



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Corey Buhl, Mike Granger – Chair, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin

Deputies and Others: Tracey Nimlos, Michael Odell, Diane Mann-Klager, Jamey Graham, Rick Connell, Aitor Bidaburu, Tim Murphy, Craig Goodell, Kathy Pipkin, Judy Heintz, Coleen Haskell, Julie Polutnik, Pamela Jolly

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

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

The NMAC-GMAC meeting is the week of January 14th. Items of note: most have seen the Predictive Services Oversight Group that has been formed; documents on this are available for review. Also, there has been a committee stood up at the national level to deal with IMT succession issues. (Mike Granger) That last item came directly out of a request at the CGAC meeting last year.

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

Over the last 30 days have had precipitation values have been above normal in extreme eastern Montana and portions of North Dakota. Otherwise, they have been below normal in the rest of the geographical area. In addition to below normal on snow pack. Temperature wise, have also been warmer than normal. Expecting a week El Nino. Short term forecast: have been in an area of three separate atmospheric rivers; experiencing rain and ice and this is expected to continue for the next several days and then expecting a change to colder temperatures on the weekend. This will lead into a transition to a snowier pattern during the following week. For the next couple of weeks, predicting near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

Has been quiet on SIT reporting; most units working on Year To Date reconciliations. Have had 2,209 Total Fires and 130,508 Total Acres burned. Did read in the news that there was a 148 acre grass fire north of Billings last Friday; however, as of yet there is no report in the SIT program. Billings is staffing through the holidays due to fire potential and will only be closed on the 25th and 1st.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

Rapid Extraction Module is forming for discussions. Staats is the lead and a meeting is planned for after the holidays. Have been working on preloading certification on the Canadian aircraft. ICAP is open into mid-January. Team 4 is reapplying this year. An email was sent reminding IC's of the selection priorities. Have been working with Judy and David at NRCC to do an initial analysis for succession planning; may look similar to some work Region 05 has done. Also, have been working with Melissa on the Priority Trainee program. It is a good tool for succession planning.



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NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

Preparing for the next year and finishing up yearend information. Sent out a message to the board in reference to a potential shutdown; recommendation sent for federal agencies employees to be on a call when needed basis. Minimal staffing over the holiday.

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

Preparing for 2019 solicitation season; three preproposal meetings set. Currently tracking well for the 2019 plan. USDA has a proposal for September 19th to have a plan to stovepipe the contracting organization. This will be an impact and there will be more information coming.

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

None; unable to be on the call due to a hiring panel conflict.

Follow up on Old Business:

2019 Northern Rockies Solicitation Plan (Tim Murphy)

Mike Granger made a motion to approve. Mike DeGrosky seconds. **Motion to approve is carried.**

Dispatch Steering Committee – Charter Approval (Jamey Graham)

Only changes were to some of the role language and the committee members were updated as well.

Charter was approved – Mike Granger will sign.

ICAP Progress Update (Judy Heintz)

ICAP is currently open. ICs can select and have had applications from three individuals in the IC position, one of which was a trainee.

Fire Department New York - Trip Update (Tim Murphy/Tracey Nimlos/Corey Buhl)

Were approached for information on the application process and interest in a collaborative team hosting effort. Visited and explained the process of application. Process would be the same - some of their individuals would apply in job share positions, others in full positions. Were also approached with a question on if our geographical area were to run out of teams, would there be interest in hosting a Fire Department New York IMT, provided the Northern Rockies filled the operations and some support positions. (Tracey Nimlos) Would add that they have numerous people qualified in finance positions. There is a lot of potential there to supplement our own teams. (Corey Buhl) Would also add that it could be positive effort. (Mike Granger) For clarification, would this be a type 3 team? (Tim Murphy) Yes. (Mike Granger) Concern is with the Eastern Area team application protocol that has been implemented. Want to ensure that all are following



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each GACCs protocol. What opportunities are there for shadowing? (Tim Murphy) Opportunities are three fold; fully qualified individuals, trainee individuals and individuals that New York would fund and send for the purpose of shadowing and learning. (Tracey Nimlos) Their folks are NWCG qualified. (Mike Granger) Supportive of this effort. (Mike DeGrosky) Supportive; explores a non-traditional support mechanism. (Tracey Nimlos) Their one limitation that was expressed in that they do have individual overtime limitations. Discussed an option for a slot on a team – then could be filled similar to a job share with multiple individuals from their agency. (Mike Granger) Inquired about a cost clarification? (Tim Murphy) Would only pay for the individual that you get.

Group discussion and consensus to support this effort.

IMT Recruiting (Rick Connell)

Composed a recruitment flyer; concerned that it is not being distributed internally throughout the agencies. Group discussion on various internal agencies distributions. Expressed main concern that targeting is not occurring to the non-fire individuals. Discussed various agency internal distribution opportunities and made plans to distribute further. (Diane Mann-Klager) Reiterated agency administrator's commitment to emphasize recruitment efforts. Diane distributed previously and will distribute again with additional language.

Spring MAC Exercise Decision (Mike Granger)

Group discussion on positive aspects of M581 MAC and agency administrator inclusion exercise option. (Craig Goodell) Have had discussions and they advised that they could incorporate a component for the board into M581. (Mike DeGrosky) Favor incorporating into M581; rather than a standalone MAC item. (Tracey Nimlos) Forest Service supports having the exercise every year. (Ray Hart) Supports having the exercise every year. (Mike Granger) Question is as part of M581 or separate? (Mike Granger) Supports M581 MAC exercise. (Dan Warthin) Supports M581 and having it annually. Group discussion on purpose of the MAC exercise. (Mike DeGrosky) Role will be MAC sitting outside, participating as the MAC during an exercise in the course. **(Mike Granger) Will go with rolling it into M581 – April 29th – May 3rd. Will need to ensure all have these dates on their calendar and determine the date of the MAC afternoon exercise.**

Bin Item Discussions from Fall Meeting (Mike Granger)

- Drone Sub-committee – will table for future discussion with the Aviation Committee.
- Stove-piping Contracting and IT – (Tracey Nimlos) Forest Service USDA movement that is occurring. They are looking at the people themselves not being centralized; however, there would be a centralized contracting. Study for framework is ongoing. It is early in the process. For IT, all IT job series are being moved under the CIO. Patrick and Tara will have a new supervisor. There is an agreement for FY 19 for them to continue services to the fire community; however, afterwards it is up in the air. This is Department level movement and limits the decision space for NRCG.
- Fire Closeout Form – Corey will follow up on the draft with Ken.
- South African Crews – tabled for future discussion; will possibly revisit at the spring meeting.
- Priority Trainee List Critical Needs - this will be address by the work Craig and Melissa are



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accomplishing. Pam will forward Craig's mentioned example work to the BOD.

- Northern Rockies Management Standardization – was addressed in full at the fall meeting.

New Business:

None.

Review of Action Items: (Mike Granger)

- Ask that each BOD member review the list and, if listed as the lead, provide update on that topic.
- Will be removing those that have been completed since the last update.
- Draft regular PIO messages – discussion from Fall meeting.
 - Clarification on who PIO is working for – discussion on possibly Craig.
 - Mike DeGrosky volunteered to work with Craig and Chris Barth to bring the PIO plan to completion.
- Request Letter of Support from IDL regarding PIO Assistance – Mike Granger will take the lead.
- Rapid Extraction Module – Staats lead; meeting after the new year.
- Ensuring Resource Benefit Fires are accurately reflected in prioritization – lead requested. (Kathy Pipkin) More discussion needed; still a lot of questions on prioritization. Would like to see on agenda for face to face in spring meeting. Would like to discuss impacts.
- WFLC Leader's Intent on Positive Workplace environment – leads will be Diane Mann-Klager and Mike DeGrosky.
- NRCG draft an issue paper on Medical Units Discussion – spring meeting Anna will present. Will be prepared to make a decision on after presentation at spring meeting.
- Proposal to move the Zone Report Outs to the MAC Calls - (Craig Goodell) Supportive of this move; feels it would provide the information in a timely manner. Craig will move to the afternoon MAC call. This topic will be removed from Action Item list.
- Close Out Briefing Form and Protocols – Corey will follow up and have ready by the spring meeting.
- BOD to review GIS Data Standards Group recommendations – will be reporting out at the CGAC meeting on the remote SIT. This topic will be removed from the Action Items.
- Letter from NRCG Supporting Maintaining IT Positions and contracting - (Tracey Nimlos) Letter reiterating value of those positions to the fire organization, expressing the desire to maintain those services. List Greg Morris as lead; request draft if needed.
- Remove Spring MAC Exercise from Action Items list. Discussed previously on this call.
- Preorder Discussion – Dan will take the lead. (Dan Warthin) Have the taskings have been drafted yet? Dan will follow up w/ the IC Committee.
- Mike Granger will review all Taskings as a result of the Fall Meeting and send out after the first of the year.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – Not on the call.



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BIA GP – a few fires, but not much. Working on getting agreement signatures. RPRL position in fuels being advertised soon.

BIA RM – Not on the call.

BLM – Have had some discussions on using instate severity due to fire potential; one fire last weekend. Vice – Ken Schmid position is out. Pam will distribute to the board. Working on the vice Judy position; currently assigned to HR. Have to redo job analysis; may be out towards the end of January. Lost our acting state director to another job. More information will be forthcoming for acting's.

FWS – slowed down; in the process of hiring seasonal firefighters; last year was challenging. After return from the holidays, will have a couple of permanent positions on the street out of CMR. Fire potential is significant.

IDL – Not on the call.

MT DES – Hazard mitigation grant requested and approved for a three month extension. DNRC has been great with good projects submitted. New deadline is April 24th, with March 1st deadline to the state.

MT DNRC – Fires on the east side; assisting counties on mutual aid. Had a couple hundred acre fire in Fergus County last weekend. Legislature session issues are steadily increasing. Many individuals out of the office on leave, and due to retirements. Looking for internal detailers to fill in behind retirements.

Montana State Fire Chiefs – Not on the call.

Montana Fire Wardens – No new updates at this time.

MT Peace Officers – Not on the call.

ND FS – Filled full time crew lead position. Larry retired; filled with acting. Legislative session occurring. Working on hiring.

NPS – Many out on leave; working on seasonal hiring; anticipating announcements on position fills after the New Year.

USFS – Hired Jordan McKnight as Assistant Director – Operations; will work at the AFD. After the New Year, will be focused on permanent fire hire positions; also will be working on temporary hiring and setting up to support the Southeast on prescribed fire. After January, focus will be with the states on Good Neighbor Projects. Multiple Forest Supervisor position vacancies and some higher level manager position realignments.

(Mike Granger) – Tremendous “Thank You” to Judy for all of her dedication and effort over the years.

The next scheduled NRCG Conference Call is January 15, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time