



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Conference Call Line:

1-888-844-9904

Access Code: 3599209

Participants:

Board Members: Steve Heppner, Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Ken Schmid, Mike Granger, Mike DeGrosky, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin

Deputies and Others: Aitor Bidaburu, Craig Goodell, Ryan Patrick, Melissa Wegner, Patrick Murphy, Avery Plains

Purpose: This is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update:

Focus area of activity is in the Southwest; records are being broken. Area expands out into Rocky Mountain and Southern Area GACCs which touch the Southwest. Once it goes, it may be a significant resources draw. Has been a week of meetings; FMB is looking to launch a task group to look at Wildland Fire policy guidance. Most recent update was 2009; subsequent memos issued in 2010. Effort to establish alignment and have terms properly identified. Will be soliciting agency Subject Matter Experts.

Correspondence on T3 team information that was presented at the spring meeting will be coming out. It centers on the unfinished work of defining "local area". Northern Rockies stand is that the entire NR GACC is what we want to see as our "local area" definition. **(Granger)** Policy is still the old policy until September. Should an effort be made to get as many signed off this coming year as possible? **(Schmid)** CAT is our major concern. Having them locked down to the Eastern Land Office will not work. **(DeGrosky)** We have people that are working on forests that may not be able to work on all parts of their forest if it is locked down to zone dispatches. **(Morris)** This is an unworkable policy change; request Aitor take this issue back to NWCG and emphasis the importance. **(Granger)**

Predictive Services Update:

No report.

All need to be aware that there is a huge issue with the ability to do smoke forecasting. A switch was flipped in DC and they are working diligently to find a fix. **(Morris)**

Northern Rockies Geographical Area Updates:

No report.

Operational Updates:

Put together a new IC conference call template; it is in the team plan. Call time changed to 0800 AM Mountain Time and has a new format. **(Goodell)**



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Contracting Updates:

No report.

Follow up on Old Business:

Cost Share for IT Interagency capacity at AFD (Patrick Murphy)

BLM rep says current cost is \$60 a month; have not heard back from DNRC as of yet. Costs would be \$440 a month for 60 months; including install and the price of the service. At the end of five years, the install cost would be paid off and the service would be \$225 per month and can upgrade to a higher service level as necessary. Proposal is to roll this into the fair share agreement. Any opposition to moving forward with this proposal? **(Granger)** Cannot make that decision without talking to our network administrator. **(DeGrosky)** Would like to move forward as quickly as possible with this. **(Granger)** At one point had discussed trying to utilize some grant funding; however, that is up in the air at this point due to issues with it going into a federal facility. **(Cowger)** Would like to take a look at the line by line cost break down per agency. **(Morris)** One issue day lighted last season was that it wasn't possible to add additional equipment on the Forest Service network that is not Forest Service equipment. This option increases interagency abilities on both devices and capacity. **(Murphy)** Suggestions on where we go from here? **(Granger)** Group decision to table until next call – **Agenda Item - be prepared to make a decision on the next call.**

Cost Share for Contract Vehicle Inspection Site (Greg Morris)

No change since the spring meeting; Forest Service has sunk about \$5,000- \$7,000 into design; approximately \$250,000 is needed for implementation. The clay soils at the site are prohibitive to heavy equipment. Issue was who and how do we pay for it? Do other agencies have an alternative? If there are, please pursue those ideas and bring forward the costs. For this summer, we do have the vehicle inspection at Fort Missoula; however, after this season this site will no longer be available. **Action Item - will continue to be addressed in future.**

MAC Plan Update (Mike Granger)

Greg did provide updates to Kathy. Would like to send the draft out for final review and, if no change feedback received, then will look at signing and approving. **Action Item - Would like to have completed prior to the team meetings.**

AFD Master Operating Plan Review (Ryan Patrick)

Changes have been made to the spreadsheet. Discussion on the additional costs that were added this year – Billy Philips position reduced down to ½; IMS contract part was checked and remained the same. Cost for the Heavy Equipment Video added to NRCG Contracting Cost center. **(Patrick)** New cost - office space \$6,000 per year; above the other facilities and support costs. Why are we adding office space on top of these other costs? **(Schmid)** Can send out how calculations are made with each of those costs and can show the breakdown. **(Patrick)** Another question - why are we adding full time IT position, when before it was ½. **(Schmid)** Patrick advised that he feels around 90% of his time is spent in support of these functions – NRCC, NRTC and Teams. **(Patrick)** Group discussion centered on historical fair share breakdowns in comparison to current items. Intent is to show true agency contributions. This also shows our support across our region. **(Morris)** Costs continue to increase due to budget reality; not a lot of capacity to add additional funds.



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(Granger) Proposal to approve this operating plan. Will show final contributions to each agency from the states. When you get those final numbers, please give those to Ryan. **(Granger) Approved - Will send final agreement around for signature.**

Review of Northern Rockies Data Standards White Paper (*Patrick Lonergan*)

Has not seen a draft yet. **Agenda Item - April** (post call an update was emailed to the Board – will be ready to implement during the 2018 fire season.)

UTV Guidance

Given back to the business committee; comment will be back by next week from the fire business group.

Agenda Item - April

Out of Area IMT Letter (*Jake Ganieany/Anthony Krause*)

Anthony mentioned that main concern was to have representative from NRK at in-briefings and close outs.

(Goodell) Will talk with Jake Ganieany and follow up on this; lets strive for a draft prior to the team meetings in April. **(Granger) Action Item – Draft prior to team meetings**

Revisiting the Montana Statewide Cooperative Agreement (*Mike DeGrosky*)

Table this topic; the work that needs to be done needs to occur between the DNRC and the Forest Service. Will need to be worked out prior to fire season; will handle agency to agency.

Board Involvement with Team Meeting and Agency Administrators (*Group*)

Mike Granger and Larry Kotchman are working on addressing this group with a Leader's Intent. Agency Administrators are just going to meet that Tuesday. Board's involvement, per feedback so far, is limited. Opportunity also exists to work as representatives as team liaisons. Will route a draft of the Leader's Intent around for review. **(Granger)**

Team meetings – an agenda topic for Aviation Risk reference the R6 memo. Sampson articulated at the spring meeting that this was not representative of the Northern Rockies. Agenda item may be removed due to the history of the agenda item. **(Morris)**

Review of 2018 NRCG Priority Funding List (*Group*)

Discussed need to establish priorities for merited items; in the event funds became available. List is currently in no particular priority order. Importance expressed to relay feedback back to the individuals who submitted proposals. Request to add item – Mobilization Center. This is a reoccurring item from previous presentations to the Board. Would like to establish a decision criteria for ranking. **(DeGrosky) Agenda Item – May 8th – Board will be prepared to rank the Priority funding list**

New Business:

Aquatic Invasive Species (*Warren Appelhans*)

Intent was to remove room for interpretation in last direction. New language was added reference aviation. Also language reference ground based was included. Other addition was near the end of the paper, inspection



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and cleaning; title needs to address resources coming in to help the local unit. In addition to that; MTDC, Forest Service and the state were working on some “How To” information that could be put on the web.

Proposal to adopt and distribute prior to the team meeting? Improvement from previous; one minor edit – bottom of 2nd page – “must be decontaminated” – replace with “need to”. **(DeGrosky) Approved – will be distributed prior to the end of next week.**

Operations Committee New Charter Review (Mike Granger)

Any recommended changes or comments? **Approved – will be distributed.**

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – Ops Normal; recent precipitation

BIA GP – snow cover; RX pile burns; muddy conditions are a risk to resources; one 6 person squad and engine in OK; continue to work on agreements and plans

BIA RM – snow on the ground; did have a fire in WY yesterday; resources out supporting other areas

BLM – Coleen on board soon

FWS – finishing up seasonal hiring; RX fire season is underway; Northeast Montana is dryer than the rest of the state

IDL -

MT DES -

MT DNRC – local government and interagency training; inquiries from other states; announcement for Division Administrator closed last night. Selection expected by end of April.

Montana State Fire Chiefs -

Montana Fire Wardens -

MT Peace Officers

ND FS – seasonal hires; received some snow; still in drought conditions but another storm on the forecast; supporting Kansans; finished state fire school; working with DES and Dept. of Health on coming up with rehabilitation standards from large fire response – developing a plan.

USFS – Jumpers are getting ready for spring training; have been supporting some other regions. Several meetings have been going on; more than 75 folks out of region; primarily supporting the East and Southeast. Will be moving resources down for R1/R3 soon; prescribed burning occurring. Jacquie Parks is detailed into the Smoke Management Program Coordinator position; Tony Petrilli is detailed into the Safety/Risk Management position.

The next scheduled NRCG Meeting is April 17, 2017