



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

### **Participants:**

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

**Deputies and Others:** Aitor Bidaburu, John Monzie, Jason Jared, Greg Morris, Craig Goodell, Ryan Patrick, Kathy Pipkin, Jeni Jeresek, 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)**

- NWCG Monthly Meeting tomorrow.
- Wrapped up all chairs meeting virtually last week; went well.
- NMAC will be meeting Thursday.
- Starting to see more mission assignments in support of Covid.
- Adjustments to changes in NMAC leadership; BIA will continue to chair.
- Greg Morris – Inquired around assignment length expectations for the upcoming season; would like to see some clarification from the national level provided.
  - Reiterated that the standard with ESF functions and mobilizations will be the standard 14 day assignment length.

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

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

- IC Committee will meet on Thursday afternoon; will finalize rosters and discuss awards.
- Suggestion for NRCG to provide an award to Dr. Harry Sibolt.
  - Mike Granger – Concur with this suggestion. Request a write up from Craig Goodell regarding this award.
  - **Action Item: Craig Goodell will work with Kathy Pipkin regarding this award.**
- Continuing to work on interagency agreements, including a service first for NRCC and another for the NRTC.
- Will be transitioning to new position on March 15. This will be last NRCG meeting.
- Aaron Thompson – Expressed appreciation to Craig Goodell for all of his contributions and efforts during his time in this position.

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

- Have had some fires on the east side, in addition to some prescribed burning.
- Working with the ICs to get the selections accomplished.
- Working through the selection process for the Assistant Aircraft Coordinator.
- Assistant Center Manager position package has been completed for the BLM.
- Staff at NRCC is still utilizing maximized telework. Have between one to two people in the office.
- Working on annual updates and trainings.



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### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Northern Rockies Solicitation Plan – Decisional Topic – (Ryan Patrick)**

- Vote to approve:
  - BIA GP – Support
  - BIA RM – Support
  - BLM – Support
  - FWS – Support
  - IDL – Support
  - MT DES – Support
  - MT DNRC – Support
  - MT State Fire Chief’s Association – Support
  - MT Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association – Support
  - ND FS – Support
  - NPS – Support
  - USFS – Support
- **Vote Approved – unanimous consent.**

#### **NRCG FireNet365 Training Virtual Delivery Updates - Informational Topic - (Melissa Wegner)**

- Training must be delivered in an interagency environment.
- Acknowledged the challenge to overcome the backlog from both furlough and Covid.
- Do have all classes up and running; two contractor delivered leadership courses have been postponed until fall. All other courses are a go.
- Are utilizing FireNet365 for a virtual interagency delivery platform. Have had very good success.
- S420 course will be 100% in FireNet365.
- Have received positive feedback.
- Confidant in quality of training being provided.

#### **Clarification around Cost Share - Decisional Topic - (Ralph Rau / Ryan Patrick)**

- Intent is to clarify and identify the objective around recalculating the Cost Share.
- Ryan Patrick – Last recalculated fair share in 2016. This accounted for multiple factors, including the NRCC workload. Intent this time around is to reassess all factors and pieces that are contributing elements in determining fair share. Intent is also to simplify and streamline. Also researching how other coordinating groups financial plans are structured.
- Ryan Patrick – Will provide a summary for the BOD to review.
- **Action Item: Product will be reviewed at the April Spring Meeting.**

#### **IDL AD – Mike Almas - Informational Topic - (Josh Harvey)**

- IDL will be sponsoring Mike Almas as an AD.
- IDL will be providing approximately \$2000 of personnel time at the AD rate for team preparation work.

#### **Northern Rockies Operations Officer – Update - Informational Topic - (Aaron Thompson)**

- Position was a 301 and are having to reclassify PD.



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- Are working on advertising a 120 day detail.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **BOD member attendance at T3 IMT close outs - Informational Topic – (Ralph Rau)**

- Movement is towards more reliance on T3 IMTs.
- Need to address if it is it worth considering a different level of BOD engagement?
- Josh Harvey – T3 IMTs do a tremendous amount of work and would endorse if there is availability from the BOD. Level of support is appreciated by the agency administrators as well. Appreciate approaching from a severity standpoint.
- Greg Morris – Concern expressed around BOD attendance and availability in general; may wish to look at a more formal process around BOD attendance in general.
- Mike Granger – Support situational approach to attendance.
- **Action Item: Greg Morris will collect suggestions and thoughts around BOD attendance at T3 IMT Close Outs for discussion during the March Meeting. He will also reach out to IC Committee regarding their input and expectations.**

#### **FIRESCOPE REMS Working Group – Informational Topic – (Kathy Pipkin)**

- Working Group is reviewing REMS in California and additionally is reaching out to NWCG regarding a potential standard for REMS.
- Are asking for input regarding the California review.
- Opportunity for NRCG to weigh in during this process.
- Mike Granger – Support sharing NRCG’s process.
- **Action Item: Kathy Pipkin will share NRCG’s process back with these contacts.**

#### **IC Vetting Process – Informational Topic – (Ralph Rau)**

- Process is in place; however, some functionality is still challenging.
- In particular, the transition process from when someone opens a task book and takes training assignments how that gets to the board.
- ICs would like to be included in this transition process and assist with this gap identification.
- Ralph Rau volunteers to continue to work on this process, with another additional BOD member.
- Aaron Thompson volunteered to work with Ralph Rau in this clean up effort.
- **Action Item: Ralph Rau and Aaron Thompson will take on this cleanup effort of the IC Vetting Process and prepare a revision for review prior to fall.**

#### **Other Items:**

- Fire Restrictions website is down, and solutions are being discussed.
- This topic will be discussed in depth during the March meeting.

#### **Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)**

- Deferred in the interest of time.

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