



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

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

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Mike Granger, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Sarah Lee (representing BLM), Scott Hayes and Joshua Harvey (representing IDL), Diane Mann-Klager, Craig Goodell, Kathy Pipkin, Pam Jolly, Tim Murphy, Aitor Bidaburu, Coleen Haskell, Julie Polutnik, Jeni Jeresek

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

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- The Operations Training Committee under NWCG is going through a slight re-organization. Decision was made to bring in a number of sub-committees, to include the major function areas under ICS.
- Draft Agenda for joint NMAC / GMAC meeting in April has been distributed.

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

- Tomorrow is the spring equinox.
- Driest areas still include North Central Idaho and North Central Montana. Both have received relief over the last couple of weeks. Current, no drought.
- North Dakota - high likelihood of flooding.
- Dry and windy events should be localized along the Front Range.
- Rest of this week will be moderated by high pressure.
- Overall, warm and dry with a return to more average temperatures.
- Snow melt concerns will occur across the region.
- Next week a more active pattern begins with light precipitation across western Montana.
- Eight to fourteen day outlooks show higher than average likelihood of above average precipitation and warmer than average temperatures.
- Seasonal outlooks continue to look warm and dry.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

- Minimum activity: Eight fires for 25 acres and seven prescribed burns for 102 acres.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Planning the MAC exercise for Thursday, May 2nd
- There will be an M581 cadre working lunch on Wednesday May 1st ; coordinators and administrators are invited. Please advise Craig Goodell if available to attend.
- Will be attending CGAC
 - Will be discussing successes and challenges that would be pertinent to group as a whole and any issues from 2018 to daylight. Please send any thoughts to Craig Goodell.



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- Action Item: Craig Goodell will follow up with JT Wensmen to see if he is planning on attending CGAC. Target date: prior to CGAC meeting.
- Action Item: Mike Granger will follow up with Craig Goodell reference Heavy Equip Boss shortage. Target date: prior to CGAC meeting.
- Incident Workforce Development Group
 - Craig distributed this email to the BOD on March 4th; comments due back April 5th.
 - Action Item: Craig Goodell will re-send the Incident Workforce Development email to the BOD. Target date: prior to March 22nd.
- NIROPS IR
 - There is a Forest Service individual is working full time on this issue and they will present at CGAC.
 - Intent is to work towards developing the tools that are not currently being utilized.
 - Action Item: Craig Goodell will work with the teams to identify actual needs and utilize appropriate tools. Target date: 2019 fire season.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Nationally things are slowly picking up.
- Sent one group of BIA severity resources to Oklahoma on a Severity incident.
- Requesting feedback for the 2019 Mobilization Guide prior to April 1st.

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

- Solicitation Plan
 - Forest Service opening water-handling:
 - Inspections due in by May 13.
 - hope to award by June 13.
 - Dispatch Priority List by the first week of July.
 - Forest Service – Medical, Ambulance and Paramedics:
 - Extend for this calendar year.
 - Changes coming.
 - NPS – decision made not be solicit tents.
 - Incident specific agreements will need to be done for those.
 - Montana DNRC – will be soliciting for toilets and handwashing stations.
 - Dropping solicitation for office trailers.
 - Those will be done on incident specific agreements.

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

(Unable to participate on the call.)



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Follow up on Old Business:

MAC Plan Changes (Kathy Pipkin)

- **Decision - vote postponed until next call.**
 - Send word be prepared to vote next call – either be there or have an alternate or send word in advance
 - **Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will distribute an email advising all BOD members to be prepared to vote on the MAC Plan changes prior to the April conference call and advising to either be present on the call, have an alternate present to vote or send word of vote preference in advance. Target date: prior to March 29th.**

Out-of-Area Team Briefing Letter (Patrick Lonergan)

(Unable to participate on the call.)

New Business:

Remote GIS for Incident Management (Morganne Lehr)

- Tested concept in 2017. Experienced success, with some growing pains. However, did verified potential.
- 2018 – there was interest in providing this support nationally; however, issues were encountered.
 - Need to define who is going to be the ordering entity.
 - Need to define who funds that effort.
- For 2019 – those questions need to be addressed prior to fire season.
- Individuals could also be supporting from a remote location. (Craig Goodell)
- Not an item to be identified on the cost share. (Mike DeGrosky)
- IC's and home units should be the ones to identify this need. (Sarah Lee)
- Caution to be pro-active on timing; want to have the conversation early on so that it is easy to implement. (Greg Morris)
- Desired outcome is provide clear guidance as to what the Remote Sit can provide and get that information out at the IMT Meeting.
- **Action Item: Craig Goodell will work with Morganne Lehr and others to draft up a white paper on protocol for Remote Situation Unit Support; how and when it would be used. Target date: prior to the May meeting.**

2019 Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Forces “Umbrella Document” (Mike DeGrosky)

- No significant changes; minor revisions.
- **Approval – Unanimous consent.**

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- **Action Item: REMS – Pam Jolly will contact Roger Staats and request that the REMS briefing paper be utilized to compose an interim guidance draft document. Edits will include limiting the verbiage to**



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eliminate the interchangeable use of the words “extraction” and “extrication” to solely utilize the word “extraction”. Target Date: March 22, 2019. Interim Guidance to be distributed at the IMT Meeting.

- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will compose and distribute a tasking to the IMT Sustainability Task Group members identified in the 2019 NRCG Spring Meeting notes. Target date: April 15, 2019.
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will compose and distribute an email to the Board Liaisons tasking them to attend their respective Zone Meetings and convey the expectations identified in the 2019 NRCG Spring Meeting notes. Target date: March 22, 2019.
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will ask Mike Granger to reach out and confirm and with both Anna Stull and Andrew R. Hower for a presentation at the IMT Meeting. target date: March 22, 2019.
- Action Item: Kathy Pipkin tasked by Mike DeGrosky with arranging for an award for Judy Heintz, recognizing her contribution to IMT Coordination. Award to be presented at the IMT Meeting. Target date: prior to the IMT Meeting.
- Action Item: Mike DeGrosky will compose and distribute an email tasking Julie Polutnik regarding the IMT Agenda Working Group content inclusion of action items for the functional break out areas at the IMT Meeting. Target date: March 22, 2019.
- Action Item: Identify future structure of the NRCG / Agency Administrator meetings at both the Agency Administrator and Board of Directors levels. Assigned to: Mike DeGrosky and Diane Mann-Klager. Target date: prior to the fall NRCG Meeting.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – (Unable to participate on the call.)

BIA GP – Snow melt occurring; monitoring flood concerns. One position currently being advertised.

BIA RM – (Unable to participate on the call.)

BLM – No word on State director or Associate State Director positions. Selection has been made for vice-Ken Schmid, hope is that this individual will be on board around mid-May. Facing budget issues with shortfall; intent is for same staffing as 2018; however, may be challenging. No word on the SEAT. Currently addressing billing issues. Unit changes clarification – not the dispatch centers that are changing; it is the BLM Unit IDs.

FWS – (Mike Granger had to drop off the call earlier.)

IDL – No fires; snow melt occurring. May have a shortage of engine bosses state wide in the IDL; may be looking to bring in additional resources.

MT DES – (Unable to participate on the call.)

MT DNRC – Recently hired a new program manager in County Coop program. Detailers have been rotating as Deputy Chief, Preparedness. Currently, that individual is Matt Hall. Assistant FMO opening at Kalispell unit is currently being advertised. DNRC will be filling a number of future positions. Legislature is currently in session.

Montana State Fire Chiefs – (Unable to participate on the call.)

Montana Fire Wardens – (Unable to participate on the call.)



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MT Peace Officers – (Update provided by Mike DeGrosky) Vern Burdick followed up on an Action Item and contacted his counterparts in the other states. They are currently happy with his single representation.

ND FS – (Unable to participate on the call.)

NPS – Glacier National Park FMO job selection is expected soon. Dave Soleim is retiring. Snow is present in most of the parks.

USFS – Brenda Wilmore will be retiring at the end of March; please recognize there will be some gaps as the selected detailer won't come on board until mid-April. FOIA – getting a lot of pressure from the Washington Office to make operational plans and Incident Management Plans available on the internet. Issue is that these contain sensitive information, including frequency information. Advising the Washington Office that this is an NWCG issue that affects all agencies. Smoke meeting occurred last week; good information and cooperation among all. More information from that meeting will be forthcoming later.

The next scheduled NRCG Conference Call is April 16, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time