



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

## **Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda**

**Tuesday, August 16, 2022**

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

**Board Members:** Bryce Rogers, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

**Deputies and Others:** Jeff Moyer, Craig Howells, Jason Jarrett, Pam Jolly, Brian Webber, Kathy Pipkin, Aitor Bidaburu, Melissa Wegner, Tara Dana, Anthony Krause

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

### **NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)**

- NWCG meeting tomorrow.
- NMAC Updates:
  - Operationally were trending toward PL4; however, trend leveled off and continue at steady PL3.
- NMAC Updates:
  - Meets twice a week.
  - Yesterday discussed draft CIM rotational guidelines that would be in place at the beginning of 2024. Is a first draft and identifies a national rotation only. Identifies three options and is out there to share. Some response received already and all feedback should be provided to CGAC representatives.
  - ICAP may be available September 1<sup>st</sup>. USFS may also provide a help desk.
  - Reviewing and revising the IC Charter. Area Command will no longer be included in this charter.

### **Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:**

#### **NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)**

- Steady, moderate initial attack (IA); going well. Are receiving needed resources.
- Continuing at PL3.
- Are receiving comments from working group regarding CIMT rotational draft. Will share out with BOD for review prior to submission.

#### **NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)**

- One T2 IMT that has not mobilized yet.
- Shared an informational bulletin regarding dispatch center reality.
- NRCC is currently, mostly, fully staffed, counting detailers.

### **Old Business**

#### **NRCG Committee Liaison – Data Gathering Discussion and Request – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson**

- Ask from the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was for each liaison and NRCG member to go back and complete the questions.



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

## **Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda**

**Tuesday, August 16, 2022**

- Goal is to engage in a more robust report out on the questions and moving forward.
- [NRCG Boad Liaisons to Committees and Zones](#) can be found on the [NRCG website](#).
- Matt Hall – Prevention and Education Committee
  - Current active charter with good purpose behind committee.
  - Active with prevention teams across the GACC and zones.
  - Completed needed work with restrictions and guidelines documents.
  - Some agencies are unable to meet Chair and Vice-Chair roles.
  - Committee feels supported by NRCG Board.
- Tate Fischer – Operations Committee
  - Discussed two-way communications in depth.
  - Discussed taskings and were comfortable with workload. Appreciated the relevancy and opportunity to provide feedback.
  - Felt good about charter.
- Craig Glazier – Dispatch Committee
  - Active committee.
  - Have been working on a three phased ask - complexity levels, staffing and interagency review/consolidation analysis.
  - Does feel supported by NRCG.
  - Will be reaching out for NRCG BOD insights as these items above are address over the winter.
- Craig Howells – Business Committee
  - Engaged, doing well.
  - There has been significant of turn over.
- Paul Cerda – Incident Commander Committee
- Matt Hall – Intent is to review and validate committee representation.
- **Action Item – The two remaining committee report outs will be provided during the next meeting. Review and validation of committee representation will occur afterwards.**

### **New Business**

#### **IC Committee Recommendation – IMT Future for 2023 – Discussion**

- Tate Fischer – Concerns over reality of meeting this recommendation. Would like ideas on how can solidify a number.
- Rich Cowger – Was in the meeting where the IC Committee formulated this decision. Share similar concerns. Motion to keep six teams was narrowly won. Will require more discussion by the Board prior to taking to the Agency Administrators.
- Patrick Lonergan – Have had discussions with individuals involved with that decision making meeting. Issue needs clear resolution. Vote was close and ultimately depended on who was present on the call.
- Dennis Strange – Need exists to get IMTs ready for CIM. Close vote demonstrates lack of agreement.



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

## **Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda**

**Tuesday, August 16, 2022**

More work that NRCG BOD needs to do to identify clear intent of this tasking and how to define how many teams the Northern Rockies (NR) wants to field on a regular basis and what objectives are to be met.

- Craig Glazier – Have received calls from three different ICs in the last week that feel have not been given clear direction. Have had assignments turned down this year because could not field teams. Would like a timeline review regarding IC application.
- Rich Cowger – Guidance from the board has been clear. Tasking was based on capacity and capability of available individuals. Acknowledged there are some unknowns around CIM and what it ultimately looks like and how it works.
- Tate Fischer – Need exists to review the IC application process and possibly streamline.
- Kathy Pipkin – Full IC recruitment occurs during October. This allows for NRCG BOD review and selection during the fall meeting. Still need to address issue of T3 IMT recruitment. Historically, had identified that T2 IMT usage in the Northern Rockies was 97%. Have two T1 IMTs that were not able to come available until late May or June. All GACCs had this same issue, particularly in staffing plans sections. T2 IMTs also were not able to come available on rotation during pre-season.
- Corey Buhl – Do feel there was lack of agreement during the IC Committee decision-making meeting. Feel that the reality is Northern Rockies can only support five teams.
- Rich Cowger – Was tasked with setting up a meeting with the agency administrators regarding this issue; however, have held off until the Board is able to have more discussions around the recommendations.
- Patrick Lonergan – Suggested both special NRCG BOD session to discuss recommendation and then take that outcome to a near future meeting with the agency administrators. Intent of special session is to accept or reject the recommendation.
  - Dennis Strange – Suggestion for the intent of the special session for all to review the recommendation and identify a consensus for what is to be presented to the AAs by the outcome of that meeting.
- Craig Glazier – Support; suggest one day next week – Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 1030 Mountain. Special Session will include NRCG BOD, Corey Buhl and Kathy Pipkin.
- Action Item: Pam Jolly will distribute Special Session meeting invitations to all NRCG BOD, Corey Buhl and Kathy Pipkin for a NRCG Special Session to both vote to approve or reject the IC Committee recommendation and to identify a consensus for what is to be presented to the agency administrators.

### **Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)**

- Differed in the interest of time.

**The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is September 20, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time**