



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, March 16, 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, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

**Deputies and Others:** Corey Buhl – Detailer, Kathy Pipkin, Aitor Bidaburu, Jordan McKnight, Coleen Haskell, Jeni Jeresek, Melissa Wegner, Dave Williams, Pam Jolly, Julia Berkey

**Purpose:** Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

### **NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)**

- NICC processing orders for FEMA mission assignments.
- FMB meets on Friday; multiple other meetings occurring this week.
- Successful AC/IC meeting a few weeks ago.
- Fire activity is picking up in Southern and Eastern areas.
- Air Tanker contracts should begin trickling on.

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

#### **NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl - Detailer)**

- Second day of detail; integrating and briefings.

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

- Tentative offer given and accepted for Assistant Aircraft Coordinator; expect to be able to announce soon.
- Had a 50/50 fill from temporary hiring.
- Two dispatcher, meteorologist positions and Assistant Center Manager positions in various stages of the hiring process.
- 3 GACCs went to PL2.
- IWDG Group is continuing to move forward. Rocky Mountain has stated they intend to move forward with some of the recommendations that have come out of it; including typing of teams.
- Continuing to have a light IA in the Northern Rockies.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Leader's Intents for 2021 - Decisional Topic - (Rich Cowger)**

- (See Draft in Pre-Reading Materials)
- Minor revisions mostly; no large changes.
- Vote conducted.
  - Approved – unanimous consent.

#### **DoA for Center Manager - Decisional Topic - (Mike Granger)**

- (See Draft in Pre-Reading Materials)
- Revisions reflected in this second draft.
- Ralph Rau – Draft references Step Up plan; is that plan up to date and easily accessible by all?



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- Kathy Pipkin – Are using “Step Up” and “Draw Down” Plan interchangeably – Draw Down plan is found in the NR Mobilization Guide. Is what was agreed upon last spring by NRCG.
- Aaron Thompson – Clarification on comments?
  - Mike Granger – All changes were incorporated in the text; comments are no longer valid.
- Vote conducted.
  - Approved – unanimous consent.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **IMT Selections – Identify BOD Special Session Meeting Time and Date – Decisional Topic – (Kathy Pipkin)**

- (See IMT Selections in Pre-Reading Materials)
- Need exists to identify Date and Time for BOD Special Session Meeting – ICs need to advise team members if they made the team so that they may attend the IMT meeting.
- Rich Cowger – Can this be approved during this meeting?
  - Kathy Pipkin – Yes; if that is how the BOD wishes to proceed.
- Aaron Thompson – Are there any critical vacancies that have not been able to fill on the master rosters? Are there additional individuals on other teams that can be spread to other teams to cover those vacancies?
  - Kathy Pipkin – Vacancies without names are in yellow on the spreadsheet; there are not enough extra names to move around to cover those.
- Mike Granger – Each team representative should be in communication with their respective team. Turman’s team is looking fairly good.
- Mike DeGrosky – Believe that the ICs and IC committee have done a quality job of preparing the rosters. Prepared to support as submitted.
  - Rich Cowger – Second.
  - Josh Harvey – Second – move to vote.
- Vote conducted.
  - Approved – unanimous consent.

#### **Restrictions Coordination Website – Informational Topic – (Julia Berkey)**

- (See briefing in pre-reading materials)
- Subcommittee has been working on a solution to the website issue.
- For this year, currently pursuing creating a basic interactive map that is hosted by the DNRC.
- Hopeful on retaining the new domain and expanding on the capabilities into the future.
- Dan Warthin – Will this address areas outside of Montana?
  - Julia Berkey – This solution does only focus on Montana due to other states already having other ways to address restrictions.
- Mike DeGrosky – As the Liaison to this committee, can advise that not seeking a GACC wide solution as only Montana does not have an alternate solution to address restrictions. Will be important for the committee to take back and address the needs of Yellowstone National Park.
- Ralph Rau – Appreciate the work and support from this committee on these efforts.
- Patrick Lonergan – Hopeful that this new initiative will address some of the inadequacies of the old system.
  - Julia Berkey – For 2021 - unable to address those; however, hopeful to address some of those



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in the future.

- Mike DeGrosky – Intent is for DNRC to provide a short-term fix; not to take control of the restrictions workload into the future. That will need to be addressed by the board at a future time.

### **NRCG Recognition for Support / Award for Tim Murphy – Decisional Topic – (Kathy Pipkin / Aaron Thompson)**

- Recommendation that NRCG develop a plaque that would be presented to any NRCG BOD or support position when they retire or move on.
- NRCG BOD may consider back tracking and provide Tim Murphy with this as well for his years of support.
- Identify who would be responsible to initiate getting the dates and plaques.
- Mike DeGrosky – Have historically recognized individuals when they rotated off the board. A standard protocol would be good. Would like to more formally recognize Tim Murphy's service.
- Mike Granger – At one time, did have an informal process in place to recognize board members with a knife obtained from donations. Supportive of the plaque recommendation.
- Ralph Rau – Supportive of both the plaque recommendation and recognition of Tim Murphy.
- Josh Harvey – Suggestion to present to Tim Murphy at earliest in-person meeting opportunity. Suggestion to have IMT meeting as the annual presentation time stated in this formal process.
- Mike Granger – Important to recognize individuals in front of their peers.
- Dan Warthin – Suggestion that could utilize the Fall NRCG Meeting for presentation as well.
- Action Item – A small group consisting of Aaron Thompson, Rich Cowger, Josh Harvey, and Kathy Pipkin (as needed) will draft a proposal for moving forward to be discussed at the NRCG May Monthly Meeting.

### **Support for NRCG Operations Position – Informational Topic – (Ralph Rau)**

- Tim Murphy has retired and served as an assistant or deputy to NRCG Operations, though there was never any delegation, etc. that documented that.
- Believe the board needs to discuss how it wants to support the NRCG Operations (Vice Goodell) in the future and be intentional about that.
- There are many options that could be considered; is not a Forest Service issue, but a discussion that the board needs to have to determine what collectively the board would like to see in place.
- Needs to be thoughtful, proactive and have a delegation in place.
- Mike DeGrosky – Agree; suggestion for Corey Buhl to work on this during his detail.
- Mike Granger – Is also a good learning opportunity for agency individuals that could provide that support.
- Action Item: Corey Buhl will work on this item during his detail and will prepare a proposal for discussion at the May meeting.

### **Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)**

- Deferred in the interest of time.

**The next scheduled NRCG meeting is the NRCG Spring Team Meeting April 5-9, 2021**