



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Heath Estey, Aaron Thompson, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey – Chair, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Ryan Melin, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Aitor Bidaburu, Corey Buhl, Brian Webber, Kathy Pipkin, Jeni Jeresek, Melissa Wegner, Tara Dana, Dave Williams, Pam Jolly

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- NMAC – not much change in the last month; focal area is the Southwest at PL4. Interest on the FEMA side and impacts to Los Alamos Lab.
- Nationally at PL2, NMAC is meeting once a week on Thursdays.
- Predictive Services individuals at NICC are releasing IMSR daily.
- IC/AC liaison discussed Geographic Areas' current abilities to stand up IMTs.
- NWCG is meeting Wednesday and will be discussing release of a memo framing up the Complex Incident Management (CIM) project moving forward. 2022 will be a pilot year, 2023 will be a transition year with pathways in place, and 2024 will be the planned, full implementation.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Significant support being sent to the Southwest. All Northern Rockies (NR) IHC that have come available have mobilized to the Southwest.
- Concern over neither of the Northern Rockies T1 IMTs being able to stand up as of yet.
- T1 IMTs are supposed to be rostered year-round.
- Have been asked to travel down and assist at SWICC; will travel late next week.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- NICC reached out yesterday and are almost at the end of round one of the T1 IMT national rotation.
- Calvin Miller is soliciting other GACCs on how they accomplish pre-use inspections, particularly regarding out of area assignments.
- BLM and FWS are working towards announcing the Meteorologist positions. Mike Richmond will be filling in for coverage.
- Hoping detailer will begin June 19th and will strive towards an updated fire and fuels outlook that will be posted to the website.
- Have had to Unable-to-Fill (UTF) multiple critical position orders.
- Eastern Area went to PL2 over the weekend.
- Tate Fischer – Encouraged all to reach out to agency administrators regarding concerns being voiced.
 - Josh Harvey will also reach out to the WFAA Chair.
- None of the T2 IMTs will come available until after June 1st.
- Aaron Thompson – Inquired on tasking to IC committee regarding 2023 Northern Rockies IMTs.
 - Rich Cowger – Did speak with this group; however, no written tasking as it is a moving target with the changes occurring nationally. Conversations are occurring within the teams regarding movement.



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Old Business

Complex Incident Management (CIM) IMT Participation – Decisional Topic – Corey Buhl

- Response on the following two items is needed by June 1st:
 - Will NRCC GACC accept incoming CIM IMTs for 2022?
 - Will any NR IMTs pilot CIM for 2022?
- Did ask at CGAC what receiving GACC of a CIM IMT would be receiving specifically. They advised they would get back with that information; however, have not yet received. Particularly relevant regarding the qualification's credentials.
- On the CGAC meeting, North Ops had a T2 IMT interested also.
- Dennis Strange – Important to acknowledge the unknown, do not have all the relevant information currently. Voting on a concept.
- Aaron Thompson – Currently are only two CIM in the nation; one is already a T1 IMT.
- Craig Glazier – Would be important to utilize these teams appropriately and not above what they are qualified to do.
- Josh Harvey – Does an inquiry need to be made as to prerequisites for T2 IMTs to participate as CIMs?
- Dennis Strange – Need exists to understand what a CIM is and is not, and will or will not, be doing.
- Kathy Pipkin – If approval is given, would provide another avenue to obtain a T1 IMT. Northern Rockies guidance will be to still order T1 and T2 IMTs.
- Vote – Proposal for Northern Rockies Geographic Area to accept incoming CIM IMTs for 2022.
 - BLM – Supports
 - FWS – Supports
 - IDL – Supports
 - MT DNRC – Supports
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Supports
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Supports
 - ND FS – Supports
 - USFS – Supports
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**
- Will any NR IMTs pilot CIM for 2022
 - Rich Cowger – Team 6 expressed interest in shadowing and evaluation process if it manifests.
 - Josh Harvey – Proposed vote would then be to make one of the T1 IMTs to pilot CIM.
- Vote – Proposal to approve both NR T1 IMTs for CIM this year, pending both ICs support.
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Support
 - ND FS – Support
 - USFS – Support
 - **Approved – unanimous consent. Rich Cowger will follow up with both IC's for approval and disseminate the resulting information.**



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- Aaron Thompson – Decision impacts both WFDSS decisions and AD pay rates; decisions will be needed in the future regarding CIM.
- Kathy Pipkin – Decision also has multiple impacts to the coordination system. Would need to reach out to the Rocky Mountain area regarding these specifics. Will not be a swift process as involves increased workload. Patience from all will be appreciated.
- **Action Item: Rich Cowger will need to relay this increased workload aspect for both the coordination system and qualifications systems to each IC prior to their decision to accept the proposal.**

Delegation of Authority – Northern Rockies Operations Officer – Decisional Topic – Corey Buhl

- Vote to approve draft:
- **Pam Jolly will follow up with a poll vote and disseminate results.**

IMT Financial Support – Review – Informational Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- **Due to time constraints, all BOD will review the following information and conduct appropriate follow up.**
- \$2,000 per agency was included in the NRCG Financial Plan as a new change in 2021.
- Plan was voted on and approved during the February 02, 2022 special session.
- Based on the BOD Liaison for each IMT listed in the [NRCG Team Plan](#).
 - Team #1 is USFS
 - Team #2 is FWS
 - Team #3 is IDL
 - Team #4 is DES (Funds covered by BIA, Rocky Mountain Region)
 - Team #5 is NPS
 - Team #6 is MT DNRC
 - Team #7 is BLM

New Business

2022 Support for IMTs - Dr. Harry Sibold - NRG fire support – Decisional Topic – Corey Buhl

- Proposal to hire for a third year; provided valuable information and support.
- Craig Glazier – What specific services does this individual provide?
- Corey Buhl – Did assist with positive cases and coordination burden.
- Tate Fishcer – Not sure have enough information to vote at this time.
- Aaron Thompson – Individual has provided valuable support to both the MAC and IMTs regarding a multitude of medical inquiries. Do feel more mobilization management could be implemented.
- Josh Harvey – Could support a transition year.
- Vote to approve hiring Dr. Harry Sibold for the upcoming season:
 - BIA – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - ND FS – Support



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- USFS – Support
- **Unanimous consent from those present; follow up with NPS vote needed for approval.**

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

- Due to time constraints, this topic shall be tabled until the June meeting.

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Postponed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is June 21, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time