



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

## **Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

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

### **Participants:**

**Board Members:** Aaron Thompson, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Dan Warthin

**Deputies and Others:** Greg Morris, Corey Buhl, Chris Loraas, Kathy Pipkin, Mike Richmond, Julie Polutnik, Melissa Wegner, Pam Jolly

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

### **NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)**

(Unable to participate on this call – update provided via email)

- Meeting with the OTC group downtown today. OTC is establishing a Command Subcommittee to help provide oversight to the Command and General Staff positions.
- Will provide update on the next call.
- Very slow nationally, as the NICC staff describe the situation - at “PL .5”

### **Predictive Services Update:**

#### **Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)**

Currently in a calm pattern overall for the whole west and will remain so for the next week. May warm up some towards the end of next week. Moisture expected to move into the east side and another system is expected to move over the region on Friday. For the next two weeks, potential is expected to remain low.

### **GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)**

- Welcome to Becky Ward as a 120 day detailer in the Intelligence Coordinator position; may provide report for the next call
- Since the last call, there have been a total of 393 fires for 3,828 acres
- Year To Date there have been 526 fires for a total of 6,815 acres
- Also, since last call mobilized a T2 IMT (Fry) within region to the Prospect Fire in Idaho. Incident was 358 acres and the team mobilized on May 8<sup>th</sup> – of note, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> earliest recorded mobilization

### **Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:**

#### **NRCG Operations (Kathy Pipkin for Craig Goodell)**

- MAC exercise was a success; the interaction and coordination with the M-581 students was appreciated
- Heavy Equipment boss issue was well received at CGAC. Position paper needs to be drafted by Operations Committee and submitted to CGAC prior to June 15<sup>th</sup> in order to be on the June agenda
- Awaiting final white paper from Morganne Lehr on Remote Situation Unit; of note - looking at bringing on a Northern Rockies Remote SIT individual at PL 3
- Attended Southwest Zone meeting with Kathy Pipkin; local MAC exercise planned for June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Northern Rockies submitted five candidates forward for S-520; total of four slots guaranteed
- Western Region Cohesive Strategy meeting will be upcoming in Missoula; week of June 17. Will



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include a field trip June 20 – NRCG BOD is invited to attend

- Fry's IMT was out for approximately days; team advised it was a good first assignment

### **NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)**

- Waiting on a couple of agreement items:
  - NPS park service to give paperwork to USFS in order to bring on the assistant intelligence position.
  - USFS to sign modification to DNRC agreement in order for DNRC to be able to hire a short term worker for the NRCC front desk.
  - USFS Human Resources in Albuquerque to complete staffing work for fire analyst; effective date to be determined.
  - Intelligence Coordinator detailer has begun; now awaiting the temporary promotion portion that is being worked on.
  - Next week will begin the NRCC Dispatch Center visits; will be covering the Southwest sector of the region. Craig Goodell will participate.

### **Contracting Updates: (Chris Loraas)**

- For the tactical equipment that was solicited this year – there was concern from all aspects, including the furlough and compressed time frame. There are still some processes to work through; however, it looks like the region will have comparable capacity as last time.

### **Follow up on Old Business:**

#### **Intelligence Dissemination - Twitter / News & Notes (Ralph Rau)**

- Kathy Pipkin found that the delegation is to a PIO and NRCC does not have one
- **Topic identified to remain on the agenda for the June call**

### **New Business:**

#### **Priority Trainee Program Updates (Melissa Wegner)**

- Application was again put out in Google Forms; was open from February 15<sup>th</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup> - recently closed
- Training committee does the prioritization
- Availability is an issues that always surfaces. Will advocate for those showing available for assignments in ROSS, within and outside the GACC
- At last count (prior to May 10<sup>th</sup> close) there were over 300 applications
- Priority Trainee Program came down from NMAC as a tool to enhance both career / workforce development and IMT succession. Purpose of the program is to assist with getting individuals to a fully qualified level
- Mechanics behind the process include ROSS reports, working with the Overhead desk at NRCC and making personal contacts both within the region and nationally



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### **Turman's Team Re-Application (Mike DeGrosky)**

- Turman's Team is up for Re-Application next year
- Currently, the team is in a developmental phase with a new IC in training
- They have asked if they can skip the re-application process next year
- **Action Item: Mike Granger, Turman's Team Liaison, will discuss the rationale behind this request with Doug Turman and brief the BOD on the June conference call.**

### **Fire Suppression Modules Briefing Paper (Corey Buhl)**

- Feedback received from FMOs and the field is that definition is desired
- Essentially tweaked BLM definition
  - Single Resource Boss identified in Northern Rockies definition
  - Added at least one faller 2
- **Provisional approval for 2019 granted with a review to be conducted at the end of the year – unanimous consent**

### **Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)**

- Action Items updated – group review

### **Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:**

**BIA NW** – (Not on call)

**BIA GP** – (Not on call)

**BIA RM** – (Not on call)

**BLM** – Began this position last week; getting up to speed. New state director started yesterday. Will attend the Governor's Fire Briefing, June 7th in Helena. Conducting National Preparedness Reviews first two weeks in June. Working on getting the assistant manager position advertised.

**FWS** – (Not on call)

**IDL** – (Not on call)

**MT DES** – Submitted request for flooding declaration. Last week Montana National Guard training was conducted; will be two more rounds. Hosted Western Wildfire Workshop - special Thanks to NRCC Mike Richmond and DNRC units for the information provided. Be advised that Nationwide there will be a shortage of National Guard Air assets due to current and future deployments; exercise will be conducted soon. Two open positions within the agency, in addition to a new position being brought on.

**MT DNRC** – Hired a new county co-op program manager; new unit FMO at Clearwater Unit has also now been hired. Wyatt Frampton was the area FMO at the Northwest Lands office and is now a project manager in Missoula; former position will be filled in the fall. One agency specialized position being advertised currently, please contact for more information. New area assistant FMO at the Southern Land office.

**Montana State Fire Chiefs** – (Not on call)

**Montana Fire Wardens** – Nothing new to report

**MT Peace Officers** – (Not on call)



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**ND FS – (Not on call)**

**NPS –** Not successful in hiring an FMO at Glacier NP; acting will continue. At the Regional level, looking at getting a communication and education position filled. Getting ready for the season.

**USFS –** Brenda Wilmore retired; Gabe Dumm is currently acting. Successful with prescribed burning operations. Will participate in the Governor's briefing. Hiring system has been slow nationally; programs impacted by the new security requirements. Many crews are not fully stood up yet. Several individuals currently providing support out of region. Will be conducting two Fire Program Reviews in the upcoming weeks. Team leaders for those units have been asked to inquire with cooperators.

**The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is June 18, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time**