



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Participants:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Mike Granger, Josh Harvey – Chair, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Steve Holton, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Craig Goodell, Ryan Patrick, Kathy Pipkin, Aitor Bidaburu, Coleen Haskell, Jeni Jeresek, Patrick Murphy, Dave Williams, Jordan McKnight, Sarah Lee, 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)

- Last week was the annual meeting of NMAC/CGAC. NMAC will be meeting this week to address some topics that came out of that meeting.
- Two primary members of NMAC have taken extended details. Will be talking about rotating the positions those individuals hold.
- Pacific Northwest has activated a team through the state of Washington to assist with vaccine distribution.
- Workforce management will also be a topic of discussion soon.
- NWCG will be having a monthly meeting tomorrow. Training will be a discussion topic.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

- Attended NMAC/CGAC meeting last week. Discussed the Covid-19 Wildland Fire Response plans that were completed last year. Discussed path forward to maintain these plans and update those with lessons learned.
- IWDG will be meeting with parent group tomorrow. Primary issue will be moving to a three-tier incident response system. If move this way, there will be a big lift to support.
- Will be attending the IMRR AAR on Thursday.
- Did share the contractor 300 level class request with CGAC and it generated much discussion. NMAC requested a detailed briefing paper from the NRCC.
 - **Action Item: Craig Goodell will work with Ryan Patrick and others on this request.**

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Activity did increase last week with the wind event. Had seven fires for 21,685 acres in two-day period; five large fires resulted.
- There was a brief with ICAP at NMAC/CGAC meeting last week. Did a final user testing last week and was recommended to go ahead and accept the product; is based on Microsoft Forms.
- FEMA Region 3 has also requested assistance with the inauguration in the form of a T2 short IMT. Eastern Area will fill.

OLD BUSINESS

Update of the NR IMT Evaluation Form – Decisional - Kathy Pipkin

- Please reference both versions in the prereading materials.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

- Did not receive a lot of response or feedback.
- Patrick Lonergan – Recommend that line officers provide feed back on this as well.
- Mike Granger – Would be good to distribute through the WFAAs.
- **Action Item: Josh Harvey – Will take forward to the WFAA group.**

BLM Contracts - NR Solicitation Plan – Informational - Aaron Thompson

- Was BLMs turn for BPAs for solicitations.
- Solicitor made an opinion that can not legally do these contracts any longer and a decision was issued.
- Do have a recommendation for a path forward that is consistent with other GACCs:
 - Recommendation is that USFS would take on this workload.
 - BLM would assist in any way possible, such as to maintain inspectors and could look at contribution to fiscal agreement in order to help provide support for the financial obligation.
- Mike Granger – DOI is under different rules as the DOA, resulting in different authorities.
- Ralph Rau - NPS solicitor indicated that they can do these types of agreements. Fiscally adjusting the cost share will not solve the problem. USFS recently underwent a procurement and contracting realignment. Do not have the funding to staff the COR organization as it needs to be supported under the current workload. Have approached to board for an individual to help provide this support in an interagency capacity. Do not currently have the budget or capacity to take on additional workload. Is a board issue and not a Forest Service specific one.
- Mike DeGrosky – Important to remember that this was not a BOD member decision. All agencies have capacity issues.
- Aaron Thompson – Is a legality issue for the BLM, not a capacity issue.
- Ralph Rau – Perhaps could explore if could shift the funding of other positions at the AFD, that could perhaps provide a way to free up funding to provide a solution.
- Dan Warthin – NPS found itself in this situation last year. Spent a great deal of time on this issue with the same solicitor. CO was able to convince that individual that NPS could proceed with what it had.
- Sarah Lee - Issue has to do with the state and local governments language.
- Aaron Thompson – Will need to address these immediate contracting needs.
- Mike DeGrosky – May be an issue between agency legal counsels that needs to be addressed at a national level.
- Aitor Bidaburu – Will elevate this issue to NMAC.
- Aaron Thompson – Would like to hear from Ryan Patrick regarding solutions to this immediate need.
- Ryan Patrick – Need exits to form a group to review the financial plan as a tool to get the group where it needs to go, particularly regarding capacity and fiscal contribution. Would suggest Jeni Jeresek and Sarah Lee and Jordan McKnight. Ryan Patrick will head the group and would like a BOD liaison.
 - Unable to vote on Final Solicitation Plan as it currently stands.
 - Ralph Rau volunteers as on BOD liaison.
 - Aaron Thompson volunteers as on BOD liaison; additionally, will add BLM CO as a SME.
 - **Action Item: Ryan Patrick will head up formation of a group to review the financial plan as a tool to formulate a path forward to both meet the discussed immediate contracting needs and revise the Final Solicitation Plan in preparation for a future vote.**



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Final Solicitation Plan – Decisional - Ryan Patrick

- Unable to vote on Final Solicitation Plan as it currently stands.
- (See previous topic for associated Action Item.)

NRCG Firenet365 Training Virtual Delivery Updates – Informational - Melissa Wegner

- Postponed until the February meeting.

HRSP Coordinator Needs – Review – Informational – Ralph Rau

- Debby Hassel has agreed to keep this for now; however, did retire.
- Need exists to build depth in this capacity across the region.
- Suggestion to connect to the IC group regarding this need and associated structure that is needed.
- Will make contact with Debby to initiate this effort.
- All should be aware that if Debby is not available, will not have a coordinator in the Northern Rockies.
- **Action Item: Kathy Pipkin will pull a report out of IROC to see how many qualified individuals exist in the region and will share with the BOD.**
- Willing to let the issue go if it is not identified as a need by the Board.
- Mike DeGrosky – Kathy Pipkin’s suggestion is a good first step.

Delegation of Authority for Operations and NRCC Manager – Decisional – Mike Granger

- DOA for Operations - No changes from previous memo, except date.
 - Vote conducted.
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**
- DoA for Center Manager – Edits are noted on draft.
 - Felt that bullets #11 and #14 are duplicated with the Operations officer.
 - Ralph Rau – Agree with comments on draft.
 - Aaron Thompson – Agree with comments also.
 - Craig Goodell – Feel there is value in the cross over and overlap.
 - Kathy Pipkin – Agree with Craig Goodell; value in being able to allocate resources as part of job duties.
 - Mike Granger – Perhaps should state as “in the absence of”.
 - Mike DeGrosky – Could also utilize verbiage of “working closely with”.
 - **Action Item: Mike Granger will compose a revised draft for BOD review and will conduct a vote on the February meeting.**

Structure Protection Guidelines – Decisional – Rich Cowger

- No changes from previous memo, except date.
 - Vote conducted.
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**

NEW BUSINESS

BOD member attendance at T3 IMT close outs – Informational – Ralph Rau

- Postponed until February meeting.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Filling of NRCC Meteorologist Position – Informational – Mike Granger

- HR has the position and are currently evaluating. Expect this position to be advertised shortly.
 - There will be changes regarding supervision - Mike Granger will be listed as the official supervisor, with input from Kathy Pipkin and Craig Goodell.

Announcements

- Mike Granger will be retiring in April.

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Postponed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Team Meeting is February 16, 2021 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time