



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, October 15, 2019**

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

### **Participants:**

**Board Members:** JT Wensman, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Mike Granger

**Deputies and Others:** Michael Odell, Jay Lusher, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Aitor Bidaburu, Warren Appelhans, Tracey Nimlos

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

**NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)** Both NWCG and NMAC are meeting tomorrow and Thursday. NMAC/GMAC meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020; typically Northern Rockies send a couple of representatives (chair/vice-chair). From the US Fire Administration: FEMA Region 8 recently had a meeting and a presentation on various tiers for Type 3 all hazard teams. MT CAT may have attended. The tiering concept is something getting traction nationally to get delineation with the IMT3s and how to deploy on disasters. If NRCG Board would like a presentation, Aitor can set that up relatively easily. Group should think about that and what venue would be most appropriate (Board meeting, IMT meeting, etc.).

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

#### **NRCG Operations/NRCC (Craig Goodell)**

58 fires for 510 acres since last call. Current resource utilization: 1 IHC in CO, 6 Type 2IAs on assignment. Jordan McKnight, Craig Goodell and Dave Williams recommended certification of the St. Joe Wildland Fire Module last week. Waiting on Operations Committee now. Barb Whiteman is retiring and there will be a need to cover her position at NRCC and in the contracting shop. Aircraft Coordinator position is being reclassified. Kat Sorenson is currently detailed into that position. Kate Holsapple is detailing into the Intelligence Coordinator position behind Julie Polutnik who is currently detailed into the Assistant Center Manager position.

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

#### **ICS 209 Issues:**

#### **Fuel Model Issue (Warren Appelhans)**

- Proposal to move issue paper forward to CGAC/NMAC – issues with 209 to include the updated fire behavior models; especially in bug kill and in reference to logging. Sent this issue to the Intelligence Group to include the additional 40 fuel models to bring the 209 in line with other modeling that is done. Intelligence Group approved, but advised it needs to come through the coordinating group side. Needs to go to NMAC for a vote on changing the 209, so NRCG would need to send to CGAC. If CGAC agrees, they would move forward to NMAC. Craig can do this at the end of this month on their next call.
- Approved – unanimous consent.
- **Action Item: Craig Goodell will do this at the end of this month on their next call. Warren Appelhans will work with Pam Jolly to finalize the paper.**



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### **Suppression Strategy Issue (Craig Goodell)**

- Proposal to move issue paper forward to CGAC/NMAC – brought forward by Dave Williams relating to experience on Beeskove. Issue is on 209 under full suppression incident - it doesn't allow for anything but percent containment. The strategies that were often implement under federal fire policy allow to go indirect, but if the lines are not burned out - cannot call that area contained. This causes confusion when a lot of effort is put into control features and don't have ability to show completion. Dave Williams wrote up issue paper that was sent prior to the call. Would like to report percentage contained and completed. Craig would like to move forward to CGAC.
- Approved – unanimous consent.

### **New Business:**

#### **IMT Speaker Fee (Mike Granger)**

- Mark Smith, Mission Centered Solutions – “Luck Runs Out” presentation at IMT Workshop. Thompson's planning team believes this would be a high valued presentation.
- Approximately \$2874.00 cost
- Payment Options
  - Payment comes out of the IC Budget allotment for FY2020
  - A NRCG agency steps up to cover the cost
  - John Thompson is possibly looking at another speaker and a request for funds for that speaker.
    - Mike Granger will follow up with John Thompson.

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

See spreadsheet

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

**BIA NW –**

**BIA GP –**

**BIA RM –**

**BLM –**

**FWS –** Toured Paradise, CA last week and a huge amount of work has been done since April as far as debris removal. DOI is transitioning to multi-Interior regions with multi agencies involved. Looking at some form of realignment in Fire and Fuels program. Looking at restructuring seasonal positions. FWS has a position open at Fort Peck and a regional fire budget analyst position. Exceeded fuels target for the FY19 year.

**IDL –** Two weeks ago attended a vegetation management summit hosted by the Western Governors Association. Lots of representatives from power companies. Sue Stewart from the FS and a couple of BLM individuals attended. Summit almost exclusively evolved around right of ways and vegetation management in



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utility corridors. At the end of this month, JT Wensman has a meeting on Idaho agreement with the FS and BLM.

**MT DES –**

**MT DNRC –**

**Montana State Fire Chiefs –** Just finished annual conference.

**Montana County Fire Wardens –** No report.

**MT Peace Officers –**

**ND FS –** 417 fires to date for almost 5000 acres. Lots of hay bale fires recently. Seasonal staff will be done in November. Should have announcement on new state forester soon.

**NPS –** Glacier FMO job is almost ready to announce. The regional office has on-boarded a new communications and education specialist.

**USFS –** Gabe Dumm has accepted the FS Fuels Program Manager position with R1. Reporting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Greg just came back from the National Fire Leadership Council meeting. Lots of communication around risk management; lots of movement towards a more permanent fire force (i.e., fewer temporary employees and more permanent employees). Jordan McKnight is exploring the possibility of having a couple of year round IHCs available. R1 exceeded it's fuels target for the year. Looking at 98,000 acre target next year.

**The 2019 Fall NRCG Meeting will occur November 4-7, 2019 in Missoula, MT**

*(This meeting will replace the November NRCG Conference Call)*