



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Jim “James” Forsythe, John Monzie, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Steve Holton, Ralph Rau, Dan Warthin,

Deputies and Others: Jeff Moyer, Bob Flesch, Burke Honzel, Jason Jarrett, Corey Buhl – Detailer, Kathy Pipkin, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jeresek, Melissa Wegner, Dave Williams, 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)

- Conditions have moderated nationally resulting in NMAC moving to PL4 yesterday at 1700.
- NMAC reassessing needs for the MAFFS, Scoopers and Australian 737 Tanker and making plans for release.
- IMT coordinators for remain in place through the end of this week due high demand, especially for IMT replacements coupled with fewer IMTs being available due to end of season roster issues affecting all GA’s.
- Crew coordinator for Type 1 IHCs remain in place as on-going demand remains high and there are fewer available due to large numbers timing out.
- T2 and T2IA crews (agency/contract) can be coordinated directly between NICC and the GA’s, NMAC no longer providing oversight on these resources.

NWCG

- See attached open tasking for T3IMT All-Hazards training that the Incident Positions Standards Committee (IPSC) is working on.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl - Detailer)

- Smokejumpers – Grangeville plane is off contract as of last weekend; do still have few on for miscellaneous overhead; same for West Yellowstone. Maintaining a load in Missoula that are currently on 30 min call back, max telework. Will maintain this through the upcoming warm and dry period.
- IHC crews are scattered – Lolo done the 28th, Idaho Panhandle will be done upon return. Lewis and Clark are likely returning this weekend.
- Doing well in GACC; did get some crews in from out of area.
- GB T4 IMT in-briefing for Haystack is today; and will assume command tomorrow at 0600 hours.
 - Ralph Rau – Jamie Tripp will cover in-brief for the BOD as well.
- Replacement request out for Winfield; however, do not believe are going to get it.
- Having calls with all Northern Rockies ICs – trying to put together a mix and match team from Command and General staff for support.
- One T2 IMT available national out of Rocky Mountain; however, there are two rationales in for that team – this is being decided now.



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NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- NRCC is going to five day coverage beginning this weekend; will be staffed as needed over the weekend.
- Have started returning to virtual work with the increase in Covid numbers; minimum staff in the office.

Old Business

Process for Requesting Mobilization Guide Changes – Decisional Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- (See draft in pre-reading materials)
- Vote was postponed from the June meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
- NICC and other GACCS have gone this way and moved to a “working document” – is all on line with no hard copy print.
- This is to ensure it is outlined how changes are approved; through a formal process and that all changes go through the appropriate committees.
- Vote:
 - BIA NW – Supports.
 - BIA RM – Supports.
 - BLM – Supports.
 - FWS – Supports.
 - MT DES – Supports.
 - MT DNRC – Supports.
 - MT State Fire Chiefs’ Association – Supports.
 - MT County Fire Wardens Association – Supports.
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – Supports.
 - NPS – Supports.
 - USFS – Supports.
- **Approved – unanimous consent. Kathy Pipkin will finalize and post to the NRCC website.**

2021 NRCC IC Recruitment Application – Decisional Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- (See draft in pre-reading materials)
- Fine tuned the letter to this go around of applications.
- Need to discuss in the future “how does an IC stand down” – is a formal process needed?
- Vote:
 - BIA NW – Supports.
 - BIA RM – Supports.
 - BLM – Supports.
 - FWS – Supports.
 - MT DES – Supports.
 - MT DNRC – Supports.
 - MT State Fire Chiefs’ Association – Supports.
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- USFS – Supports.
- **Approved – unanimous consent. Kathy Pipkin will finalize and post to the NRCC website.**

NRCG Recognition for Support – Decisional Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- (See Nomination Template in pre-reading materials.)
- Vote was postponed from the June meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
- Has been on the action items for some time.
- Reviewed nomination form for NRCG Recognition Form and revised.
- Rich Cowger – Fairly simple form by design; allows for flexibility
- Vote:
 - BIA NW – Supports.
 - BIA RM – Supports.
 - BLM – Supports.
 - FWS – Supports.
 - MT DES – Supports.
 - MT DNRC – Supports.
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Supports.
 - MT County Fire Wardens Association – Supports.
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – Supports.
 - NPS – Supports.
 - USFS – Supports.
- **Approved – unanimous consent. Kathy Pipkin will send final draft to Pam Jolly for finalization and distribution. Item will reside on the NRCG website.**

New Business

No new business.

Additional Items:

- Please send agenda items for the fall meeting into Pam Jolly as soon as possible.
- Ralph Rau will retire at end of October; Craig Glazier will be acting.
- Jamie Tripp's detail is over at the end of October; there will be new acting Deputy acting coming in.
- Ralph Rau – Would like to discuss Northern Rockies Critical Mission Task Force (Surge Capacity) review on the October agenda; in preparation for having it as an agenda item at the Fall meeting.
- Dan Warthin will be retiring at the end of December; Paul Cerda will be taking over.
- Tracey Nimlos will be retiring at the end of December.
- Ray Hart – Accepted a new position, start date of Oct 10, so this will be his last meeting.
- Bryce Rogers – do plan on getting a detailer into the NRTC position.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- Postponed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is October 19, 2021 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time