

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 Members’ 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 incorporate 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 Beeverhead-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 AOB 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 individual's 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 addressed 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 emphasize 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 received.
 - 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.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together In Emergency Response Management

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Mike Granger, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Sarah Lee (representing BLM), Scott Hayes and Joshua Harvey (representing IDL), Diane Mann-Klager, Craig Goodell, Kathy Pipkin, Pam Jolly, Tim Murphy, Aitor Bidaburu, Coleen Haskell, Julie Polutnik, Jeni Jerezek

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- The Operations Training Committee under NWCG is going through a slight re-organization. Decision was made to bring in a number of sub-committees, to include the major function areas under ICS.
- Draft Agenda for joint NMAC / GMAC meeting in April has been distributed.

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

- Tomorrow is the spring equinox.
- Driest areas still include North Central Idaho and North Central Montana. Both have received relief over the last couple of weeks. Current, no drought.
- North Dakota - high likelihood of flooding.
- Dry and windy events should be localized along the Front Range.
- Rest of this week will be moderated by high pressure.
- Overall, warm and dry with a return to more average temperatures.
- Snow melt concerns will occur across the region.
- Next week a more active pattern begins with light precipitation across western Montana.
- Eight to fourteen day outlooks show higher than average likelihood of above average precipitation and warmer than average temperatures.
- Seasonal outlooks continue to look warm and dry.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

- Minimum activity: Eight fires for 25 acres and seven prescribed burns for 102 acres.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Planning the MAC exercise for Thursday, May 2nd
- There will be an M581 cadre working lunch on Wednesday May 1st; coordinators and administrators are invited. Please advise Craig Goodell if available to attend.
- Will be attending CGAC
 - Will be discussing successes and challenges that would be pertinent to group as a whole and any issues from 2018 to daylight. Please send any thoughts to Craig Goodell.



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- Action Item: Craig Goodell will follow up with JT Wensmen to see if he is planning on attending CGAC. Target date: prior to CGAC meeting.
- Action Item: Mike Granger will follow up with Craig Goodell reference Heavy Equip Boss shortage. Target date: prior to CGAC meeting.
- Incident Workforce Development Group
 - Craig distributed this email to the BOD on March 4th; comments due back April 5th.
 - Action Item: Craig Goodell will re-send the Incident Workforce Development email to the BOD. Target date: prior to March 22nd.
- NIROPS IR
 - There is a Forest Service individual is working full time on this issue and they will present at CGAC.
 - Intent is to work towards developing the tools that are not currently being utilized.
 - Action Item: Craig Goodell will work with the teams to identify actual needs and utilize appropriate tools. Target date: 2019 fire season.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Nationally things are slowly picking up.
- Sent one group of BIA severity resources to Oklahoma on a Severity incident.
- Requesting feedback for the 2019 Mobilization Guide prior to April 1st.

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

- Solicitation Plan
 - Forest Service opening water-handling:
 - Inspections due in by May 13.
 - hope to award by June 13.
 - Dispatch Priority List by the first week of July.
 - Forest Service – Medical, Ambulance and Paramedics:
 - Extend for this calendar year.
 - Changes coming.
 - NPS – decision made not be solicit tents.
 - Incident specific agreements will need to be done for those.
 - Montana DNRC – will be soliciting for toilets and handwashing stations.
 - Dropping solicitation for office trailers.
 - Those will be done on incident specific agreements.

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

(Unable to participate on the call.)



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Follow up on Old Business:

MAC Plan Changes (Kathy Pipkin)

- **Decision - vote postponed until next call.**
 - Send word be prepared to vote next call – either be there or have an alternate or send word in advance
 - **Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will distribute an email advising all BOD members to be prepared to vote on the MAC Plan changes prior to the April conference call and advising to either be present on the call, have an alternate present to vote or send word of vote preference in advance. Target date: prior to March 29th.**

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

(Unable to participate on the call.)

New Business:

Remote GIS for Incident Management (Morganne Lehr)

- Tested concept in 2017. Experienced success, with some growing pains. However, did verify potential.
- 2018 – there was interest in providing this support nationally; however, issues were encountered.
 - Need to define who is going to be the ordering entity.
 - Need to define who funds that effort.
- For 2019 – those questions need to be addressed prior to fire season.
- Individuals could also be supporting from a remote location. (Craig Goodell)
- Not an item to be identified on the cost share. (Mike DeGrosky)
- IC's and home units should be the ones to identify this need. (Sarah Lee)
- Caution to be pro-active on timing; want to have the conversation early on so that it is easy to implement. (Greg Morris)
- Desired outcome is provide clear guidance as to what the Remote Sit can provide and get that information out at the IMT Meeting.
- **Action Item: Craig Goodell will work with Morganne Lehr and others to draft up a white paper on protocol for Remote Situation Unit Support; how and when it would be used. Target date: prior to the May meeting.**

2019 Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Forces “Umbrella Document” (Mike DeGrosky)

- No significant changes; minor revisions.
- **Approval – Unanimous consent.**

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- **Action Item: REMS – Pam Jolly will contact Roger Staats and request that the REMS briefing paper be utilized to compose an interim guidance draft document. Edits will include limiting the verbiage to**



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Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

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eliminate the interchangeable use of the words “extraction” and “extrication” to solely utilize the word “extraction”. Target Date: March 22, 2019. Interim Guidance to be distributed at the IMT Meeting.

- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will compose and distribute a tasking to the IMT Sustainability Task Group members identified in the 2019 NRCG Spring Meeting notes. Target date: April 15, 2019.
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will compose and distribute an email to the Board Liaisons tasking them to attend their respective Zone Meetings and convey the expectations identified in the 2019 NRCG Spring Meeting notes. Target date: March 22, 2019.
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will ask Mike Granger to reach out and confirm and with both Anna Stull and Andrew R. Hower for a presentation at the IMT Meeting. target date: March 22, 2019.
- Action Item: Kathy Pipkin tasked by Mike DeGrosky with arranging for an award for Judy Heintz, recognizing her contribution to IMT Coordination. Award to be presented at the IMT Meeting. Target date: prior to the IMT Meeting.
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will compose and distribute an email tasking Julie Polutnik regarding the IMT Agenda Working Group content inclusion of action items for the functional break out areas at the IMT Meeting. Target date: March 22, 2019.
- Action Item: Identify future structure of the NRCG / Agency Administrator meetings at both the Agency Administrator and Board of Directors levels. Assigned to: Mike DeGrosky and Diane Mann-Klager. Target date: prior to the fall NRCG Meeting.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – (Unable to participate on the call.)

BIA GP – Snow melt occurring; monitoring flood concerns. One position currently being advertised.

BIA RM – (Unable to participate on the call.)

BLM – No word on State director or Associate State Director positions. Selection has been made for vice-Ken Schmid, hope is that this individual will be on board around mid-May. Facing budget issues with shortfall; intent is for same staffing as 2018; however, may be challenging. No word on the SEAT. Currently addressing billing issues. Unit changes clarification – not the dispatch centers that are changing; it is the BLM Unit IDs.

FWS – (Mike Granger had to drop off the call earlier.)

IDL – No fires; snow melt occurring. May have a shortage of engine bosses state wide in the IDL; may be looking to bring in additional resources.

MT DES – (Unable to participate on the call.)

MT DNRC – Recently hired a new program manager in County Coop program. Detailers have been rotating as Deputy Chief, Preparedness. Currently, that individual is Matt Hall. Assistant FMO opening at Kalispell unit is currently being advertised. DNRC will be filling a number of future positions. Legislature is currently in session.

Montana State Fire Chiefs – (Unable to participate on the call.)

Montana Fire Wardens – (Unable to participate on the call.)



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

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MT Peace Officers – (Update provided by Mike DeGrosky) Vern Burdick followed up on an Action Item and contacted his counterparts in the other states. They are currently happy with his single representation.

ND FS – (Unable to participate on the call.)

NPS – Glacier National Park FMO job selection is expected soon. Dave Soleim is retiring. Snow is present in most of the parks.

USFS – Brenda Wilmore will be retiring at the end of March; please recognize there will be some gaps as the selected detailer won't come on board until mid-April. FOIA – getting a lot of pressure from the Washington Office to make operational plans and Incident Management Plans available on the internet. Issue is that these contain sensitive information, including frequency information. Advising the Washington Office that this is an NWCG issue that affects all agencies. Smoke meeting occurred last week; good information and cooperation among all. More information from that meeting will be forthcoming later.

The next scheduled NRCG Conference Call is April 16, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together In Emergency Response Management

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: Mike Granger; Jake Ganieany; Mike DeGrosky – Chair; Patrick Lonergan; Vern Burdick; Dan Warthin; Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Amanda Boatright; Tim Murphy; Jordan McKnight; Mike Richmond; Kathy Pipkin; Julie Polutnik; Dave Williams; Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

(Unable to participate on call)

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

Overall has been warm and dry the last few days. This should be the last day of seeing these conditions. Heading into a cooler pattern overall beginning Friday. A system will move across the region beginning Sunday, bringing potentially wetting precipitation. Mountain snowpack is melting, but still doing fairly good. Overall, should be in a relatively benign pattern and generally drought free over the majority of the region.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

- Since the last call - 124 new fires for 2,962 acres
- Year to date - 132 fires for 2,987 acres
- All human caused

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Julie Polutnik for Craig Goodell)

- GMAC exercise next Thursday, Bob Marshall room at NRTC at 1000 hours
- There will be a working lunch; so please bring a lunch
- Wrap up will occur around 1500 hours and then will join M580 for a class discussion at the end of the day.
- **Action Item:** Julie Polutnik will contact Craig Goodell and find out which room the class discussion part with M581 will occur. Target date: Distribute information prior to May 1st.

NRCC Update (Julie Polutnik for Kathy Pipkin)

- Review of Northern Rockies resources that are currently committed and those that are available.
- 120 day detail for Intelligence Coordinator - starting May 13th; announcement should be coming soon
- 120 day detail for Assistant Intelligence - agreement with the NPS; tentative start June 10th; announcement should be coming soon
- 120 day detail for analyst - agreement in place; striving for start May 28th; first outlook should be out Mid-May



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- Will be looking to augment staffing on the Aircraft desk.
- Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide – should be out for final review soon; publication expected on May 15th

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

- USFS opened water handling solicitations – inspections occurring for five MOU holders; proposed close inspections on May 13th; then evaluation panel; awards by mid-June; close solicitation by May 8th; potentially could have 100 pieces of new equipment.
- USFS medical solicitations – extending last year's agreements.
- DNRC progressing with portable toilets and hand washing stations.
- Conducting audit of training MOUs
- Waiting for weather to re-shoot agency portion of video; striving for mid- July

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

No updates at this time.

Follow up on Old Business:

MAC Plan Updates (Julie Polutnik for Kathy Pipkin)

- Reviewed updates - added IPW as appendix six; was presented to plans sections, ICs and dispatchers at the workshop; and added associated verbiage to the Mob Guide.
- Revisions will be utilized at the MAC exercise next week
- Conducted vote to approve
 - Approved – majority vote
 - BLM representative abstained

New Business:

Future Planning for IMT Meeting (Mike DeGrosky)

- Proposal - Beginning in 2020, the planning of the annual IMT Meeting would be tasked to a specific IMT on a rotating basis
 - Kathy Pipkin approached Mike DeGrosky with this request
 - Team 7 (Thompson) has volunteered to go first.
 - Of note, Turman's Team also volunteered.
- Decision – Will move forward with the proposal. Rotation will begin with Team 7 for 2020 and move in numerical sequence to Team 1 for 2021, and continue as such from there on out.
- Action Item: Delegation of Authority to Team 7 (Thompson's Team) for planning of the 2020 IMT Meeting / Assigned to: Mike DeGrosky / Target Date: July 1st
 - Delegation to the team will cover expectations (what is and is not allowed)
- Action Item: Lessons Learned from 2019 IMT Planning process / Assigned to: Julie Polutnik / Target date: July 1st
 - Julie Polutnik will compile and pass along to Thompson's Team; will include items such as:
 - Judy Heintz reserved the Hilton for 2020 for April 14-16
 - What audio visual needs will need to be rented from the hotel



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- What agency is responsible for payments

Request from NR IMT PIOs (Mike DeGrosky)

- NRCC / NRCG role in Public Information – plan was never finalized
 - May be backing up on the structure of that plan due to the reality of available resources.
 - Past experience showed that is has not worked out very well.
- Issue arose at IMT meeting last week – when approached, Mike DeGrosky suggested ordering PIO when needed; was not well received.
 - Group then asked for a way to bring in a long term detailer each year; desire is for a steady presence at NRCC.
- Cost consideration would need to be taken into account.
- Value is not in question; however, workload and cost considerations are the issues.
- **Decision – for 2019 will continue to order PIO resource in on a call when needed basis.**
 - Due to budget constraints; agencies are unable to commit to additional upfront costs.
- **Action Item: Complete Communication / PIO Plan – including list of PIO contacts or rotation to be provided to NRCC / Assigned to: Mike DeGrosky and Craig Goodell / Target Date: July 1st**

IMT Plan Updates (Julie Polutnik)

- New draft needs to be distributed; contains changes from last week's IMT Meeting
- Appendix I – is this still needed?
 - **Decision - leave it under construction for now.** –
- Conducted vote to approve
 - **Approved – unanimous consent**
- Team Plan will be posted by end of the week
- Type 2 Team and WFMT schedules will be posted by end of the day
- Type 1 Team schedule will be posted next Monday

Intelligence Dissemination - Twitter / News & Notes (Ralph Rau)

- Concern from units requesting a return to previous News & Notes and / or Twitter capability
 - Issue arose during recent USFS R01 FMO meeting
 - Units requesting capability for regional awareness in a real time sense
- Did provide previously; discontinued due to staffing and workload.
 - Other GACCS provide this resource in a variety of ways; some have a dedicated PIO brought in and with some it is a combined effort from all individuals in the GACC
- Discussed inconsistencies with Wildcad notifications for team deployment during last year's season
 - Issue was also brought up at IMT meeting; NRCC will be addressing protocols internally
- Item has value and units desire this information; however, workload is considerable and understandable.
- **Action Item: Keep this topic on the agenda for the next call / Assigned to: Pam Jolly / Target date: Prior to May 20th**
 - Ralph will look at and discuss the issue with some of the FMOs in preparation for the next call



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Welcome Packet (Patrick Lonergan / Mike DeGrosky)

- Proposal – Provide a “Welcome Packet” that contains a one stop source for incoming teams encompassing both the NR Geographic Area Briefing and all NRCG guidelines, direction and guidance as a single PDF file
 - Previously provided to incoming teams in past years
 - Previously compiled by MAC group
- Action Item: Compile a “Welcome Packet” that contains a one stop source for incoming teams encompassing both the NR Geographic Area Briefing and all NRCG guidelines, direction and guidance as a single PDF file / Assigned to: Pam Jolly / Target date: July 1

Team Liaisons Report Out – Issues from IMT Meeting (Mike DeGrosky)

Team 1 – Goicoechea – Ralph Rau

- Concerns on REMs
- AD injured last year while on R&R; was not covered by OWCP. Be mindful of the kind of positions it puts people
- Succession – emphasize think about who is being developed; the individuals being developed
- Cannibalization of shot crews – being pulled more and more to provide overhead for various things; impacts from this should be carefully considered

Team 2 – Turman – Mike Granger

- Succession – be mindful that the plan in place is dynamic; lots of changes can still occur
- ATV / UTV concerns – is there a possibility could reduce the number of signatures on the Authorization form?
 - Form was developed by the operations committee. Business Committee appreciates more signatures for the accountability aspects.
 - Mike Granger will address with the Operations Committee
- Brought to attention that there is an out of date Incident Organizer on the NRCG website
 - Action Item: Review Incident Organizers on NRCG website / Assigned to: Craig Goodell and Brandon Cichowski / Target date: July 1st
- Expectation from NRCG on medical injuries and expectations
 - Getting the individuals off the line and to treatment into as fast as possible.
 - Anna Stull will be preparing a white paper regarding rapid extraction of injured individuals
 - Business Committee had some issues with the REMs document that was produced. It reads as if NRCG is creating the expectation that REMs will be utilized – many counties have this capacity and could be the first choice.
 - Action Item: Review REMs letter and make intent clear – use REMs when necessary and only when necessary / Assigned to: Dan Warthin (Tim Murphy will assist) / Target date: July 1st



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Team 3 – Almas – JT Wensman
(*Unable to participate on call*)

Team 4 – Connell – Jake Ganieany
(*Had to drop off the call earlier*)

Team 5 – Sampson – Dan Warthin

- Succession – strong in planning section
- Review of the team plan - desire for it to be more concise
- FireNet – bumps with the process and question as to whether it's use mandatory?
 - FireNet business team is aware of DNRC firewall and is working towards a solution
 - FireNet is not mandatory; however, is highly recommended and expectation is that it will be utilized when teams go out
 - **Action Item: Guidance Memo needed for Use of FireNet in the Northern Rockies – will include expectations / Assigned to: Kathy Pipkin / Target Date: July 1st**
- There is an IMT member from a different GACC; whose own GACC would not sponsor to attend 520 due to the individual not participating on that GACCs IMTs.
 - Would the Northern Rockies be willing to support this person to go to 520?
- Concern expressed over maintenance for IMT trailers - budget
- Guidelines for defining local response – question on whether Northern Rockies needs to help define

Team 6 – Fry – Mike DeGrosky

- Expressed concern on ATV / UTV guidance – see above
- Same REM discussion
- Same FireNet discussion

Team 7 – Thompson – Aaron Thompson

(*Unable to participate on call*)

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Proposed to skip this topic in the interest of time
 - **Decision – Topic shall be skipped for this call**

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW –

BIA GP –

BIA RM – No new updates at this time.

BLM –

FWS – Experienced an escape on Lee Metcalf Refuge; do have people moving back towards east side of state now; appreciate all the support from other agencies



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IDL –

MT DES –

MT DNRC – Experienced the first red flag warning and the first lightning; busy time currently, end of the legislature; lots of training gearing up; getting ready for fires season

Montana State Fire Chiefs –

Montana Fire Wardens –

MT Peace Officers –

ND FS –

NPS – Many park units remain under snow; HR – announcement for GLAC FMO is back out, did not receive any viable candidates from the first announcement; at the regional level are advertising a PIO position that will support the northern tier parks; accomplishing pre-season activities

USFS – Bitterroot supported the previously mentioned escape on Friday; having some delays with on boarding, working through those and how it is impacting the units. Greg Morris will be covering the MAC exercise next week.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is May 21, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Participants:

Board Members: Aaron Thompson, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Dan Warthin

Deputies and Others: Greg Morris, Corey Buhl, Chris Loraas, Kathy Pipkin, Mike Richmond, Julie Polutnik, Melissa Wegner, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

(Unable to participate on this call – update provided via email)

- Meeting with the OTC group downtown today. OTC is establishing a Command Subcommittee to help provide oversight to the Command and General Staff positions.
- Will provide update on the next call.
- Very slow nationally, as the NICC staff describe the situation - at "PL .5"

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

Currently in a calm pattern overall for the whole west and will remain so for the next week. May warm up some towards the end of next week. Moisture expected to move into the east side and another system is expected to move over the region on Friday. For the next two weeks, potential is expected to remain low.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

- Welcome to Becky Ward as a 120 day detailer in the Intelligence Coordinator position; may provide report for the next call
- Since the last call, there have been a total of 393 fires for 3,828 acres
- Year To Date there have been 526 fires for a total of 6,815 acres
- Also, since last call mobilized a T2 IMT (Fry) within region to the Prospect Fire in Idaho. Incident was 358 acres and the team mobilized on May 8th – of note, this is the 2nd earliest recorded mobilization

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Kathy Pipkin for Craig Goodell)

- MAC exercise was a success; the interaction and coordination with the M-581 students was appreciated
- Heavy Equipment boss issue was well received at CGAC. Position paper needs to be drafted by Operations Committee and submitted to CGAC prior to June 15th in order to be on the June agenda
- Awaiting final white paper from Morganne Lehr on Remote Situation Unit; of note - looking at bringing on a Northern Rockies Remote SIT individual at PL 3
- Attended Southwest Zone meeting with Kathy Pipkin; local MAC exercise planned for June 3rd
- Northern Rockies submitted five candidates forward for S-520; total of four slots guaranteed
- Western Region Cohesive Strategy meeting will be upcoming in Missoula; week of June 17. Will



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include a field trip June 20 – NRCG BOD is invited to attend

- Fry's IMT was out for approximately days; team advised it was a good first assignment

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Waiting on a couple of agreement items:
 - NPS park service to give paperwork to USFS in order to bring on the assistant intelligence position.
 - USFS to sign modification to DNRC agreement in order for DNRC to be able to hire a short term worker for the NRCC front desk.
 - USFS Human Resources in Albuquerque to complete staffing work for fire analyst; effective date to be determined.
 - Intelligence Coordinator detailer has begun; now awaiting the temporary promotion portion that is being worked on.
 - Next week will begin the NRCC Dispatch Center visits; will be covering the Southwest sector of the region. Craig Goodell will participate.

Contracting Updates: (Chris Loraas)

- For the tactical equipment that was solicited this year – there was concern from all aspects, including the furlough and compressed time frame. There are still some processes to work through; however, it looks like the region will have comparable capacity as last time.

Follow up on Old Business:

Intelligence Dissemination - Twitter / News & Notes (Ralph Rau)

- Kathy Pipkin found that the delegation is to a PIO and NRCC does not have one
- Topic identified to remain on the agenda for the June call

New Business:

Priority Trainee Program Updates (Melissa Wegner)

- Application was again put out in Google Forms; was open from February 15th through May 10th - recently closed
- Training committee does the prioritization
- Availability is an issue that always surfaces. Will advocate for those showing available for assignments in ROSS, within and outside the GACC
- At last count (prior to May 10th close) there were over 300 applications
- Priority Trainee Program came down from NMAC as a tool to enhance both career / workforce development and IMT succession. Purpose of the program is to assist with getting individuals to a fully qualified level
- Mechanics behind the process include ROSS reports, working with the Overhead desk at NRCC and making personal contacts both within the region and nationally



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Turman's Team Re-Application (Mike DeGrosky)

- Turman's Team is up for Re-Application next year
- Currently, the team is in a developmental phase with a new IC in training
- They have asked if they can skip the re-application process next year
- Action Item: Mike Granger, Turman's Team Liaison, will discuss the rationale behind this request with Doug Turman and brief the BOD on the June conference call.

Fire Suppression Modules Briefing Paper (Corey Buhl)

- Feedback received from FMOs and the field is that definition is desired
- Essentially tweaked BLM definition
 - Single Resource Boss identified in Northern Rockies definition
 - Added at least one faller 2
- Provisional approval for 2019 granted with a review to be conducted at the end of the year – unanimous consent

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Action Items updated – group review

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – (Not on call)

BIA GP – (Not on call)

BIA RM – (Not on call)

BLM – Began this position last week; getting up to speed. New state director started yesterday. Will attend the Governor's Fire Briefing, June 7th in Helena. Conducting National Preparedness Reviews first two weeks in June. Working on getting the assistant manager position advertised.

FWS – (Not on call)

IDL – (Not on call)

MT DES – Submitted request for flooding declaration. Last week Montana National Guard training was conducted; will be two more rounds. Hosted Western Wildfire Workshop - special Thanks to NRCC Mike Richmond and DNRC units for the information provided. Be advised that Nationwide there will be a shortage of National Guard Air assets due to current and future deployments; exercise will be conducted soon. Two open positions within the agency, in addition to a new position being brought on.

MT DNRC – Hired a new county co-op program manager; new unit FMO at Clearwater Unit has also now been hired. Wyatt Frampton was the area FMO at the Northwest Lands office and is now a project manager in Missoula; former position will be filled in the fall. One agency specialized position being advertised currently, please contact for more information. New area assistant FMO at the Southern Land office.

Montana State Fire Chiefs – (Not on call)

Montana Fire Wardens – Nothing new to report

MT Peace Officers – (Not on call)



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ND FS – (Not on call)

NPS – Not successful in hiring an FMO at Glacier NP; acting will continue. At the Regional level, looking at getting a communication and education position filled. Getting ready for the season.

USFS – Brenda Wilmore retired; Gabe Dumm is currently acting. Successful with prescribed burning operations. Will participate in the Governor's briefing. Hiring system has been slow nationally; programs impacted by the new security requirements. Many crews are not fully stood up yet. Several individuals currently providing support out of region. Will be conducting two Fire Program Reviews in the upcoming weeks. Team leaders for those units have been asked to inquire with cooperators.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is June 18, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Mike Granger, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau, and Darron Williams (note: Darron Williams joined the call after voting occurred.)

Deputies and Others: Greg Morris, Sarah Lee, Aitor Bidaburu, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Mike Richmond, Patrick Murphy, Amanda Boatright, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

Went to PL 2 last week; nationally activity is moderated. Only three IMTs out nationally. NMAC will be meeting later today to discuss additional resource requests to Canada. Currently, at a low PL2. NWCG will be meeting this week; will be discussing some subcommittee reorganization.

Briefly discussed Canada footwear policy for sawyers and the involved procurement. Discussions are ongoing at a national level.

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

Have been pretty dry over western PSAs; 1000 hour fuels in some areas are ahead of where they should be. Dry cold front is coming in; will be seeing RHs around 20% beginning tomorrow. Mostly green fine fuels now. Have had a lot of lighting over the past few days as well. Cool, low pressure system with precipitation moving in on Thursday. This should help measurably in the Northwest area of the GACC. Snow levels will be coming down to 5000 foot in some areas. Next week, expected to warm up to average with the possibility of another following low pressure system.

GACC Situation: (Kathy Pipkin)

- In the last 24 hours, three fires for zero acres
- Since the last call - 172 fires for 5,653 acre
- Year to Date – 705 fires for 13,021 acres
- Three loads of smokejumpers at each base
- Helicopters currently - two rappel capable and one short haul capable
- Two T1 crews available nationally
- 12 T2 IA crews available – one is a T1 that is currently running as a T2, and one is a contract crew
- Do have a call from NICC to return, possibly inquiring what Northern Rockies could provide as support to Canada



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Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Still have 4 IHC in Canada; return 6/21 on Friday
- MT DNRC crew and IDL crew in Alberta under Northwest Compact
- Working on Remote Situational Unit support; Morganne Lehr is continuing to work on a briefing paper for CGAC
 - Did have one order for support that was successful, albeit, a few wrinkles to smooth out

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Kim Thomas will be retiring Aug. 31st – mandatory date
- Would like to get on the agenda for next month's call – decision on filling from the board

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

- Last week posted new engines and support water tenders Dispatch Priority Lists; down nine companies; however, up 37 pieces of equipment
- DNRC completed hand washing stations
- Extending EMTs, paramedics and ambulances for a year
- Prior to the weekend, will be posting Dispatch Priority Lists for skidgine and pumper cats; will be up on both companies and equipment
- Last week finalized reshooting of video; currently is with the production company and expect final product by end of the month

Follow up on Old Business:

Heavy Equipment Boss (HEQB) Utilization – Draft Letter for CGAC Submission (Mike Granger)

- Minor edits to what was created last year
- Recommendation to quantifying “multiple pieces of equipment”
 - Can add limit caveat of “as determined by NWCG”
- **Approved – unanimous consent, with caveat of above listed edit**
- Letter will then be sent to Chair for signature; and on to CGAC

Turman's Team Re-Application (Mike Granger)

- Discussion involving granting a one-time, case specific exception based on the following rational:
 - “We are currently in our 3rd year of the rotation. Knowing that Scott Schuster is not ready to take the team, I am asking that myself and the current C&G extend until Scott is ready and not have the team reapply next fall/2019. Scott will be working to get his Type II IC task book completed and then move to Type I task book, (this season and into next year). I am willing to stay the IC until Scott is ready and then step down where the team/board needs are. I am just trying to reduce the burden on the system. If you look at how many times the team would fill out an application, which would include next fall and when Scott is ready, it would be 4 times out of the last 5 year. If denied, I am ok with that, I am just trying to be efficient with my team



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members time." - **Douglas Turman**

- Approved – majority vote, with the caveat that the notes document the provided rational. Two voting members abstained, as they are members of this team.

IMT Transition Protocols Update / Revision (Dan Warthin)

- Checked in with Joe; still a work in progress.
- Recommend a deadline of presenting at the fall board meeting

WFMT White Paper Update / Revision (Dan Warthin)

- Update also on WFMT white paper – it is done, in the process of attaching recommendation to it.
- Recommend a deadline of presenting at the fall meeting as well.
- Draft has been requested; Dan will provide once received from Joe.

Critical Mission Resource Group SOPs (Corey Buhl / Craig Goodell)

- Concern – only uses federal and state resources, no local government resources
 - Resources need to be self-sufficient and able to track own time and travel; must be fluid
 - Puts Northern Rockies in line with what three other GACCs are doing
 - Will not limit opportunities for local government on incidents in the Northern Rockies
 - New task group that DNRC is putting together that will be entirely local government
- Concern express that the Northern Rockies Operations officer and GMAC seemed to be interchanged throughout the document – need to be consistent about who they are assigned to and who is setting the priorities
- Concern also expressed over configuration – may possibly be limiting through this piece; requesting clarification
 - There is a caveat state “whenever possible” reference T1 hand crew from the NR
 - Does still provide the latitude to be flexible with configuration
- **Action Item:** Craig Goodell will edit and provide additional draft to the BOD for review
- **Vote conducted - not approved at this time; unable to reach a majority vote**
 - Rich Cowger and Patrick Lonergan will reach out to Mike DeGrosky directly for clarification on the local government aspect
 - Will defer to the chair on the need for an interim call prior to next month's scheduled call

NRCG Handbook Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Did not receive a great deal of input prior to the deadline
- Concern was expressed over mission statement
- Kathy will go through the strategic document to see if there are items that can be pulled in to this document
- Recommend this be continued as an ongoing project at this time
- Deadline recommendation to present at fall meeting



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New Business:

Medevac Authorization Form (Amanda Boatright)

- Intent of the form would allow for the employee to document why medivac was necessary for workman's comp
 - Form may be looked at to be adopted nationally down the road
- Approved – unanimous consent

GIS Rental Computers Cost Share (Patrick Murphy)

- Change with rental agreement; discussion on the rental potential with the board to avert lack of availability to get GIS machines throughout the season
- NWCG has 500 single use software licenses; concerns that due to the later season for the Northern Rockies that these may not be available by the time these machines are needed
- Recommending to rent 10 computers for July, Aug, Sept and have them pre-loaded and ready to ship out to the field
 - \$500 each per month total; \$15,000 for the season
 - Request to accomplish this on the cost share per the current agreement
- This is the first year this process has worked this way
- Not approved – unable to reach a majority vote
 - Will defer to the chair for later discussion
- Patrick would need to know prior to July; as it is a whole month's rent, no matter what day the order is placed on

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

Postponed to next call

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – Fuels Operations Specialist job open on USAJobs; T3 helicopter arrived and will be heading out soon

BIA GP – North Dakota greened up; fire activity has slowed down. Still getting small fires; no concerns.

Coordinator position closing Friday. Working to advertise a budget analyst and zone fuels specialists.

Superintendent meeting this week.

BIA RM – (Not on call)

BLM – National Preparedness review finishing up tomorrow. Had several small fires; largest was 56 acres.

FWS – Completed all of refresher, seasonal hiring, and training. Mechanical reductions on west side of state; escape review Lee Metcalf will be conducted soon. New position on Charles M. Russell opening Wednesday. No fire activity.

IDL – (Not on call)

MT DES – (Not on call)

MT DNRC – (Not on call)

Montana State Fire Chiefs – Finishing up refresher and pack test seasons. Activity slow.



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Montana Fire Wardens – Nothing additional to report.

MT Peace Officers – *(Not on call)*

ND FS – *(Not on call)*

NPS – No fire activity currently. Crews are on; refreshers completed. Yellowstone helicopter is available nationally. Working on filling communication education position that may be stationed in the Northern Rockies. Announcement for regional GIS specialist should be coming out soon.

USFS – Most folks are on; still waiting for a few to onboard here and there. Leadership change, Chad Benson is the new Forest Supervisor on the Kootenai National Forest. Suggestion to add FBAN report out for future calls under predictive services.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is July 16, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: Aaron Thompson, Vern Burdick, Dan Warthin

Deputies and Others: Diane Mann-Klager, Josh Harvey, John Monzie, Tom Kuntz, Adriane Beck, Michael Odell, Julie Shea, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Aitor Bidaburu, Mike Richmond, Julie Polutnik, Warren Appelhans, Ryan Patrick, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- Nationally firmly at PL 2. Southwest moved from PL 3 to PL 2 yesterday. Alaska remains at PL 5.
- NMAC met yesterday; currently meeting twice a week right now.
- Currently, there is a slight pinch if it comes to needing IR services. NWCG – Operations Training Committee is looking at possibly changing its name to “Decision Standards Committee. There will be more to come on that.
- Dingle Act update – There is a draft charter that the FMB group will be reviewing referencing establishment of an interagency group to keep track of and provide updates on progress being made towards the Dingle Act that was just passed.

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond)

Interesting week ahead; a low pressure trough is moving through today. Wind event will be coming in on Wednesday and will affect the west side. Thursday, winds 30-40 mph for the northern half of the Front Range. Higher temperatures are expected as well. Stronger gusts will occur in aligned terrain. Friday, winds will be coming down. Saturday will be a transition day. Sunday, the four quarters high will rebuild with increasing temperatures and low relative humidity beginning Monday. Potential for dry thunderstorms afterwards.

Fire Behavior: (Warren Appelhans)

Heavy fuels went into the winter dry and have not recovered completely. Heavy potential for holdovers with the amount of lightning that has been received over the last few weeks. Another potential on the short range with this wind event are fallen trees across powerlines. Information is being posted and distributed regularly. Available to help with fire behavior request.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

- Since last call there have been 228 fires for 312 acres.
 - 280 acres of that was the “Last Chance” incident from yesterday. This was a grass fire, north of Lewistown.
- Year to date there have been 934 fires for 13,333 acres.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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Tuesday, July 16, 2019

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- 10 year average is 977 fires for 72,916 acres.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Northern Rockies has been supporting other GACCs.
- Keeping one load of smokejumpers at each base to cover any IA.
- Have been receiving some resources back.
- Fry's IMT T2 is on an incident near Fairbanks. As this is the 2nd assignment for that team, when it comes back, it will be taken out of the rotation to allow opportunities for the other teams. This is per the 2019 Northern Rockies IMT Standard Operating Guide.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Have been heavily supporting Alaska with jet loads. Will be recovering another jet load soon.
- Alaska did cancel the resources that were going to mobilize on the 19 or 20th.
- NRCC is in seven day coverage. Also, running a bit lean in the office supporting Alaska as well.
- Do have multiple Resources / Types available within the GACC.

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

- Met with MT Logging Association and was presented with the final video. Will be working towards distributing this to all the agencies.
- Grayback T2IA national contract crews located in Missoula experienced a structure fire that did significant damage. They are attempting to come back on line from that.

Follow up on Old Business:

Modified HEQB Proposal for CGAC (Craig Goodell)

- Proposal was sent to CGAC; there has been new discussion from CGAC now and they desire more specificity.
- Have added verbiage of "up to 3" pieces of equipment
- Approved – majority vote; USFS – only supports with the caveat that Ralph has some questions regarding the edits.
- Action Item / Craig Goodell will finalize edits and forward on to CGAC to then be taken on to the NWCG.

Critical Mission Response Group (Craig Goodell)

- Last bullet – edits were made to this verbiage
- Other issue that needs revisiting is discussion around utilization of local government resources
 - Business committee has concerns on the ability of these resources to be self-sufficient. In addition, concerns over checking in / out and pay issues.
 - Potential next step is to check in with the Business Committee
 - Craig – suggested edit to the document stating that assigned resources would need to be self



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sufficient

- Motion to approve and move forward was proposed and seconded.
- Approved – majority vote; USFS requests that this be ferreted out with incident business committee; and it be identified how that aspect would be managed. Would like an Incident Business Specialist consultation prior to finalization.
- Action Item / Craig Goodell will contact Sara Lee with these concerns and then re-contact Ralph Rau with the findings.

New Business:

Filling of Aircraft Coordinator Position at NRCC (Kathy Pipkin)

- The aircraft coordinator at NRCC, Kim Thomas, is retiring at the end of August. That position is part of the cost share and USFS funds the position.
- Need final approval from the board for the USFS before moving forward to advertise the position.
- Approved – unanimous consent.
- There is an assistant that is interested in a temporary promotion while the position is being advertised.

Lessons Learned / Planning for NR IMT Meeting (Julie Polutnik)

- Distributed to the next team in the rotation.
- Reviewed briefing paper bullet statements.
 - Recommend adding IMT Planning Rotation to the IMT Standard Operating Guide.
 - Recommend adding the payment schedule to the IMT Standard Operating Guide.
- 2020 meeting has been reserved and scheduled. JT Thompson has a copy of that agreement.
- Recommend working on the 2021 logistics early.
- Total bill for 2019 was approximately \$3,800

Review of Action Items: (Craig Goodell)

Updated the following:

- Completed - Remote Sit Unit tasking
 - Presented white paper to CGAC in June; was well received. System in place to implement.
- Completed - Critical Resource Task Group Implantation
 - See above topic from this call
- Completed - Review of Incident Organizer
 - Will remove these from both the NRCC and NRCG websites
- Moved to Fall Meeting Agenda – WFMT Whitepaper
 - Dan secured the whitepaper from Joe Sampson. It will distribute to the BOD for review. Will change the assigned individual from Hutton to Sampson and it will be discussed at fall meeting.
- Completed – Shortage of HEQB
 - See above topic from this call



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Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – (Not on call)

BIA GP – Had an active spring; most fires have been human caused. Also were dealing with flooding further south. Will have a lot of curing later on.

BIA RM – (Not on call)

BLM – Relatively quiet; supporting other GACCs. Light IA. Corey is back from his assignment. Have had a few injuries that occurred in other GACCs since the last call. Over the weekend, an end product helicopter had a hard landing with two injured.

FWS – (Not on call)

IDL – Northern Idaho has been relatively wet this spring. Have been supporting Alaska. Did have a presence in Canada for a while. Currently, rotating resources back.

MT DES – (Not on call)

MT DNRC – Light IA; all hiring is complete. Agreements are in place. Supporting other GACCs;

Montana State Fire Chiefs – Supporting other GACCs; light activity on the western side.

Montana Fire Wardens – Nothing additional at this time.

MT Peace Officers – (Had to drop off call)

ND FS – Limited activity across the state; some areas are a bit dryer than others. In the process of hiring a new education and prevention fire coordinator. Do have some trainees that are close to having their task books signed off.

NPS – Fairly quiet; supporting park areas in Alaska. Working on filing two communication and education positions at the regional office and a vacant GIS specialist.

USFS – Large number of resources in Alaska; providing some support in R03. Has been fairly quiet in the region.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is August 20, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart; Aaron Thompson, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky (Chair), Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Vern Burdick, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Bob Jones, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Aitor Bidaburu, Mike Richmond, Julie Polutnik, Warren Appelhans, Melissa Wegner, Dave Williams, Tracey Nimlos, Billy Philips, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- At a very low PL 3 nationally; things have moderated since precipitation last weekend
- Taking actions to release a number of CWN airtankers
- CGAG memo regarding HEQB is moving forward with the recommendations. Will be discussed at NWCG next week; may go to OTC committee as a tasking

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

Will remain dry in the western half of the region through Thursday, then a week through will move through. North Idaho should stay dry with near normal temperatures. Will be warming up and drying out substantially in the near future as a four corners high sets up.

Fire Behavior: (Warren Appelhans)

- Comparable rain event years - 2004 and 2009
- Reviewing the input into the 209 from the fuels pull down menu; issue will be brought to the SIT – 209 committee's attention by Julie Polutnik. Issue may require a white paper in the future. Will be distributing interim guidance to the field.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

- Since last call have had 554 new fires for 11,710 acres
- Year to Date have had 1,504 fires for 25,061 acres
- 10 year average – 1,735 fires for 174,010 acres
- In 2009, PL was 2 on Sept. 27nd then moved to PL 3

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Still have a significant amount of personnel out over the geographic area
- NR Team 3 Almas was extended; transferred command this morning and close out will be in Helena at 1600 today (Jake Ganieany is attending the close out for the BOD.)



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- NR Team 5 Sampson – has three to four more days of indirect line construction before turning back the incident back over to a T3. Transfer of command and close out will be on Saturday. Details will be forthcoming. (USFS will cover this close out. Ralph Rau will provide a name to Craig Goodell.)
- Miles City jump base will be open today; there has been an uptick in activity on the east side
- NRCC Assistant Center Manager position has closed; hope to have a cert by Aug. 23rd
- Have been working with remote SIT out of Missoula (Billy Philips)
 - Have put together a briefing paper and will distribute
 - Was established prior to PL 3 due to numerous requests; at first was funded directly by incident codes and then by a regional support code
- Priority Trainee Program (Melissa Wegner)
 - Moved 23 Priority Trainees through the program
 - Worked with an additional 16 other Priority Trainees for out of GACC mobilization
 - Moved an approximate total of 39 Priority Trainees so far this season

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Have rotated NRCC staff through out of area assignments
- Dingle Act has instigated multiple requests to the IROC group reference resource tracking. It is also bringing about questioning of associated dispatch definitions. There will be more to come on this issue.
- Anniversary of Justin Beebe's death; there will be a moment of silence observed at 1600 hours.

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

- Last week was the peak of contractor use; roughly 50% of contractors were in use
- To date have not sent any contractors outside of the GACC
- Two weeks ago attended a Wildfire Defense Systems meeting in Bozeman. Important to note how this corporation interacts with agency contractors.

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

- There have been a fair number of accidents and injuries uploaded to the lessons learned site.

Follow up on Old Business:

ATV / UTV Policy Update (Aaron Thompson)

- Verbiage has been vetted by the Business Committee and the Operations Committee
- Discussion that terminology in the memo does not match terminology utilized on the forms. ("ATV" utilized in memo; "UTV" utilized in the form.)
- Motion to approve with the suggested verbiage match edits
- **Approved – unanimous consent**



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Critical Mission Resource Group (CMRG) Update (Craig Goodell)

- There was a slight language change; clarified what “fully self-sufficient” meant
- Motion to approve as submitted
- **Approved – unanimous consent**

New Business:

Agency Administrators and IMT Rotation (Mike DeGrosky)

- Feedback received that line officers and others have been overhead making statements in meetings referencing system manipulation in order to receive a specific, desired team
- Request to all BOD to monitor and ensure each unit mitigates this behavior

IMT Rotation (Patrick Lonergan)

- Is it appropriate for the board to implement board discretionary procedures to ensure teams who have not had an assignment are given opportunity for any future mobilization priority this season?
- Group discussion that either alternative could be problematic
- **Action Item: Craig Goodell will talk with the ICs to obtain their thoughts and then email the BOD as soon as possible.**

Frequency of NRCG Calls (Group Discussion)

- Decision to remain at one call per month until activity warrants additional calls

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Postponed until the September call; ask for that call will be for all to review the action items assigned to them. A comprehensive review of the Action Items listing will be conducted at that time.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – (Not on the call)

BIA GP – Have been receiving precipitation; no significant fire activity.

BIA RM – Fairly quiet; have had some small fires and IA and a few short term requests. Still have a few helicopters; one may go to the Southwest to help with prescribed burning

BLM – Yesterday a fire lookout employee possibly suffered a stroke; currently is in the hospital in Billings. Did have a pair of duals come off an engine while it was going a slow rate of speed. Minor damage to the engine. Last week a BLM employee in North Dakota was killed when struck by lightning. Due to the Dingle Act, the BLM has gone to location based services – GPS locators on specific vehicles

FWS – (Not on the call)

IDL – (Not on the call)



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MT DES – Worked with the DNRC for approval on the North Hills fire; did a good job getting information submitted. Was also able to gather information for Horsefly as well, if it had been needed. Hiring another person for mitigation; should onboard next month.

MT DNRC – Still having some IA, especially on the east side. Will be losing a large amount of seasonal workforce; however, aviation resources will remain staffed for seven day a week coverage. Have focused on some hiring; on the cusp of hiring a training, safety and workforce development individual. There are currently lots of moving parts around hiring.

Montana State Fire Chiefs – Staying ready and participating in a lot of venues; IA on a couple of relatively small fires

Montana Fire Wardens – No new updates at this time

MT Peace Officers – (Not on the call)

ND FS – (Not on the call)

NPS – Two small fires at Yellowstone National Park currently; largest is 29 acres and is being managed for multiple objectives. Did have a historic lookout destroyed by lightning. AAR for the Holmes incident is on the lessons learned site. Hired two regional communications specialists.

USFS – Fire activity relatively light; there was a steady trickle of individuals that provided support outside of the GACC. Do still have lots of work going on in the GACC. Have some summer prescribed burn proposals and expect to get back into prescription for those soon. The recent moisture has put them back a bit.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is September 17, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers, Mike Granger, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Vern Burdick, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Darron William, Diane Mann-Klager, Sarah Lee, Brent Woffinden, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Tim Muprhy, Kathy Pipkin, Aitor Bidaburu, Mike Richmond, Julie Polutnik, Warren Appelhans, Ryan Patrick, Dave Williams, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- NWCG Group and FMB group will both be meeting tomorrow.
- OTC committee will be transitioning to a new chair this fall; the group's name will also be changed. It will also have sub-groups under it.
- Leadership sub-committee has been elevated to a full committee level.
- Reviewed the three documents distributed for BOD review; purpose for all three is for information sharing only. Please contact if there are any questions.

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

Entering into an early fall pattern with a system currently bringing precipitation over the western portion of the GACC. Will be windy on the East side ahead of a cold front moving through. Another system will follow with a cool, moist pattern later in the week. Afterwards, another weak trough is expected on Sunday. All areas within the GACC should receive some precipitation over the next week.

Fire Behavior: (Warren Appelhans)

- Fuels are around or under average.
- Did post the season ending graphs.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

- Currently Northern Rockies is at PL 1
- Since last call have had 532 fires for 46,316 acres.
- Year to date have had 2055 fires for a total of 71,430 acres.
- Multiple units have been conducting prescribed burns
- Had a 315 acre fire north of Billings yesterday; 50% contained as of this morning.
- Grangeville had a 160 acre fire as well; no issues.
- Alaska is currently winding down; Northern California is also winding down and has received precipitation.
- Did send a couple of IHCs to Rocky Mountain area yesterday.
- Connell's T2 IMT is extending in Alaska.



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Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- All NR T2 IMTs have had an assignment now.
- Connell's team will be extending.
- Turman's team is back from Hurricane assignment.
- Goicoechea's team is in #1 slot for T1 IMT for the Northern Rockies
- Sampson WFTM is off for the rest of the season.
- The smokejumpers moved to five day coverage this last weekend. Down to one smokejumper aircraft for the GACC; located in Missoula.
- Two IHC's currently available.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Working with HR on getting Aircraft Coordinator PD classified
- Kat Sorenson is temporarily promoted into the Aircraft Coordinator position. Are outreaching the assistant position behind Kat.
- The assistant center manager position interviews were conducted last week.
- Detail ended Sept. 14th for the Intelligence Coordinator position; currently there is not another detailer in place. The assistant intelligence detail position ends in early October; currently working with NPS to explore options.
- The Fire Analyst detail also has ended; individual is currently wrapping up projects.

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

- Starting to work with partners to begin the 2020 solicitation process. Hope to finalize by the November Fall Meeting.

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

- No new updates at this time.

Follow up on Old Business:

Proposed Changes to HEQB Position (Craig Goodell)

- Making progress; reviewed distributed memos.
- Last piece is for NWCG Operations and Training Committee to take up the discussion. Recommend NRCG BOD contact their agency representatives on this committee and discuss the rationale.
- **Action Item: Each BOD member should contact their agency's NWCG representative on the OTC group. Aitor Bidaburu will send out a list of the representative's names.**



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New Business:

Conference Call Format Streamline Process (Mike DeGrosky)

- NRCG Monthly Call Format has gradually morphed into a MAC call format.
- Need exists to reduce the length and number of report outs and realign back to monthly business call format.
- Proposal to cut Predictive Services, Fire Behavior, GACC Situation report outs; at least through the winter, with ability to add back in if needed.
- **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Training Committee Charter (Mike DeGrosky)

- Need for signed charter – Deferred.
- Mike DeGrosky will make direct contact with Tuesday Kimball regarding this issue.

Fall Meeting Agenda Planning (Mike DeGrosky)

- In response to feedback and input from members of the BOD, will try out a new format for this year's meeting.
- Chair's intent is to focus on using available time together for dialogue, discussion, and meaningful interaction.
 - To facilitate this: NRCG will be requesting as many updates and report outs as possible be submitted in advance of the meeting. This will allow for using more of the meeting time for questions and conversation, by reducing one way information flow.
 - These will include:
 - Committee Report Outs
 - Zone Report Outs
 - ICs Report Outs
 - Staff Report Outs (NRTC, NRCC, NRK, Operations, Contracting, Safety, IT)
 - **Action Item: These are to be submitted to Pam Jolly by COB on October 8th.**
 - It is acknowledged that this is a tight timeframe; however, there will be much for the BOD to read and review prior to the meeting.
 - This timeframe will provide each BOD member with adequate time to absorb report out content and formulate questions.
 - Due to some unavoidable schedule conflicts for the people preparing for the meeting, everyone is to please be responsive to the timeframe.
- These modifications will provide the BOD with time needed for discussion regarding how the BOD conducts business.
 - A thorough review of the Action Items listing will occur; in addition to discussions regarding committee taskings.
- All topics for Agenda Items are also requested to be submitted to Pam Jolly by **COB on October 8th.**
- Ralph – suggestion to include template report out format which also provides an opportunity to address specific items of concern with the BOD.
- **Approved – unanimous consent.**



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- Action Item – Pam Jolly will construct a template report out format and distribute in advance of the October 8th request timeframe.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Reviewed and updated Action Items listing as a group.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – Finished a REMs Helicopter letter from the Pacific Northwest, will forward it to Dan Warthin as reference material. Has been quiet.

BIA GP – Fairly quiet; looking at Ft. Totten area for fall potential.

BIA RM – Fairly quiet; currently have two units without FMOs. Sent out the helicopter quite a bit this summer; supporting other areas.

BLM – Did have a serious accident with a Miles City engine a few weeks ago. Undergoing a realignment of the state fire program. Field offices have been working on prescribed fire activity. Currently under a 14 day temporary hiring freeze.

FWS – Eastern Montana hand crew has been a success this year. Currently working on fuels projects, especially on the west side. Talking with DNRC for a joint prescribed burn project. Hiring has been a challenge. Has been fairly damp so far this fall and hunting season is in full swing.

IDL – Not on call.

MT DES – Not on call.

MT DNRC – Keep having some spikes in activity. Have made progress on hiring; have been working all summer long to fill four program manager positions. Three are now filled. Meeting season is also in full swing. DNRC is forming a new Bureau and is looking for a new chief regarding the Good Neighbor Authority. The position is currently open and will be closing soon.

Montana State Fire Chiefs – Not on call.

Montana County Fire Wardens – No new updates at this time.

MT Peace Officers – Not on call.

ND FS – Not on call.

NPS – Currently managing some fires in Yellowstone National park. Glacier National Park FMO position is currently open.

USFS – Some leadership changes to report, have two new Deputy Regional Foresters in place now. Jane Darnell is now working primarily on National level issues. Also, Jacquie Parks is detailed into Fuels position currently.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is October 15, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together in Emergency Response Management

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: JT Wensman, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Mike Granger

Deputies and Others: Michael Odell, Jay Lusher, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Aitor Bidaburu, Warren Appelhans, Tracey Nimlos

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu) Both NWCG and NMAC are meeting tomorrow and Thursday. NMAC/GMAC meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020; typically Northern Rockies send a couple of representatives (chair/vice-chair). From the US Fire Administration: FEMA Region 8 recently had a meeting and a presentation on various tiers for Type 3 all hazard teams. MT CAT may have attended. The tiering concept is something getting traction nationally to get delineation with the IMT3s and how to deploy on disasters. If NRCG Board would like a presentation, Aitor can set that up relatively easily. Group should think about that and what venue would be most appropriate (Board meeting, IMT meeting, etc.).

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations/NRCC (Craig Goodell)

58 fires for 510 acres since last call. Current resource utilization: 1 IHC in CO, 6 Type 2IAs on assignment. Jordan McKnight, Craig Goodell and Dave Williams recommended certification of the St. Joe Wildland Fire Module last week. Waiting on Operations Committee now. Barb Whiteman is retiring and there will be a need to cover her position at NRCC and in the contracting shop. Aircraft Coordinator position is being reclassified. Kat Sorenson is currently detailed into that position. Kate Holsapple is detailing into the Intelligence Coordinator position behind Julie Polutnik who is currently detailed into the Assistant Center Manager position.

Follow up on Old Business:

ICS 209 Issues:

Fuel Model Issue (Warren Appelhans)

- Proposal to move issue paper forward to CGAC/NMAC – issues with 209 to include the updated fire behavior models; especially in bug kill and in reference to logging. Sent this issue to the Intelligence Group to include the additional 40 fuel models to bring the 209 in line with other modeling that is done. Intelligence Group approved, but advised it needs to come through the coordinating group side. Needs to go to NMAC for a vote on changing the 209, so NRCG would need to send to CGAC. If CGAC agrees, they would move forward to NMAC. Craig can do this at the end of this month on their next call.
- Approved – unanimous consent.
- Action Item: Craig Goodell will do this at the end of this month on their next call. Warren Appelhans will work with Pam Jolly to finalize the paper.



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Suppression Strategy Issue (Craig Goodell)

- Proposal to move issue paper forward to CGAC/NMAC – brought forward by Dave Williams relating to experience on Beeskove. Issue is on 209 under full suppression incident - it doesn't allow for anything but percent containment. The strategies that were often implemented under federal fire policy allow to go indirect, but if the lines are not burned out - cannot call that area contained. This causes confusion when a lot of effort is put into control features and don't have ability to show completion. Dave Williams wrote up issue paper that was sent prior to the call. Would like to report percentage contained and completed. Craig would like to move forward to CGAC.
- Approved – unanimous consent.

New Business:

IMT Speaker Fee (Mike Granger)

- Mark Smith, Mission Centered Solutions – “Luck Runs Out” presentation at IMT Workshop. Thompson's planning team believes this would be a high valued presentation.
- Approximately \$2874.00 cost
- Payment Options
 - Payment comes out of the IC Budget allotment for FY2020
 - A NRCG agency steps up to cover the cost
 - John Thompson is possibly looking at another speaker and a request for funds for that speaker.
 - Mike Granger will follow up with John Thompson.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

See spreadsheet

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW –

BIA GP –

BIA RM –

BLM –

FWS – Toured Paradise, CA last week and a huge amount of work has been done since April as far as debris removal. DOI is transitioning to multi-Interior regions with multi agencies involved. Looking at some form of realignment in Fire and Fuels program. Looking at restructuring seasonal positions. FWS has a position open at Fort Peck and a regional fire budget analyst position. Exceeded fuels target for the FY19 year.

IDL – Two weeks ago attended a vegetation management summit hosted by the Western Governors Association. Lots of representatives from power companies. Sue Stewart from the FS and a couple of BLM individuals attended. Summit almost exclusively evolved around right of ways and vegetation management in



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utility corridors. At the end of this month, JT Wensman has a meeting on Idaho agreement with the FS and BLM.

MT DES –

MT DNRC –

Montana State Fire Chiefs – Just finished annual conference.

Montana County Fire Wardens – No report.

MT Peace Officers –

ND FS – 417 fires to date for almost 5000 acres. Lots of hay bale fires recently. Seasonal staff will be done in November. Should have announcement on new state forester soon.

NPS – Glacier FMO job is almost ready to announce. The regional office has on-boarded a new communications and education specialist.

USFS – Gabe Dumm has accepted the FS Fuels Program Manager position with R1. Reporting on December 1st. Greg just came back from the National Fire Leadership Council meeting. Lots of communication around risk management; lots of movement towards a more permanent fire force (i.e., fewer temporary employees and more permanent employees). Jordan McKnight is exploring the possibility of having a couple of year round IHCs available. R1 exceeded it's fuels target for the year. Looking at 98,000 acre target next year.

The 2019 Fall NRCG Meeting will occur November 4-7, 2019 in Missoula, MT

(This meeting will replace the November NRCG Conference Call)

2019 NRCG FALL MEETING NOTES

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Monday, November 04 – Executive Session NRCG BOD/WFAA

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

NRCG BOD and WFAA Coordination and Overlaps

- Agency Administrators are always welcome to attend the NRCG Board meetings.
- NRCG Charter does not contain interaction clarification.
- Goal is to ensure the agency administrators are engaged and supportive of BOD decisions.
- Discussed positives and negatives of WFAAs meeting with the entire BOD versus only with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

- Advantage of joint session occurring after the General Session, thus increasing agency administrator awareness on challenging current issues.
- **Proposal to hold the joint WFAA / NRCG BOD session after the NRCG BOD General Session.**
- **Approved – Unanimous consent.**
- Should role clarifications be added to each charter's language?
 - WFAA charter – Mike Archer will send copy to Diane Mann-Klager.
 - **Action Item – both the NRCG and the WFAA groups will look at their respective charters and determine if there is a need for clarifying language between the Agency Administrators and the NRCG Board regarding roles. Timeframe – Spring Meeting topic. Assigned to: Diane Mann-Klager, Paul Santavy, Mike DeGrosky and JT Wensman.**
 - Will examine the possibility of combining into a single document.
 - Will need to address if there should be a Local Government representative.
 - **Action Item – NRCG will be clear on agendas as to whether agenda items are open discussion or decision topics for the Board.**
 - Highlight desired outcome – task, purpose, end state.

NRCG Tasks – Prioritizing and Streamlining

- NRCG as a whole needs to begin thinking about prioritization of existing action items. Sometimes this would require going to the WFAAs and requesting assistance with those priorities.
- Need also exists for NRCG Board to be aware of priority taskings coming directly from WFAAs. Process needs to be understood by all.
 - If WFAAs are aware of National or larger items, then that priority needs to be communicated clearly to the NRCG Board.
 - Currently, the Sustainability Tasking is the highest priority tasking from the WFAAs.
- WFAAs are willing to go through an NRCG BOD Action Item prioritization exercise.
 - Suggestion to have the Board review the Action Item list and come back to the WFAAs with a proposal to retire certain items and pursue focus on the remaining ones.
 - NRCG Board will be responsible for sending prioritization proposals to the WFAAs.

Briefing on Sustainability Tasking

- WFAAs would like something put together by the NRCG Spring Meeting.
- IMT Meeting is April 14-18th.
- Update from IC Committee meeting (Craig Goodell):
 - Have gotten started with process of creating questionnaires to obtain feedback as to why individuals participate or not on IMTs, and to supervisors as to why or why not they are supportive. Social scientist is working with the group to help design. There are agency requirements on issuing surveys and participation in such that will need to be met. NRCC will be working on a winter project of data mining to illustrate shortage positions.
 - Two separate issues:
 - Sustainability of the Northern Rockies Teams - tasking for IC Committee; timeframe – spring NRCG Meeting.
 - WFAA expectations are to obtain a clear picture of current profile, what the data is, and where the shortages exist.
 - NRCG will need to define expectations of what the group should provide back to the board.
 - Will identify where the focus should be placed on building skill sets.

- Discuss how many teams of what types are needed for the Northern Rockies based on trends and data. This is a future potential tasking to NRCG from the WFAAs.
 - Discussion needs to be had at the Board level.
 - Need exists to look at non-traditional resource pools for obtaining and increasing qualified resources.
- NRCG Board and WFAAs need, in the future, to outline a structured problem statement.
- Important to stay informed on National efforts revolving around these issues.

Risk Communication and Medical Unit – Future Actions

- USFS is diving more into the risk management communication dialoged and increasing the collective knowledge base.
- Group acknowledgment to appropriately split the topics, as they are separate.
- Discussion if this is an agency specific issue or if this is an NRCG issue.
 - Risk often is inherently tied with wildland fire interagency efforts.
 - USFS has created a site for Operational Risk Management and are requiring agency specific Risk 101 training.
- ICs have different expectations of what is acceptable risk in regards to different amounts of medical personnel.
- Discussion that these are issues that are being driven at a national and somewhat agency specific level.
- There is not a collective thought from the WFAAs as to expectations when a team comes in for medical resources. Would like those outlined for the Northern Rockies.
 - There will be more on this topic during Thursday's presentation; any future actions will be discussed after that time.
 - Some of the history of the topic was the requirement to meet the Dutch Creek protocol. That leads to a wide variety of opinions and views as to how best accomplish that requirement.
- Action Item: Mike Granger will follow up on the suggestion to have expectations on medical units on in brief documents.
- Action Item: Mike Granger will follow up on the suggestion to have a topic discussion in the various groups at the IMT Meeting.

Damage Assessments and Assistance Post-Fire

- Topic arose from last year's IMT meeting. IMTs felt this was put on them as a responsibility when it is more of a local issue.
- ICs feel they need something to give to people who were showing up in need of help. ICs would like to be provided with information as to where they can go for this information.
 - Individuals need to contact the specific County Emergency Managers.
 - ICs need to request Agency Administrators to show up at the public meetings and be prepared to address.
 - Action Item: JT Wensman will follow up with John Thompson regarding suggestion to add as a discussion topic for the IMT meeting.

2019 Fire Season Recognitions

- Need to solicit input from the ICs, Committee Chairs and others on recommendations.
- So far the following have been identified as stepping down from positions and deserving of a challenge coin: (Board liaisons for each of the following will be responsible for presentation of the coin and recognition.)
 - Joe Sampson – IC Committee
 - Rita Chandler – FEPC
 - Corey Buhl – Operations Committee
 - Robert Miramontez – Eastern Montana Zone
 - Ray Hart – North Dakota Zone
- In addition, each board member will be issued several challenge coins to disseminate at their discretion.

Tuesday, November 05 – General Session

Northern Rockies End of Year Report (Kathy Pipkin)

- Slower year; down four positions at NRCC.
- Have a detailer into Intelligence Coordinator position and into Aircraft Coordinator positions.
- Need board permission to move forward with the USFS, Intelligence Coordinator position.
 - As a staff, are looking to see if there is an opportunity for reorganization and efficiency improvement.
- Proposal to approve – none opposed.
- Approved – unanimous consent.

Northern Rockies Operational Update (Craig Goodell)

- Supported Alaska and Canada quite a bit this year.
- Fry's team had a deployment in northern Idaho and then was sent to Alaska.
- Team rotation was adjusted appropriately to ensure all type 2 teams received an assignment this year.
 - One was 12 days of staging on a hurricane assignment.
 - Turman's type 1 team did not receive an assignment.
- Opening ICAP on Nov. 25th and closing sometime in February.
- Heavy Equipment Boss proposal is at NWCG.
- St. Joe Wildland Fire Module (WFM) was certified this fall. Board will need to send a letter to NWCG.
- Two proposed changes to ICS 209 that are moving forward to CGAC. Will need board signature on both; board has received one draft so far.
 - Action Item: Kathy Pipkin will email both drafts to Pam Jolly for finalization.
- This winter, the intent is to develop a draw down plan based on preparedness levels. Will be included in the mob guide.
- Craig Goodell has a conflict with the CGAC meeting, January 14-18; will need a board member to attend.
 - Mike DeGrosky may be able to attend.

Northern Rockies Contracting Update (Tim Murphy)

- *(Referenced Contracting attachments.)*
- Need board approval for the solicitation plan.
- **Approved – Unanimous consent.**
- Will be conducting multiple pre-proposal meetings throughout the region.
- Potential that region will have fewer vendors due to slower season.
- Wildfire Defense Corporation is definitely a growth industry that is rapidly expanding. It has entered the European market as well. This has the potential to lead to a shortage of available contract resources in the future. Important to note that agency retirees are being targeted for recruitment.
- USFS has two lawsuits that are currently with the respective judges.
- USFS has a focus within the agency to reduce fleet. In addition, engine replacement costs are increasing rapidly.
- DNRC is beginning to look at their agency model and may be going through some reconfiguring in the future.
- USFS Acquisition Management is being reorganized into a zone structure format which has the potential to affect regional contracting work that has historically been completed by local individuals.

Northern Rockies Risk/Safety Report (Dave Williams)

- USFS is continuing with progression toward a more informed risk decision based model.
- Targeting agency administrators with risk training. This will help all to align around principals and terminology.
- USFS did start a new medical contractor; will hopefully resolve the over the counter medication issue. Long term strategy is still to move towards a national program; however, progress on this is slow.
- There will be an IMS / EMS summit that will count as the refresher held in Missoula in February. Also, USFS is moving forward with an IMS / EMS program coordinator position under safety.
- Did email all contacts for team safety to inquire about how the season went. Inconsistency of how teams are managing risk and safety, in terms of forms and processes; this keeps coming up as a concern.
 - Board may want to consider what risk communication standardization across the region would look like.

Northern Rockies Cache Report (Anthony Krause)

- National stopped putting out a catalogue; Northern Rockies is creating one for regional use. It will be user friendly and a searchable pdf. It will also include additional helpful information.
- Medical Kits – debuted the new kits this year; did get good reviews.
- Looking at the one person first aid kit - it contains two items that can expire; working to eliminates those.
- Working on adding new trash pumps and replace generators this year.
- Chainsaws – still working under strict restrictions on those. Do have plenty of saws for the region. Also evaluating options for continued maintenance.
- Conducting continuous interagency needs assessments for evolving field and agency needs.
- Streamlining cache operations to improve efficiencies. Also, revamped regional cache vans.
- Added foot valve attachments to reduce taking in sensitive impact areas.

Northern Rockies Team IT Update (Patrick Murphy)

- Transitioned into the CIO realignment; still more changes to come as far as organization.
- FITARA – law since 2018; coming into implementation. Functionally means that only funds that come from the CIO can be utilized for IT procurement. Downstream effects are that it will be more challenging to procure IT equipment, especially with ageing equipment.
 - This does include the benefit of replacement laptops.
 - However, do have servers that are aging out and will need replacement to remain viable for the IMTs.
 - Hope to have answers on policy direction regarding procurement by the spring meeting.
 - May mean have to lean more heavily on rental equipment, thus increasing incident cause.
 - More immediate effect is how the equipment that is currently owned will have will be managed. (Including mandatory lincpass usage on USFS equipment. This would impact partners and cooperators.)
- Currently, are set up to support IMTs in 2020. Potentially, USFS security policy changes could necessitate laptop rentals.

IMT Evaluations (Julie Polutnik)

- Turman's team did not receive an evaluation from the staging assignment.
- Fry's team was questioned a bit on the amount of individuals and trainees that responded to Alaska; however, it was an overall positive evaluation.

IMT Composition and Recruitment (Julie Polutnik)

- Document is posted on NRCC website.
- Discussed format; group consensus to retain current format.
- No teams need to reapply at this time. Previously, the Board determined that Turman's team will not re-apply this year.

NRTC Update / Priority Trainee (Melissa Wegner)

- Priority Trainee program mobilization experienced success and good coordination overall.
- Training season – have 24 courses for this season.
- Working with IMT Sustainability task group.
- Last year of funding to WO training coordinator position (Billy Philips). Would like to see this positon filled.
- Front office position has not been filled as of yet due to hiring environment challenges. Have had, and will continue with, detailers while working on getting the position moved up in priority.
- National Training website will be going dark at the end of the year. Wildland Fire Learning Portal is an (LMS) Learning Management System that is being implemented. Has not been fully tested; however, is being tested this year. Northern Rockies will eventually be moving towards this environment. The website is a content management system. Rosie LeMire has been working with the NWCG webmaster to build a training site on the NWCG site. It is not where course delivery will happen. It is only an information specific site.

Baseline Staffing of Third Tier Centers (Kathy Pipkin)

- (See PowerPoint)
- To come up with a strategic plan on how and if could implement in the Northern Rockies.
- Dispatch has been removed from the wildland firefighter academy.
- Would like to look at doing dispatch academies.
- Would also assist with retention.
- IROC implementation has been pushed to March.
- Resource status system that is utilized daily by many centers will be retired soon.
- IT challenges for dispatch seem to be trending backwards towards multiple programs that will perform the same work that currently single programs accomplish.
- Requirement that fully qualified ACDP must be dispatching aircraft at all times will impact many centers.
- Discussion and consensus that cost analysis would be a critical component.

Incident Commander Report Outs

(See attachments for full report outs)

Team 1 – Goicoechea

- Many AD resources are choosing not to participate in the future.
- Would like more clarification as to what are the administrators doing to address the need for increased support during the shoulder seasons as the number of IMT mobilizations increases.

Team 2 – Turman

- Learning curve on FEMA mobilization.
- Did spend time futuring for the team.
- Turman will remain until a replacement IC is ready to go.
- Logistics section does need some bolstering in the future.
- Morale of the group is pretty good.

Team 3 – Almas (Roger Staats)

- Made it out to one assignment – North Hills.
- Appreciate Bill Avey and the approach to risk management communication on an additional incident that team was assigned.
- Team is in a good spot with command and general staff.
- Team is evolving from ADs towards more agency individuals.
- Several successful training accomplishments this year.
- Team is in need of an IC trainee.

Team 4 – Connell

- Late season mobilization to Alaska; were seventh team assigned to the incident.
- Mobilized with only 50 individuals.
- Had three UAS on this incident. Unable to determine protocol for capturing data, unless it is articulated and established in advance.
- Contemplating not attending the IMT meeting and instead developing a unique staff ride for a Team 4 specific exercise. (This is in lieu of attending the IMT Meeting.)

- Group discussion and consensus – no opposition to the idea.

Team 5 – Sampson

- Mobilization to Beeskove proved to be a unique experience, including specifics on jurisdiction and cost share.
- Was a highly visible incident due to location that was close to a heavily populated area.
- Utilized remote situation support and UAS.
- Participated on Beeskove review; was part of a pilot year for new review process.
- Concern around support for established successional planning.
- IBA and IMT interactions were both positive and challenging at times.

Team 6 – Fry

- Opportunity to right size on North Idaho incident; worked out well.
- Mobilization to Alaska provided needed training assignments; however, it also posed challenges on total number of individuals that mobilized with the team overall.

Team 7 - Thompson

- Transition number six for this team; have not begun a fire since June of 2016.
- Mobilized to Alaska, heavily involved in repair phase of the incident. Accomplishment timeline was important due to impending winter.
- Working with the Local government was awesome.
- Took the available priority trainees during mobilization and were also provided with some priority trainees from Alaska.
- Remote situation did provide some support for this incident; in addition to illustrating the need for ground truthing, checks and balances.
- Team viability is still in good shape for next year and the team is working actively towards maintaining this in the future.
- Will be approaching the IMT Meeting planning from a different perspective and with a different vision this year.
 - No host social with fund raiser for the wildland firefighter foundation at the end of the first day.
 - Looking at bringing in a guest speaker; there would be a cost associated with it.
 - There may be some funding mechanism that can be explored.
 - Will come back to the board if funding is needed.
- Asking for assistance in sharing IMT recruitment letter across traditional and non-traditional avenues.

Incident Commander Committee Report Out (Joe Sampson)

- Appreciated the REMs letter re-write.
- Team Trailers tasking – issues are maintenance and safety. Discussed multiple ideas.
- Regional ATV/UTV process – looking at streamlining; however, it is functioning.
- ICS 209 – discussed issue paper going up to CGAC. (Beeskove was a prime example.)
- Discussed status of FireNet and remote situation support.
- Finance – discussed mobilization and reassignment challenges.
- Discussed challenges of inconsistency in supporting out of region IHCs.
- Information – a tremendous number of PIOs are needed for adequate incident support.
- Operations – discussed surge capacity within region.

- Aviation – discussed UAS utilization and status of various agency policy. Discussion on utilization should be had upfront upon incident arrival.
- Discussed the remote control paracargo. Key thing is it can be done in zero visibility.
- Team Sustainability Task Group and IMT Successional Planning – have just begun this tasking and have assigned some individuals to specific tasks and products geared toward data gathering.
 - Tasking needs to include clearly identified gaps in coverage over the course of time.
- Discussed amount and kind of teams that Northern Rockies currently has and how sustainable each are over the course of the next few years.
 - Lack of potential primary IC individuals.
- Discussed IC Trainee Application process and the need for Board and IC committee involvement and communication.
- Proposal that the ICs join the USFS Ranger meeting that will occur in March. Could be tied to the Risk 101 training, thus ensuring all are speaking the same terminology and are on the same page.
 - Could also propose that the same group could come meet with the DRNC and other cooperators to interface with the agency administrators.
- NRCG Chair expressed appreciation and pride regarding the Northern Rockies IMTs.

IMT Transition Protocols / Revisions (Joe Sampson)

- Have not established regionally as of yet; needs to include all incident program areas and committees.
- Would like to see a national product; however, willing to work on this regional tasking.
- Action Item: NRCG Chair will re-task the transition protocols to a joint task group, including IC, Business, and Dispatch committees prior to December 1st.

WFMT Language/White Paper Update (Joe Sampson)

- Board has requested a recommendations section be added to the white paper.
- Recent events suggest that if the NRCG Board contacts potential recipient GAC Boards in advance, then that GAC may be more receptive to WFMT use.
- Discussion on whether to include WFMT in the Type 2 rotation should also be included somehow.
- Would the board support a joint WFMT with R1 and R3, if things came to that point?
 - Discussion would need to be had.
 - End goal would be to eventually have another team established in R3.
 - First step is to have joint conversations between regional director counterparts.
- Action Item: Joe Sampson will compose a finalized White Paper that includes discussed recommendations prior to CGAC in January.

Wednesday, November 06 – General Session Continued

How the NRCG BOD Conducts Business (Mike DeGrosky)

- Board has taken on an unrealistic amount of Action Items. Would like to explore with the group what existing action items be taken on and what should be passed on to committee or staff.
- Would like to see more action items passed on to committees with clear tasking to come back to the board with recommendations that the board would then vote upon.
- Critical element would be for the board to assist committees with work prioritization.

- Need exists to define what is expected from both the committees and staff.
- Need to put in every agenda what the desired outcome is for each topic. (Informational or decision.) *(See previous action item in these notes.)*
- Several committees have less interchange with the board.
 - Equipment and Logistics
 - Fuels
 - Has turned into more of information sharing.
 - Question posed if fuels is truly the NRCG Board business.
 - Fuels are mentioned in Craig Goodell's delegation of authority.
 - Other issue the board has discussed is how agencies can exchange funds for prescribed fire and fuels work; which is more of a business function.
 - Discussion that fuels is truly agency work, instead of NRCG Board work. Appears to be outside the scope of the mission statement for the board.
 - Discussion on retiring the fuels committee. Noted importance of thanking all members for their work and dedication. (Kevin Beck in particular.)
 - **Decision to retire the fuels committee and thank the individuals involved.**
 - **Approved – Unanimous consent.**
 - **Action Item: Ryan Melin will be responsible for ensuring the Boards appreciation is given to all those that were involved on the Fuels committee.**
 - Native American Crew
 - Rob Miramontez has been working on an update.
 - Aviation
 - Arose out of need for sharing resources; which could easily be folded into the Operations committee.
- Can always create a specific task group of Subject Matter Experts to address specific issues.
- Need exists to review all committees' charters for relevancy and currency. A standard approach to charters is needed.
 - **Action Item: Greg Morris, JT Wensman and Mike DeGrosky will review current committee charters and make recommendations back to the board on a standard.**
- Action Item: Format changes for monthly NRCG Conference Calls
 - Need to put in every agenda what the desired outcome is for each topic. (Informational or decision.) *(See previous action item in these notes.)*
 - Need exists to determine if Round Robin and Predictive Services updates are appropriate for regular calls.
- **Action Item: Explore planning NRCG spring meeting in conjunction with the IMT meeting. Patrick Lonergan will discuss with John Thompson at IMT planning meeting by November 15th.**
- **Action Item: While reviewing the NRCG Charter for the potential to combine with the Agency Administrator charter, Mike DeGrosky will explore adjusting charter language to add clarification regarding board member voting authority as it applies to both fair share contributions and other major financial obligations, in addition to adding quorum language definition.**
- Agency Administrator group is looking to NRCG for a recommendation as to whether to include a local government individual as an ex-officio representative.
 - Would provide a valued perspective for that group; would also provide for goodwill.
 - Group discussion and consensus that one individual would be recommended to represent all three states, with the caveat that individual would not be an elected official.
 - Board members are requested to visit with individual agency administrators and provide any

- feedback to Mike DeGrosky.
- It is preferred that NRCG Board members not perform as primary members of the agency administrator groups.

IMT Support

- Group discussion and consensus to keep IMT support centrally funded and managed.
- No changes to current process.

Action Item Review and Prioritization

- List will be re-distributed to all Board members for prioritization input to be provided to Mike DeGrosky and Pam Jolly prior to November 30th.

Committee Report Outs

Aviation (Phil Ketel)

- No taskings and committee has not met.
- Just returned from RAO meeting – cooperator letters will now come out in an interagency format.
 - Will eliminate duel letters.
- Being assured that by January 1 new 5700 policy will be adopted and in place.
 - Will be significant changes; please call with any questions.
- UAS – DOI stood down everything except Fire Emergency UAS operations.
 - Will affect planned training. Unsure of the long term impacts.
- Group would be more than willing to operate in a subject matter expert tasking basis rather than a committee format.
- Decision made to sunset the Aviation Committee.

Business

- Currently having fall meeting in Billings this week.
- Biggest accomplishment was the finance webinars that were hosted in May. Well attended and recordings are available.
- Planning for 2020 Incident Business Workshop; which is a large undertaking.
 - Working on which sessions to offer for that workshop and identifying leads.
- Updated the website and are working on SOPs and guidance.
- Board requested that any self-taskings be sent to the Board for awareness.

Dispatch

- Accomplishments – successful workshop last year; was combined with IMT meeting. Especially appreciated suicide and mental health presentation.
- Setting up workshop for next spring.
- Tasking – plan is to review the 2020 mob guide.
- IROC implementation - Train the trainer attendees have been identified and they in turn will train at least one person from each dispatch center.

Equipment / Logistics

- Standing task – IAS - have kept up on it pretty well.

- For awareness, there are proposed new typing standards for dozers:
<https://www.nwrg.gov/publications/pms200>
- Combined charter re-write for this committee was interrupted and delayed by the furlough.
- Also willing to work on a subject matter expert tasking basis as opposed to a standing committee.
- Outgoing chair Warren Appelhans recognized and appreciated for all of his dedication and efforts.
- **Decision to sunset the Equipment / Logistics committee.**

Fuels

- **Decision to retire the Fuels committee.** Appreciation and thanks will be sent to those participating individuals.

Native American Crew

- Accomplishments – did get NAC plan updated with current language.
- Working on identifying more members; want to shoot for a meeting in the spring of 2020.
- 2019 NAC plan will be sent to NRCC for updating on the website.

Operations

- No current taskings; several previous taskings were completed.
- Andy Schell will be transitioning to the chair.
- Board will receive a certification letter for the St. Joe WFM.
- One self-tasking is the chainsaw and boot issue when sending resources to Canada.
- Another self-tasking is the medical issue when mobilized to another country.
 - Could simply be an informational white paper.
- Additional self-tasking - recommendation for certification process for WFM to articulate what the Northern Rockies certification guidelines would be.
 - This would be a tasking for the Operations Committee.
 - Would need to cross work with the Training Committee on the task book element. Could be more of a documentation tracker than a task book.
- Outgoing chair Corey Buhl recognized and appreciated for all of his dedication and efforts.

Prevention and Education

- Participation has increased across the GACC.
- Chris Barth from the BLM is coming in as chair.
- By the spring NRCG meeting, will have an updated restrictions guide and operating plan.
- Have updated the prevention site. Fire adapted site is also up and running and producing some learning network results.
- Discussed spatial prevention tool that is being piloted by the Southwest.
 - Training on this will be forthcoming in the future.
- Were re-tasked at the fall meeting and challenged with the question “are the right things being restricted?”
 - Addressing the question: “Is the current restriction regime accurate?”

Training

- As of October 2019, policies were updated and several significant changes were made.
- Currently there is a stand-down on the BLM national training committee for an undetermined amount of time.

- New Learning Management System coming; is currently being piloted by other regions.
- National Fire training website will be taken down at the end of the year. More information to come.

Zone Report Outs

- Action Item: Will move to a written report format with guidance on expectations and letting them know zones are always welcome at the meetings; however, are not expected to attend.

North Idaho

- (Not on the phone.)
- Appreciation to Matt Gibson and Craig Goodell for all of their efforts towards the zone group exercise.
- New dispatch center facility will be coming on-line in the future.

Northwest Montana

- (Not on the phone.)

Southwest Montana

- (Not on the phone.)
- Matt Hall is transitioning out as the chair.
- Laura Ward will be retiring.

Central Montana

- (Not on the phone.)
- New Chair will be Kendal Wilson.

South Central Montana

- (Not on the phone.)

Eastern Montana

- Accomplishments – had spring and fall meetings. Established a duty officer.
- Working on developing an East Zone Exercise.
- Will be getting the charter signatures updated for 2020.
- Appreciation expressed to Rob Miramontez for all of his dedication and efforts.

North Dakota

- Fairly uneventful season.
- All agencies participated on the Fire Council.
- Working on MAC plan updates, restrictions, and re-vitalizing a training academy.
- Outgoing chair is Ray Hart.

Taskings

- Proposal to move annual guidance memos to a “enacted until further notice” format.
- Craig will review each of the annual NRCG Memos on the agenda to see if they need updates.
- BLM will take on the Delegations of Authority.

- Mike DeGrosky and Diane Mann-Klager will take on the Leader's Intent letter.

FireNet

- Exploring Office 365 environment to see if it is a viable replacement platform.
- Hoping to migrate all of the data into this new environment.
- Also hoping to incorporate existing Microsoft Office 365 licenses into the integration.
- May be able to implement something new prior to March of 2020; however, this may be optimistic.
- Looking at reducing current FireNet licenses that are out there.
 - Looking at what it would take to issue associate licenses. (ADs, other partners.)
 - BLM will retain 4,500 licenses.
- As of yet, have not been guaranteed that will not lose some of the capabilities of current FireNet system.

NRCG Operating Plan / Handbook Update (Craig Goodell / Kathy Pipkin)

- Have highlighted in yellow the sections that require board feedback. (Reviewed highlighted sections.)
- Charter should be more of a strategic document and the Operation Plan would be more of a process and procedures document.
- Operation Plan should outline how the charter is implemented.
- Signature page is not required for guidance documents.
- Suggestion to include tasking template; committee and zone report out templates; important dates and annual responsibilities (annual timeline).
- Quorum Definitions:
 - If financial decision – six members would constitute a quorum (relating to the fair share costs).
 - Eight would define a quorum for non-financial decisions.
- Include provisions for calling an unscheduled, emergency meeting. These would still require a quorum as well.
- Address alternates to include formal delegations.
- Address protocol for calling an executive only session.
- Action Item: Kathy Pipkin will compile a revised draft prior to February 1st.

REMs Letter Review Update (Dan Warthin)

- Revised draft was distributed to the Board for review.
- Proposal to approve.
- Approved – Unanimous consent.
- Action Item: REMs revised Letter will be finalized and distributed. Document will be re-evaluated as necessary.

Thursday, November 07 – General Session Continued

Medical Units Discussion Update (Anna Stull)

- (See White Paper)
- No NWCG guideline on staffing for medical.

- In need of metadata to make determinations.
- Medical treatment forms and unit logs can provide data; however, historically have not been managed in a data maintenance way.
- **Action Item: Determine status of Rod Schmidt (AD) who is representing the Northern Rockies.**
 - Subcommittee is having a face to face meeting for the first time in 18 months in Boise December 9-11th.
 - **Propose sending NRCG representative to this meeting. Rich Cowger is available and will attend.**
 - **Rich Cowger and Anna Stull will reach out to Rod Schmid for further information.**
- Need to impart that Basic Lifesupport is the key to increasing survival.
 - Paramedics in waiting ambulances may not always be physically fit enough to get to an injured individual.
 - Suggesting a philosophy principled on an evidenced based ratio.
- MEDLs are not typed.
- Recommending NRCG ask NWCG to be a pilot region to enact a solution.
- Data was residing with the USFS IMS program. Question posed as to who could potentially analyze the data?
 - Suggestion to utilize a PMS detailer to compile and analyze the data.
 - USFS noted that the data's location is not readily known, nor is there a known way to access or input data. Nor does the USFS IMS individual work for Fire and Aviation.
- Key is active medical management.
- Brings up an important opportunity to figure out doing a better job of understanding what our objectives are on incidents, because that will help drive what the expectations truly are.
- Steps going forward:
 - Data collection – Form created by Dave Williams, 209s, possible historical data analysis.
 - **Action Item: Greg Morris will inquire about obtaining data from the previous USFS contractor and about obtaining data from current contractor.**
 - Tableau mentioned as a possible future data mining platform.
 - **Propose this as a topic for CGAC.**
 - Get to an evidence based approach.
 - Would need to begin with clear objectives, which would differ across agencies.
 - Suggestion to incorporate reporting system into team closeouts; in addition to finding additional ways of communicating the importance of reporting.
- **Propose forming a medical committee for NRCG. Document will be reviewed by the Board and topic will be discussed on the December conference call.**
- **Action Item: December call will include a report out from Rich Cowger and Anna Stull on the meeting and a discussion of a path forward.**

Dispatch Improvement Project (Aaron Thompson)

- Have been tasked by State Director to bring this topic to the board.
- Need to either make a decision to recommend to agency administrators as is or to make recommendations to modify.
 - Envision Agency Administrators tasking NRCG with going forward with a Dispatch Improvement study.
 - Need to address sustainability, plan for the future, technologies, efficiencies and cost savings.
 - Would also address recruitment and retention.

- USFS would like to see information from previous work and studies included.
- DNRC suggests adding “as a designee” for state forester section.
- FWS suggests adding FWS to the executive group as well, due to fiscal contribution.
- Scope would need to be well defined; as it has the potential to include radio communications, CIOs, and HR issues.
- Would need to receive Agency Administrator assurances that this effort is supported and that actions would be taken if this time, effort and work were accomplished.
- Focus should be producing a plan that guides the NRCG into the future.
- Would need to appropriately include any and all union components.
- Cost factor of study would be an important element.
 - May require a cost estimate.
- Need more information to move forward towards presenting to Agency Administrators.
 - Propose a task group to accomplish information gathering.
 - Ryan Melin would be willing to assist with effort; however, not as a lead.
- Action Item: Kathy Pipkin will gather cost information on other GAC contract studies for the December NRCG conference call, in order to prepare a tasking proposal for the Agency Administrators.

Round Robin Report Outs

- IDL – JT Wensman – IDQ is going through some negotiated rule making; next step will occur November 24th. Agency is going to be going through budget reductions; planning for a 1% this fiscal year and a 2% next fiscal year. State FMO meeting will be occurring this year and Coordinating Group representation will be a topic item.
- FWS – Mike Granger – New interior realignment process is occurring; area here is now included in Region 9; would pull part of Montana out in a way and are awaiting guidance as to what that would look like for NRCG board representation.
- NPS – Dan Warthin – also going through realignment of DOI regions; now work for Interior regions 6,7,8 and 9. Awaiting more to come on effects. Hope to have selection made on Glacier National Park FMO soon.
- ND FS – Ryan Melin – do have a new state forester now; in a place to make changes for improved efficiencies.
- BLM – Aaron Thompson - do still have a single state director that is interested in being engaged. Did make a selection for associate state director. Did realign the program this year. In the process of moving engine captains from GS 7s to GS 8s.
- BIA – GP - Ray Hart – hired a fire budget analyst position. Also going to help fund a fire grants and agreements individual.
- MT DES - Jake Ganieany – hired two of four FEMA integration team members. Working with Fire Management Assistance Grants from 2016.
- MT CFWA – Patrick Lonergan – nothing new at this time.
- USFS – Ralph Rau – hired Fuels position; do have two new Deputy Regional Foresters. Have also made progress on aviation hires.
- BIA – RM – Bryce Rogers – still attempting to recruit and hire the AFMO position. Billings dispatcher position has been cleared; looking at bringing individual on in the spring. Have been working on national template for cooperative agreements.

Meeting Review and Action Plan

- Looking for feedback on new meeting flow
 - USFS – appreciated the focus and productivity of the meeting, in addition to having the pre-reading materials in advance.
 - BLM – appreciated identifying the needs of the board.
 - ND FS – appreciated the focus and concentration on the Action Items listing. Would like to see hard due dates reflected in the “when” column.
 - Ensure every discussed action is identified with an individual, due date and end state.

Remote SIT / GIS Data Standards Alternatives

- (See PowerPoint & Attachments)
- Quickly realizing it is a national issue and receiving inquiries from other GACs on how to set up similar programs.
- Supervisors are beginning to ask participants to take a step back from these collateral duties.
- Have had difficulty with program recruitment and retention.
- Reviewed trade off analysis.
- Board would need to know costs associated with alternatives D or E.
 - GS 11 or 12 would be approximately \$80,000 - \$90,000 (includes benefits, travel, training) per year.
- Cannot continue to operate at current capacity with options A or B.
- Alternative F would look at how to move forward as a region, in addition to how to address the national need.
- Action Item: Report back to CGAC on Data Standards and Remote Situation Support in January. Potentially would include Morganne Lehr presenting to CGAC.
- Action Item: Requesting Morganne Lehr to do a cost analysis and explore options for additional funding sources. Due by Jan 1st.
 - Would need costs for each alternative outlined, including at costs under a separate agreement.
 - Would also need to include specifics of position duties.
- Action Item: Morganne Lehr will draft up a formal request for the NRCG Chair to send to the USFS R01 Fire Director to take to ask Morganne Lehr's supervisors to support continued time for these collateral duties. Due date: November 15th.
- For the short term, Board agreement to continue operating in Alternative B mode.

Attendees

Wildland Fire Agency Administrators or Acting Representative: Diane Mann-Klager (GPR BIA), Raymond Hart (RMR BIA), Katie Stevens (BLM), Mike Granger (FWS), Michael Archer (NPS), Kurt Steele (USFS), Craig Foss (IDL), Jake Ganieany (MT DES), Sonya Germann (MT DNRC), Thomas Claeys (ND FS)

NRCG Board Members: Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Mike Granger, JT Wensman – Vice Chair, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Vern Burdick, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Additional Attendees: Greg Morris, Michael Odell, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Julie Polutnik, Patrick Murphy, Anthony Krause, Melissa Wegner, Dave Williams, Pam Jolly, Jordan McKnight, Andy Schell, Adriane Beck



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together in Emergency Response Management

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Aaron Thompson, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Dan Warthin,

Deputies and Others: Corey Buhl, Sarah Lee, Adriane Beck, Greg Morris, Dave Williams, Diane Mann-Klager, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Jordan McKnight, Roy Robinson, Amanda Boatright, Jeremy Beeson, Anika Tuss, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

Unable to participate on this call.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Kathy Pipkin for Craig Goodell)

- CGAC and NMAC is scheduled to meet the 14th and 16th; topics from the Northern Rockies were submitted. Kathy Pipkin will be attending.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Have sent some individuals to Australia; do have one individual going in the second group.
- Intelligence Coordinator position is in the hiring portal.
- Aircraft Coordinator position is still in the classification process.
- Vice-Whiteman position is part of an AFD positon discussion.
- NPS Assistant Intelligence position requires further discussions.
- NRCC will be closed next week; Kathy Pipkin will be on call.

Old Business

Proposal to Form a NRCG Medical Committee – Decisional Topic (Rich Cowger / Anna Stull)

- Rich Cowger was unable to attend the meeting. Anna Stull (not on this call) went; as well as a local representative. The meeting mainly discussed setting up standard typing for REMS and included more discussion on what the federal side is doing in terms of medical and the plan for moving forward.
- Vote tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum.**

New Business

IC Applications Update – Informational Topic (Kathy Pipkin for Julie Polutnik)

- ICAP was taken off line. Propose to change IC Application letter verbiage to remove ICAP language and proceed with a new timeline that pushes the closing date to January 17th.
 - Adopted recommendation to move forward with paper application submissions and closing



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date of Jan 17th.

- Team Position applications – have two options:
 - Option 1 – There is a possibility the ICAP replacement will be ready on January 6th. Could wait until that date to make a determination and if the new system is still not available, then go with the Coop Plan that includes a Google Form submission.
 - Option 2 – Implement the Coop Plan and open the IMT applications immediately.
- With either option, recommend pushing out the closing date until Jan 31st.
- **Decision to move forward with both the IC Application letter recommendation (closing date of January 17th) and Option 2 (closing date of January 31st).**

IMT Coordinator – Informational Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- Kathy Pipkin will become the new IMT Coordinator due to staff duty realignment.
- IMT Plan updates will begin after the holidays.

Proposal to invite Dan O'Brien to Spring NRCG Meeting for “Building the Team” Predictive Services

Oversight Group presentation – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- No cost associated with this item.
- The new dates of the Spring NRCG Meeting are April 13th & 17th (the Monday and Friday before and after the IMT Meeting). NRCG will meet at the DNRC building.
- Given the compressed timeframe, does the BOD wish to devote approximately 45 minutes for this presentation?
- **Vote tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum.**

Proposed Update to the NERV SOP – Decisional Topic (Amanda Boatright)

- The Business Committee is proposing an update to the NERV SOP that was issued earlier this year based on some lessons learned after the implementation this season.
- Largest change is that the DNRC rental agreement is still out there; however, Enterprise is no longer a part of that.
- **Vote tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum.**

Proposal to discontinue hardcopy printing of the Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- Estimated cost savings approximately \$2,000.
- Was attempted in 2017 and received pushback; however, Firenet now provides a way for interagency distribution that is non-public facing.
- **Vote tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum.**

Length of Joint WFAA session for Spring NRCG Meeting – Decisional Topic (Pam Jolly)

- Given the new compressed timeframe, does the BOD wish to still devote an entire half day to a joint session?



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- Discussion around exploring Tuesday morning as additional time for the Board to meet, as the IMT meeting starts at noon on Tuesday.
 - Important to note that the IMT agenda has been designed with that time as open, as there may be other additional activities that will occur during the morning timeframe in which Board members may wish to participate.
- USFS would prefer to remain flexible at this time, thus allowing for incorporation of items and issues that may arise between now and the meeting.
- **Vote tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum.**

Review of Action Items:

- Line by line review tabled until January call.
- Request to edit Action Items to reflect change in chair for the IC Committee to Rick Connell.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is January 21, 20 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time