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**Tuesday April 19, 2023 – General Session****National Update / Report – Jeff Arnberger****NMAC**

- PL 1; some activity in Southern Area. Some aircraft coming online. Beginning to meet every two weeks.
  - Putting a tasking together to identify transition plans for T2 to CIMTs.
  - Appreciate all the work that has gone into the transition.
  - Paul Cerda – Appreciate Kathy Pipkin taking the lead on the CGAC response.
- CIMT
- Regarding National Rotation – memo update will be forthcoming in the fall.

**Northern Rockies Operations – Corey Buhl**

- Preparedness – jumpers are completing first refresher, anticipate available next week. Rookie training beginning soon.
- Pilot situation is better this year, specifically for the jump aircraft.
- IMTs are staffed and rotation has begun. Some out of area IMT members were denied being on our teams; however, should not affect a significant amount.
- IHCs – Lolo going through preparedness and refresher this week. Overall, did have some change over in Superintendents this year. As of right now, all should be able to status as T1.
- Billings veteran crew is staffing up, expect currently to be a T2IA. Great Northern is also looking to fill some positions.
- Critical Mission Group concept revisited with operations section yesterday.

**Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) – Kathy Pipkin**

- Reviewed [PowerPoint Presentation](#).
- New FWS meteorologist coming on board.
- Assistant Intelligence position will be retiring in the fall; Intelligence Coordinator taking a 120-day detail. Outreaches will be coming out.
  - Craig Glazier - Remote Incident Support Position (RIST) – tentative agreement nationally is being revisited. Request that BLM look into detail possibilities to cover the second position that Region 5 is working on but will most likely not be able to fill until the end of the fire season.
- Would like to look at interagency options to fill intelligence positions coverage.
- CDAT training this year had over 400 individuals attend.
- Are addressing challenges with USFS Aircraft Dispatch requirements by providing training at Northern Rockies (NR) Dispatch Workshop.
- Exploring the concept of Remote Expanded Support Team (REST) that would be under RIST.
- Emphasized the importance of participation in the coming survey regarding 0456 Dispatch PD Series.
- Will be re-doing regional dispatch complexity analysis.

**Northern Rockies Training Center (NRTC) Update & Trainee Priorities – Melissa Wegner**

- Currently fully staffed.
- Priority Trainee Program – CGAC has a tasking regarding standardization with several components involved. Northern Rockies is the only GACC to consider all positions as priority

trainees. Have received pushback regarding this protocol. No change for this season. Concerned over future changes for next year.

- CIMT – Field review – encouraging all to go through the field evaluation process. Will be in effect this and next fire season; however, will be going away after that timeframe.
- Northern Rockies will be putting on two S-420s, or contractor equivalents, this year.
- NRTC (and NRCC) internet capacity is subpar and no longer meets the need. Three years ago, provided an estimate of \$16,000 to alleviate this issue. Number would be higher now. Tara Dana is working on a current cost estimate. Ask is for NRCG BOD to consider providing for this need. Will put together a formal proposal once current cost estimate is acquired.
  - Bryce Rogers – BIA will cover these costs between \$25,000 - \$30,000 amount.
  - Topic will be placed as informational update for May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Northern Rockies Cache (NRK) – Anthony Krause**

- Looking good for most equipment.
- Shelters are scarce, in addition to counterfeits that are circulating online.
- Have had good success filling permanent positions through alternate methods.
- Critically low (21%) on seasonal staffing.
- National trucking contract poses challenges for short runs. Trailer rentals are also hard to come by.

### **Northern Rockies Contracting Update – Brian Webber**

- VIPER Contracting Update – approximately 1000 items to technically evaluate and put on Dispatch Priority Lists (DPL). Ambulances and EMTs are being solicited nationally now. Fuel Tenders/Fuel Trucks are back under VIPER this year.
- Will utilize detailers until second permanent position can be filled.
- Identified lack of inspector support; are putting on training soon. Need does exist.
- Market research survey was put together; looking for input on 2024 solicitations. Will distribute this survey to NRCG group soon. Survey does not include the Heavy Equipment Task Force. (*This is only a NR and Great Basin item.*)

### **NRCG Operating Plan / Handbook Update – Kathy Pipkin**

- Updated draft was posted in pre-reading materials.
- No opposition; plan will be finalized and distributed.

### **NRCG Charter Update – Craig Glazier, Tate Fischer, Rich Cowger**

- Draft revision has been completed; will be distributed to entire NRCG BOD for review.
- Discussion and vote will be scheduled for the May 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

### **Delegations of Authority (DoA) – Kathy Pipkin**

- NR Operations Officer DoA was signed for last year; however, Center Manager one did not get signed.
- Action Item: Both will be distributed for full BOD review and placed on the agenda for approval at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Spring MAC Exercise – Corey Buhl**

- Looking for feedback regarding preparation.
- Tentatively looking at June for this exercise.

- Group discussion around desire to dive into a “day in the life” of NR MAC, including prioritization.
- Paul Cerda – Thoughts include: Incident Priority, how do we work through Competing Priorities? IC Report Out and how to best streamline process. In 2015 we sent out Safety Review Teams that focused on Type 3 and Local Unit support. How best do we build our Bench for MAC Coordinator?

### **NRCG Representation Calendar – Kathy Pipkin**

- Will get that set up for this year, for when are not at the higher PL levels, and distribute to BOD for sign up.
- Duties are listed in the MAC plan; can review these at the spring MAC exercise.

### **Dispatch Review Update – Kelly Kane**

- Reviewed [PowerPoint presentation](#).
- Emphasized importance of support that is needed amongst the dispatch community.
- Discussed importance of lead time needed around any type of funding ask.
- Reiterated need to identify decision spaces regarding each step of this process.
- Next step would be identifying the “why” and what that should look like.
- Recommended all read the [final report](#).

### **Lessons Learned – R02 Review / Consolidation – Danny Bryant**

- Reviewed [PowerPoint presentation](#).
- Funding wasn’t requested through Phase 1; encountering these challenges now and will delay completion.
- Emphasized the importance of communication at all levels throughout entire process.
- Encouraged defined transitions and pursuing funding options early in the process.
- Also identified the importance of project leads and coordinators throughout.
- Additional reference material:
  - [RMCG Dispatch Efficiency Decision Framework](#)
  - [FEC Dispatch Decision](#)
  - [RMACC Fire Dispatch Zones Proposed](#)
  - [RMA Dispatch Efficiency Project Phase 2 Update](#)

### **CGAC Report Out – Corey Buhl, Craig Glazier**

- NMAC Tasking – Standardization of Geographic Area Procedures
  - Southern Area will take lead on “Evaluate current procedures for determining GA Preparedness Level (PL) levels and provide recommendations to improve consistency nationally and establish standards accordingly.”
  - Northern Rockies will take lead on “Evaluate current procedures for determining GA draw-down levels and provide recommendations to improve consistency nationally and standardize criteria and methodology.” POCs:
  - Eastern Area & GATR Rep will take lead on “Evaluate current practices for managing and assigning trainees to incidents and provide recommendations to improve consistency nationally and standardize the procedures, to include:...”

- Alaska will take lead on “Recommend standard processes for GA Coordinating Groups to participate in CIMT mobilization roster negotiations between Agency Administrators (AAs) and Incident Commanders (ICs).
- Status update due next CGAC Meeting.
- Kathy Pipkin – Responded to CGAC tasking regarding preparedness level inputs for each GACC. Intent is for Standardization.
- NR took the lead on Drawdown Level criteria to put forth recommendations later. Have reached out to all GACCs and will consolidate the response.
- Corey Buhl – cautioned that a “one size fits all” approach will not be a good fit due to the differences in the nation. The final end state of these asks is not yet known.
- Taskings originated from NMAC to CGAC.

### **Monitoring of IMT Rosters – Ensure Mobilization Ready – Rich Cowger, Corey Buhl**

- Important to ensure IMTs are mobilizing with appropriate staffing.
- Need to identify decision space around notifications and decisions, if holes are observed prior to mobilization.
- Guidance already exists in the [National Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20](#).
- Emphasized the importance of having an NRCG Representative available to relay go or no-go mobilization decisions to ICs.
  - Propose this individual be the NRCG Representative, as that is on a pre-set, calendared schedule.
- Team liaisons should be having these conversations with their teams now.
  - Need also exists to identify clear roles of team liaisons.
- Important ICs understand the minimum criteria information found in the [National Mobilization Guide](#).
  - Additionally important to note pulling resources to fill out one team should occur mindfully, without impacting another team’s core.
- Action Item: Corey Buhl, Rich Cowger, Craig Glazier, and Craig Howells will craft guidance verbiage for full BOD review and vote at May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Draft will be submitted by May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **CIMT Ordering for Agency Administrators (AAs) – Kathy Pipkin**

- Was approached by line officers that it would be helpful if NRCG BOD would put out guidance regarding ordering this resource, specifically by referencing the complexity analysis in special needs.
- Would serve to both inform and educate agency administrators.
  - Recommendation for NRCG BOD to put out this memo of intent. Kathy Pipkin and Corey Buhl can provide the relevant bullets for this memo.
- Action Item: Rich Cowger, Matt Hall, Kathy Pipkin, and Corey Buhl will work on this memo for full BOD review and vote on May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Starlink for IMTs – Craig Glazier**

- USFS CIO branch will start controlling Starlink subscriptions. Are awaiting further information as to what that will look like moving forward.
- Tara Dana – currently working on three different options. Did brief the plans section at the IMT meeting. Are continuing to explore other future options.

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**Wednesday April 20, 2023 – General Session**

**Tours - NRCC, Smokejumper Base, and NRK**

**Bin Items**

**NRCG AFD Agreement – Kathy Pipkin**

- Expires in June.
- USFS has created a template for all interagency fire agreements. Current agreement does not conform to this template. All agreements now must go through the Washington Office (WO).
- Suggestion from Grants and Agreements to make our agreement into an Annual Operating Plan, along with the NRCG Financial Plan and then it would become an appendix to the states master agreements.
- Affects all aspects at AFD.
- Red Book does specify an MOU must be in place for operations to occur.
- Still many questions to be answered, including how that affects the cost share and those units outside states with current master agreements.
- Exploring options, including that listed above and / or pursuing an extension.

**Wednesday April 20, 2023 – Executive Session – NRCG BOD / WFAAs**

**2023 Fire Season Outlook – Dan Borsum**

- Shared [PowerPoint presentation](#).

**Complex IMT Status for 2023**

- IMT Team meeting occurred virtually earlier this week.
- Have five (5) CIM Teams and three (3) T3 IMTs in the GACC. Additionally have Montana state CAT and SW MT IMT.
- Have approved team rosters. Will be working through this transition and monitoring IMT mobilization readiness throughout the season.
- NRCG is planning to issue a memo to provide both guidance and education to the AA community regarding ordering CIMTs.

**NRCG BOD – WFAA Meetings (Need & Frequency)**

- Historically have met twice a year, in conjunction with the spring and fall NRCG meetings.
- Both groups emphasized the intent to maintain good lines of communication and information distribution.
- Support expressed to meet at least once a year (spring), or maintain the two-meeting schedule, with the ability to increase meeting frequency for specific issues or circumstances that arise.

**Dispatch Improvement Tasking**

- [Final Report](#) has been compiled and will be emailed to the WFAAs.
- NRCG BOD members will be discussing the report more in depth with their specific Agency Administrators.

### **WFAA Meetings (Need & Frequency)**

- Historically there have been more frequent separate meetings. However, during the last few years, have mostly just had the joint meetings twice a year.
- Support expressed for WFAA breakout sessions to be held on the same day as the joint NRCG BOD/WFAA joint meeting.
- Agreement that it is beneficial to meet twice a year; with the potential for WFAA breakout sessions to occur on the same day as the joint.
- Discussed value of in person meetings in the spring and virtual in the fall.
- Will plan on virtual 2023 Fall WFAA meeting. (Week of November 6, 2023)

### **WFAA Charter – Review & Approve Final Draft**

- Draft distributed with meeting invitation.
- Two items left for discussion:
  - Membership – BIA will have all three regions listed, with Rocky Mountain being designated as the primary voice.
  - Meetings – agreed to remove the voting provision but leave the quorum definition.
  - Leadership (Chair/Vice Chair) Rotation – discussed streamlining the verbiage, while maintaining the alignment with the NRCG BOD language.
- Thomas Claeys – Motion to approve.
  - Motion seconded and passed favorably.

## Attendees

### **NRCG**

Darron Williams, Heath Estey, Bryce Rogers – Vice Chair, Craig Howells, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Chair, Adriane Beck, Steve Holton, Hunter Noor, Aaron Bucholz, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier, Pam Jolly, Corey Buhl, Brian Webber, Kathy Pipkin, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jeresek, Tara Dana

### **WFAAs**

Craig Foss, Jodie Camrud, Diane Mann-Klager, Melany Glossa, Mike Archer, Paul Santavy, Thomas Claeys, Sonya Germann, Shawn Thomas, Wyatt Frampton