



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Participants:

Board Members: Aaron Thompson, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Greg Morris, Matt Hall, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Amanda Boatright, Anika Tuss, Tim Murphey, Kathy Pipkin, Tracey Nimlos, Rita Chandler, John Thompson, 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 attend call.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Unable to attend call.
- Per email – no significant updates at this time.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Sent one additional PIO to Australia since the last spreadsheet was distributed.
- CGAC Updates (Greg Morris)
 - Fuels Model issue submitted by Northern Rockies was moved forward by CGAC.
 - The other 209 paper Northern Rockies submitted dealt with suppression strategy and generated lengthy discussion. Parallel movements exist to bring about change on this issue. CGAC will take Northern Rockies memo into consideration in continuation of moving forward with changes.
 - Morganne Lehr gave a good presentation on remote SIT. Advised CGAC that she is unable to commit to making further presentations for various meetings around the nation. Morganne will work on draft paper to send to CGAC through the NRCG on a proposal for a type of position to support the expressed need.
 - USFS provided a reminder to the group that Morganne can only provide this current level of support for this fiscal year only. In addition, that level of support could also change at any time depending on agency priorities.
 - Received unofficial word that the Northern Rockies Heavy Equipment Boss proposal will likely be rejected.
 - CGAC has moved towards a rotating chair similar to the NRCG. Morris volunteered NRCG to jump into the Vice-Chair position next year. More should be coming out soon on this topic.
 - Expectation is that the Vice-Chair would be a dedicated individual; not necessarily the Chair or Vice-Chair of NRCG.
- CGAC Updates (Kathy Pipkin)
 - Predictive Services Oversight group was very interested in the remote SIT.
- IROC is behind schedule. It is slated for March. On March 5th, ROSS will go dark and nationwide will implement a continuation of operations plan to revert to card stock. This is occurring to ensure a



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clean resource transfer from ROSS into IROC. On March 10th, IROC will be brought on line in a phased-in approach via Geographic Area.

- FireNet – a contractor will be utilized to migrate all of the content into the new Microsoft Office 365 environment. All agencies that use Microsoft Office 365 should be able to use their existing license in this environment. Northern Rockies will be a test GACC when this comes on line.
- NIROPS – this year there will only be one aircraft. Will additionally have contracts for exclusive use and end products available.
- Dingle Act - may prompt GPS unit usage for cache tracking in the future.
- Redbook – updates include a cooperator aircraft form that must be filled out daily. This topic generated lots of discussion around appropriateness of who should complete the form.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal to Amend Quorum Language for Fiscal Decisions – Decisional Topic (Tracey Nimlos)

- Recently, a member of the Business Committee daylighted that the quorum language adopted for fiscal decisions which was approved at the fall meeting (six BOD would represent a quorum) may not be accurate, as legally a participating agency cannot be held accountable for funds that it did not agree to spend.
- An example from 2017 involving IDL and the ordering of an IR platform was given. The document where an IDL representative had signed had to be produced before the agency would agree to the associated funds transactions.
 - One agency can not commit funds on behalf of another agency.
- Proposal to amend the language to include all cost share participating agencies.
 - Propose that language be amended to say “Every agency expected to contribute, must agree and affirm that they have funds available.”
- Clarification provided by the Chair that this is a process decision; not a fiscal one. Therefore, NRCG can make a decision on this topic today.
- BLM Question: How to get folks to the table that are absent in order to make fiscal decisions?
 - Group discussion that this may be another topic for a later time regarding board members and commitments.
- Vote conducted; **Approved – unanimous consent.**

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

- Propose forming a medical committee for NRCG. Document from Anna Stull will be reviewed by the Board; topic vote was tabled until the January conference call. (Due to lack of a quorum on the December call.)
- Action Item: January call will include a discussion of a path forward.
- Rich Cowger was unable to attend the meeting. Anna Stull 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.
- Rich Cowger and Anna Stull have not had time to collaborate.
- **Item will be tabled until the February call.**



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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 was tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum on December's call.
- Per Kathy Pipkin and Greg Morris from what was viewed at the CGAC meeting – group is still in formation. Only position issue for NRCG is the Fire Behavior Analyst that is on the organizational chart but have not decided to fill at this time. Presentation is good information; however, not enough to support BOD time currently. Not recommended for NRCG Spring Meeting.
- DNRC also expressed concern with the limited amount of time for the BOD schedule during the Spring Meeting.
- **Kathy Pipkin withdrew the proposal.**

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; however, Enterprise is no longer a part of that.
 - Changes are fairly basic and mostly in structure.
 - New change – 2nd paragraph added language that NERV does not supersede guidance in the Northern Rockies Chapter 10 supplement.
 - Page 2 – added reassignment language and fueling procurement language.
 - Final page – added information regarding that personal comply with both NERV and Chapter 10 supplements.
 - Removed DNRC off road rental agreement language.
- Vote had been tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum on December's call.
- Vote conducted; **Approved – unanimous consent.**

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

- Estimated cost savings of 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 was tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum on December's call.
- USFS Question: Is there buy in from the centers?
 - One center is a hold out; however, that center can print if needed.
- DNRC Question: Will others that don't have FireNet accounts be able to access?
 - It will be on the NRCC website; however, it will be scrubbed of PII.
- BLM Question: If computers went down, is it required for a mob guide to be at dispatch desks?



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- Yes; however, all centers do still have the capability to print.
- BLM Question: Does the \$2,000 savings get rolled back into the cost share?
 - Historically, the USFS has always covered this cost. This year, the AFD took a 35% cut in operational budget. This is where the cost savings will be found.
- Rich Cowger – motion to allow this proposal.
- Vote conducted; **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Length of Joint WFAA session for Spring NRCG Meeting – Informational Topic (Pam Jolly for Mike DeGrosky)

- It has been decided that it is in the best interest to remain flexible at this time, thus allowing for incorporation of items and issues that may arise between now and the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Solicitation Plan – Informational Topic (Tim Murphy)

- Brief updated on the 2020 Solicitation Plan – generally on schedule.
- Do have a new Contracting Officer with the NPS and had a good discussion with her last week.
- One of the two Forest Service Contracting Officers took a new position; workload from that individual will be on by the remaining individual.
- Three pre-proposal meetings are scheduled in the next few months.
- For items that are non-solicitation, the ITEAMS software was previously utilized. That software was removed will not be put back on the server. Will be reverting to regular mail and sending lists to the dispatch centers; in addition to private vendor sources found on the internet.

NRCG Restrictions and Closure Procedures – Decisional Topic (Rita Chandler)

- Vote to approve for 2020 season implementation needed.
- Main changes addresses the authorities.
- Added language that it should be reviewed in a minimum of 5 year intervals.
- Will stay in effect without exception unless review necessitates changes.
- ND FS – will have a few minor adjustments that will be sent. In addition, Dakota Prairie Grasslands will also be sending some additional changes.
 - Topic will need to be tabled if there are changes.
 - Request updates be submitted prior to Feb. 17th.
- Per Rita Chandler - **Item tabled until the February call.**

2020 Business Committee Charter, SOP Updates & Chair Rotation – Decisional Topic (Amanda Boatright)

- Had to make some changes on chair rotation due to new committee members and familiarity with appointed roles.
 - Resulted in MT DNRC and IDL sharing as co-chairs.
 - USFS will serve in a Vice-Chair role in a two year capacity.
- SOPs compliment the charter and explain the roles and responsibilities, in addition to developing a standardized report format.
- NPS Question: Would like to see an updated chair rotation?



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- Normally found in charter; have not had a chance to reflect the most recent changes.
- Vote conducted; **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Team Workshops Update - Informational Topic (John Thompson)

- Delivery of this draft agenda fulfills one of the items in Delegation of Authority that was issued for the planning of the meeting.
- Intent is to run the meeting in a conference type format.
- Also working on scheduling an IC closeout; this is not yet reflected on the agenda.
- “Ted Talk” words on the draft will disappear once speakers are scheduled. These are merely being used as place holders at this time.
- BLM – Thank you for all the work and effort.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Question: Does anyone have any updates for the Action Item listing?
 - None reported.
- Line by line review of the Action Item listing tabled until the February call.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is February 18, 2020 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Participants:

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

Deputies and Others: Andy Schell, Tracey Nimlos, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Julie Polutnik, Diane Mann-Klager, 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 attend call.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Australia Support is beginning to wind down. Activity is subsiding significantly. Goicoechea's short team is still down there; in addition to other individuals.
- IMT selections for the Northern Rockies have been compiled and forwarded out to the ICs. Did have two applications for IC trainees that will need to be addressed by the BOD.
- Attended an IMT sustainability workshop two weeks ago. Should see two briefing papers coming out of that workshop that will contain recommendations.
- Had a couple of large fires in Eastern Montana the first weekend of February. Meteorologists are currently developing spring outlooks. Early indications are that May is looking to be fairly dry.
- Will be working on resource step up and draw down plans; hope to have drafts ready for the spring NRCG meeting.

NRCC Update (Julie Polutnik)

- Still have four vacancies at NRCC.
- IROC – ROSS shutdown still on schedule; there has been one webinar and a train the trainer is scheduled; will have a general training in April. Will also reach out to the IMT meeting to see if they desire an update as well.
- Tim Murphy - Contractors are interested in when they would be able to self-status in IROC. Dispatch will have to status until this feature is available in IROC; worth noting the workload on dispatch will increase.

OLD BUSINESS

NRCG Restrictions and Closure Procedures – Decisional Topic (Pam Jolly for Rita Chandler)

- Vote to approve for 2020 season implementation needed.
- Main changes addresses the authorities.
- Added language that it should be reviewed in a minimum of 5 year intervals.
- Will stay in effect without exception unless review necessitates changes.
- Item was tabled until the February call due to late submission edits.
- Approved – unanimous consent.



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Proposal to Share Costs for 2017 Montana National Guard Firefighter Training – Decisional Fiscal Topic (Tracey Nimlos)

- Notes from 2017 MAC meetings indicated all agencies in Montana agreed to request and train Montana National Guard (MTNG) soldiers to perform as wildland firefighters.
- The comments in FireCode when NRCC created the incident were: “This is for the MT NG mobilization and training. This will be a NR MAC cost share.”
- Tracey Nimlos was not informed at the time of the decision, so no cost share agreement was created.
- The default NR split is probably not appropriate because the MTNG was not trained with any intention of being deployed in Idaho (an assumption).
- USFS received a cooperative bill from MT DNRC for the 2017 MT National Guard crew mobilization. This bill is for \$158,135 for the cost of salary and travel for the MTNG soldiers themselves during their training period.
- The Forest Service has already paid a bill to DNRC for \$81,183 for the cost of instructors who were hired by DNRC to train the MTNG. The Forest Service has also expended an additional \$72,761 for personnel and equipment (busses and transportation) to train the MTNG, bringing the total Forest Service expenditures to \$153,944.
- It was never intended that the Forest Service cover the entire cost of training the MTNG.
- Total known burden for training the MTNG (still need to check with other federal agencies to determine if they had costs, but likely to be minimal) is \$312,079.
- Noted that NPS should be added into this cost share; this agency was not on the proposal that was sent out for review.
 - Cost Share proposal was based on what the probability of use was, in addition to being based on similar cost shares.
 - Group discussion and consensus to utilize draft proposal.
 - Noted that this would all be on suppression funds.
- Approved – Unanimous consent.

Delegation of Authority – NR Operations Officer – Language Modification for 2020 – Decisional Topic (Aaron Thompson)

- Historically, since ordering in outside resources on the cost share agreement involves a fiscal decision from all participating agencies, either the BOD or the MAC has voted on bringing in specific outside resources prior to ordering. This proposed new language delegates that authority from each agencies BOD representative to Craig Goodell.
- **Below is a side-by-side comparison of the language:**
 - Previous Verbiage:
 - In conjunction with the NRCC Manager move resources and extend resources which support the region geographically for all agencies use; these will be assigned appropriate support codes agreed to through cost shares. For agency specific needs, agency support codes will need to be utilized.
 - New Verbiage:
 - In conjunction with the NRCC Manager, proactively order outside critical resources, move resources and extend resources which support the geographic area for all agencies use. These will be assigned appropriate support codes agreed to through



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cost share agreements. For agency specific needs, agency support codes should be used.

- DNRC has concerns about one agency committing another fiscally without prior discussion. Uncomfortable with this new language that does not clearly indicate that proactive ordering would only be accomplished at the direction of the BOD or MAC.
- Intent was to ensure the GACC has enough resources to appropriately address needed suppression response.
- NPS perspective – perhaps the step up and draw down plans could address these concerns in specific detail.
 - DNRC agrees there needs to be a system check in place.
- USFS also has concerns with the way the proposed language is written; specifically the vagueness.
- NPS – perhaps it would be helpful to identify some fiscal thresholds.
 - DNRC – concerned this steps into the role of the MAC.
- BLM – intent is to address more at the lower PL levels (1-3).
 - DNRC – resources being tied to PL levels doesn't solve the expense issue.
- Craig Goodell – language is relevant to the time sensitive nature of available resources during the lower PL levels. In the past two seasons, have ordered resources in on the GACC cost share and then moved them over to the appropriate incident codes as soon as possible.
- Chair – need language that better reflects empowering this ability, while also identifying that it is subject to cost share.
 - Must be inclusive of all agencies and partners, including IDL and NDFS needs.
 - Do not want to inadvertently open the door to fiscal concerns later.
 - USFS – suggests utilizing language that identifies specific resource types and then tying these to the step up / draw down plans.
- Group discussion and consensus that this language will require further modification prior to approval.
- Please send any thoughts on specific language to Aaron Thompson.
 - Aaron Thompson will compile new draft language and submit for review by the BOD prior to the next conference call.

NWCG Heavy Equipment Boss decision / NRCG revalidation of HE Task Forces – Informational Topic (Tim Murphy)

- NWCG Memo with Decision was distributed which was one piece of heavy equipment equals one heavy equipment boss.
- Wish to revalidate that all BOD are still in agreement with continuing operations of Northern Rockies Heavy Equipment Task Forces the way they have historically run.
 - Operations determines the Government Tactical Supervisor (HEQB, TFLD, or DIVS)
 - The Government Tactical Supervisor supervises the HETF Foreman, who in turn supervises the 4-6 Equipment Operators.
 - The HETF Foreman is typically a person who supervises multiple pieces of equipment on a daily basis on a logging site.
- DNRC – what has been done to mitigate the Sheep Gap concerns?
 - Specific tactical decision made to put the resources nine miles away from their safety zone. Was more a specific tactical issue rather than a module issue.



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- BLM – concerns over where the liability falls on this issue, in light of the NWCG memo.
- FWS – curious as to how Alaska accomplishes this?
 - Seem to be operating normal; however, may be an issue if something specific were to arise.
- Montana County Fire Wardens – this topic does seem to be one of interest and concern to the IMTs and specific functional areas as well. Perhaps should inquire with the operations committee with specific concerns?
- DNRC – does the Northern Rockies need a custom Heavy Equipment Task Force that exceeds the national recommendation?
 - NPS – concerns over resource availability are the driving forces in the origin; would be a significant factor in this decision.
 - DNRC – ideally, the people who supervise those foreman would have a level of qualification that would not limit a number of equipment.
- Tim Murphy – have become more and more reliant on these task forces over the last few years. Have approximately 50 of these resources in the GACC.
- Craig Goodell – possible tasking for the Operations Committee to come up with recommendations for the BOD.
- BLM – must address both policy and capacity for the modules.
- **Action Item – Tasking for the Operations Committee. Mike Granger / Andy Schnell – Timeline – Recommendation back to the board by Spring Meeting. Task: To work with Tim Murphy and Craig Goodell to come up with method by which the Northern Rockies Heavy Equipment Task Force concept best aligns with NWCG qualifications and reply back to the BOD with recommendations. End goal is to minimize the liability while addressing the need for these resources.**

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

- Anna Stull advised that the USFS submitted a proposal request for data management; if selected, this could assist with data mining.
- DNRC – as often as medical related topics arise, feel that the need exists for a medical committee.
- Group discussion and agreement to consider Anna Stull's proposal for the next conference call.
 - **Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will email proposal to Pam Jolly for BOD dissemination and review prior to the next conference call.**
- BLM is planning to hire a medical director as well. What would the tasking for an NRCG medical committee look like?
 - Would need identified guidelines.
 - DNRC – part would revolve around implementing REMS. Another would be recommendations for incident EMTs and Paramedics.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring MAC Exercise – Decisional Topic (Craig Goodell)

- Decision needed from BOD as to whether or not to hold a MAC Exercise this spring.
 - If so, when/where and what format.
- In recent history, a spring MAC exercise has been held every other year.
 - Notable that the MAC handbook does specify an exercise.
- Last year, MAC exercise was held in conjunction with the M581 class at NRTC.



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- Is an option for this year; however, decision needs to be made if BOD wants to do that in Missoula at NRTC on April 30th.
- Other options could possibly include an exercise in May on the date regularly scheduled for the NRCG call, or another date/location that can be agreed upon.
- **Action Item: Craig Goodell will handle all MAC Spring Exercise logistics and planning.**
- USFS – supports having the MAC exercise; however, unsure as to Ralph Rau’s availability.
- DNRC - appreciated combining with the M581 last time.
- BLM – supports as well; however, M581 would not work with schedules.
- NPS – supports as well.
- BIA – supports.
- **Action Item: Craig Goodell will construct a doodle poll for available dates and disseminate to all BOD.**

Vendor Source List Process – Informational Topic (Tracey Nimlos)

- The process is to create a vendor source list that local procurement people can use to find non-solicited equipment.
- Previously used database, iTeams, was decommissioned by the USFS CIO. iTeams had hundreds of different types of equipment and services listed, many of them that could easily be found on the internet. Others were vendors that didn’t submit during the competed agreement process. There was difficulty maintaining this database.
 - It was determined an entirely new approach was needed.
- This handout that can be given to vendors who inquire about doing fire business with the government.
- Have limited what types of equipment are going to be kept on a source list because of the reasons described above. Items were selected based on volume of use and difficulty in finding.
- Worked through the dispatch community and the dispatch center managers are on board.
- Thought is to come up with a basic spreadsheet that the centers could populate with the forms they receive.
 - A Google form can be created where vendors could enter their own information online. The Google form would populate a spreadsheet automatically. Each center would be able to sort and view the equipment in their area and have a spreadsheet to give to buying teams and local procurement personnel.
- At this point, haven’t removed the attachments to the handout; however, if go with the Google form -just a link will be shown.
- This process should be far less labor intensive than the old iTeams process.
- Proposal would be put on NRCG letterhead (as a handout without signature) and posted on line. Could also be given as a hard copy to all interested individuals.
- Approved – unanimous consent.
- **Action Item: Pam Jolly will put the proposal on NRCG Letterhead, without signature, and it will be posted to the NRCC website.**

Revision Requests – Annual Leader’s Intent Letter – Informational Topic (Diane Mann-Klager & Mike DeGrosky)

- Not having a February Agency Administrator’s call; however, will be sending letter out to the Agency



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Administrators for review.

- Group discussion and agreement that when it is sent out to Agency Administrator's, request that they each are encouraged to reach out to their respective BOD for input and consideration.
- Can also email any revisions suggestions to Diane Mann-Klager at diane.mann-klager@bia.gov

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Web Site – Pam Jolly will be working more on this item in March.
- NRCG Handbook – Kathy Pipkin is working on this item. She is currently on assignment in Australia.
- Dispatch Improvement Project – Kathy Pipkin has not been able to find a comprehensive cost analysis as of yet; however, has obtained some information. Suggestion that this data could be gathered internally to the GACC.
 - Need to address if going to ask Agency Administrators to task BOD with this item.
 - Also, would like to investigate NIFC assistance with this issue.
 - May need to be a topic for Spring Meeting.
- Internal study as opposed to external study – may need further discussions on associated costs and time commitments for SMEs.
 - Action Item: Aaron Thompson will gather this information and topic will be moved to March conference call.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is March 17, 2020 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904

Participants:

Board Members: Aaron Thompson, Mike DeGrosky, Patrick Lonergan, Rich Cowger, Dan Warthin, Greg Morris

Deputies and Others: Diane Mann-Klager, John Thompson, Craig Goodell, Julie Polutnik, Tim Murphy, Melissa Wagner, Kathy Pipkin

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

Note: Lack of Quorum will postpone some decisional topics on today's call.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

Unable to participate on call.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

Moratorium on purchasing chainsaws has been lifted by USFS.

NMAC has tasked the 3 Area Command Teams with developing a COVID-19 wildfire response plan for each Geographic Area. Area Command Teams will coordinate with Coordinating Groups, State and local Health Depts., Coordination Centers and Dispatch. Northern Rockies has been assigned AC Team 2 - Sexton. NRCG Chair, DeGrosky will be point person, Craig will put together a Northern Rockies Task Group to assist Area Command (ICs, FMOs, State Health Dept., etc.)

RT-130 and WCT - Agencies working on what that will look like this year. Some discussions on exempting, postponing or modifying RT130 due to COVID-19.

Agencies are looking at options for operational refreshers and rookie training and how to go forward.

Contractor refreshers, trainings – looking for direction from NWCG. NWCG Executive Board meets Wednesday. They will be discussing options and hopefully will be providing some National Interagency direction.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

IROC online now, some bumps, not all qualifications came over for all resources. WebStatus not yet on line; no reporting capabilities available yet. Will not be able to run qualification reports for example. NRCC has 4 vacant positions. Working on a NRCC COOP Plan for COVID-19. Finishing up edits and will send out to NRCC for review when complete this week. Having a conference call with local dispatch center managers tomorrow to get a pulse of how they are preparing.



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OLD BUSINESS

2020 IC Trainee Applications – Identify Review / Discussion Next Steps – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- IC Trainee Applicants: Moving ahead with approving applications.

Delegation of Authority – NR Operations Officer – Language Modification for 2020 – Decisional Topic (Aaron Thompson)

- Decision: Send draft out for comment and address it that way.

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

- Delay: Waiting on NWCG

Tasking Proposal for WFAAs – Cost / Time Commitment Analysis Dispatch Improvement Project - Decisional Topic (Aaron Thompson) –

- Postponed due to number of votes - held for Spring Meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Process for Units Changing Dispatch Boundaries – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- Postponed

Potential Impacts on IMT Meeting from Coronavirus – Informational Topic (Aaron Thompson)

- Decision - Recommendation to Agency Administrators to cancel face to face and hold virtual as able for IMT Workshop, Dispatchers Workshop and NRCG Spring Meeting.

IMT Standard Operation Guide – Decisional Topic (Julie Polutnik)

- Due Date April 3, 2020 to Julie Polutnik for any comments.

Should NRCG Begin Conducting Weekly Calls – Decisional Topic (Aaron Thompson)

- Decision - Yes: Consisting of Round Robin – What's new with COVID-19 in your agency and fire response on an interagency level.
- Kathy Pipkin to send out a doodle poll.
- Mike DeGrosky will distribute day and time of next call.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Postponed

The next scheduled NRCG Call will be determined via email and Mike DeGrosky will send out notice.

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Restrictions & Closures (Chris Barth)	1
NR Predictive Services Update (Mike Richmond).....	2
Northern Rockies Draft Resource Draw-down/Step-up Plan – Overview (Craig Goodell).....	2
AFD Operating Plan (Ryan Patrick)	2
IMTs as they relate to Covid-19 response within Region (Rich Cowger/Rick Connell)	3
Team Availability (Mike DeGrosky)	3
Northern Rockies Strategy Discussion (Mike DeGrosky).....	4
Contracting Update (Tim Murphy)	4
Vice-Chair Position (Mike DeGrosky).....	5
Friday, April 17 – Executive Session (WFAAs, NRCG BOD Chair & Vice-Chair)	5
Agency Roundtable of Current COVID-19 Mitigation.....	5
NRCG Board of Directors Actions to Address COVID-19 Exposure Mitigation.....	6
Commitments to Response or Extra Support Needed	7
Letter of Intent Draft Review	7

Monday, April 13 – General Session

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

MAC Exercise – Virtual Options (Craig Goodell)

- Have not been able to contact Matt Gibson as of yet; however, so plan on having some type of virtual MAC exercise at this time.
 - Suggestion to move this to an earlier time period discussed; however, prep-time will be needed to develop this exercise.

Restrictions & Closures (Chris Barth)

- Have reached out to each of the agencies fire prevention coordinators to gain individual agencies perspective.
- Unanimous from all input received that each agency's primary focus is on the prevention messaging and not prioritizing restrictions at this time.
- Nationally, a retired prevention coordinator has been brought in to address this issue.
- Do have a tasking to take a small group approach for information gathering to compile a gap analysis in an effort to develop some consistent tools and messaging.
 - Request made for a brief write up describing the unanimous agreement towards prevention messaging as opposed to prioritizing restrictions. Request to also address possible differences between the separate GACCs that encompass Idaho.
- Request expectations regarding timing from the BOD.
 - **Action Item: Chris Barth will have the write up to the BOD by the end of next week, April 17th.**

- Currently, there is not an effort to stand up a National Prevention Education Team. Discussions around this option are ongoing.

NR Predictive Services Update (Mike Richmond)

- (see PowerPoint)
- Last two months over Western Montana and Idaho have been quite dry. Also, has been colder than average. Fortunately, this is helping to offset the dryness.
- No significant drought within the region as of yet.
- Soil moistures are still wetter than average.
- Snow packs are above average in all PSAs. This is due in part to the cool temperatures.
- Do have some moisture in the short term forecasts; then turning to a slightly dryer and warmer pattern.
- Three month outlooks will be updated next week.
- No significant concerns showing at this time; most reflecting near average. Enso-modeling may affect this in the next few months.

Northern Rockies Draft Resource Draw-down/Step-up Plan – Overview (Craig Goodell)

- (reference Draft that was distributed for review)
- Utilizes a table that goes through PL 1-5 addressing associated resources.
 - Important to note that this references available resources.
- Important to have a plan in place to provide a base line to operate from during season.
 - Can develop rational for instances that would require deviating from the plan at any time.
- In relations to Covid-19, not able yet to discuss what resource mobilization looks like across boundaries at this time.
- **Action Item: BOD will vote on draft approval during the next monthly conference call, May 19, 2020.**

AFD Operating Plan (Ryan Patrick)

- (see PowerPoint)
- FY20 NRCG Financial Plan Review
 - Adjusted for inflation.
 - Reviewed all tabs and formats.
 - If all in agreement and there are no issues, then need to move forward for each agencies signature.
 - Please send any questions to Ryan Patrick.
 - No specific concerns identified.
 - **Action Item: Ryan Patrick will move forward with executing the agreement and obtaining signatures.**
- FY21 NRCG Financial Plan Changes
 - Moving into the future, would be interested in any interagency volunteers that would like to assist with a simplification effort.
 - Please send any interested individuals names to Ryan Patrick.

- USFS would be interested in any percentage changes that might arise during this effort.
- DNRC would also be interested in seeing the history of where the percentages have come out.
 - **Action Item: Ryan Patrick will attempt to research and distribute that historical information request.**

IMTs as they relate to Covid-19 response within Region (Rich Cowger/Rick Connell)

- Had 26 departments participate in the Town Hall meeting.
 - So far, none are overwhelmed as of yet.
- IC Committee – have assigned each IMT functional area with assessing possibilities for providing remote capabilities.
 - Will involve a variety of spectrums.
 - Conducting weekly calls addressing this topic.
 - Requesting clarification from the BOD regarding sideboards and timeframes.
 - BOD appreciates the current approach addressing multiple aspects; in regards to timeframes, also appreciates the ongoing rapid efforts to address this effort.

Team Availability (Mike DeGrosky)

- The topic is largely dependent upon mobilization ability due to the current Covid-19 circumstances.
 - Unable to have this discussion without a team by team roster inventory.
- National questioner came out this morning requesting to identify current availability status.
 - ICs are unable to accurately answer this without higher level guidance and direction regarding out of area availability.
- Nationally, the Area Command teams are addressing higher level plans that will incorporate specific GACCs plans; these will then need to include specific agency mobilization decisions.
- IC Committee emphasized the importance of addressing from a risk based standpoint.
- Regarding ADs, will need the ICs to identify who will be available and who will not.
- ICs are beginning discussion on supporting one another by sharing individuals between the teams.
- Many agencies are compiling trade off analysis.
 - IMT compositions would play a factor in these analysis.
 - If the team is primarily composed of individuals from within the region, then should be able to stand up a team regionally.
 - ND FS – Important to note state wide/specific quarantine restrictions that would be associated with mobilization across state boundaries. Governor's orders are written differently.
 - USFS – also important to address community concerns regarding mobilization from one county to another.
 - Important to also differentiate between potential impact from illness and immediate impacts from a pending fire.
 - Some tribes are also expressing concern regarding individuals coming into the community.
 - Could be address through good prevention messaging.

Northern Rockies Strategy Discussion (Mike DeGrosky)

- Interagency Support prior to green up – part will relate to the work that the Northern Rockies Task Group is doing with the Area Command team.
- Discussed current structure that exists to support a type 3 or type 2 incident in regards to social distancing.
- Continuously evolving information flow is contributing to a need for flexibility and adaptation amongst all agencies.
- Specific agency response and mobilization may necessitate conversations at the local MAC Group Zone levels.
 - Each agency is working on internal Covid-19 response frameworks. Most are currently in progress with the intent of being shared upon completion.
- Aitor Bidaburu – some of this was discussed at NMAC this morning.
 - Response plans from Area Command teams are going to deal a lot with the “what” and identifying the risks.
 - There will be some work for the Geographic Area Coordinating Groups to address the “How”.
 - Core of the reports identifies the best practice for functional areas.
 - Logistics will have a significant amount of the work load.
 - Discussion around putting together a logistics SME task group to formulate recommendations.
 - IC Committee would prefer to have centralized, systematic discussions.
 - If IC Committee is willing; would like to task them with utilizing the existing identified Command and General Staff to address each individual item that arises for large fire response.
 - Action Item: Each BOD will identify areas of concern regarding large fire response in an effort to give the IC Committee a prioritized list of items, so that they may formulate GACC best practices recommendations. BOD members will send these responses to Mike DeGrosky.
 - If possible, would like to identify health experts to assist with this effort.
 - Important to note these resources may have limited availability.
 - Action Item: Rick Connell will discuss this possibility with the ICs and will get back to Mike DeGrosky.

Contracting Update (Tim Murphy)

- On the USFS side, dozers, excavators, transports, fallers and mechanics have closed and panels will occur 4/13. EMTs, paramedics & ambulances close today.
- Currently, on schedule overall.
- DNRC has Type 2 & 2IA crews out that closes the first of June.
- NPS has questions from their solicitor on the template for the weed washers and tents; attempting to address this.
- Are a few issues with the transition from ROSS to IROC; working on rectifying these.
- Fielding calls from contractors regarding some of the same concerns that agencies are currently addressing.

Vice-Chair Position (Mike DeGrosky)

- IDL has requested to skip the incoming chair rotation for 2021 due to the current BOD vacancy.
- Rotation discussion on moving this position forward to the Montana Fire Chiefs Association due to previous FWS service as chair.
 - Mike DeGrosky will reach out to Rich Cowger regarding this.
- Josh Harvey, as current Acting Vice-Chair, will cover the Wednesday call and will also talk with Craig Foss regarding participation on Friday's Agency Administrator call.
- Please send any items the BOD would like to see addressed on the Agency Administrator's call to Mike DeGrosky prior to Friday, April 17th.

Friday, April 17 – Executive Session (WFAAs, NRCG BOD Chair & Vice-Chair)

Agency Roundtable of Current COVID-19 Mitigation

(Such as restrictions on employee movement, resource mobilization, specific SOPs developed, etc.)

Round Robin by Agency

- BLM – Working on ensuring that agency will be at full strength. Continuing to formulate protocols; have some good risk mitigation protocols involved. Planning to have full complement of resources. Will have an emphasis on success with initial attack. Amplifying strong prevention messaging.
- FWS – Developing good protocols and guidance. Most is focused around how employees work in teams and the mitigation measures among these groups and teams. Largest issue currently is around bunkhouse management; working on that guidance. Focusing on the team or “unit” environment. Have already brought on most fuels and prescribed fire individuals. Do currently have a stand down on prescribed fire. Those individuals are currently focusing on preparing for suppression. Planning on bringing on full contingency of resources. Decision made to participate fully on Incident Management Teams.
- NPS – Similar to other DOI agencies. Experiencing challenges with on boarding and housing. Working closely with the public health service. Attempting to identify any gaps that exist at various guidance levels. In discussions with the Southwest regarding pro-active restrictions; desire to engage with all partners and cooperators at each level regarding this topic.
- USFS – Not planning to do any travel outside of the GACC at this time; will re-evaluate this as needed. All employees in the Northern Region are expected to support wildfire in this coming year. Strategy will be rapid containment and this will continue to be an evolving discussion. On boarding of seasonals has been a challenge and there are some delays. Housing is also a challenge; prioritizing the housing for wildland firefighters. Taking a similar approach as DOI on this. Have modified some of the training to occur in small groups. Relying heavily on risk analysis and trade off analysis for decision making. Have requested each unit to do scenario planning. Would be interested in the thoughts of this group, and the NRCG, regarding scenario planning and sand table exercises applicable to the future and thoughts pertaining to how to address local partners; specifically around the topic of evacuations. Also in the process of an unscheduled hiring event and will be bringing in 60 permanent hires and 60 temporary hires.
- IDL – Each district has developed direction regarding Covid-19 and agency is working on overall operational guidance. Bringing on most seasonals in May; intend to utilize the module concept regarding housing and training. Red Cards were extend through the end of May; working on pack testing for new hires. Considering additional exclusive use contracts for engines and at

least one crew. Also looking at Type 3 teams and seeing how can support those by engaging non-fire resource personnel. Looking at utilizing heavy equipment more heavily than in the past.

- MT DNRC – Developing state wide protocols to develop and maintain a healthy workforce. Seeking approval from the Governor’s office to allow firefighters to travel from state to state. Working on multiple protocols; would like to see those collected amongst the agencies and shared. Focused on rapid containment. Looking at possibly brining individuals on two weeks early, allowing for self-isolation, to ensure bringing on a healthy workforce. Emphasized the importance of communication with local governments and county health. MT DES has reached out to MT DNRC in an attempt to facilitate good communications and informational sharing. Encourage all to participate in this effort to increase interagency informational sharing. Emphasized importance of early, consistent, interagency prevention messaging.
- ND FS – Developed and implemented seasonal staff on boarding policies that do include a 14 day self-isolation. Did release guidance and health screening process. Developed and implemented a pandemic coop plan. Received guidance on interstate travel and do plan to support mission. Working on some best operational practices for daily activities. Have begun creating a PPE cache to be able to provide for incoming resources. Began a fire prevention messaging campaign. Engaged in restriction calls at state and local levels. Engaged with ND Firefighter Association regarding a multitude of aspects. Coordinating with the state EOC to provide support staff. Affiliate with the University and dealing with those complexities as well.
- BIA – working on developing protocols and guidance; currently in relation to fuels as well. Do have some severity personnel that traveled to Fort Totten. Working on mitigation with response and remote support. Also working on interactions with Tribal leaders.

Discussion Topics

- Acknowledged that many agencies are taking similar approaches for similar issues.
- Many agencies are looking at bringing in both local and out of area individuals for seasonal positions.

NRCG Board of Directors Actions to Address COVID-19 Exposure Mitigation

- NRCG Board is holding weekly Covid-19 virtual meetings.
- Board members are functioning at maximum capacity with planning at all levels, both agency and interagency. Currently not feasible to accept additional tasking.
- Have multiple efforts occurring:
 - Working with Area Command Team on draft plan for the Northern Rockies Wildfire Response Plan.
 - Tasked Craig Goodell to assemble a NR Covid-19 Task Group to facilitate interaction with the Area Command Team.
 - This task group is also working on gathering all agency specific guidance documents together to formulate a gap analysis.
 - Have tasked the IC Committee to address some of the issues related to response and large fire; including how to provide remote support.
 - Have tasked the Fire Prevention and Education Committee with how to increase consistent prevention messaging. This committee has also interacted with most agencies regarding restriction discussions.
 - Idea of including Covid-19 as a condition for restriction considerations will be discussed in the future.

- Have tasked the Operations Committee with working with the NRCG Zones and Chairs to identify how to best align support efforts across the GACC.
- Have a virtual MAC Exercise planned. This would align with the USFS request for scenario planning.
- Vice-Chair position is currently being held by IDL; however, that position will soon be vacant. Board agreed to extend the courtesy to IDL to skip the incoming chair role (for a two year period) and pass along the opportunity to Montana State Fire Chief's Association. (It was agreed that due to FWS previous service as Chair for the last rotation, that they would not be considered as the next incoming chair. This will also assist with the Chair rotation for the Agency Administrator's group, as FWS is the incoming Chair for that group and it was agreed upon that both groups would not have the same agency as Chair at any given time.)
 - This transition would occur this next January and BIA-RM would assume the Vice-Chair.
- Interaction and role with the health community – emphasized importance of sharing the Leader's Intent letter once it is finalized.
 - MT DNRC – request is to also share identified protocols and procedures with MT DES.
 - IDL – have already been engaged with state EOC; they would be more interested in safety protocols and who from outside the state is coming in and where those individuals are going.
 - ND FS – also engaged with the state EOC; vetting all policies and procedures through the department of public health and utilizing this entity as a subject matter expert.
 - BIA – each regional director has a weekly call with Tribal leaders and some include Indian Health Services.

Commitments to Response or Extra Support Needed

- Agencies are currently addressing this on multiple facets, both internally and in an interagency capacity.
- IDL – Have had some questions regarding the USFS Chief's Letter regarding primary objectives.
 - USFS – Regional Forester's direction was primarily rapid suppression; with a heavier emphasis on the interface areas.
- Acknowledged the need to ensure that none of the mitigation efforts increase risk in regards to other response aspects.

Letter of Intent Draft Review

- Appreciated the inclusion of the commitment statement.
- BLM – no further comments or suggestions; however, desire to be strategic and recognize being aware of redundancy regarding gaps in team compositions and ability to respond.
- Unanimous agreement upon draft.
- Action Item: Diane Mann-Klager will send out final draft for Agency Administrator's last review; then will send the final draft to Pam Jolly for finalization and 508 compliancy.
- Need for a follow up call or meeting will be needs driven at this time. NRCG BOD will identify and approach the Agency Administrator's group should such needs arise.
 - May be a need for another call or meeting once the Area Command Team releases the Northern Rockies Response Draft plan.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Participants:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Ray Hart, Bob Jones, Aaron Thompson, Mike Granger, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Kevin Benton, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Julie Polutnik, Diane Mann-Klager, Andy Schell, Jordan McKnight, 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.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- NR Covid Response Task Group is currently working on developing the pocket card product per the latest tasking.
 - Draft may be out for review by next week.
- NR MAC Exercise planning is going well; will be utilizing the Zoom platform.
 - No substantive changes are needed for the 2020 MAC Plan, only minor updates.
- Currently do have four of the NR IHCs that are available national.
- National Simulation for the NR IMTs – scheduled for the week of June 8th.
 - Melissa Wegner – SIM is being delivered by NAFRI. It is interagency and designed for Type 1 and 2 teams. Objectives are based around Covid. Just learned that only one of the Great Basin IMTs will be participating in this optional SIM. Important to note that this SIM is optional. There is quite a bit of pre-work.
 - Do have a June 1 deadline for names of participants to be returned to NAFRI.
 - Team is not limited; it can look however the region desires it to look with a variety of individuals.
 - Craig Goodell will work with the IC committee to identify the participants.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Have had 598 fires for 11,722 acres in the GACC.
- East side is looking at three days of drying; possibly followed by thunderstorms.
- Intelligence Coordinator position closed yesterday; working on a panel.
- No announcement for the Aircraft Coordinator position as of yet.
- NPS does not yet have a PD classification for the assistant intelligence position.
- Have developed the module concept for both five and seven day staffing.

2020 IC Trainee Applications – Identify Review / Discussion Next Steps – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- Topic is a follow up from the March call.
- Both Trainees are now assigned to NR IMTs
- Motion to Approve both IC Trainee Applications; Seconded.



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- **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Delegation of Authority – NR Operations Officer – Language Modification for 2020 – Decisional Topic (Aaron Thompson)

- Historically, since ordering in outside resources on the cost share agreement involves a fiscal decision from all participating agencies, either the BOD or the MAC has voted on bringing in specific outside resources prior to ordering. This proposed new language delegates that authority from each agencies BOD representative to Craig Goodell.
- Topic was discussed on February conference call and agreed that language required further modification.
- **Below is a side-by-side comparison of the language:**
 - Previous Verbiage:
 - In conjunction with the NRCC Manager move resources and extend resources which support the region geographically for all agencies use; these will be assigned appropriate support codes agreed to through cost shares. For agency specific needs, agency support codes will need to be utilized.
 - Proposed Verbiage Options:
 - Option 1 - In conjunction with the NRCC Manager, proactively order critical resources to maintain the NR Step up plan, move resources and extend resources which support the geographic area for all agencies use. These will be assigned appropriate support codes agreed to through cost share agreements. For agency specific needs, agency support codes should be used.
 - Option 2 - In conjunction with the NRCC Manager, proactively order critical resources, move resources and extend resources which support the geographic area following established geographic area policies, plans and approval protocols. *Critical resources for the purpose of this delegation are defined as high demand initial attack resources of a national significance. Examples include: Type 1 Handcrews, Rappellers, Smokejumpers, Helicopters and Fixed-Wing Aircraft.*
 - Option 3 - In conjunction with the NRCC Manager, proactively order critical resources to maintain fire suppression capabilities commensurate with wildfire risk and PL. Coordinate the movement of resources with local dispatch centers and FMOs and extend resources which support the geographic area for all agencies use. These will be assigned appropriate support codes agreed to through cost share agreements. For agency specific needs, agency support codes should be used.
- Recommend adding some of our Deputy's to this delegation so in the event they are supporting or acting for Craig, they are covered under the same delegation.
 - It may read something like: *During the NR Operations Officer absence, the following may serve as the acting Northern Rockies Operations Officer representing the NRCG Board: Corey Buhl, Jordan McKnight.*
 - DNRC – for the last part, could address by saying “or designated individual approved by the NRCG Board” rather than naming specific individuals.
- BLM – recommend Option 1, which is tied to the Step Up plan.
- USFS – concerns over approval for this item prior to approval for the Step Up plan. Desire to ensure



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all delegations are well understood. Also, DoA in the pre-reading materials referenced the R1/R3 USFS agency specific agreement; concern over that language being present in this document.

- **Decision to table this item until after the discussion on approval for the Step Up plan later in this call. (See next topic and the vote that pertains to both topics.)**

NR DRAFT Resource Draw Down/Step Up Plan – Decisional Topic (Craig Goodell)

- Utilized Rocky Mountain's plan as a framework.
- Important to note that this is a base line and acknowledged that resources, at any given time, are dynamic.
- This plan provides a framework for all to be on the same page as to what needs are at each PL level.
- USFS – concern expressed over staging teams and the associated costs. Would this be accomplished after board approval?
 - Craig Goodell – that language is at PL 4; therefore, that would be a MAC level decision.
- BLM – would ask Kathy Pipkin if this would be a useful tool?
 - Kathy Pipkin – yes; would put in writing the authorities to order resources once they are offered by NICC. Important to note that it would not be limited to these; that it is just a baseline.
 - Could also add an asterisk to note that MAC approval is needed.
 - Would also need to modify DoA for Center Manager, as it contains the same language.
- DNRC – share the same concerns as USFS regarding cost decisions; addition of a few words in this language regarding MAC approval would assist with alleviating these concerns.
- NPS – suggest changing “staged” to “MAC determined”.
- BLM – Asterisk placed at this point in the table would note “MAC determined”.
- BIA NW – document provides structure to the process.
- BLM – need to identify what items would require asterisks.
 - DNRC – Teams.
 - Craig Goodell – Scoopers and helicopters also have higher costs.
 - BLM – would be reluctant to turn these over as MAC.
 - USFS – some of this may have a need to be subjective, with respect to IA.
 - Craig Goodell – subjective also in regards to conditions and potential.
 - DNRC – emphasized that communications will be occurring during this process as well. Large costs decisions will require engagement.
 - Montana State Fire Chief's Association – asterisk for teams and other larger cost items should cover cost share agency concerns.
- Vote to approve draft with above discussed modification and edits, in addition to approving Option 1 with the discussed edits above (previous agenda topic) in DoA.
- Moved and seconded
- **Approved – unanimous consent.**
- **BLM – Aaron Thompson will make the discussed edits, (Option 1: generic individual approved as alternate and remove R1/R3 language) and send to Mike DeGrosky and Pam Jolly.**
- **Craig Goodell will edit the Draw Down / Step up plan with the asterisks discussed above and send to Mike DeGrosky and Pam Jolly.**



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

- No update from NWCG at this time.
- (See Proposal Paper)
- This topic was pre-Covid and most likely there has not been any movement due to the national circumstances.
- Recommend not to take action during this evolving environment.
- DNRC – Suggest that this item be tabled until fall.
- **Decision to table this item until the fall.**

Tasking Proposal for WFAAs – Cost / Time Commitment Analysis Dispatch Improvement Project - Decisional Topic (Aaron Thompson)

- Decision on whether to prepare a tasking proposal for the Agency Administrators.
- Cost / Time Analysis:
 - Suggest a team of five interagency employees. The Analysis would be completed over the course of 4-6 months. Individuals would not be working on it each day. Took the cost to Government of a GS-11 step 5 (\$8,500) for two months. Then I added \$2,000 for each employee (for travel and per diem). This provides an estimate for a Dispatch Improvement recommendation.
 - The team could be:
 - Dispatcher
 - Dispatcher
 - FMO
 - LEO
 - Radio
 - Total Cost- \$95,000*
 - *Note: Most of the \$95,000 is base labor funding already programmed for the employees; however, it is difficult to assign a cost to their normal workload that might not get accomplished or the stress of an employee trying to accomplish multiple tasks in the same work time-frame.
- Postponed from earlier in the year due to quorum for votes; then was cut from Spring Meeting.
- DNRC – For clarification, this would be an in kind type of service agency contribution.
 - BLM – correct; individuals would need to be identified and it acknowledged that their workload would be impacted.
- DNRC – Would support this model; acknowledged a need to accomplish.
- USFS – for clarification, this would be GACC wide. Would this incorporate the previous work that was done regarding this topic? Also, would like to identify involved individuals. Do support this in kind services model. Would need to understand the specific ask of the agency so that can assess capacity.
- BLM – looking to approve the concept prior to identifying the specific individuals.
- USFS – support the effort; however, need to understand the specific ask for the agency and address if there is sufficient capacity.
- DNRC – important to note that team may need to include more individuals than are listed above and be a bit larger of a group to make it representative of all that need to be included.



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- BLM – next step is to propose to the Agency Administrator’s group that they task the board with this item.
 - Diane Mann-Klagger – would request that Aaron Thompson, Craig Goodell and Kathy Pipkin draft this tasking for the Agency Administrator’s group and submit to Mike DeGrosky for review prior to submission to Agency Administrator’s group.
- Motion to approve.
- **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Process for Units Changing Dispatch Boundaries – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- (See White Paper)
- Comes from the National Fall Coordinators meeting and getting dispatcher centers/agencies on the same time line of changing dispatch boundaries and effects to changing frequency boundaries. Frequency boundaries have to be submitted at the end of October to meet FAA guidelines; but when centers change their protection boundaries other times of the years there could be frequency bleed over or places not covered which either can be big safety issues.
- Tabled from the January, February and March calls.
- Propose establishing due dates each year that these change proposals would be submitted by and the process then initiated; leaving time to account for all of the implications. The understanding would be that the “go live” date would be after the following January 1st.
- DNRC – request proposed schedule be submitted for approval during the June NRCG Monthly call.
- **Kathy Pipkin will compose the proposal and associated protocol schedule, in addition to identifying milestones and implications. It will then be submitted for BOD review and an approval vote will be conducted on the June NRCG Monthly call.**

IMT Standard Operation Guide – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- Updated the team schedules for 2020 - spring 2021.
- And added verbiage for IMT workshop responsibility; which agency pays for the IMT workshop facility; as well as the S-580 rotation as discussed at the fall and spring IC meetings (all are highlighted in yellow).
- Need to identify timeline for draft review.
- FWS – Do have a few edits and will send those to Kathy Pipkin.
- **Request all edits and comments be submitted to Kathy Pipkin prior to June 5th; will vote to approve revised draft on the June NRCG Monthly Call.**

NR Water Wizard proposal for 2020 Fire Season – Specification Development Update – Informational Topic (Tim Murphy)

- (See Proposal and Operations Committee Tasking Reply)
- Approve any or all of the above force multipliers and request their Contracting Officers (Mt. DNRC, IDL, BLM, BIA, NPS & / or USFS) to work with Equipment Specialists to develop specifications & procurement tools by 6/15/20 through 10/15/20.
 - (Propose the following Contracting Officers work the best procurement tool to secure services as described in the Water Wizard Document)



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- USFS R1 – Task Forces, Strike Teams & Single Resources proposed (Debby may need help from AQM?)
 - BLM – Type 2 Sprinkler Systems (BLM has ranchers that understand these systems)
 - NPS – Type 1 Sprinkler Systems (Glacier NP had the Rent for Rain system in 2017)
 - Mt DNRC – Camp Crews solicitation with Fed clauses so all NRCG can use. (DNRC has the other Crew agreements)
 - USFS R1 – Type 3 & 4 Sprinkler Systems (Jack, Chris, Anthony's & State EFFs to develop & order parts & pieces)
 - Could explore the possibility of Fire Departments stepping up to do some of the ST & TF
- Approximate cost to develop specs. \$8,500 for 2ea. HETS & Water Supply Tech. Specialist Mt DNRC Short Term Workers. (NRCG Cost Share?)
 - Review use in After Fire Season 2020 AAR of such packages for potential long term agreements, similar to the Heavy Equipment Task Force success story in NRG.
 - Operations Committee did not generally support the task forces & strike teams; however, did support the sprinkler systems and camp crews.
 - Recommend working with cache and Forest Service equipment shop to develop the Type 3 & 4 sprinkler systems. Will also develop a source list for Type 1 & 2 sprinkler systems if needed in 2020. .
 - Can also work to put together camp crew specifications. Did steer away from the kitchen crews due to health and safety requirement challenges.
 - Identifying a NRCG agency contracting officer may also be a challenge.
 - DNRC – Expressed thanks to the operations committee.
 - Motion for Tim Murphy to move ahead developing contract specifications for sprinkler systems and the camp crews.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Approved – majority vote.
 - IDL abstained.
 - All others present support.
 - Chair and Tim Murphy will communicate direct with Kevin Benton regarding information on the specifics and history of this topic, as needed once he has had time to read the documents.

2019 US/Canada AAR – Decisional Topic (Andy Schell)

- (See Recommendation)
- Desire to have this passed up through CGAC and NMAC; with desire for an international AAR with Canada.
 - Recommendation will need edits to reflect this proper chain.
- DNRC – supportive of a joint AAR.
- BLM – supportive as well; in addition to possibly developing a best practices document.
- USFS – ask that if AAR is moved forward, please involve Chris Lorrans.
- Vote to move recommendation ahead.
- Approved – unanimous consent.
- Andy Schell will send a revised copy for NRCG letterhead & signature. Craig Goodell will then take this



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item forward to CGAC.

Heavy Equipment Taskforce Supervision – Decisional Topic (Andy Schell)

- (See Proposal)
- With primary consideration being safety, decided that task force leader was the appropriate qualification.
- USFS – For clarification, this is eliminating the HEQB – is that correct?
 - Andy Schell – yes; form eliminates this need and addresses this change. Also recommend that the task force leader is solely dedicated to that heavy equipment task force in order to ensure span of control.
- USFS – Foreman is part of the contracted work force. The HEQB has historically been the agency connection; concerned about maintaining this with the task force leader.
 - Andy Schell – primary concern was safety; over time experience level on this aspect will increase.
 - DRNC – do feel have a good pool of experience with this qualification.
 - USFS – concern that the qualifications are different between the two positions; looking at the accountability and managerial part.
 - Andy Schell – feel that this mitigates part of the historical occurrences.
 - Tim Murphy – supportive; however, the amount of equipment working for one individual is still a point of discussion in regards to the national memo that was received.
 - FWS – would it be possible to mobilize a heavy equipment task force without an available task force leader?
 - Tim Murphy – would not want to have supervision provided only by Division Group Supervisor.
- USFS – still have some concerns regarding this recommendation; would like more time to address from an agency specific standpoint.
- FWS – agree with USFS.
- BLM – appreciate the recommendation; however, would like some more time to review.
- DNRC – For clarity, recommendation is to have a task force supervised by a task force leader.
 - Tim Murphy – typically a task force leader has crew bosses and engine bosses below them.
 - DNRC – do have the option of putting Heavy Equipment bosses within the task force. They are a scarce resources at times.
 - USFS – not prepared to support on this call at this time.
 - FWS – concerns over the ability for continued utilization of the unique tool that is the heavy equipment task force.
 - DNRC – important to note how dependent that the region has become on this particular resource.
- Topic will be reviewed further by BOD members and placed on the June NRCG Monthly call for a vote to move recommendation ahead.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Wildland Fire Module Certification – Decisional Topic (Andy Schell / Jordan McKnight)

- (See WFM Ask paper)
- Important to note that this tasking includes language regarding IHCs. This is in addition to the WFMs that were discussed and approved during the fall meeting.
- Jordan McKnight - would like to remove IHC language; however, ask that board approve the intent.
- USFS – concerns over other agency configurations; support in theory, would like more specific information regarding typing. Need more clarification prior to agreeing to support.
- Andy Schell – intent is to take the current certification processes and putting it into a checklist type style.
 - Kathy Pipkin – there are NWCG Standards for WFMs.
- DNRC – moved and supported to approve tasking.
 - Andy Schell – motion is to approve request to begin this process.
- Vote to approve tasking.
- **Approved – majority vote.**
 - BLM no response, as had to drop off call; all others present unanimous support.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

Postponed due to duration of call.

NRCG Conference Calls – Decisional Topic (Ralph Rau)

- USFS – concern over the average length of the monthly calls; allotted time on calendar may no longer be adequate.
 - Acknowledged that this particular call had many carry over items for vote due to lack of quorum on previous calls earlier in the year.
 - Participation by all agencies is critical to accomplishing business.
- USFS – additionally, inquire if moving to an every two week schedule for the NRCG Covid-19 call would be appropriate now.
- BIA RM – propose scaling back Covid-19 calls to every other week.
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**
- DNRC – **Will move to an every two week NRCG Covid-19 call schedule and cancel the call scheduled for May 20th.**
 - Next NRCG Covid-19 call will be on May 27th.

The next scheduled NRCG monthly conference call will be held June 16, 2020 at 1000 Mountain Time.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Rich Cowger, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Andrew Schell, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Julie Polutnik, Morganne Lehr, Diane Mann-Klager, Billy Phillips, Rick Connell, 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.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Over the weekend had a couple of large fires in the GACC; one near Helena - “Lump Gulch” approximately 1,100 acres; Type 3 IMT Martin assigned. No issues at this time. Advised that things went well and that local units Covid planning was helpful.
- Fire Gulch fire near Ashland approximately 3,400 acres; fire burned readily through the ponderosa pine litter and green grass growth.
- Seeing a beginning of a change in the fuels. This will be the last push of moisture for the foreseeable future. Beginning discussions around moving to PL 2, when appropriate. Southwest moved to PL 4. Alaska moved to PL 3. Rocky Mountain moved to PL 2. Nationally at PL 3.
- Watching drawdown levels.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- The GACC Aircraft coordinator position closed yesterday; hoping for a cert next week.
- Kate Holsapple will be new Intelligence Coordinator; will start July 19th.
- Working on schedule for the season. Plan to put center staffing into two modules. This will help mitigate for Covid. Will also require bringing in more individuals sooner. Missouri room downstairs will serve as expanded. This could potentially impact the MAC group, if it were to be stood up.
- Turman IMT 1 would normally be available next Tuesday; however, Goicoechea’s IMT will cover the first two days of the Northern Rockies rotation turn due to conflicts with Turman’s schedule.
- Northern Operations (CA) also went to PL 2.
- Four Type 2IAs available in the GACC; three of which are contract.
- Type 1 helicopter exclusive use solicitation was protested. Northern Rockies bases will be ordering Call When Needed helicopters to cover. The Washington Office will be paying for those.
- IROC – Julie Polutnik is on the reports group that will be creating reports for IROC.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

OLD BUSINESS

IMT Standard Operation Guide – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- (See draft)
- Included the latest received edits.
- USFS – Suggestion to include the Covid team plan as an appendix.
 - Kathy Pipkin – can make a reference in the document to the Covid team plan.
- **Motioned and seconded to approve the IMT SOG with the Covid plan as an appendix.**
- Vote to approve draft.
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Heavy Equipment Taskforce Supervision – Decisional Topic (Andy Schell)

- (See Proposal)
- USFS – For clarification, no intent around having a heavy equipment boss in addition to a task force leader as well?
 - Andy Schell – correct.
 - DNRC – Important to note that this does not preclude using a heavy equipment boss; provides for flexibility.
 - BLM – FWS BOD member unable to make this call; however, contacted and wanted to voice concerns regarding NWCG expectation that each piece of equipment would have a heavy equipment boss. Concern that this is going against NWCG by saying a task force leader would be supervising those pieces of equipment?
 - DNRC – NWCG does not establish policy; they establish standards. This is regarding a non-standard resource. If an agency administrator wishes to add staffing, that is possible.
 - USFS – Do think there is validity to the concerns; however, this is a non-standard resource that has been developed within this GACC. One of the purposes was to put some direct focus on an appropriate level of supervision for this resource. If not addressed, may lead to a shortage of this critically needed resource. A need also exists to educate line officers.
 - BLM – Having the task force leader does make sense; may be the best option for this time.
 - Tim Murphy – Held several AARs with industry and Montana Logging Association. They were not comfortable with the experience level of the heavy equipment bosses. Industry is fairly comfortable with this upgrade to a task force leader. The contract has one Government supervisor in charge of the foreman, who in turn supervising the equipment operators. If Agencies want to add more oversight, encourage safety officers and / or field observers in lieu of heavy equipment boss(es) be added to pay particular attention to heavy equipment task forces on incidents.
- **Motioned and seconded to accept the recommendation with the caveat that some information and education will occur to further inform that this does not preclude adding additional supervision within the organization.**
- Vote on moving recommendation forward.
- **Approved – majority vote. (One abstention.)**
- NPS – Caveat will generate an action item
 - DNRC – please give thought to this piece and will discuss on next month's call.
- **Pam Jolly will draft up NRCG Memo for Chair's signature.**



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Follow Up Discussion - NR Remote Situation Unit (RSU) Operations Guide – Final Document & Distribution – Decisional Topic (Billy Phillips)

- (See draft)
- Currently, RSU has been ordered for support on the Lump Gulch incident; in addition to receiving multiple other inquiries for both in and out of GACC support.
- Did receive a couple of edits from earlier this week that are not included in the version that was sent for this call. Those do not affect the operations and were only pertinent to the ordering process.
- The funding that board provided allowed the group not only to set up the Northern Rockies up for success, but also helped to provide for IMT success nationally.
- Do have several more training that will need to be provided; however, those require the approval of this guide.
- USFS – Desire to continue to pursue national funding for RSU due to its scope; ask that this information be provided in a summary write up format to support that effort.
- Motioned and seconded to approve the guide.
- Vote to approve draft.
- **Approved – unanimous consent.**
- Distribution Path:
 - Document is approved for sharing widely at this time.
 - Document will be posted to NRCG site and older versions will be removed.
 - Rick Connell will begin sharing with the Northern Rockies Incident Commanders.
 - **Morganne Lehr will send Pam Jolly a final, 508 compliant version that will be posted on the NRCG website.**

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Postponed review in the interest of time.

DNRC – Would like to express Thanks to all for recent events. Assistance with three fires; very much appreciate the interagency effort. Additionally Thanks to all those who participated in the Governor's Briefing.

USFS – National Fire Director is retiring; Patty Grantham will become the Acting effective July 1st.

The next scheduled NRCG monthly conference call will be held July 21, 2020 at 1000 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, July 21, 2020

Participants:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Mike Granger, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Diane Mann-Klager, Corey Buhl, Kevin Benton, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Amanda Boatright, Sarah Lee, Mike Goicoechea, Kate Wilson, Rick Connell, 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)

- Unavailable for this call.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Northern Rockies went to PL 2 last week. Nationally, remain at PL 3.
- Requests for out of region support have decreased.
- Expecting some potential for dry lightning in the western portion of the GACC in the next few days.
- Increased winds predicted for later in the week; in addition to hot weather predicted for next week.
- Beginning tomorrow, will have three (3) IHC available in GACC.
- Also tracking 10 person suppression modules this year due to Covid.
 - Type 2 IA crews may be a resource in short supply this year.
- Continuing work on Covid support team; currently checking individual's availability.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- New Intelligence Coordinator began this week.
- Aircraft Coordinator position has been filled. This will create a vacancy for the assistant aircraft coordinator.
- NICC is looking at large airtanker realignment across the west.

OLD BUSINESS

Heavy Equipment Taskforce – Education Action Item – Decisional Topic (Mike DeGrosky)

- Derived from the caveat associated with the previously approved recommendation.
- Chair will present the supervision realignment to the Agency Administrators at their meeting tomorrow.
- IMTs are also now aware and informed.
- **Action Item: Operations Committee and BOD will distribute through their respective networks.**
- NPS – Suggestion to include this in the out of GACC IMT in briefing packages.
 - Kathy Pipkin will ensure it is included.
- USFS – Need exists to ensure the contractors are aware as well.
 - Tim Murphy has shared this information through appropriate channels.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

NEW BUSINESS

Additional IMT Funds – Decisional Topic (Mike Goicoechea / Ralph Rau)

- Used up Team funds on PPE, name tags and some IT equipment in preparation for a deployment.
- After this deployment; the estimation needed is approximately \$1800 more to purchase the additional equipment needed to be fully self-sufficient.
 - These funds would be needed specifically for support of the PIO functions.
 - Primarily for equipment and supplies to support community meetings held on remote platforms.
 - Would also assist with semi-standardization of this remote delivery model.
- This is specifically a onetime ask for Team 1 for an addition \$1,800 per team.
- BIA RM – BIA could support an additional \$1,800 per team; however, would have to arrange the exchange of funds through a Forest Service agreement.
- BLM – Agency has already given Thompson and Sampson's teams the money that they need.
- DNRC – Could do the same for Turman's team.
- FWS – Suggestion to have those agencies who can afford, to support whatever team the BOD member acts as the liaison representative.
- Montana State Fire Chief's Association – Would need to run it by the board; however, do not see an issue with supporting this effort at this time.
- NPS – Sampson's team has already been covered by BLM. Can cover additional team if need exists.
- BIA RM – Please get back with the total and the need, so that action may be taken.
- USFS – If agreement is needed, do have grants and agreements deadlines that may come into play. May take some time. Could be more efficient if the funds are transferred through the state.
- DNRC – Also at the end of the fiscal year; however, may be able to assist.
- Kathy Pipkin – Do have a current agreement with the BIA; a modification could be done.
- IDL – Going through a reduction currently, will need to inquire from upper management prior to supporting.
- Montana DES – Also will have to inquire prior to supporting.
- **Action Item: BOD IMT liaisons will follow up on providing a onetime ask for an additional \$1,800 per team per the following:**
 - Team 6 – IC Fry – DNRC will support.
 - Team 1 – IC Goicoechea – Forest Service will support.
 - Team 5 – IC Sampson – BLM has already provided this support.
 - Team 7 – IC Thompson – BLM has already provided this support.
 - Team 2 – IC Turman – FWS will provide this support.
 - Team 4 – IC Connell – DES will inquire about providing this support and, if that is not possible, will follow up with BIA RM to provide.
 - Team 3 – IC Almas – IDL will inquire about providing this support and; if that is not possible, will follow up with BIA RM to provide.

Proposal to Adopt a Standardized Saw Part Request Form – Decisional Topic (Amanda Boatright)

- Standardized form would make it easier, specifically for IBAs, to know what parts are consumable and what parts likely are not.
- Developed the form in coordination with the cache and routed it through the Operations Committee.



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- Part two helps identify items that need a lost or damaged report submitted prior to ordering.
- Also address confusion around parts and NFES numbers; in addition to consolidating information.
- DNRC - Motion to approve this recommendation.
 - BLM supports.
 - Montana State Fire Chiefs' Association – second.
- **Vote Conducted – Recommendation Approved – unanimous consent.**

Incident Business – GACC Pandemic Support – Informational (Sarah Lee / Amanda Boatright)

- Ask that the Board members take to their respective AAs for concurrence or, at least, awareness.
- Guidelines for how line officers could support a virtual IBA and a remote COMP/CLAIMS unit leader.
- Focuses on requirements and responsibilities; in addition to expectations.
 - Other finance positions are already covered in the IMT plans.
- **Action Item: Chair will take to the Agency Administrator's meeting tomorrow.**

Recommended AIS Language for Delegations of Authority – Informational Topic (Mike DeGrosky / Kate Wilson)

- Proposed language for NRCG endorsement to be included in Delegation of Authority documents.
- Desire this to be advanced to the agency administrators as well for meeting occurring on 7/22.
- Also trying to get some standard language that can be used in contracts for vendors, etc.
- Suggested language for DOA:
 - *Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) pose threats to the environment, the economy and/or human health. They can have detrimental impacts to native species and habitat. The most common vector for AIS introduction/spread is trailered watercraft and water-based equipment. To prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS) by wildland fire equipment, all incident management teams responding or supporting fire suppression efforts in the Northern Rockies must adhere to the [mandatory AIS protocol \[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](http://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http://www.dnr.mt.gov/Portals/0/Planning%20and%20Policy/AIS%20Protocol.pdf). This protocol prevents the introduction and spread of AIS into local waterways and is based on the [Guide to Preventing AIS Transport by Wildland Fire Operations \[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](http://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http://www.dnr.mt.gov/Portals/0/Planning%20and%20Policy/AIS%20Protocol.pdf).*
- Propose Board adopt the recommendation with the intent to take forward to the Agency Administrator's tomorrow. If so, then to include this with the IMT in briefing packages.
- USFS – For clarification, this would extend to all levels?
 - Yes.
- Rick Connell – Discrepancy exists between language found in the links and the above verbiage.
 - Kate Wilson – language can altered to provide clarification.
 - Chair – Board could write a new letter to clarify language.
- DNRC – Motion for the Board to accept the recommended language and advance to the Agency Administrator group for their meeting tomorrow.
 - USFS – Second.
 - Vote – All participating agencies support.
 - **Action Item: Kate Wilson will compile a new NRCG draft memo and send to both the Chair and Pam Jolly.**



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Tuesday, July 21, 2020

COVID-19 Testing, Surveillance, Tracking, and Evacuation – Informational Topic (Mike DeGrosky)

- Montana Governor's office advised they are initialing an effort to work with both the Idaho and North Dakota Governor's offices regarding addressing prevention of the spread of Covid into communities when mobilizing large amounts of resources to project fires.
- DNRC – Working with Montana Governor's Natural Resource Advisor to accomplish this effort.
 - Last week, tasked the IC Committee to provide information on what resources IMTs would need to conduct screening, surveillance, tracking, isolation and evacuation in their camps.
 - Talking with the State Resource Officer regarding identifying outside agency resources to assist with these efforts.
 - Planning on reaching out to the zone chairs and inquiring on what they have done to be ready for this large resource mobilization possibility.
 - Northwest Zone does have outline plan; may approach the other zones with the option of adopting and utilizing a similar plan.
 - Did put this on the Agency Administrator's meeting agenda for tomorrow's meeting.
- Greg Morris – Discussion needed around how to make decisions around bringing in resources from an area of high Covid positive cases.
 - DNRC – Perspective is that fire agencies do not have neither the expertise nor the number of people needed to manage these aspects.
 - Attempting to pursue with other Montana state agencies a way to bring additional resources to support this effort.
- FWS – Is there the capability to utilize Title 32 with the National Guard?
- MT DES – National Guard is activated now in support of Covid. If going to be utilized, must be in response of the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. Need to ensure it falls within their mission assignment.
 - Can ask the question and obtain clarification as to what, specifically, would fall within their mission assignment.
 - Current authority ends on August 21st. Hoping that will be extended.
- USFS – Emphasized support for this effort and attempt to address this protocol need in regards to vetting against reality.

Contracting Update (Tim Murphy)

- All 2020 solicitations are in to dispatch; except for NPS tent contracts. Dropped that solicitation and will be utilizing EERAs for tents. Exploring various long terms solutions for the future; in addition to elevating issue to a national level.
- Receiving pushback from some contractors regarding face coverings memo. Some are taking a more aggressive stance.
 - Have met with contracting officers and are comfortable with the base language supporting this found in the contracts.

Decision to cancel the NRCG Covid-19 conference call that had been scheduled for July 22, 2020.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Postponed due to time constraints.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is August 18, 2020 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, August 18, 2020

Participants:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Mike Granger, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Kathy Pipkin, Anthony Krause, Dylan Kopitzke, Mike Behrens, Derek Yeager, Jordan McKnight, Rick Connell, Wanemah Hulett, 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 attend this call due to meeting schedule conflict.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Current activity – Team 5 - Sampson is on the Bear Creek Fire. Have quite a few crews assigned right now.
- Do have an emerging fire on HLF – Wood Lake – approximately 50 acres; Type 3 organization.
- Do have two fires in the back country on the Flathead National Forest. Limited resources assigned to these.
- Have two initial attacks occurring in Grangeville this morning.
- Lightning and winds are forecast for the next few days.
- All Type 1 IHC and T2IA crews are in GACC.
- All Geographic areas are reporting a need for crews. If activity increases, will need to cycle the crews the region already has.
- Would like the board to consider preposition order for five type 2 crews to come to the Northern Rockies in the next few days.
 - DNRC – Encourage hanging on to crews that are currently in the GACC. Support prepositioning additional crews.
- Brought on a Type 1 PIO to support fire information.
- Northern Rockies Covid Support Group update – assembled; group is having daily calls and coordinating with zone Covid coordinators and IMT Covid coordinators. Information sharing is going well.
 - USFS – Request email with organization structure of this group to be disseminated to the Board. Craig Goodell will distribute this information.
- Have requested Willy Acton to assist as a Geographic Area Aviation coordinator.
- Anticipate possibly moving towards PL 4 and MAC.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- South and North Operations are showing a critical need for engines.
- NICC has advised that they will not accept any name suggests for engines – that includes hard dollars or severity. Region would have to be completely depleted of engines prior to a name suggest being accepted. This applies on an interagency basis.
 - USFS, BLM, FWS, DNRC, NPS, BIA – All indicated concerns over impacts to agency specific



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- agreements that may be felt from this issue.
- Kathy Pipkin will share the associated email with the Board.
- DNRC – Encouraged all units to utilize available contract engine resources to the fullest capacity.
- Helicopters are also an extremely scarce resource.
 - Have been advised to notify NICC if resources are being released.
 - Northern Rockies preposition orders are suggested for the two upcoming Type 1 helicopter resources that may be released in the next few days.
- Currently, availability for mid-management positions is limited.
 - Have informed NICC will not be accepting out of area requests for specific mid-management positions.
 - Encourage all to inquire with their specific agency resources for in GACC support availability.

Community Protection/Preventing COVID-19 Transmission from Fire Camps and other Fire Operations – Informational Topic (Mike DeGrosky)

- Earlier in the year, began receiving questions regarding what is being done to prevent Covid spread to communities during operations.
- Since then, have been engaged in discussions regarding answering those questions. Have been talking with Montana State Health Officer, and that has now evolved to include many other departments and Governor's office.
- Did ask the IC Committee as to what they thought they would need regarding screening, isolation, evacuation, etc. regarding Covid.
- Are activity working on this issue. Call planed in the near future; DPHS has offered to give a proposal for review as to what they think needs to be done to sufficiently protect communities.
 - Would then have an opportunity to comment and advise what resources would be needed to accomplish those recommendations.
- Have been discussing a tasking to the Zone Chairs to ensure that each zone is reaching out to County Health Departments and understanding capacity issues, should significant fire operations occur.
- Ask that all remember that in the six party agreement, in Montana, the DNRC is the liaison for the local county departments.
 - Request if agencies and / or zones are accomplishing this, please coordinate with their local DNRC office.
- Dylan Kopitzke – Feel that these communications are readily occurring and are in a fairly good space.
- DNRC, BLM, USFS, FWS - Deliverable ask would reduce flexibility; thus, there is not an ask of a deliverable at this time.
 - Emphasized importance of keeping communication channels open.
- Derek Yeager - also feel in a good space with current coordination.
- Mike Behrens – meeting weekly as a zone group and sharing information. Involves two health districts, one with a higher Covid rate. Working to ensure good protocols and open communications.
 - **Action Item - Mike DeGrosky will send an email to all the Zone Chairs regarding addressing Community Protection/Preventing COVID-19 Transmission from Fire Camps and other Fire Operations.**
- Rick Connell – Regarding GACC based Covid group, concern over the number of individuals that are



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engaged and involved in the process. As group is developed, do need a way to ensure all are aware of who is involved and participator in the process.

- DNRC – Acknowledged similar concerns, especially in regards to HIPPA.
- Craig Goodell – Purpose of the GACC group is to provide support as requested.
- BLM – Biggest issues seeing so far is the lack of testing. Would like to see this group identify each county in Montana's testing capacity.
 - DNRC – That is one of the topics that are attempting to receive clarification from other states entities.

NRCC Organizational Chart – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- Reviewed position updates and changes.
- Currently, do have one vacant position currently - assistant aircraft coordinator.
 - Would like to have Board approval to move forward with the assistant aircraft coordinator.
 - USFS – Supports maintaining the assistant aircraft coordinator position as it currently exists.
 - **Vote to approve maintaining the assistant aircraft coordinator position as it currently exists.**
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**
- Additionally, do have a meteorologist retiring at the end of the September.
- With the meteorologist position, would like to change that to a FWS Fire Analyst.
 - Rational is that previously, the skill sets needed were different in the past for these various positions.
 - Last year, the detailed fire analyst positions served the Northern Rockies needs well.
 - Propose FWS carry the Fire Analyst positions and leave the Meteorologist position vacant.
 - FWS – Funding for Meteorologist is directly from the WO, specifically for a Meteorologist. There has been talk of that money going away. If that were to occur, it would pose significant challenges. Currently, are making inquiries regarding this funding. **At this time, not able to agree to any changes.**

Planning Fall Board Meeting and Fall NRCG Zones and Committee Meetings Expectations – Decisional Topic (Aaron Thompson)

- Decision needed regarding holding the 2020 Fall NRCG meeting as virtual or in-person.
 - BLM – Agency is still non-essential travel.
 - USFS – Support virtual.
 - FWS – Support virtual.
 - NPS – Support virtual.
 - Group discussion and consent; no opposition expressed to holding 2020 Fall NRCG meeting virtually.
 - **Action Item: 2020 Fall NRCG meeting will be held virtually.**
- BLM – Need exists to issue NRCG Leader's Intent for Zone & Committee virtual meeting expectations.
 - **Action Item: NRCG Board agreement that Chair will send out an email regarding NRCG expectations for Zones and Committees to hold their meetings virtually, prior to the fall NRCG Meeting.**



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Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Preposition of an Additional Five T2 Crews – Decisional Topic (Craig Goodell)

- Crews are ODF State Crews, specifically, and are self-sufficient and have their own transportation.
- Plan is to distribute across the GACC.
 - BIA NW – Informational, regarding AFC Best Value Crews - that request has been suspended regarding sending those crews out of GACC. Suggestion for Craig Goodell to follow up on this.
 - Craig Goodell will follow up.
- **Vote to approve prepositioning an additional five T2 crews.**
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Postponed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is September 15, 2020 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, September 15, 2020

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

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Aaron Thompson, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Rich Cowger, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Andrew Schell, Kevin Benton, 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)

- Unable to participate on call.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Unable to participate on call.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Unable to participate on call.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

Training Recommendation from Operations Committee – Informational Topic (Andy Schell)

- *(See Recommendation document in pre-reading materials.)*
- Noticed some inefficiencies in the selection process.
- Operations Committee is unable to make informed selections from names only.
- Due to succession needs of IMTs, feel this approval could be held at the IC Committee level.
- Operations Committee liaison does attend IC Committee meetings; any concerns could be address through that channel.
- Last year over thirty individuals applied to this training.
 - Thompson – Would want to ensure that there was wide agency representation regarding attendees.
 - DeGrosky – Think that is a component that rely on Melissa Wegner provides during this coordination.
 - Rau – As long as Melissa Wegner is a part of that, should be good to meet that expectation.
 - DeGrosky – Would be a good conversation to have with Melissa Wegner at the Fall meeting.
 - Rau – Would be good to involve her in this discussion prior to the fall meeting.
 - DeGrosky – Suggestion to make this an agenda topic for next months call.
 - Thompson – Appreciate the Operations Committee looking at these efficiencies. Do feel it would be good to loop in Melissa Wegner.
- Schell – Will contact Melissa Wegner and discuss; and will presenting again at next month's meeting.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

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

Fall Meeting Timeframes Discussion (Pam Jolly)

- Dates of November 3 – 5th are set for the fall meeting; however, need to identify daily timeframes in order to create the Team Meeting invite.
- DeGrosky – Finding most have about a two hour tolerance limit for virtual meetings. Suggest meeting twice a day in two hour blocks, with two hour breaks in between.
- Thompson – Support two daily sessions of two hour blocks for three days in a row. Committees can present only if they have something for the BOD; otherwise, expectation will only be for the written report out.
- DeGrosky – Committees, Zones and Staff will submit written report outs in advance; thus, leaving meaningful time for discussion with committee during the meeting.
- Benton – Support.
- Pam Jolly will send out the NRCG Fall Meeting Team Meeting invites prior to close of business today.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Postponed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is October 20, 2020 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, October 20, 2020

Participants:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Jake Ganieany, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Aitor Bidaburu, Diane Mann-Klager, John Monzie, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, 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)

- NMAC reduced meeting schedule to two times a week; holding solid at PL 3; steady amount of demobilization occurring. Nationally, there are still several very active areas. There is still a national need for resources and teams.
- NWCG - there is a new established training delivery committee; are addressing the training environment in light of Covid. Will be focusing on critical and required training going forward. Covid has accelerated the need to move towards a virtual learning environment.
 - Melissa Wegner – Northern Rockies has been focused on virtual delivery for FY21 since May. Do have a plan for virtual instructional led training. Schedule reflects what is needed in the Northern Rockies and mirrors what is occurring nationally. Are participating on the training development committee nationally, as well.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Last week, Northern Rockies moved to PL 1.
- Do still have multiple resources supporting the national suppression effort out of area.
- All IHCs are done for the season.
- Connell's IMT returned home over the weekend. Plan to be potentially available by November 2, if there is still a need.
- Team 6 is transitioning and will transfer command on Thursday. Then, team will travel home. Potentially available in early November.
- Both T1 IMTs are currently unavailable; no ETA on availability.
- Other T2 IMTs are also currently unavailable.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- NRCC is now on Monday through Friday staffing; however, volume of work is requiring some staffing on the weekends.
- Working on year end statistics and attempting to ensure some time off for staff.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

OLD BUSINESS

Training Recommendation from Operations Committee – Decisional Topic (Andy Schell / Melissa Wegner)

- (See Recommendation document in pre-reading materials.)
- Worked with Andy Schell and agree with the Operations Committee recommendation.
- All BOD present support.
- Aaron Thompson - Due to lack of a quorum on this call, proposal for email vote to be sent to BOD that are not present.
 - Pam Jolly will compile and distribute an email vote to those BOD not present on today's call.

NEW BUSINESS

Update of the NR IMT Evaluation Form – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- (See proposed form in the pre-reading materials.)
- The proposed form is utilized in both the Great Basin and Southwest. It has been formatted as a fillable .pdf.
- The NR form has not been visited in more than 6 years.
- Proposal: Adopt GB/SW form, as there are minimal differences.
- Alternative: Reformat the NR Evaluation form found here:
<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/overhead/overhead.htm>
- If approved by the board, would like to share this with the Operations Committee and Business committee (although business has their own finance section evaluation).
- Ralph Rau – Worth looking at these in a side by side format and taking an in-depth approach to the information that is attempting to be gathered.
- Patrick Lonergan – Is worth some discussion and thoughtful approach to re-evaluate the sought after information.
- Kathy Pipkin will distribute both the proposed and original forms to the BOD and request feedback prior to this topic being added to the December agenda.

MOU Amendment Request for Overhead – Wildfire Defense Systems – Decisional Topic (Tim Murphy / Mike Granger)

- (See request letter in pre-reading materials.)
- Wildfire Defense Systems is a company that contracts with insurance companies to protect residences from wildfire. Example: On the Glass fire, they had deployed 32 engines to protect various properties.
- Are asking concurrence that they be able to provide specific 300 level training courses to their resources.
- Have contacted Melissa Wegner and this is being brought up through training channels, additionally are looking at how this is being handled in other GACCs.
- MOU specifies that regarding training, they must meet NWCG 310-1 specifications.
- Not a decisional topic at this time; until more information is gathered.
- Rich Cowger – Consistency, across the board, would be an important factor for consideration also.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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Tuesday, October 20, 2020

- Rich Cowger - Recommend this topic be added to the Fall Meeting agenda.

Cal Guard Fire detection and Assessment (Kathy Pipkin)

- Are able to produce fire detection maps that include perimeters.
- Is being offered at no charge.
- Program now includes all the western Geographic Areas.
- Received first detection map last night; was both useful and detailed.
- Reaching out to all partners to increase awareness of this new resource.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Postponed in the interest of time.

BOD Updates

- Ralph Rau – For awareness, please note that the Regional Forester has returned prescribed burn authority back to the Forest Supervisor level.

The next scheduled NRCG Fall Meeting will be held November 3 - 5, 2020; please see the Teams Meeting Invite for times.

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Tuesday, November 3 – General Session

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

Welcome & Introductions (Mike DeGrosky)

- Acknowledgement and appreciation for those attending and those who have performed as chairs and ICs.
- Request all remain engaged throughout the meeting. Intent is to maximize efficiency during this limited timeframe.

NMAC Update (Aitor Bidaburu)

- NMAC continues at PL 2; conditions have moderated a bit. Trend is looking favorable.
- Availability of teams is increasing. Probability of large emerging fires is decreasing and are expecting favorable weather.
- Expressed appreciation for the Northern Rockies support for the national effort.
- Save the Date Annual NMAC/GMAC meeting January 12-14th. Will be held virtually.
- NMAC will be holding AAR next week.
- NWCG has a key item moving forward with the Wildfire Learning Portal. Training Delivery committee has a high priority mission of populating this portal. Will be key moving forward into the training season. Portal has been in the plans all along; however, Covid accelerated the process. Training Committee will need IT Support and funding support. Are considering adding a sub-committee as well.
- FMB decision regarding the pre-season preparedness requirements - waivers have ended and for the 2021 season, the goal is to resume pre-season preparedness with mitigations and prevention measures for Covid. Will distribute the memo shortly.

Northern Rockies End of Year Report (Kathy Pipkin)

- Please review volume of work document that was added to the team file.
- Reviewed statistics and average comparisons.

Northern Rockies Operational Update (Craig Goodell)

- Had an approximate 6,000 acre fire over the weekend near Dillon, MT. Are still seeing human caused starts; however, most are being caught small. Have had red flag warning in the GACC this last week. Are expecting favorable weather soon.
- Are participating on Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) and making progress towards addressing workforce development issues.
- Participated on the Northern Rockies Covid Support Group with good success providing support throughout the season. 341 fire personnel tested; 308 tested negative; 34 tested positive. Were not aware of any hospitalizations from positive cases. Good success mitigating Covid exposure within the GACC.
- Did implement a PIO at PL 3 that produced a daily product. Have received good feedback and recommendations for future implementation.
- Implemented virtual MAC exercise in early June with good success.
- Implemented MAC at PL 4 in a virtual environment.
- Implemented the Northern Rockies draw down plan and was effective, particularly at the PL 2 and 3 levels. This assisted with transition from exporting to importing resources.
- All Northern Rockies IMTs had two assignments this year. Only brought in one out of area IMT during the season. Almost all assignments were extended and this may have impacted team availability over the long term.
- Surge aircraft that were brought on by the Forest Service due to Covid did significantly enhance IA success.

Northern Rockies Contracting Update (Tim Murphy)

- Ryan Patrick is shadowing Tim Murphy through the end of December and will begin a detail into the position in January.
- 2021 Draft Solicitation Plan – working with BLM on solicitor concerns; similar to questions from NPS. Hope is to present final product on December call for Board vote.
- Nationally Forest Service is moving forward with adding Type 2 crews to their contracts.
 - Earlier in the spring, Northern Rockies solicited units and three areas (Coeur d’Alene, Butte & Kalispell) have stepped up with willingness to host additional crews.
- **Proposal for the board to approve:**
 - Requesting Board to assign an action item for the Operations, IC and Dispatch committees to work through this spring to see if changes are needed regarding the Pre-Use Equipment & personnel inspections currently performed by the Zone Dispatch Centers.
 - The Contractual reasoning for pre-use inspections is there is no commitment to pay a vendor until the government accepts that resource.
 - Options:
 - Current no change leaving the pre-use inspection responsibility with the Zone Dispatch Centers.
 - No inspection options – potential liability issues.
 - Let the incidents do the inspections – Cons: lack of inspectors on IMTs and resources would have to travel long distances (across the Northern Rockies and/or country) to be rejected.

- Another entity other than zone dispatch manages the pre-use inspections. (i.e. contract out all inspections; caches handle inspections; Northern Rockies Contract Equipment Unit manages inspections; NRCC manages inspections, etc.)
- So far have had few issues with contractors that were sent outside the GACC. Are hearing concerns regarding how contractors were treated in California or Colorado; some regarding workers compensation and another regarding identification of place of business that required a business license. Working through claims for payment, slow payment and other issues.
- Rocky Mountain, Northern California and other GACCs are looking at developing heavy equipment task forces agreements. Five HEFTs were used within the GACC, no issues.
- Ralph Rau – Agency has changed contracting organizational structure from a Regional to National structure, putting more workload on the Fire Program. Plan is to fill the GS12 position and the Forest Service will now be funding a needed GS-11 position; however, this will come at a cost of other support positions at the AFD. Will be coming to the board to see if another agency will be able to step up and provide additional contracting support.

Chair's Remarks (Mike DeGrosky)

- Expressed appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for Tim Murphy's long and distinguished career; particularly his involvement with NRCG over the years. Acknowledged international contributions as well.

Northern Rockies Cache Report (Anthony Krause)

- Successfully made the transition to supporting incidents in the Covid environment.
- Provided large amounts to Colorado and California.
- Reviewed season statistics thus far.
- Are still supporting the national effort; with many items still in the field.
- Are fully stocked to support Covid mitigation items as well.
- Successful ordering and receiving timeframes.
- Working on a proposal to expand and bring items in house; thus reducing the need for additional lease space.
- Main suppliers were run down and large backlogs for parts currently exists. This will be a challenge for next year's preparedness; however, confident that it will be overcome.

NRTC Update / Priority Trainee (Melissa Wegner)

- NRTC staff updates – Rosie Lemire is retiring December 31st. Have made a tentative job offer for the front office position that has been accepted. Billy Philips is now 100% a NRTC employee.
- Focus on bringing cancelled courses (due to both furlough and Covid) into a virtual delivery environment as much as possible.
 - NRTC is not going to charge tuition this season, in this virtual delivery.
 - Have multiple courses scheduled, with prioritization of courses in place.
 - Focus on helping zones and local units put on courses.
 - Will also have larger class sizes; intent is to take care of the current backlog that exists. Focus will be primarily on Northern Rockies; however, will open to out of GACC as well.
- Had success with the Priority Trainee program this season. Working with NRCC for availability and reporting in the new IROC program.
- Are working with the Training Delivery Committee at a national level; however, initial memo was confusing regarding primary membership makeup of the committee.

- Navigating primary focus of meeting Northern Rockies needs and also participating on this committee can be challenging.
- Have a solid plan for meeting the need and prioritization for the Northern Rockies. Mirrors national effort.
- Wildland Learning Portal does require substantial work to load courses and do have concerns regarding 508 compliance. Also, there is not a web platform for virtual delivery built within the Portal.
- **Proposal – Ask is for a “Train as we fight, fight as we train” – Ask that all of the training be delivered on the Firenet365 platform; just as the IMTs and other fire support is conducted in this environment.**
 - Will send the proposal once it has had an opportunity to go through the Training Committee.
 - No money ask; only requesting each agency to support the use of this platform.
 - Rick Connell – Concerns over Firenet365 documentation and file structure standardization.
 - Kathy Pipkin – Training Development Group has approached business committee for Firenet365 regarding this same proposal. It has been passed back for further discussion due to confusion within the Training Development Group.

Northern Rockies Team IT Update (Patrick Murphy)

- Reviewed report out in pre-reading materials.
- Program has undergone organizational structure changes. These resulted in being moved under a fire group within the CIO branch. Transition is now complete. Actions are now geared more towards national support.
- Law is driving some of these changes, including those related to equipment procurement.
- Policy impacts also restrict the use of Forest Service laptops from what has historically occurred.
- IMTs will now need to take on maintenance and transportation of IT trailers, in addition to taking on coordination of ITSS positions.
- Will not be able to provide laptops for training as historically has been done. Laptops will be transferred to dispatch centers.
- Will be able to maintain some support for the IMTs, mostly recruitment of ITSS individuals.
- Tara Dana and Patrick Murphy will largely be working on contracts and SME work. Will be limited in capacity to provide support for the region.
- Future potential to advocate for efficient solutions and additional IT support options.
- Aaron Thompson – IT and connectivity was a large topic and issue from this season. Has been brought up as a national concern as well. Look forward to future discussion in an effort to prepare the region for next season.
- Greg Morris – Expressed appreciation for all of the IT support over the years.

AFD Operating Plan (Ryan Patrick)

- *(See financial plan in pre-reading materials.)*
- Intent is to simplify the plan.
- This requires careful examination of plan specifics on an individual component basis.
- Recommend identifying each agencies’ specific number of individuals that are required for the plan’s process.
- Recommend identifying what additional funding needs exist.
- These actions will allow for transparency and will provide an avenue for prioritization.
- Aaron Thompson – Would like to examine the plan to identify agencies that are over-contributing.

Emphasized importance of identifying workload in this process.

- Mike DeGrosky – Appreciate the work and effort that has gone into this plan. Fair share approach has historically been aspirational and a source of conflict at times. Agree it is time for a different approach and open to exploring that option.
- Ralph Rau – Agree with the simplification effort. Careful attention needs to be given to the specifics of current agency budget realities. Having an efficient prioritization process would assist the Board in efforts to meet geographic area needs. Support taking a more wholistic approach than have taken in the past.
- Mike Granger – Will be challenging for smaller agencies to support more contribution. Emphasized the importance of maintaining accounting contribution data.
- **Propose distributing a rough draft to the Board for review.** Will strive for a December delivery.
 - Mike DeGrosky – Open to review of a draft.
 - Ralph Rau – Also support.

NR IMT Management (Aaron Thompson / Mike DeGrosky)

- Aaron Thompson – IMT Management is a large portion of the Board's workload. IMT realities are changing rapidly.
 - What can the Board do to support Northern Rockies IMTs?
 - Do all understand and agree as to what the IC Selection Process is? Does this process need to be reviewed for additional specifics?
 - Are all involved receiving the support they need regarding the IMT Roster Selection Process?
 - Expressed the desire for the Board to assist the IMTs with succession plans.
 - Does the GACC have the appropriate number of IMTs?
 - Should the WFMT participate in the NR Type 2 IMT rotation?
 - **Propose creating a Northern Rockies IMT committee and survey to identify lessons learned – successes and challenges. Committee would be comprised of Board members.**
 - How does the Board carve out time to discuss IMT Management?
 - Mike DeGrosky – Have completed most of these items. Held an IMT summit approximately three years ago. Have made progress since then. Summit does not need to be a one time event. Expressed desire to communicate in this capacity again with the ICs. Propose attack these issues Aaron Thompson mentioned by conducting another summit. This would address issues identified in this current operating environment.
 - Patrick Lonergan – Expressed support for a Northern Rockies IMT committee. Value found in having a group that has some limited authority to address issues and implement solutions.
 - Ralph Rau – Did find value in the previous summit. Changes and solutions were implemented from that event. Would not want to see a sub-committee that does not include all representation, including line engagement, and would need to pay particular attention to transparency.
 - Rich Cowger – Agree with Aaron Thompson; expressed that the previous summit had almost a reactionary component; would like this to be a pro-active approach prior to entering a crisis situation. Team Liaison engagement may need to be carefully examined as well. Feel a specific committee that could identify needs of the teams and bring those back to the Board would be of value.
 - Mike Granger – Issues from the summit three years ago have not gone away; and, in fact have become more critical over time. Do feel team liaison engagement is crucial. Agree with Mike DeGrosky and Ralph Rau regarding the previous summit. Did follow through with several

- items and processes from that event. Concerns around ensuring that the entire Board is involved with decision making. Acknowledged the value in having a small committee that could identify needs of the IMTs and then report back to the Board for decision making in an Executive Session.
- Mike DeGrosky – Express that over time, NRCG meetings have evolved to discuss more needs than just IMT support. In the past, this has not always been the case. Prefer all the Board members to have open discussions with the ICs, rather than a small group that does not have all agencies or all IMTs represented.
 - Rick Connell shared the notes from the IMT Summit and the IC Committee charter for all to download. Recommend that a letter encouraging IC application come down as it has historically.
 - Kathy Pipkin – Will be issuing letter soon; however, need to know if the Board wishes to revamp the process or proceed as previously?
 - Mike DeGrosky – Would like IC feedback regarding this topic.
 - Rick Connell – Process needs to reflect specific needs on desired information for decision making.
 - Ralph Rau – Current process includes some steps that were put in place due to necessity, including agency line officer commitment of support for individual applying.
 - Mike Granger – Agency Administrators do have a strong interest in this particular topic. Due to the timeline involved, recommend any changes be discussed during the next IMT Summit.
 - Bob Fry – Had submitted a couple of names a few of years ago and have not received any feedback on those. Would appreciate clarification regarding the next steps.
 - Joe Sampson – Support the idea of this conversation being held during the IMT Summit. Expressed idea that application process is rather lengthy.
 - Aaron Thompson – Recommend having the IMT immediate needs Executive Session prior to the end of the year.
 - Ralph Rau – Emphasized the need to identify scheduling timeframes for specific portions of the process.
 - Kathy Pipkin – Letter as is does contain an interview process; should that be kept?
 - Mike DeGrosky – will discuss tomorrow after more review overnight.
 - Dan Warthin – Identified that some of the consternation with the IC application process has been from changes that have occurred over the last couple of years. (i.e. retirements, programs utilized, etc.) Support the idea of another IMT Summit.
 - Joe Sampson – Favor review of previous summit. Processes developed throughout that summit do not necessary fix the problem. (i.e. dwindling IC applicant pool) Expressed that IMT management throughout the Northern Rockies could benefit from improvement.
 - Rich Cowger – Envision the committee not in a decision making capacity, but rather in more of an issue identification and option exploration role. More of a working group capacity to help identify and consolidate.
 - Aaron Thompson – Would like to identify when time can be set aside for these discussions that were covered above.

- Mike DeGrosky – Motion to schedule two meetings: One to discuss immediate concerns including retirement of Mike Almas and another to schedule another IMT Summit for joint discussion time with the ICs.
 - All present expressed support.
 - Motion Approved.
 - Action Item: Mike DeGrosky – may set aside December meeting for IMT Immediate Needs and Concerns discussion. Could extend to a four hour meeting with this being the only topic.
- Almas IC Position
 - Mike DeGrosky – Item tabled to a separate Executive Session meeting.
- Turman’s IMT Reapplication
 - Mike DeGrosky – Item tabled to a separate Executive Session meeting.

HRSP Coordinator Needs for Northern Rockies

- Key individual that provides this for the region is retiring on December 31st. Individual is willing to carry this workload as an AD for a while; however, there is a limited resource pool regarding a long-term solution.
- Is an interagency concern regarding ability to support region’s IMTs.
- Will distribute a short briefing paper regarding this issue to the Board for review.
- Will need to be addressed on a future agenda.

Wednesday, November 4 – General Session

IC Committee Report Out (Rick Connell)

- *(See Report Out in pre-reading materials)*
- Have not had a meeting since the extended fire season.
- Did a couple of workshops last spring with risk management.
- Initiated a regional response template regarding Covid mitigation.
- Assisted with the regional Covid response and management plan.
- In June had two teams participate in the National Covid simulation.
- Responded to a tasking to identify resources needed to expand and support a Covid outbreak.
- Teams worked to obtain additional funding and equipment for virtual incident management support.
- All teams received two assignments.
- Discussed committee chair and vice-chair positions being two-year commitments.
- Mike DeGrosky – Expressed appreciation for leadership and acknowledged all the work the committee has accomplished.

Incident Commander’s Report Outs:

NR Team 1 – Goicoechea

- Supported Australia response early on.
- Were pulled in to support initial regional Covid response.
- Prior to season, team already had approximately 60 days of IMT work completed.
- First assignment during season went well and appreciated the virtual support.

- At end of August, IMT went to SQF Complex in California. Spent a total of 25 days supporting this incident.
- Challenging season with many issues that were exposed in the system.
- Very much appreciated the extra funding for the audio and video equipment; it was very helpful.
- Available for another year as an IC. Aaron Thompson has also completed his IC task book.

NR Team 2 – Turman

- Became active in late August.
- Were able to observe season prior to mobilization.
- First incident was near the coast and had a great deal of county involvement.
- Were able to utilize and continue previously implemented Covid protocols.
- Second assignment involved multiple agencies and eventually was zoned out with two teams assigned. Was a high complexity incident.
- Had approximately 40 days providing IMT support.
- Interesting functioning with ICP located separate from the base camp. Poses unique challenges and some benefits.
- Have been working with Scott Schuster, training this individual as an IC. Turman will remain until Schuster is fully qualified.

NR Team 3 – Almas

- Retired September 30th from the Forest Service; are still interested in continuing to be an IC. No current IC trainee.
- Team met weekly beginning in April.
- Never received the extra \$2,000 funding for audio/visual equipment.
- Had two assignments. First was to a highly impacted Covid area. Were also asked to take on a wilderness fire as well. Did have a positive Covid test on that incident; was interesting the way it was handled.
- Second assignment was to a Complex with four fires.
- Took a long time to obtain computers. This required some team members to stay extra days to catch up.

NR Team 4 – Connell

- Participated in national Covid exercises and pre-season planning.
- First assignment was spread out. Did not have any Covid cases while there.
- Were able to utilize the SMART program; was a positive experience.
- Utilized virtual employees on the incident. This came with technical challenges.
- Conducting interactions with Agency Administrators in a remote environment was challenging.
- Second incident was in California. Did have structure and vehicle losses. Took over from a type one team and worked with multiple Department of Defense resources. This provided additional learning opportunities around FEMA involvement.
- Would like clarification if there are common widget expectations from IMTs. (Example – Contractor payments.)
- Did have a Covid coordinator on site.
- Have one more year in IC commitment. Deputy also has another year left. Do have one individual that may apply as an IC trainee.
- Recruitment for non-operations individuals is crucial for IMT sustainability, especially in the Covid

environment. Need assistance from agency administrators to fulfill this need.

- Greg Morris – Covid environment has completely changed the way logistical business is conducted.
- Mike DeGrosky – May be a good tasking for the IC committee to identify the critical resource needs.
- Tim Murphy - Nationally there is a logistics group meeting virtually every Tuesday to discuss 2020 Logistics issues and solutions. Anyone can join the group. Might consider recognizing a few Northern Rockies Logistics folks to be part of this National effort and report back to IMTs.
- Mike Granger – Emphasized importance of capturing lessons learned from each of the IMTs.

NR Team 5 – Sampson

- Interaction between the ICs and the Board has been good, with good relationships established.
- ICs coordinated and communicated well over the season to support everyone's rosters.
- Had pre-season meetings that were conducted virtually.
- Had two assignments totaling 30 days.
- Stood up an in-GACC short team, freeing up an additional team to support the national suppression effort.
- Covid informational sharing was coordinated well.
- Had four Covid scenarios on first assignment. In the end, all worked out sufficiently.
- On the second incident, the county was very dialed in regarding Covid.
- Had good success mobilizing trainees on both incidents. Were able to sign off several positions.
- Virtual check in and demob has both challenges and benefits. Connectivity is a significant issue.
- Were able to mobilize key resources much faster.
- Does take roughly twice the staff to accomplish the same work in the current environment.
- Had good success with public information distribution.
- Concerns over this season's and future IT support needs.
- Firenet365 continues to be a significant issue. Specifically, who does what.
- Struggled with coordination; specifically, close out of rosters, reassignment of resources, and excessing resources.
- Struggled with needed specialized resources not being made available.
- Had Corey Buhl as an IC trainee. Sampson will be in IC role for the foreseeable future. Plans are for Corey Buhl to be a deputy. Support his gaining additional experience by future mobilization with another team.
- Corey Buhl – Concerns over sustainability of sharing individuals between teams.

NR Team 6 – Fry

- Virtual interaction promoted efficient communications pre-season; poses challenges during season.
- Virtual check in / demobilization processes do need to be reconciled.
- Share concerns over individuals that are shared on multiple teams.
- Had two assignments this year.
- Was able to have a qualified deputy.
- First incident was a challenging assignment.
- Had a Covid challenge in the IMT. Had a positive case in an individual that had already returned home. This required quarantining individuals who were already in the process of demobilization, some already in travel status.
- As IC, committed on a year to year basis. The time commitment is significant. Have identified a qualified deputy IC, Jay Winfield, and would like to see him take the team. Have two solid deputy IC

trainees also.

- Jay Winfield – Concerns of IMT shortages nationally. Some fires in rehab were holding resources to complete rehab activities and this proved to be challenging to obtain needed resources nationally.

NR Team 7 – Thompson

- Spent a lot of time during pre-season preparing for Covid-19 planning.
- Had meetings every week to facilitate information sharing among the command and general staff.
- Had an IMT member die from Covid-19 early in the season. It was four days from onset to death. This impacted the team on multiple levels.
- Had notification of a positive case after IMT had left a fire which illuminated the importance of good communication around Covid.
- Had two assignments and struggled with connectivity issues on both. Issue needs to be address before hand and careful consideration needs to be given to this issue when decisions are being made. Required some team members to stay additional days for cleanup.
- Utilized fixed wing UAS and found it was a very good tool. Had a good experience and would order again.
- Decisions made early on assisted with overcoming logistical challenges.
- Team is still viable for the long term; however, have lost a few members due to personal choices.
- Work / Life balance was a challenge this year. Would ask the question effectiveness of pre-season planning, due to all the changing information.
- Intend to apply as an IC again this year.
- Concerns over continuation of team trailers; feel these are a valuable resource.
- Mike DeGrosky – Express appreciation for all ICs and IMT members; acknowledged unique and challenging environment that was experienced by all this year.

MOU Amendment Request for Overhead – Wildfire Defense Systems (Tim Murphy)

- Issue has morphed since initial letter was received.
- Ask is to expand training MOU to include 300 level courses.
- Had a conversation with Cal Fire regarding this type of business. They had an incident with another similar company that resulted in a negative outcome.
- Wondering if this is not a national issue to be brought to NWCG. Feel the issue is broader than just this one company.
- Recommendation is to take this issue to CGAC and see if there is enough interest to be addressed nationally.
- Melissa Wegner – No other GACCs are providing this currently.
- Greg Morris – Agree it is a national issue. What is the purpose for higher levels of training? Are they going to function in those positions or are they intending to manage their resources? If they are only managing and keeping track of the resources, do they truly need this qualification or would an internal title function in this capacity?
- Tim Murphy – No intent of providing resources; only want to manage their own resources by meeting NWCG, paying attention to span of control.
- Mike DeGrosky – No need expressed here for modification of MOU to follow NWCG. They can utilize NWCG, for their own resources, if they so choose.
- Tim Muprhy – Think they do have a few individuals that are picked up as EFFs or ADs. Are vetted with qualifications at time of hire.

- Mike Granger – Do feel that this is a complex issue, due to the NWCG qualification aspect.
- Diane Mann-Klager – Concerns over expectations that are associated with NWCG qualifications.
- Action Item: Request recommendation from Tim Murphy and Melissa Wegner in writing to be distributed to the board for review that will then be put to a virtual approval or disapproval vote conducted by Pam Jolly.

Committee Report Outs:

Business (Mike DeGrosky for Wanemah Hulett / Amber Honsaker)

- Will turn out a full report after the committee meets on the November 23 – 24th.
- Please advise the chair if there are any concerns that need to be brought forth. Please send those in email format by the 18th.

Dispatch (Mardell Dahlin)

- New Chair is David Lee from Miles City Dispatch Center.
- Is looking to fill the co-chair position.
- Going to review and discuss virtual expanded dispatch plan and how implementation went.

Native American Crew (Bryce Rogers)

- NAC – FMOs would like more input. Will be working on this over the winter. Aiming for spring (around April) to obtain signature.
- Are restructuring within region - fire will have its own branch; will no longer be underneath forestry.
- Still without an AFMO and fire operations specialist.

Operations (Andy Schell)

- Have had quite a few taskings to work on.
- Reviewed taskings and current workings. (*See Report Out in pre-reading materials*)
- Appreciate Tim Murphy's contribution over the years.

Prevention and Education (Christopher Barth)

- (*See Report Out in pre-reading materials*)
- Will continue to be the chair; Vice-chair is Naaman Horn.
- Successful spring coordination and communication.
- Were able to include additional partners and cooperators into the prevention network.
- Experienced good value in consistent messaging.
- Covid pandemic did have dramatic impacts on some of the events that were planned.
- There was a Prevention and Education Team out of the Southwest Zone.
- Good success with multiple outreach efforts involving various prevention campaign messaging.
- There was some effort with fire restriction coordination, in addition to training that was offered regarding the website. Did have a number of restrictions across the area, some that went late into the season. Committee is looking at those for analysis. Will be working on plans as to how to address this challenge.
- Were not able to hold a virtual fall meeting due to the extended fire season.
- Are going to be holding a virtual meeting on December 2nd.
- Do have a number of new members in the committee. Are still missing some (see report out under pre-reading materials).

Training (Tuesday Kimball)

- (See Report Out in pre-reading materials)
- Were able to successfully accomplish red card issuance of qualifications through national waivers that were put in place.
- Majority of courses were canceled at both regional and local levels.
- Priority is on critical training needs.
- Concerns including virtual delivery and technical ability issues around the capabilities of local levels to be able to successfully deliver critical level training virtually. Funding concerns for local level critical training identified as well.
- Will be transitioning with another zone representative as chair. Individual has not yet been identified.

Zone Report Outs:

North Idaho (Mike Behrens)

- Have not had an opportunity for a fall meeting due to the extended fire season.
- Quite season in the zone, in general.
- Effective use of zone Type 3 IMTs. Will be working on both alternates for ICs and assistance with working in the virtual environment.
- Good coordination with dispatch centers, partners, and cooperators.
- High Covid rates in the zone were a concern.
- Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Center did move into new facility.
- Concerns over voice over IP for both radio and phones, specifically backup systems. Now have connectivity issues in areas where there have historically been none.
- Are having some changes in interagency membership and leadership within the zone.
- Expressed appreciation to vice-chair.

Northwest Montana (Dylan Kopitzke)

- Will be meeting next week; did not meet during the summer.
- Season went relatively well.
- Reviewed PL 4 step ups within the zone for the different dispatch centers.
- Did have a few monitor fires during the season.
- Did have a Northern Rockies IMT on the Callahan Fire.
- Appreciate the guidance and effort that the Northern Rockies put out early on that led to successes regarding Covid.
- Were able to utilize local resources and some contractors within the zone this year. This was particularly helpful during the latter part of the year.
- Appreciated the ability to share prevention resources and bolster those efforts.
- Also appreciated the surge aviation resources that were available this year.
- Received pressure from private timber companies regarding restrictions. This led to increased communication and stronger relationships being built.
- Increased tourism and public lands recreation.
- Did not receive the typical lighting tracks that have been seen historically.

Southwest Montana (Karl Nikoleyczik)

- Relatively light fire season.
- Had one Type 2 IMT, Thompson on the Lolo National Forest.

- Support from both the cache and coordination center went well.
- Brought in a Covid coordinator with much success.
- Stood up Zone Prevention Team; relied heavily on virtual communications.
- Zone Chair will be changing to Colt Mortenson and vice-chair will be Mark Wilson on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Central Montana (John Huston)

- Not participating in this meeting; possibly due to fire response.

South Central Montana (Patrick Lonergan)

- Not participating in this meeting; possibly due to fire response.

Eastern Montana (Derek Yeager)

- Not participating in this meeting; possibly due to fire response.

North Dakota (Justin Kincaid)

- Will be meeting on November 18th.
- Are trying to get a Fire Danger Operating Plan together across all agencies. Accumulating data is proving challenging.
- Striving to come together as a group. Are looking at how to build on type 3 organizations.
- Striving for shared stewardship as well.
- Working on dispatching protocols and staffing.
- Established daily calls initially regarding Covid coordination and moved to monthly as the season progressed.
- Slow season overall.
- Working on a charter update for the North Dakota Fire Council.
- Continuing to build on local training protocols.
- Expressed appreciation to Tim Murphy for all his dedication and effort.

Recommendation for Operations Committee (Tim Murphy)

- Recommendation to form a task group between the Operations, IC and Dispatch committees to review the Northern Rockies pre-use inspection procedures by the 2021 fire season.
 - Mike DeGrosky – Motion to accept recommendation and assign tasking.
 - Josh Harvey seconds the motion.
 - All present support.
 - Motion approved.
- **Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will compile a task order.**

Bin Items

- Mike DeGrosky - Proposing December meeting be extended to four hours and solely address IMT Immediate Needs, IC applications and roster discussion.
 - Propose two – two hour block timeframes. 0900 – 1100 hours; 1300 – 1500 hours.
 - Executive Session (BOD only) in AM for IC selections

- General Session (with all IC's) in afternoon
 - No opposition expressed.
 - **Action Item: Meeting will be scheduled and agenda compiled as stated above.**
- Aaron Thompson – Was contacted by the Idaho State FMO for BLM and he and his State Director are interested in becoming involved with the NRCG.
 - Ralph Rau – Identified that their leadership is part of this GACC. Do have a service first organization in that area. There is a lot of BLM ground covered through agreement and offset. Do feel there is merit to the interest and engagement.
 - Aaron Thompson – There is no official delegation for Montana to cover for Idaho; has always just been a verbal agreement. Have already had conversations around participation versus a delegation of authority.
 - Rich Cowger – Would like clarification on what, if any, would be the voting capacity? Would it be one or two votes for BLM?
 - Diane Mann-Klager – On the WFAAs, have left it at a one voice per agency level. NRCG has differed in this aspect.
 - Mike Granger – Similar situation with FWS; currently are the representative for them. Have received little feedback from them regarding issues or concern. Prefer one representative per agency.
 - Aaron Thompson – As far as a path forward, no decision is needed today. Brought up as an awareness factor so all would know the conversations were occurring.

Thursday, November 5 – General Session

Taskings:

Delegation of Authority for Operations and NRCC Manager

- Mike Granger will review, compile a draft, and submit for BOD review prior to the January meeting.

Leader's Intents for 2021

- Chair of WFAA and Chair of the NRCG will compile a draft and submit for review at a timeframe to be determined this afternoon. Preferably prior to the February meeting.

Structure Protection Guidelines

- Rich Cowger will review, compile a draft, and submit for BOD review prior to the January meeting.

Out-of-Area Team Briefing Letter

- Ralph Rau will review, compile a draft, and submit for BOD review prior to the January meeting.

NR GMAC 2020 AAR (Mike DeGrosky)

- Mike Granger – Expressed appreciation for the virtual MAC exercise and felt it set the organization up for success.
- Mike DeGrosky – Established well that purpose is to prioritize incidents, allocate resources and assist the NRCC with decision making.
- Ralph Rau – Felt the virtual environment was a tremendously effective structure and would look towards that as a model for the future.

- Patrick Lonergan – Have received concerns regarding statement that it was a public meeting and then asking the Zone Chairs to step off the meeting.
 - Mike DeGrosky – Have heard similar concerns; do feel this could be improved upon in the future. Towards the end, this practice was discontinued.
 - Ralph Rau – Not opposed to Zone Chairs remaining on for the duration; however, there are important delineations between agency employees and public individuals.
 - Mike DeGrosky – Important to distinguish the members of the MAC are delegated as the decision makers.
 - Dan Warthin – Suggestion to include Zone Chairs in the pre-season virtual MAC exercise.
 - Kathy Pipkin – In the past, when the MAC went into an Executive Session, the MAC has requested others not attend so that sensitive issues may be discussed. Clarification in advance of the meeting to the MAC coordinator could alleviate this issue in the future.
 - Greg Morris – May be best to separate the Zone Report outs into a separate meeting from the Executive Session for MAC.
- Aaron Thompson – Agree that virtual platform was an efficient way to conduct business for the MAC. Would like to work on increasing Zone participation. Also felt the BOD delved a bit too much into specific resource allocation rather than relying on staff recommendations.
- Mike DeGrosky – Echoed the efficiency of the virtual MAC platform.
- Diane Mann-Klager – There are ways in virtual platforms to limit meeting attendance. Did the MAC see good agency administrator participation?
 - Craig Goodell – Felt there was tremendous value in having the agency administrators participate in the virtual MAC exercise.
 - Ralph Rau – Feel that there has been increased engagement over the last few years by the agency administrators. Also appreciated the PIO information that was provided to the agency administrators by NRCC. It was of great value.
 - Aaron Thompson – Appreciate the engagement of the agency administrator; gives all a better overview of the larger picture.
 - Rick Connell – Support engaging the agency administrators in the virtual MAC exercises at all levels.
 - Greg Morris – Feel that the engagement with the agency administrators has increased over the last few years also. Increases two way understanding regarding decision making at all levels.
 - Mike DeGrosky – Appreciative of the agency administrator engagement and felt the level of engagement was appropriate and adjusted to meet the needs.
 - Bryce Rogers – Expressed appreciation for the engagement of the agency administrators. Would ask that inclusion of all be continued into the future.
- Mike DeGrosky – Felt there was good resolution to the PIO issue. Need is at the NRCC level, not at the NRCG level. Resolution worked well. Will be able to remove that item from action item list.
- Mike DeGrosky – Appreciate what all did regarding balancing regional needs with the national needs.
- Mike DeGrosky – Appreciated the approach to staffing the MAC; including the MAC representatives and MAC coordination.
- Greg Morris – Also appreciated the work by the PIO. Improvement could be made regarding bringing in specialize task forces and increasing the understanding of the relationship to the MAC. Would like feedback regarding the remote SIT process. Additionally, would like increase awareness of specialize efforts such as the air quality coordination work that was accomplished this season.
- Rick Connell – Regarding the PIO function, what is the intent of that product as it was not readily

available to all on the internet.

- Mike DeGrosky – Intent was to relieve media pressure off NRCC and to provide internal agency information to decision makers.
- Mike Granger – Regarding Remote SIT, it was tremendously helpful during both incidents in California. Received feedback that Remote SIT will be heavily leaned upon in the future.
- Patrick Lonergan – Also found tremendous value in the Remote SIT function and have received feedback from all IMTs that have utilized this function that it was highly valued.
- Craig Goodell – Expressed appreciation for the funding that allowed the Remote SIT pre-season work and training that was needed to be accomplished and set the Remote SIT up for success. This function was particularly valuable to the type 3 IMT organizations. This function also provided Firenet365 support regarding filing structure. Regarding the PIO product, individual was asked to produce a product that could be utilized for both internal and external individuals. Product was distributed via email. Have identified some areas for potential information delivery improvement.
- Mike DeGrosky – Expressed appreciation for the work and effort for the predictive services briefings in a challenging and complex weather environment.
- Coleen Haskell – With the smoke coordination efforts, were able to leverage NWS social media platforms to increase messaging and getting information out to the public. Also, feel there was value in the DIRT1 bird products regarding early detection for initial attack.
- Greg Morris – Would like clarification regarding the decision to be early adopters of the new system that Matt Jolly presented.
- Craig Goodell – Early in the season began putting a group together to work with Matt Jolly regarding this new product; however, due to scheduling and product revisions, implementation was not possible before the end of the season. Will be looking to continue with this work moving forward into the future.
- Ralph Rau – Expressed appreciation for the Remote SIT function. Did put this group in for a Secretary's award; however, they did not receive it. Important to note that the majority of the individuals that make up this function are all Forest Service individuals. This function is not part of any of these individual's regular jobs. For this function to be sustainable, the function will need to be supported. Would be prudent to support this in an interagency capacity. Some of the individuals may not be available next year. Individuals capacity may be limited due to the needs of their regular jobs. Important to note that the Fire Director does not have direct say over the regular positions of the individuals that make up this functional area. Remote SIT currently has a very tenuous status at this point.
- Craig Goodell – Important to acknowledge the Remote SIT's contributions to the national efforts as well.
- Diane Mann-Klager – If this issue is going to be elevated, would like to see a briefing provided to the WFAAs prior to the discussion.
- Mike DeGrosky – Appreciate the feedback and please send any further items for attention in an email.

Chair Rotation Discussion (Mike DeGrosky)

- Chair rotation is scheduled at the end of the year.
- Schedule has IDL as next in rotation, with Montana State Fire Chiefs' Association as the vice-chair.
- Earlier in the year, due to staffing turnover, the IDL was offered the courtesy to skip as the incoming chair in this rotation.
- Since that time, the staffing situation at IDL is now more solidified and would like to extend the opportunity to IDL to continue with scheduled rotation and assume the chair in 2021.

- Josh Harvey – Would feel comfortable moving forward as the chair at this time; with the understanding that there would be heavy reliance on the experience and knowledge found within this board.
- Mike DeGrosky – Motion to return to the original chair rotation.
- Mike Granger – Seconds the motion.
- Rich Cowger – Comfortable with the vice-chair position.
- No opposition express to this course of action.

Action Items Review (Mike DeGrosky)

- *(See Action Items listing updated November 6, 2020)*
- Reviewed and updated Action Items listing on an item by item basis.
- Removed completed or no longer applicable items.