer update - Every unit has their own organizer, so no need for developing an incident organizer for the Northern Rockies.
 - **Decision: no need to update NR Incident Organizer.**
- Shortage of heavy equipment bosses.
 - **Action Item: Mike Granger will communicate with those attending 2019 CGAC to address this issue. Target date: prior to 2019 CGAC.**
- Geospatial Working Group.
 - **Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will contact Mark Slaten and confirm if he is unavailable to head up this group. Target date: prior to March 22nd.**

- Suppression Modules. Operations committee working on this.
- AAR of Heavy Equipment Uses occurred at fall meeting.
- Rapid Extraction Module.
 - Action Item: NRCG BOD comments are due to Roger Staats prior to Business Committee meeting on April 2nd, 2019.
- South African crew. Not developing a policy on this item.
- Ensuring Resource Benefit Fires accurately reflected in prioritization. This will be a discussion items later in our agenda (moved to Wednesday). Julie will be presenting on this topic.
- Developing well-structured NRCG Handbook. Already working on this.
- Decision Support Implementation Plan. On agenda for later this afternoon.
- Critical Resource Task Group Implementation/Critical Mission Task Force. On agenda for later today.
- BIA Land Use Agreements. On agenda later today.
- Status of Team Trailers. This should be a committee assignment to IC Committee; they can decide how broad the issue is and how to best address. Will report back at the Fall Board meeting.
- Tasking from WFAA – IMT Critical Needs Assessment (succession planning). IMTs should have this attached to their 2019 rosters.
- WFLC Leader’s Intent on a Positive Workplace Environment Letter. Thursday agency administrator’s agenda item.
- Medical Units Discussion. Agenda item later in day.
- NRCG-RMCG IMT Proposal. IC Committee doesn’t support proposal. Important we keep open channel of discussion, but no need for formal obligation. We already sent staff when requested if available. Action item is complete. Mike Granger will follow up with RMCG; their request to us was informal, and our response via Mike will be informal.
- Letter from Board to committees formalizing meeting dates. Mike DeGrosky will take care of this based on timeframes we discussed earlier today. Goal is to facilitate interchange and effectiveness of meetings.
- Approve 2019 Northern Rockies Solicitation Plan. ???
- Close Out Briefing Form and Protocols. On agenda.
- Letter from NRCG Supporting Maintaining IT Positions. Already discussed this earlier today; IT positions are already in process of being realigned under CIOs.
- Prevention and Education Committee tasking for Restrictions Evaluations. Ongoing effort. Mike still working on this.
- NRCG Role in management of fuels in Northern Rockies. Ralph looking into this to determine if more work needed.
- Cooperative BIA Agreement allowing for Fuels Work with North and South Dakota. Diane indicates BIA is working on one agreement with four appendices; final drafts for review Fall 2019 meeting. Rita is FS contact.
- Dispatch Recruitment issues. On agenda.
- Delegation of Authority for Ops and NRCC Manager. Complete
- Leader’s Intent for 2019. Complete
- Structure Protection Guidelines. Discussed earlier today.
- MAC Plan Changes
- Mob Guide Updates
- Out of Area Team Briefing Letter. Due April 2019
- Private Resources Letter.
- NRCG Operation Plan Revision
- ATV/UTV policy.
- Group discussion and consensus to reschedule the April Board conference call due to IMT Meeting overlap.
- Preorder Discussion. Kathy will task this to the Dispatch Steering Committee.
- IMT Team Meeting Agenda Development Working Group – Steering Committee. Mike, Rich and Kathy working on this. Agenda topic for Wednesday. Focus was to assure some specific topics and relevant discussion leads are included on IMT Spring meeting agenda, not to take over drafting the IMT meeting agenda.

IMT Transition Protocols/Revision/Checklist (Mike Granger)

- Action Item: Mike Granger and Dan Warthin are working on a tasking document to the IC Committee. Target date: completion by the end of this week.

Decision Support Implementation Plan (Craig Goodell / Kathy Pipkin)

- Direct decision support to the MAC or NRCG to inform geographic processes.
 - These items will be listed as considerations in the Mob Guide along with the Preparedness Levels.
 - This isn't intended to provide incident support for IMTs.
- GIS group also working on a Remote Situation Unit that can support teams more efficiently.
 - Enables accessing individuals remotely that provide valuable resource but are unable to travel with team. Craig will bring this discussion to the Board on Wednesday.

Critical Resource Task Group Implementation (Craig Goodell)

- Involves assigning critical resources at the GAC level (e.g. hotshot crew and helicopter to support them) to meet specific requests on various incidents rather than assigning them directly to an incident and losing the resource for 14 days.
 - Concept was piloted in 2018.
 - Tasked Operations Committee to work on this over the winter.

BIA Land Use Agreements (Bob Jones)

- Activities on BIA administered lands within a reservation – direction from BIA is appropriate; activities on tribal land or lease land require agreement with the tribe, or with the individual leasee.
- Under \$10k the BIA can make direct payment without specific agreements in place; over \$10k requires specific agreement and direction for payment through tribal fee accounts.

IMT Close Out Briefing Form and Protocols (Corey Buhl)

- NRCG Close-Out Briefing Template - confusion around intent of question #3.
 - What is the understood public relations situation?
 - Suggest revising to ask "What is the relationship between the team and the community?"
 - Also suggestion to add a question asking if the critical resource task group was utilized on the incident – since this is something being piloted.
 - Consider a question for teams coming from outside the GAC to assure they received all necessary information and resources.
 - No additional concerns with the template.

Dispatch Recruitment Issues (Kathy Pipkin)

- Desire is to raise awareness within the wildland fire community regarding mental stress concerns experienced by dispatch personnel.
- The paper is in the process of being vetted by other geographic areas and center managers.
- Recommendations need to be considered by the agency administrators, by NMAC and CGAC to determine if this requires a higher level of attention.
- Some of the recommendations can be dealt with locally; others require higher level consideration.
- It would be helpful to include statistics in the white paper to better warrant the magnitude of the

issue. Kathy will work on providing this.

Fuels Committee (Ryan Melin)

- Group discussion; no Action Items identified.

Incident Commander Committee (Joe Sampson)

- Wildland Fire Management Team white paper - focus on specialized nature of this team, and need to get other teams working at the same level.
- Addressing the resource benefits component of managing wildfire to treat the landscape.
- The Board appreciates the work by the IC Committee, and would like to see a recommendation in the Conclusion section of the paper.
- The paper should answer “where do we go from here.”
- Group discussion centered on how this team can become an example and bring this area of expertise out to other teams.
- Discussion on having trainees from other teams that can bring the expertise back to their teams; so that eventually all teams can provide the same function.

Wednesday, February 27 – General Session (Continued)

Review and Finalize Proposed Team Selections from IC's

Rick Connell – Team 4

- Majority of the team is returning. Several individuals moved roles laterally; Brian Jenkins is the Deputy, from Minnesota. No IC trainee at this time. Reviewed roster.
- Key Position issues:
 - Operations is strong.
 - Air Ops Branch Director is always challenging – picked up another retiree; three to pick from now. Air Support Group trainee this year.
 - Plans is solid.
 - Logistics is looking good; now have a backup for Mary Fields.
 - Finance – working on a getting a backup qualified.
 - Trying to pick up an LTAN / SOPL – Sampson's team is also looking to recruit this same individual.
 - Will be working with the operations group for upward mobilization of upcoming IC Type 3s.
 - Group discussion on sharing of individuals across teams.
 - Did not cross check pool after selection.
 - Do not have written succession plan as of yet.
 - NRCG BOD has requested that every team have a written succession plan prior to the IMT Meeting. (Mike Granger)
 - Turman's succession plan was sent out at the fall meeting as a template. All teams can utilize this as a template.
 - Eastern Area resource limitation did not have a significant effect on the roster; was not as big of an impact as feared.
 - In reference to non-traditional agency or resource participation recruitment – roughly the same as in previous years.
 - Concerns that recruitment flyer was not disseminated down through the chain from “other than fire” lines of communication.
 - Reference the sharing of individuals across team – what should be done about that? (Mike DeGrosky)

- In the past, ICs have this issue worked out.
- Concern of the Board is that are we sharing so many resources that we could not field all of the teams at the same time.
- Another concern is individuals that applied for shared positions and were not selected.
- Focus is on the specific concern of the Command and General Staff sharing.
- Issues / Concerns:
 - Upward mobilization of Type 3 ICs – need to build the base.
 - A report from the qualifications systems could be pulled of all IC Type 3s. (Craig Goodell)
 - Action Item: Kathy Pipkin will work on gathering a report from the qualifications systems for all agencies of all IC Type 3s. Target date: for future use.
 - Only vacancy is the Air Support Group Supervisory.
- Intent is to continue as a Type 2 IC for now.

Mike Goicoechea – Team 1

- Question for the board: a robust IC application process was established. Did any new IC's apply?
 - Have only had one applicant at this time.
 - Picked up Tim Reid as a deputy – but question if he went through the process.
 - Discussion on where his package was submitted.
 - Also sent in a packet. (Rick Connell)
 - Will follow up on where the process broke down
- No trainees for IC as of yet.
 - Suggest incentives for ICs due to all the sacrifices that have to be made to perform the role.
- One Safety Officer from previous years was pressured to remain in their own region; is not on the roster this year.
- Key Position Issues:
 - Cassidy – Poncin concern there; cannot have both at the same time
 - Information officer – one is very close to being fully qualified.
- No changes in local government individuals.
- Operations is solid; with several individuals moving into the AD ranks. This is true for several areas. Do have many in the upcoming ranks as well.
- A lot of the ATGSs are ADs.
- Diane listed as a SOPL; however, do have several options that can be explored.
- In Logistics – have an individual who is also on the CAT team. This individual is rostered across teams.
 - Also a couple of individuals working to move up to Type 1 positions and will be moving to AD status soon.
- Very good relationship with the New York Fire Department. Good at giving individuals for two rolls.
- Finance – have made a lot of progression on getting individuals signed off and upward mobilization. Issue for succession plan in the long term.
- For information only – there is interest on the Beaverhead-Deerloge to form a Type 3 team.
- Do not currently have an individual to develop as a deputy.
 - Identified as a critical need.

Doug Turman – Team 2 – (Mike Granger for Doug Turman)

- This is the last year with Doug as the IC.
- Schuster is a trainee.
- Mike Granger has applied as an IC; part of succession planning process.
- Safety Officers – doing pretty good.
- PIO – running pretty strong there.
- Do have trainee for Liaison officer.

- Do have several Operations Section trainees.
- Have four Operations Branch Director trainees as well; all are strong division supervisors.
- Some air positions are limited and will try to take when available.
- Moving up primary Planning Section Chief.
- GIS has been really strong.
- Fire behavior continues to be hard to fill; do have two individuals.
- Logistics – continues to be a difficult section to fill.
- Finance – good section chief who recruits others to that section well.
- Succession Plan:
 - Has been worked on throughout the winter; continues to be a work in progress.
 - Critical Positions:
 - IC
 - Logistics
 - NRCG Board should endeavor to provide Scott Schuster with every opportunity to pursue becoming fully qualified. (Mike DeGrosky)
 - Fire behavior is another position that has individuals shared across teams.
- Group discussion on incentivizing IC positions.
 - Focus should be on the things the board can influence; team vacancies and succession planning. No ability to influence incentivizing IC role. (Mike DeGrosky)

Mike Almas – Team 3

- Have taken the strategy of emphasizing job sharing due to increasingly limited position availability.
- Roger will be deputy this year; still have second individual as a backup.
- Still do not have an IC trainee. Feel the ICs and Board need to work together better to identify these individuals and work with the Agency Administrators to develop the individuals.
 - Suggestion of incentives for line officers possibly.
- Overall, team is looking pretty solid.
- Have made good progress with Safety Officers.
- PIO has been a previous issue; do have a good trainee list. Hoping to get some qualified soon.
 - Advised there is a PIO on the non-selected list; an individual who is a BLM agency individual who is also on the CAT team. (Kathy Pipkin)
- New Liaison officer this year.
- Plans looks ok for this and next year.
- Fire Behavior Analyst position can get difficult to fill; however, do have a trainee this year.
- Situation Unit Leader - will be a job share position; did get some signed off on last year.
- Logistics – few new folks and new trainees. Trainee Logistics Chief that will be doing his final assignment this year.
- Operations – Grant is now retired and may move into safety position. Gained Kevin Chaffee. Looking fairly good. Will be taking Operations Section trainees this year.
- Divisions looking pretty good.
- Air positions – happy with the roster. Have made good progress over the last couple of years.
- Finance – two good section chiefs; both ADs and are still very committed to the team. Trainee identified; however, still a few years out. Succession planning is a challenge.
- Biggest issue or concern:
 - Trainee IC

Joe Sampson – Team 5

- IC trainee signed off last year; did apply through ICAP. May need to follow through with board application.
- Safety – will be a priority to fill in behind upcoming retirements.
- PIO – do have two primaries with good experience and trainees upcoming.
- Liaison - Diane Hutton will be retiring this year; one trainee upcoming.
- Operations – have had a lot of transition the last few years. Do feel good about primaries listed.

Good trainees as well.

- Air – do have an AD AOBD and a second AD individual as a trainee; in addition to an ASGS trainee.
- Plans – have an AD section chief. Soon to be qualified - Julie Shea, upon red card meeting completion. Also have some good upcoming trainees.
- GIS continues to evolve and have sharing across teams.
- Fire Behavior Analyst – many are individuals with additional qualifications.
- Logistics – was an issue of sharing across teams. One long term AD and an individual out of GACC; would like to have an in GACC individual.
- Finance Section Chief – no longer with the team due to family medical issues. Have appreciated response providing potential names. Feeling good about current status.
- GIS – also looking good in this area. Willing to share these individuals.
- FBAN – will need to look at for succession planning.

Bob Fry – Team 6

- Agree with Almas philosophy.
- Operations Section Chief – did get one individual qualified last year. Do also have Rich Cowger listed as a trainee.
- Succession Plan – IC is an issue.
- Safety – do have a couple of solid ADs; decent depth but not a lot of agency individuals.
- PIO – good individual; with a trainee a couple of years out.
- Liaison – do have two good individuals; sharing one. Trainee also being shared.
- Operations – feel good about; one signed off and several solid. Challenge is getting the listed ones out due to availability.
- Air – Branch Director – last year individual was not able to get out at all. This year, should be able to get out more. Did pull from a couple of out of region individuals for alternates.
- Plans – section chief is shared; also committed to CAT team. Trainee that may also be able to support CAT at times.
- Fire Behavior – many names; however, challenging to get out.
- Logistics – lost section chief; section will be going through changes. Request for the NPS – there is a trainee that that direct supervisor will not allow out despite support from above. However, upper management supports going out.
 - Action Item: Dan Warthin will follow up direct with park unit supervisor. Target date: prior to IMT meeting.
- Finance Section – did have a retirement; however, individual is willing to AD from another region. Backup good individual; however, spouse has health issues.
- Succession – this team has the most concerns where the future is concerned. Would like to work with all in identifying key positions and endeavoring to identify individuals. (Mike DeGrosky)

JT Thompson – Team 7 (Mike Granger for JT Thompson)

- No issues or concerns; Deputy will remain in an AD role until another individual is identified, once retired.
- Priority Trainee also cross shared across Mike Almas team.
- Trainees are strong and do include one from a non-traditional source. Individual does have a strong foundation.
- Finance Section Chief – question on depth and strength.
- Planning Section Chief – individual listed is in a WO role; may need to check with Melissa.

Team Selection Summary – Mike Granger

- On Turman's Team have an Operations Trainee that needs to get out.
 - Action Item: Kathy Pipkin will check on the individuals name to see if applied for Operations Section Chief Type 2. Target date: prior to IMT meeting.
- Reviewed the non-selected individual list:
 - Non-selected list includes multiple Division Supervisors. Would like to ensure if individuals

- are available, that they are put on an alternate list.
- There is a PTRC listed; however, individual is on JT's team under a more accurate name.
- Operations Section Chief Type 2 – trainee; should not be on the list as individual is listed on Sampson's team.
- Additional Operations Section Chief Type 2 trainee – will need to put in as priority trainee and Kathy will communicate with Melissa.
- SOF2 trainee – career priority is for IC T3 trainee; will inquire with CAT team. Could do DIVS or SCKN also. Will be placed on Connell's team.
- Security Manager Trainee – applied to many teams; EFF.
 - Action Item: Mike Almas will look into this individual. Target date: prior to IMT Meeting.
- Action Item: NRCG Chair will notify the IC Committee of who has submitted applications. Target date: 2020.
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky and Kathy Pipkin will follow up on where the submitted 2019 application process broke down. Target date: prior to 2020 team applications.
- Clarification – all Priority Trainees must apply directly to the NRTC Priority Trainee Program.
 - Melissa will re-distributing the process instructions.

Succession Plan Discussion (Bin Item)

- All entities need better alignment in this effort. Need to utilize the template that was distributed. Need to identify and distribute lists of qualified individuals and share at all levels.
 - Action Item: NRCG will form an IMT Sustainability Task Group - a cross committee task group to come back to the board with recommendations.
 - IMT Sustainability Task Group -Task Group members will consist of:
 - NR Operations person (Craig Goodell), IC Committee (Joe Sampson), Operations Committee (Dave Hamilton), Team Coordinator (Julie Polutnik), someone from the board (Rich Cowger); Agency Administrator Group Representative (Diane Mann-Klager's name added during WFAA meeting. Mike O'Dell will assist on an as needed basis), Training Coordinator (Melissa Wegner), Local Government representative (Patrick Lonergran)
 - Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will task the members of the IMT Sustainability Task Group with the following items. Target date: prior to the fall NRCG Meeting.
 - Focus will be on: Philosophy, Priority, Sustainability, Succession
 - Framework of a tasking:
 - IC Pipeline / Out of GACC?
 - IC Application Process / Incentives
 - Including submission process breakdown issues
 - Priority – Type I or Type II?
 - Type 3 – training farm?
 - Priority Trainee List – GACC
 - What is Northern Rockies's Team Philosophy?
 - Including management of local incidents prior to a team coming in.
 - Action Item – have IMT Sustainability Task Group review the Team Plan and make recommendations by October 1st, prior to October NRCG Conference call. Target date: draft to be compiled prior to the fall meeting.
 - Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will task the IC committee to work with the IMT Sustainability Task Group to ensure the CAT team and other Type 3 Teams can remain solid and continue to contribute to the Type I and Type 2 teams. Target date: prior to 2020 fire season.
- Craig Goodell provided an out of region successional plan to Mike Granger previously; this item could be useful in this effort.

IC Application Process – Timeframes – Kathy Pipkin

- Reviewed the timeframes identified in the Team Plan.

Announcement for Tomorrow WFAA Meeting

Board members are welcome to attend, if their schedule allows. There will be a discussion on how to structure meetings between the WFAAs and the Board in the future.

Strategic Risk Communication (Dave Williams)

- Background of paper reviewed.
- Emphasis on this effort is geared towards the interagency response function.
- Based on pilot engagement from last summer, group came up with some items that may be useful to share.
- Reviewed summary pages and recommendation for moving forward.
- Reviewed key assumptions that were made.
- All bolster the need to improve communications.
- Reviewed recommendations – would be more meaningful coming from the NRCG Board. This is particularly important for delving deeper into line officer engagement.
- Looking to seek opportunities on how to improve these efforts.
- Appreciate that it has been framed as strategic interagency risk communication, rather than emphasis on all individuals doing the same thing. (Mike DeGrosky)
- Important to improve the two way flow of both “why actions are being done” and “what actions are being done”. Need exists to be able to describe all aspects in an effort to eliminate vagueness. (Diane Mann-Klager)
- Need to conduct both education and awareness with current agency administrators; but also, to engage future agency administrators – perhaps through training courses. (Mike DeGrosky)
- Important to note both “appetite” and “tolerance” for risk and how it differs across the agencies and partners involved.
- USFS will be pursuing this effort with additional visits to four forests. There is a need to remain flexible and accept that there will be varying degrees of success level measurement. (Greg Morris)
- Suggestions of approaching at zone meetings. (Mike Granger)
- Caution of not falling into zone level training operational scenarios and keeping the discussions at the higher level. (Mike DeGrosky)
- IDL has already been having similar conversations. (JT Wensman)
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will communicate to the board member liaisons to ensure this topic is address at future zone meetings. Target date: prior to April 30th, 2019.
 - Pending outcome of this presentation and discussion with the WFAAs tomorrow.

Ensuring Resource Benefit Fires are Accurately Reflected in Prioritization (Craig Goodell / Julie Polutnik)

- Reviewed how the prioritization process works and why it works that way.
- Important to note the process does not account for the incident objectives.
- Reviewed last year’s Rampike Incident and other unique incident prioritization occurrences.
- Action Item: Julie Polutnik will add language to the mob guide reflecting that if an incident is staying on the priority for additional reasons (Board purview, local requests) that the incident should be reporting more often on the 209. Target date: prior to 2019 fire season.
 - Approved – unanimous consent.
 - If it is on the priority list, there needs to be the documentation for keeping it there. (Diane Mann-Klager)

- Question on local zone prioritization consistency. Differences in participation occur across the zones. (Julie Polutnik)
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will communicate to the Board liaisons to, in turn, communicate to each Zone the expectation that the Zone Prioritizations will be into NRCC by 1400 hours, prior to MAC call information preparation. Target date: prior to season start.
- Action Item: Julie Polutnik will design and implement an incident prioritization worksheet that will be completed by the IMTs in the Northern Rockies. This worksheet will truth and streamline prioritization approach and information between worksheet, 209 and IC call. Target date: prior to 2019 fire season.
 - Approval – unanimous consent.
- Action Item: This topic will be addressed during the team meeting. Assigned to: IMT Meeting Agenda Development Working Group. Target date: prior to IMT meeting.
 - Action Item: This topic will also be worked into the Out of Area IMT In Brief process/materials. Assigned to: Craig Goodell. Target date: prior to 2019 fire season.

Medical Units Presentation & Discussion (Anna Stull)

- (PowerPoint presentation)
- Not here to mitigate to a zero; always going to have illness and injury. Plan to mitigate.
- There is a need to set the appropriate level of care expectations early.
- One of the issues is that Medical is a resource. Since it has been under Safety so long, there has not been a great deal of oversight.
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will ask Mike Granger to contact Anna Stull and determine if she and Andrew R. Hower, Deputy Chief are available to speak / present at the IMT Meeting. Target date: March 22nd, 2019. (Contact information found in Anna's presentation.)
- Focus should be on getting individuals off the hill; not on performing medical care.
- Doctor-in-a-box option would require cost benefit analysis and a contract.

IMT Meeting Agenda Development Working Group / Steering Committee (Mike DeGrosky/Rich Cowger/Kathy Pipkin)

- Group discussion around in the future rotating an IC to plan the IMT Agenda.
- ICs desire more one on one time with the Agency Administrators. (Joe Sampson)
- Group discussion on delivering content to be reviewed by specific section break outs.
 - Need to identify desired outcomes for each of these.
 - Agreement to add Joe Sampson to the working group.
- Review of Position Task Book system – what is and is not required:
 - One issue is Red Card committees are not getting back good documentation for certification. (Greg Morris)
 - GATR / Training issue:
 - Not having a training specialist on the teams may be impacting this. (Kathy Pipkin)
 - Is found in the Leader's Intent; possibly a remark / statement to emphasis competency based system. (Diane Mann-Klager)
 - Leader's Intent section. (Mike DeGrosky)
- BIA/Tribal Resources Office of Workers Compensation Program and Indian Health Service:
 - Medical Unit breakout section.
 - Action Item: Amanda Boatwright would be the contact to discuss BIA/Tribal Resources Office of Workers Compensation program and Indian Health Service in the Medical Unit breakout section at the IMT meeting. Assigned to: IMT Agenda Working Group. Target date: prior to IMT meeting.
- Medical Units Discussion – Product that will come from WFAA/NRCG discussion:
 - Medical and Safety are usually grouped together at the meeting.
 - Appropriate for this section break out.
 - Action Item: IMT Agenda Working Group will request Anthony Krause to provide updates on the cache changes during the IMT meeting. Target date: prior to the IMT meeting.

- Approximately 15 minutes required. (Greg Morris)
- One hour total including Anthony.
- Break Out discussion for ICs at the Team Meeting – Resource Impacts on Private Land during Suppression Operations:
 - Raise Awareness so that when it is possible to achieve the same suppression outcomes with differing alternatives; and that all alternatives are considered and all concerns are considered.
 - Potential Lead – Allen Christman / DNRC or IDL individual assisting.
 - IC Break out section.
 - Approximately 30 minutes.
- Proposal – have a room set up at IMT team meeting to get Ads and Retirees through Firenet account process:
 - Security pre-work courses must be accomplished first.
 - Instructions distributed to ICs from Kathy Pipkin.
 - **Proposal declined due to not being feasible.**
- The role of NRCG at in brief and close outs:
 - IC Break Out section.
 - Approximately less than 10 minutes.
 - Corey Buhl is the contact for this topic.
- Incident Prioritization Worksheets.
 - Planning Section breakout.
 - Julie Polutnik will incorporate into her presentation.
 - Approximately 15 minutes.

Bin Items

- Need exists to re-visit plan that came out of the IC summit and re-tune. (Mike DeGrosky)
- **Action Item – have IMT Sustainability Task Group review the Team Plan and make recommendations by October 1st, prior to October NRCG Conference call. Target date: draft to be compiled prior to the fall meeting.**
 - Will continue to implement the plan as it exists during this review process.
- Develop resources for the Agency Administrators to help inform their Medical Risk decision making: (Mike DeGrosky)
 - Potentially utilize both Anna and Andrew as resources for Agency Administrator education.
 - **Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will ask Mike Granger to follow up with Anna Stull and ask for a recommendation of a suite of options on how to implement strategy. Target date: prior to IMT meeting.**
 - Discussing pilot testing specific recommendations in a particular area. (Mike DeGrosky)
- Reference historic record keeping in Northern Rockies; this is not a new issue. Limited decision space.
 - Can ask to see if incident medical information for the USFS has been collected. (Greg Morris)

Thursday, February 28 – Executive Session

Aviation Committee (Phil Ketel)

- Helicopter Contracts:
 1. Bitterroot/ Big Swag Type III EU Awarded.
 2. Lolo Type III IDIQ changed to EU. Lolo/ CopperHill Type III EU Awarded.
 3. Growth of Rappel and Short haul are flat right now.
 4. Working with WO on next type one contracting including placement and type.

5. RFI is going out to determine next gen helicopter possibilities.
 6. Type 1 and Type 2 on CWN will be extended for 2019 until October or later.
 - * Partner agencies look like they will have same contracts coming into next season.
- Fixed wing contracts:
 - Helena ATGS EU 180 Awarded Spring of 2019
 - Grangeville ATGS EU 150 Day Awarded Spring of 2019
 - Modified CWN at Coeur d'Alene Lane for 2019
 - Still processing contracts, not sure yet on SEATs but should have 3 EU ATGS platforms for the GACC/Region(Bob)
 - Next gen 3.0 will add up to 5 additional air tankers to our 13 available now, for a total of 18.
 - IR is still going to be an issue.
 - May be some additional Items available. Fixed wing and contract UAS.
 - UAS
 - Approved a diverse group to UAS pilot training.
 - PMS 515 Operations Guide in place for UAS fire operations
 - National Office working on operations guide for all other UAS operations.
 - Nationally RAO group is issuing a preseason Cooperator/compact letter. This is an attempt to get in front of requirements, prior to the high demand of fire season.
 - Special challenge will be the dwindling number of pilots and especially the Lead plane pilots. Challenges with hiring, retention and training time to competency.

Business Committee (Amanda Boatright)

- The fall business committee meeting was held in Billings on October 22-23, 2018. Quarterly conference calls were held on December 18, 2018 and February 26, 2019. The spring business committee meeting will be held in Missoula on April 2-3, 2019.
- NR IBC is working on the following tasks:
 - Finalizing a Land Use Agreement Guide that will provide general information to consider prior to establishing a land use agreement. The guide also provides specific information by NRCG Agency/State for Dip/Draft Site, State Trust Endowment Lands, Lands Owned by Other State Agencies, and Schools/Fairgrounds.
 - Developing a document to provide guidance on incident donations.
 - Rental car task group will be working on SOPs regarding the National Emergency Rental Vehicle (NERV) contract implementation. Will present during IMT Finance/Logistics Breakout and Dispatch Workshop.
 - Task Group will be formed to review and update the Northern Rockies Interagency Decision Document and Cost Share templates.
 - Offering E-Isuite training courses in Missoula and Coeur d'Alene in March 2019.
 - Incident Business Management Webinars will be May 13-16, 2019. Topics include:
 - IBA refresher
 - Interagency Cooperation/Business Cooperation
 - Dispatch for incident business
 - EQTR refresher
 - Micro-purchaser refresher
 - Medical refresher for Logs and Finance
 - Working to update NR IBC website to ensure toolbox contents are up to date and relevant.
 - NR yellow book supplements will be finalized and issued after the spring business committee meeting.
 - Currently recruiting to fill the Northern Rockies National Buying Team
 - Tracey Nimlos sent Pam the draft of the 2019 NR Fire Support Cost Share

Agreement. If there are no changes, she would like to have it signed at this meeting.

Dispatch Committee (Jamey Graham)

- Workshop will be combined with the IMT Meeting again this year. Will be held at the Courtyard Marriot.
- Call set up for March 12th.
- No committee action items currently; will see what comes out of April meeting.

Equipment / Logistics Committee (Warren Appelhans)

- Held the Equipment workshops in Missoula and Butte last year; appreciate all the efforts that made those a success.
- Contracts – AIS contract is still a large one; due to shut down, update with changes did not occur.
- Plan is to gather everyone together at the IMT meetings and ensure all needs are met.

Native American Crew Committee (Bob Jones)

- Previously, one of the targets was to have 50 crews going out of Northern Rockies. This number has been retained for now, due to delay from the shutdown.
 - May be altered in the future.
- Status quo on the plan for now; until further updates are obtained later
- Difficult to retain seasonals; facing same issues as other positions.
- Push towards self-sufficiency of crews also poses challenges.

Operations Committee (Corey Buhl)

- Working on finalizing forms for Northern Rockies ATV and UTV ordering/inspection guidance. Will be complete the first week of May.
- Moved meeting timeframes.
- Tasking for Rapid Extraction Module was completed and paper presented. This will now go to the Business Committee for review.
- Tasking for Critical Resources Task group:
 - Task group will be working on developing the plan of how to implement this and is expected to be presented in May at the MAC exercise.
 - Continuing to make progress.
- Action Items: The meeting next week in Helena we will discuss and define what an Initial Attack Module looks like in the Northern Rockies.
- Action Items:
 - Concerns with IR capabilities:
 - Group discussion on contracted and other resources that are utilized in other GACCs.
 - Possible this is an appropriate topic for CGAG.
 - Group discussion revolving around Situation Units utilizing the tools that are currently available; however, may not be the products that would be preferred.
 - Important to note that partners have technology that may need to be investigated to line out a process for utilization.
 - Helena approved as a VLAT base again.
 - Remote Situation Unit:
 - Currently it is a prototype experiment dependent upon approximately three people.
 - Program base must be built up to be sustainable.
 - Action Item: Per Craig Goodell's request, Pam Jolly will put Remote Situation Unit topic on the March NRCG BOD conference call with a presentation from Morganne Lehr.

Prevention and Education Committee (Mike DeGrosky for Rita Chandler)

- The fall meeting in Bozeman was in good attendance from all zones with a renewed interest in the committee and actions to be taken for fire prevention, mitigation, restrictions and education.
- Restrictions strategy updated – including the Website. We were optimistic that we would meet the April 2019 date with approval from NRCG group; however may need to reconsider and extend current plan. – Would NRCG board entertain this?
- The following actions were taken as agreed upon
 - Email was sent to Restriction coordinators and very little feedback was receive.
 - CJ was going to solicit feedback on restriction website; occurred recently February 2019.
 - Need follow-up on the plan for making fire restrictions a story map.
 - Still looking at revising fire restriction training, ppt. roadshow, etc.; idea is to do something that supports the restrictions coordinators.
 - NRCG has expectation for follow-up on the original tasking to answer the question – “Are Restrictions working?”
 - The survey for this and a plethora of information gathering was done then shared back out to the zones on the data.
 - Chris Barth also was to give a report out at the Fall NRCG on this.
 - This Restrictions data will be used to get an updated NRCG Restrictions Strategy in place for 2020 and beyond.
- The Fire Adapted Learning group moved forward and that workshop is March 13-14 in Bozeman.
- Need follow-up on the development of a Parcel Assessment course for geographic area.
- There will be a lot going on with the Smokey Bear 75th celebration this year. The various zones have things scheduled and the committee determined that it best serves the communities to have things more local vs one big regional coordination.
- The Fire Prevention Education Committee did not have a chance to meet prior to the NRCG February meeting. A coordination call will be pulled together vs a full days meeting this spring. Date TBD.
- Proposal to extend deadline to June 1st for the website; due to shut down.
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Training Committee (Tuesday Kimball)

- Assumed the chair position last fall.
- Working on updating the Northern Rockies Interagency Training Operating Plan
- All zones working hard on training with all of the fire hire.
- Spring meeting tentative for April 25th; will talk about the priority trainee applications. Also will talk about regional needs analysis.
- Priority Trainee application period is currently open.
 - Melissa will send out details for applying.
 - May 3rd is the deadline for application.
 - Training committee then prioritizes those applications across the region.

NRCG Board of Directors – Executive Session (NRCG BOD Only)

IC Applications

- Vote to approve Rick Connell’s IC application.
 - **Approved - unanimous consent.**

- Need to review two other IC applications - Mike Granger and Tim Reid.
 - Vote not urgent at this time
 - Action Item: BOD will take additional time to review both applications. Vote will occur on a conference call – March 12th at 1000 AM.
 - Pam will distribute a notification message to all appropriate members.

Awards

- Judy Heintz for her years of service and dedication to IMT Coordination.
 - Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will task Kathy Pipkin with following up on an award for Judy Heintz to be presented at the IMT meeting.

General Informational Sharing

- For March acting Dakota Prairie Grasslands FMO contact will be Scott Bovey.
 - Ralph will provide contact information to Pam for distribution.
- BLM – expecting State Director position to be filled soon.
- DNRC – County Co-op Program Manager selection will be coming out in the next few weeks.
- BIA – Great Plains – Regional Director Position should be advertised soon; continuing with actings.

Round Robin

- IDL – JT Wensman - New governor; legislative session occurring now; not expecting budget enhancements. For fire season, no real changes in resources. Conceptual discussion – reference the lack of crews in the region, is there a way to leverage partner’s strengths? IDL can hire temporaries and seasonals without as many hindrances; except locations and facilities. Do have the ability to hire bodies and potentially utilize vehicles.
 - Can capitalize on getting fuels funding as well. (Bob Jones)
 - Will also work direct with DNRC agreements individually for assistance with fuels project. (Mike Granger)
 - Facilities at NCF or IPF – possibility to enter into an agreement with IDL to utilize their facilities? (Ralph Rau)
 - Also, do have fuels crew in another GACC that are regularly sent out to do fuels work. (Diane Mann-Klager)
 - BIA in the process of re-doing cooperative agreements currently. (Diane Mann-Klager)
- DES – Jake Ganieany – from pilot project previously, every FMAG would come with specific funding post. Working on those extensions with deadline to FEMA next month. Applying for a lot of good and varying projects. In the future, should there be any FMAGs, would see that money quicker. Pre-season Wildfire Mitigation Conference in Helena, beginning May 13th. Most of the western states will be in attendance and will discuss National Guard and deployment of Montana National Guard. Beginning this year and for the next two years; National Guard will not have the same capabilities as previously due to deployment. Dealing with winter storms and declared emergencies. Loosing several National Guard aviation resources; however, are able to continue hand crew training. There is now a mechanism in place for them to procure supplies now.
- NPS – Dan Warthin – Dave Soleim, FMO at GNP, is retiring at the end of March. Announcement is out. Vice Pam Jolly position at NRCC - working on hiring package for that; challenges from shut down and hiring. Recovering from shutdown, hiring seasonals and pre-season work.
- NDFS – Ryan Melin – Acting State Forester - selection made for detailer. Planning on filling by the Fall; will change the location of the State Forester living requirement. Lots of snow and cold from winter; may lead to large fuel loading in western ND. Now up to full staff. Interested in having a type 2IA crew out of ND in the future.
- BLM – Corey Buhl – State FMO job – have put forth a name. Vice Judy Heintz – agreement to detail Julie Polutnik in; working on job analysis for that position. May end up parking an engine in Jordan this year. Hiring is challenging so far. Merger with Billings and Miles City facing challenges and still working on issues. Preparedness budget was significantly reduced.
- USFS – Ralph Rau – Fire Hire proceeding; similar number of resources for this season. Jumpers – will be about 15 people in the rookie class this year (covers all three bases). Regional Office

currently fully staffed; however, Brenda Wilmore in Fuels is retiring. Beginning next year, will start to see retirements. Budget wise – fire transfer funds were not returned. This is a significant impact to the region. Great Northern Crew – training crew; will continue this season.

- BIA –RM Region – Bob Jones – AFMO vacant; sitting with HR currently. Some changes at the tribal levels - new FMO at Ft. Belknap. Aviation – lot of returnees and some new hires. Dispatcher at Billings – were able to get away from the 90 firefighter requirement and should have more applicants soon. Agreements – all expired with the tribes; fuels and fire – extended for another year. New re-write for 2020.
- FWS – Mike Granger – preparedness budget reduced significantly. Two positions that have been unable to fill. Were able to hire seasonals; however, some are now taking other jobs due to other delayed offers. Have not been able to fill the position in Jordon; looking at another solution for that. Fuels funding and projects opportunities may exist. Exploring those options. Leadership – new reorganization still has yet to be seen. Still have an acting secretary of the interior.
- BIA – Great Plains – Diane Mann-Klager – BIA was set aside from the DOI reorganization. Looking at hiring several positions. Watching and monitoring concerns with the snow levels and potential flooding. Plains snow pack is not currently as well as the mountains. Went into with drought condition, which will hopefully lead to better absorption. Concerns still at Ft. Totton. Working with SD NOAA and NASA on a new fire grassland module for fire weather / fire behavior model. May see it pushed out further as an application for other areas.
- MS&POA – Vern Burdick – Star Program is MT centric. Met with DNRC rep in Helena last fall; worked out the paperwork issues. Conducted AAR of past deployments. Need exists for education of fire camp routine. Future deployments will occur with individual that is knowledgeable in these procedures.
- DNRC – Mike DeGrosky – Large focus on governors initiative “Forests in Focus 2.0” – establishing new cooperative relationships with USFS and BLM. May be adding on several individuals in this arena. Dave Hamilton’s temporary detail ends week after next and will be replaced by Matt Hall as a detailer. Are working on some fire program reorganization. Talk of budget cuts in the legislature.