**Northeast Rockies Coordinating Group**  
**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.
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. Norther 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.
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.


- 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 - NRGA 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 Fisher – 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
USFS – Support
  o 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