



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Participants:

Board Members: Aaron Thompson, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Greg Morris, Matt Hall, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Amanda Boatright, Anika Tuss, Tim Muprhy, Kathy Pipkin, Tracey Nimlos, Rita Chandler, John Thompson, 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 attend call.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Unable to attend call.
- Per email – no significant updates at this time.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Sent one additional PIO to Australia since the last spreadsheet was distributed.
- CGAC Updates (Greg Morris)
 - Fuels Model issue submitted by Northern Rockies was moved forward by CGAC.
 - The other 209 paper Northern Rockies submitted dealt with suppression strategy and generated lengthy discussion. Parallel movements exist to bring about change on this issue. CGAC will take Northern Rockies memo into consideration in continuation of moving forward with changes.
 - Morganne Lehr gave a good presentation on remote SIT. Advised CGAC that she is unable to commit to making further presentations for various meetings around the nation. Morganne will work on draft paper to send to CGAC through the NRCG on a proposal for a type of position to support the expressed need.
 - USFS provided a reminder to the group that Morganne can only provide this current level of support for this fiscal year only. In addition, that level of support could also change at any time depending on agency priorities.
 - Received unofficial word that the Northern Rockies Heavy Equipment Boss proposal will likely be rejected.
 - CGAC has moved towards a rotating chair similar to the NRCG. Morris volunteered NRCG to jump into the Vice-Chair position next year. More should be coming out soon on this topic.
 - Expectation is that the Vice-Chair would be a dedicated individual; not necessarily the Chair or Vice-Chair of NRCG.
- CGAC Updates (Kathy Pipkin)
 - Predictive Services Oversight group was very interested in the remote SIT.
- IROC is behind schedule. It is slated for March. On March 5th, ROSS will go dark and nationwide will implement a continuation of operations plan to revert to card stock. This is occurring to ensure a



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clean resource transfer from ROSS into IROC. On March 10th, IROC will be brought on line in a phased-in approach via Geographic Area.

- FireNet – a contractor will be utilized to migrate all of the content into the new Microsoft Office 365 environment. All agencies that use Microsoft Office 365 should be able to use their existing license in this environment. Northern Rockies will be a test GACC when this comes on line.
- NIROPS – this year there will only be one aircraft. Will additionally have contracts for exclusive use and end products available.
- Dingle Act - may prompt GPS unit usage for cache tracking in the future.
- Redbook – updates include a cooperator aircraft form that must be filled out daily. This topic generated lots of discussion around appropriateness of who should complete the form.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal to Amend Quorum Language for Fiscal Decisions – Decisional Topic (Tracey Nimlos)

- Recently, a member of the Business Committee daylighted that the quorum language adopted for fiscal decisions which was approved at the fall meeting (six BOD would represent a quorum) may not be accurate, as legally a participating agency cannot be held accountable for funds that it did not agree to spend.
- An example from 2017 involving IDL and the ordering of an IR platform was given. The document where an IDL representative had signed had to be produced before the agency would agree to the associated funds transactions.
 - One agency can not commit funds on behalf of another agency.
- Proposal to amend the language to include all cost share participating agencies.
 - Propose that language be amended to say “Every agency expected to contribute, must agree and affirm that they have funds available.”
- Clarification provided by the Chair that this is a process decision; not a fiscal one. Therefore, NRCG can make a decision on this topic today.
- BLM Question: How to get folks to the table that are absent in order to make fiscal decisions?
 - Group discussion that this may be another topic for a later time regarding board members and commitments.
- Vote conducted; **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Proposal to Form a NRCG Medical Committee – Decisional Topic (Rich Cowger / Anna Stull)

- Propose forming a medical committee for NRCG. Document from Anna Stull will be reviewed by the Board; topic vote was tabled until the January conference call. (Due to lack of a quorum on the December call.)
- Action Item: January call will include a discussion of a path forward.
- Rich Cowger was unable to attend the meeting. Anna Stull went; as well as a local representative. The meeting mainly discussed setting up standard typing for REMS and included more discussion on what the federal side is doing in terms of medical and the plan for moving forward.
- Rich Cowger and Anna Stull have not had time to collaborate.
- **Item will be tabled until the February call.**



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Proposal to invite Dan O'Brien to Spring NRCG Meeting for "Building the Team" Predictive Services Oversight Group presentation – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- No cost associated with this item.
- The new dates of the Spring NRCG Meeting are April 13th & 17th (the Monday and Friday before and after the IMT Meeting). NRCG will meet at the DNRC building.
- Given the compressed timeframe, does the BOD wish to devote approximately 45 minutes for this presentation?
- Vote was tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum on December's call.
- Per Kathy Pipkin and Greg Morris from what was viewed at the CGAC meeting – group is still in formation. Only position issue for NRCG is the Fire Behavior Analyst that is on the organizational chart but have not decided to fill at this time. Presentation is good information; however, not enough to support BOD time currently. Not recommended for NRCG Spring Meeting.
- DNRC also expressed concern with the limited amount of time for the BOD schedule during the Spring Meeting.
- **Kathy Pipkin withdrew the proposal.**

Proposed Update to the NERV SOP – Decisional Topic (Amanda Boatright)

- The Business Committee is proposing an update to the NERV SOP that was issued earlier this year based on some lessons learned after the implementation this season.
 - Largest change is that the DNRC rental agreement is still out; however, Enterprise is no longer a part of that.
 - Changes are fairly basic and mostly in structure.
 - New change – 2nd paragraph added language that NERV does not supersede guidance in the Northern Rockies Chapter 10 supplement.
 - Page 2 – added reassignment language and fueling procurement language.
 - Final page – added information regarding that personal comply with both NERV and Chapter 10 supplements.
 - Removed DNRC off road rental agreement language.
- Vote had been tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum on December's call.
- Vote conducted; **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Proposal to discontinue hardcopy printing of the Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)

- Estimated cost savings of approximately \$2,000.
- Was attempted in 2017 and received pushback; however, Firenet now provides a way for interagency distribution that is non-public facing.
- Vote was tabled until January call due to lack of a quorum on December's call.
- USFS Question: Is there buy in from the centers?
 - One center is a hold out; however, that center can print if needed.
- DNRC Question: Will others that don't have FireNet accounts be able to access?
 - It will be on the NRCC website; however, it will be scrubbed of PII.
- BLM Question: If computers went down, is it required for a mob guide to be at dispatch desks?



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- Yes; however, all centers do still have the capability to print.
- BLM Question: Does the \$2,000 savings get rolled back into the cost share?
 - Historically, the USFS has always covered this cost. This year, the AFD took a 35% cut in operational budget. This is where the cost savings will be found.
- Rich Cowger – motion to allow this proposal.
- Vote conducted; **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Length of Joint WFAA session for Spring NRCG Meeting – Informational Topic (Pam Jolly for Mike DeGrosky)

- It has been decided that it is in the best interest to remain flexible at this time, thus allowing for incorporation of items and issues that may arise between now and the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Solicitation Plan – Informational Topic (Tim Murphy)

- Brief updated on the 2020 Solicitation Plan – generally on schedule.
- Do have a new Contracting Officer with the NPS and had a good discussion with her last week.
- One of the two Forest Service Contracting Officers took a new position; workload from that individual will be on by the remaining individual.
- Three pre-proposal meetings are scheduled in the next few months.
- For items that are non-solicitation, the ITEAMS software was previously utilized. That software was removed will not be put back on the server. Will be reverting to regular mail and sending lists to the dispatch centers; in addition to private vendor sources found on the internet.

NRCG Restrictions and Closure Procedures – Decisional Topic (Rita Chandler)

- Vote to approve for 2020 season implementation needed.
- Main changes addresses the authorities.
- Added language that it should be reviewed in a minimum of 5 year intervals.
- Will stay in effect without exception unless review necessitates changes.
- ND FS – will have a few minor adjustments that will be sent. In addition, Dakota Prairie Grasslands will also be sending some additional changes.
 - Topic will need to be tabled if there are changes.
 - Request updates be submitted prior to Feb. 17th.
- Per Rita Chandler - **Item tabled until the February call.**

2020 Business Committee Charter, SOP Updates & Chair Rotation – Decisional Topic (Amanda Boatright)

- Had to make some changes on chair rotation due to new committee members and familiarity with appointed roles.
 - Resulted in MT DNRC and IDL sharing as co-chairs.
 - USFS will serve in a Vice-Chair role in a two year capacity.
- SOPs compliment the charter and explain the roles and responsibilities, in addition to developing a standardized report format.
- NPS Question: Would like to see an updated chair rotation?



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- Normally found in charter; have not had a chance to reflect the most recent changes.
- Vote conducted; **Approved – unanimous consent.**

Team Workshops Update - Informational Topic (John Thompson)

- Delivery of this draft agenda fulfills one of the items in Delegation of Authority that was issued for the planning of the meeting.
- Intent is to run the meeting in a conference type format.
- Also working on scheduling an IC closeout; this is not yet reflected on the agenda.
- “Ted Talk” words on the draft will disappear once speakers are scheduled. These are merely being used as place holders at this time.
- BLM – Thank you for all the work and effort.

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Question: Does anyone have any updates for the Action Item listing?
 - None reported.
- Line by line review of the Action Item listing tabled until the February call.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is February 18, 2020 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time