



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

### **Participants:**

**Board Members:** Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Jake Ganieany, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

**Deputies and Others:** Aitor Bidaburu, Diane Mann-Klager, John Monzie, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, 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)**

- NMAC reduced meeting schedule to two times a week; holding solid at PL 3; steady amount of demobilization occurring. Nationally, there are still several very active areas. There is still a national need for resources and teams.
- NWCG - there is a new established training delivery committee; are addressing the training environment in light of Covid. Will be focusing on critical and required training going forward. Covid has accelerated the need to move towards a virtual learning environment.
  - Melissa Wegner – Northern Rockies has been focused on virtual delivery for FY21 since May. Do have a plan for virtual instructional led training. Schedule reflects what is needed in the Northern Rockies and mirrors what is occurring nationally. Are participating on the training development committee nationally, as well.

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

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

- Last week, Northern Rockies moved to PL 1.
- Do still have multiple resources supporting the national suppression effort out of area.
- All IHCs are done for the season.
- Connell's IMT returned home over the weekend. Plan to be potentially available by November 2, if there is still a need.
- Team 6 is transitioning and will transfer command on Thursday. Then, team will travel home. Potentially available in early November.
- Both T1 IMTs are currently unavailable; no ETA on availability.
- Other T2 IMTs are also currently unavailable.

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

- NRCC is now on Monday through Friday staffing; however, volume of work is requiring some staffing on the weekends.
- Working on year end statistics and attempting to ensure some time off for staff.



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Training Recommendation from Operations Committee – Decisional Topic (Andy Schell / Melissa Wegner)**

- (See Recommendation document in pre-reading materials.)
- Worked with Andy Schell and agree with the Operations Committee recommendation.
- All BOD present support.
- Aaron Thompson - Due to lack of a quorum on this call, proposal for email vote to be sent to BOD that are not present.
  - Pam Jolly will compile and distribute an email vote to those BOD not present on today's call.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Update of the NR IMT Evaluation Form – Decisional Topic (Kathy Pipkin)**

- (See proposed form in the pre-reading materials.)
- The proposed form is utilized in both the Great Basin and Southwest. It has been formatted as a fillable .pdf.
- The NR form has not been visited in more than 6 years.
- Proposal: Adopt GB/SW form, as there are minimal differences.
- Alternative: Reformat the NR Evaluation form found here:  
<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/overhead/overhead.htm>
- If approved by the board, would like to share this with the Operations Committee and Business committee (although business has their own finance section evaluation).
- Ralph Rau – Worth looking at these in a side by side format and taking an in-depth approach to the information that is attempting to be gathered.
- Patrick Lonergan – Is worth some discussion and thoughtful approach to re-evaluate the sought after information.
- Kathy Pipkin will distribute both the proposed and original forms to the BOD and request feedback prior to this topic being added to the December agenda.

#### **MOU Amendment Request for Overhead – Wildfire Defense Systems – Decisional Topic (Tim Murphy / Mike Granger)**

- (See request letter in pre-reading materials.)
- Wildfire Defense Systems is a company that contracts with insurance companies to protect residences from wildfire. Example: On the Glass fire, they had deployed 32 engines to protect various properties.
- Are asking concurrence that they be able to provide specific 300 level training courses to their resources.
- Have contacted Melissa Wegner and this is being brought up through training channels, additionally are looking at how this is being handled in other GACCs.
- MOU specifies that regarding training, they must meet NWCG 310-1 specifications.
- Not a decisional topic at this time; until more information is gathered.
- Rich Cowger – Consistency, across the board, would be an important factor for consideration also.



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

- **Rich Cowger - Recommend this topic be added to the Fall Meeting agenda.**

### **Cal Guard Fire detection and Assessment (Kathy Pipkin)**

- Are able to produce fire detection maps that include perimeters.
- Is being offered at no charge.
- Program now includes all the western Geographic Areas.
- Received first detection map last night; was both useful and detailed.
- Reaching out to all partners to increase awareness of this new resource.

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

- Postponed in the interest of time.

### **BOD Updates**

- Ralph Rau – For awareness, please note that the Regional Forester has returned prescribed burn authority back to the Forest Supervisor level.

**The next scheduled NRCG Fall Meeting will be held November 3 - 5, 2020; please see the Teams Meeting Invite for times.**