



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Heath Estey, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer, Jake Ganieany, John Monzie, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Jeff Moyer, Jason Jarrett, Pam Jolly, Kara Stringer, Joe Sampson, Kat Sorenson, Gaylen Yeats, Aitor Bidaburu, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jeresek, Tara Dana, Dave Williams

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

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- Nationally are at PL 3 as of last week.
- Crew situation is looking better this year than it did last year. With T2 crews, expecting to have over 400 T2 contract crews. Also are expecting approximately 150 T2IA crews, and there will be 115 T1 crews.
- FMB and NWCG meetings occurring tomorrow. High priority item continues to be complex incident management implementation process. Full implementation will occur in January of 2024.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Uptick in activity within the GACC.
- Continuing to support other GACCs as well.
- Have been ordering some crews on preposition and the majority of those are being assigned as they arrive.
- IMT situation update – have had difficulties rostering IMTs so far this year. Have had one IMT go to Alaska with ten or more positions borrowed from other teams. This in turn affects availability of other GACC IMTs. Team that mobilized to Alaska did so with multiple vacancies in significant positions.
- CGAC tasking from the NMAC that includes developing a national rotation for Complex Incident Management (CIM). Would like to form a committee to address GACC response that is due in September.

NRCC Update (Kara Stringer)

- Are seeing some demobilization from Alaska.
- No pinch points on fills yet.
- Fuels are drying out and fire activity is increasing.
- All BOD need to sign in and sign up for the [2022 GMAC Rep Calendar](#), identifying specific weeks as the GMAC representative.

Old Business

Heavy Equipment/ Heavy Equipment Task Force Supervision – Informational Topic – Jordan McKnight, Dave Williams, Craig Glazier



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- Reviewed tasking history.
- Highlighted four main areas in the report.
- Compiled associated briefing paper that highlights risk areas outlined by the review.
- Demand for resources outpaces capacity.
- Understanding the risk, both operational and contractual, is critical.
- NRCG has responsibility to consider associated liability.
- USFS will be having more internal discussions around this topic.
- Agency Administrators and Line Officers need to be fully aware of ramifications and truly understand the rules that are in place.
- **Action Item – Dave Williams will provide both the review and one-page briefing paper to Pam Jolly. She will then distribute both of these items, and include the Update [Heavy Equipment Supervision memo](#), for the BOD to review.**

IMT Sustainability for 2023 – Tasking Update – Informational Topic – Joe Sampson

- This is an IC committee tasking.
- Team 7 will not exist with JT retiring.
- All of Northern Rockies T1 and T2 teams are in various stages of CIM conversions.
- Current rosters status stands that teams are doing a very good job of sharing resources.
- Succession planning – Currently have seven teams; however, reality of resources is that can only staff five IMTs. GACC does not have significant capacity for T3 IMTs either.
- Propose five IMTs for FY23, with the caveat that the ICs be required to apply early and then have the board decide who will be the five ICs. Then those chosen ICs will build the rosters from there.
- Aaron Thompson – A written recommendation needs to go to the WFAAs by August.
- Patrick Lonergan – Agree and support submitting a proposal. Suggest streamlining the IC application process as well.
- Tate Fischer – Support above recommendations.
- Rich Cowger – Request recommendation from IC Committee in writing for consideration in preparing proposal submission to WFAAs.
- Aaron Thompson – Suggest NRCG meeting with the WFAAs in August to discuss.
- **Action Item - Joe Sampson will submit write up to NRCG no later than August 1, 2022.**
- **Action Item - Rich Cowger will work to arrange an August meeting with the WFAAs.**

Complex Incident Management Transition – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- (See draft memo in pre-reading materials)
- Feel it is important to put out intent memo, outlining a plan.
- Joe Sampson – From IC Committee perspective, support NRCG memo.
- Patrick Lonergan – Suggest meeting with ICs in October to address and discuss these key upcoming issues.
 - Aaron Thompson – Support this intent and effort.
 - Group consensus to schedule two full days – October 4 & 25th for the BOD, ICs, Kathy Pipkin and Corey Buhl. These two days will be utilized as working days for IMT business.
 - **Action Item – Pam Jolly will create and distribute these meeting invitations.**



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- **Action Item – Draft memo will be finalized and distributed.**

Moving IMTs into CIMT Standards – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier

- Need to formalize some strategy this summer and ensure it occurs. Needed for consistency and clear direction.
- Suggest tasking to operational committee.
- Aaron Thompson – Support; memo will provide guidance.
- Tate Fischer – Unsure if operations committee will have the capacity to take this on without prioritization.
- Aaron Thompson – Team 2, everyone except one individual is converted over to CIM.
- Joe Sampson – Is challenging due to specific agency policy.
- Aaron Thompon – Suggest utilizing Great Basin data call and sending it to the IC committee and BOD for review.
- **Action Item - Craig Glazier will obtain and edit the Great Basin data call, adjusting it for the Northern Rockies, and will distribute to both the IC committee and BOD for review by Wednesday, July 27, 2022.**

New Business

Dispatch Complexity Analysis Organizational Charts – Informational Topic – Gaylen Yeates and Kat Sorenson

- (Reviewed PowerPoint presentation.)
- Next step is to re-run survey during the upcoming winter. (Due to some dispatch centers combining.)
- Need exists to increase staffing and capacity.
- Costs are based on a step 5 on all GS level positions. Will require interagency support.
- Realistic ask for what is needed. Support from interagency fire management is needed.
- Aaron Thompson – Appreciate the work that went into this analysis. Are the PDs written for all these positions? Concerns of being able to fill current vacancies before adding more positions. Also concerns over the number of dispatch centers in the Northern Rockies.
 - Kat Sorenson – Consolidation was not part of the scope of this survey. The 90 requirement is being considered by OPM. Providing career ladders for dispatcher is critical for long term retention. There is a PD for a GS-12 center manager.
- Kara Stringer – Was this done in conjunction with the USFS efforts around leads?
 - Kat Sorenson – Yes; was built in so that could be in alignment with anticipated policy.
- Tate Fischer - Have there been any efforts towards a consolidation analysis in this GACC?
 - Kat Sorenson – Larger centers still have higher workloads; consolidation does not negate the workload.
- Craig Glazier – USFS would like to put together an independent group to identify other options over this upcoming winter.
 - Aaron Thompson – Support the concept; however, are having a hard time with other agencies not filling positions in centers BLM has positions at now.



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- Kara Stringer – Have been a part of projects that looked at consolidations; most recent ones did not have the infrastructure to support and justify the cost investment.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cower)

- Differed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is August 16, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time