



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Participants:

Board Members: Jim “James” Forsythe, Jake Ganieany, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Steve Holton, Dan Warthin, Patrick Lonergan (*note: individual only participated in one vote then departed meeting due to schedule conflict*)

Deputies and Others: John Monzie, Jordan McKnight, Ryan Patrick, Melissa Wegner, Tara Dana

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

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- Unable to participate in this meeting.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl - Detailer)

- Unable to participate in this meeting.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Unable to participate in this meeting.

Old Business

- Tabled all decisional items due to lack of quorum.

New Business

Contract Response Letter – Decisional Topic – Ryan Patrick

- Topic first discussed during July 8, 2021 MAC meeting.
- Please see the attached response letter in regard to the letter received by Everard Law Office on behalf of the Northern Rockies Wildfire Contractor Association requesting a change from a three (3) person crew to a two (2) person crew for contract engines with no deduction in pay.
- The response letter has been reviewed by the USDA Office of the General Counsel Missoula Branch Office.
- It is recommended that a response letter come from the NRCG due to the letter received from Everard Law being addressed to multiple member agencies of the NRCG.
- Summary: Request was denied. Not possible to make modifications to this agreement at this time.
- Agreement is coming up on the re-solicitation cycle next year. This issue can be reassessed at that time.
- Ability to order a two-person engine already exists within the resource ordering processes.
- Vote to approve draft:
 - FWS – Support
 - MT DES – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs’ Association – Support
 - MT County Fire Wardens Association – Support



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- MT Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association – Support
- NPS – Support
- USFS – Support
- **Vote Approved – unanimous consent.**

Priority Trainee Program Update – Informational Topic – Melissa Wegner

- Continue to move both Northern Rockies priority trainees and other national priority trainees.
- Overhead desk has been operating smoothly.
- Program is functioning well across the board.

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Deferred in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is August 17, 2021 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time