



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, July 21, 2020**

### **Participants:**

**Board Members:** Darron Williams, Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Mike Granger, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky – Chair, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

**Deputies and Others:** Diane Mann-Klager, Corey Buhl, Kevin Benton, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Amanda Boatright, Sarah Lee, Mike Goicoechea, Kate Wilson, Rick Connell, 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)**

- Unavailable for this call.

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

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

- Northern Rockies went to PL 2 last week. Nationally, remain at PL 3.
- Requests for out of region support have decreased.
- Expecting some potential for dry lightning in the western portion of the GACC in the next few days.
- Increased winds predicted for later in the week; in addition to hot weather predicted for next week.
- Beginning tomorrow, will have three (3) IHC available in GACC.
- Also tracking 10 person suppression modules this year due to Covid.
  - Type 2 IA crews may be a resource in short supply this year.
- Continuing work on Covid support team; currently checking individual's availability.

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

- New Intelligence Coordinator began this week.
- Aircraft Coordinator position has been filled. This will create a vacancy for the assistant aircraft coordinator.
- NICC is looking at large airtanker realignment across the west.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Heavy Equipment Taskforce – Education Action Item – Decisional Topic (Mike DeGrosky)**

- Derived from the caveat associated with the previously approved recommendation.
- Chair will present the supervision realignment to the Agency Administrators at their meeting tomorrow.
- IMTs are also now aware and informed.
- **Action Item: Operations Committee and BOD will distribute through their respective networks.**
- NPS – Suggestion to include this in the out of GACC IMT in briefing packages.
  - Kathy Pipkin will ensure it is included.
- USFS – Need exists to ensure the contractors are aware as well.
  - Tim Murphy has shared this information through appropriate channels.



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### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Additional IMT Funds – Decisional Topic (Mike Goicoechea / Ralph Rau)**

- Used up Team funds on PPE, name tags and some IT equipment in preparation for a deployment.
- After this deployment; the estimation needed is approximately \$1800 more to purchase the additional equipment needed to be fully self-sufficient.
  - These funds would be needed specifically for support of the PIO functions.
  - Primarily for equipment and supplies to support community meetings held on remote platforms.
  - Would also assist with semi-standardization of this remote delivery model.
- This is specifically a onetime ask for Team 1 for an addition \$1,800 per team.
- BIA RM – BIA could support an additional \$1,800 per team; however, would have to arrange the exchange of funds through a Forest Service agreement.
- BLM – Agency has already given Thompson and Sampson’s teams the money that they need.
- DNRC – Could do the same for Turman’s team.
- FWS – Suggestion to have those agencies who can afford, to support whatever team the BOD member acts as the liaison representative.
- Montana State Fire Chief’s Association – Would need to run it by the board; however, do not see an issue with supporting this effort at this time.
- NPS – Sampson’s team has already been covered by BLM. Can cover additional team if need exists.
- BIA RM – Please get back with the total and the need, so that action may be taken.
- USFS – If agreement is needed, do have grants and agreements deadlines that may come into play. May take some time. Could be more efficient if the funds are transferred through the state.
- DNRC – Also at the end of the fiscal year; however, may be able to assist.
- Kathy Pipkin – Do have a current agreement with the BIA; a modification could be done.
- IDL – Going through a reduction currently, will need to inquire from upper management prior to supporting.
- Montana DES – Also will have to inquire prior to supporting.
- **Action Item: BOD IMT liaisons will follow up on providing a onetime ask for an additional \$1,800 per team per the following:**
  - Team 6 – IC Fry – DNRC will support.
  - Team 1 – IC Goicoechea – Forest Service will support.
  - Team 5 – IC Sampson – BLM has already provided this support.
  - Team 7 – IC Thompson – BLM has already provided this support.
  - Team 2 – IC Turman – FWS will provide this support.
  - Team 4 – IC Connell – DES will inquire about providing this support and, if that is not possible, will follow up with BIA RM to provide.
  - Team 3 – IC Almas – IDL will inquire about providing this support and; if that is not possible, will follow up with BIA RM to provide.

#### **Proposal to Adopt a Standardized Saw Part Request Form – Decisional Topic (Amanda Boatright)**

- Standardized form would make it easier, specifically for IBAs, to know what parts are consumable and what parts likely are not.
- Developed the form in coordination with the cache and routed it through the Operations Committee.



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- Part two helps identify items that need a lost or damaged report submitted prior to ordering.
- Also address confusion around parts and NFES numbers; in addition to consolidating information.
- DNRC - Motion to approve this recommendation.
  - BLM supports.
  - Montana State Fire Chiefs' Association – second.
- **Vote Conducted – Recommendation Approved – unanimous consent.**

### Incident Business – GACC Pandemic Support – Informational (Sarah Lee / Amanda Boatright)

- Ask that the Board members take to their respective AAs for concurrence or, at least, awareness.
- Guidelines for how line officers could support a virtual IBA and a remote COMP/CLAIMS unit leader.
- Focuses on requirements and responsibilities; in addition to expectations.
  - Other finance positions are already covered in the IMT plans.
- **Action Item: Chair will take to the Agency Administrator's meeting tomorrow.**

### Recommended AIS Language for Delegations of Authority – Informational Topic (Mike DeGrosky / Kate Wilson)

- Proposed language for NRCG endorsement to be included in Delegation of Authority documents.
- Desire this to be advanced to the agency administrators as well for meeting occurring on 7/22.
- Also trying to get some standard language that can be used in contracts for vendors, etc.
- Suggested language for DOA:
  - *Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) pose threats to the environment, the economy and/or human health. They can have detrimental impacts to native species and habitat. The most common vector for AIS introduction/spread is trailered watercraft and water-based equipment. To prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS) by wildland fire equipment, all incident management teams responding or supporting fire suppression efforts in the Northern Rockies must adhere to the [mandatory AIS protocol \[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](http://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com). This protocol prevents the introduction and spread of AIS into local waterways and is based on the [Guide to Preventing AIS Transport by Wildland Fire Operations \[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](http://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/guide-to-preventing-ais-transport-by-wildland-fire-operations).*
- Propose Board adopt the recommendation with the intent to take forward to the Agency Administrator's tomorrow. If so, then to include this with the IMT in briefing packages.
- USFS – For clarification, this would extend to all levels?
  - Yes.
- Rick Connell – Discrepancy exists between language found in the links and the above verbiage.
  - Kate Wilson – language can altered to provide clarification.
  - Chair – Board could write a new letter to clarify language.
- DNRC – Motion for the Board to accept the recommended language and advance to the Agency Administrator group for their meeting tomorrow.
  - USFS – Second.
  - Vote – All participating agencies support.
  - **Action Item: Kate Wilson will compile a new NRCG draft memo and send to both the Chair and Pam Jolly.**



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### **COVID-19 Testing, Surveillance, Tracking, and Evacuation – Informational Topic (Mike DeGrosky)**

- Montana Governor's office advised they are initialing an effort to work with both the Idaho and North Dakota Governor's offices regarding addressing prevention of the spread of Covid into communities when mobilizing large amounts of resources to project fires.
- DNRC – Working with Montana Governor's Natural Resource Advisor to accomplish this effort.
  - Last week, tasked the IC Committee to provide information on what resources IMTs would need to conduct screening, surveillance, tracking, isolation and evacuation in their camps.
  - Talking with the State Resource Officer regarding identifying outside agency resources to assist with these efforts.
  - Planning on reaching out to the zone chairs and inquiring on what they have done to be ready for this large resource mobilization possibility.
    - Northwest Zone does have outline plan; may approach the other zones with the option of adopting and utilizing a similar plan.
    - Did put this on the Agency Administrator's meeting agenda for tomorrow's meeting.
- Greg Morris – Discussion needed around how to make decisions around bringing in resources from an area of high Covid positive cases.
  - DNRC – Perspective is that fire agencies do not have neither the expertise nor the number of people needed to manage these aspects.
    - Attempting to pursue with other Montana state agencies a way to bring additional resources to support this effort.
- FWS – Is there the capability to utilize Title 32 with the National Guard?
- MT DES – National Guard is activated now in support of Covid. If going to be utilized, must be in response of the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. Need to ensure it falls within their mission assignment.
  - Can ask the question and obtain clarification as to what, specifically, would fall within their mission assignment.
  - Current authority ends on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Hoping that will be extended.
- USFS – Emphasized support for this effort and attempt to address this protocol need in regards to vetting against reality.

### **Contracting Update (Tim Murphy)**

- All 2020 solicitations are in to dispatch; except for NPS tent contracts. Dropped that solicitation and will be utilizing EERAs for tents. Exploring various long terms solutions for the future; in addition to elevating issue to a national level.
- Receiving pushback from some contractors regarding face coverings memo. Some are taking a more aggressive stance.
  - Have met with contracting officers and are comfortable with the base language supporting this found in the contracts.

**Decision to cancel the NRCG Covid-19 conference call that had been scheduled for July 22, 2020.**

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

- Postponed due to time constraints.

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