



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Participants:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Lawerance Thompson, Adriane Beck, Jason Jarrett, Paul Cerda, Corey Buh, Kathy Pipkin, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jeresek, Karly DeMars, 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)

- PL 2 Nationally; NMAC has scaled meetings back to once a week.
- Will be attending the NRCG Fall Meeting.
- Expect some memos and updates to be coming out soon.
- Video regarding health and welfare of firefighters will be coming out soon.
- There will be an NMAC memo coming out regarding formation of a task group to address IC, Deputy positions regarding interpretation and exceptions to fire business decision that those positions can not be AD. Will be a diverse group.
- NWCG meeting jointly with NMAC and FMB tomorrow.
- NWCG will be meeting with PSOG group; looking to revitalize and address services and national products.
- Information regarding January CGAC meeting will be coming out soon.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl - Detailer)

- Good discussion during Operations Committee Meeting.
- Do have some areas that continue in fire season; have had some crew, aircraft and miscellaneous orders.
- Plan on meeting with IHCs first week in November for season AAR.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Have published Mobilization Guide Change Form and email will be forthcoming.
- Have questions on IC Application Process: (*Decision to address these later during this meeting.*)
 - Need to identify notification protocol regarding IC stepping down; particularly notification to NRCG BOD Chair.
 - Once they step down, do they have to re-apply to occupy other roles?
 - If individuals want to change IMTs, what is the process?
 - Do trainees have to re-apply every year? IMT Coordinator tentatively answered as no to this, as long as staying on the same team.
- Activity since last call - 178 fires for 51,000 acres.
- Trying to get resources for Plant Creek fire (LNF).
- Obtained crews for the Patrick Creek (MT DNRC).
- Nationally light IA.



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- Nationally, they are continuing to look at release dates for airtankers.
- NRCC has returned to Monday through Friday and as-needed staffing.

Old Business

- No old business.

New Business

NR Critical Mission Resource Task Force Review – Informational Topic – Ralph Rau

- (See email in pre-reading materials)
- Discuss in preparation as an agenda item for the fall meeting.
- Concept is sound; discussion is to better align and take care of those serving and increase efficiency.
- Experienced issues around fatigue and driving time between incidents.
- Opportunity to provide clear refinement.
- Jordan McKnight – received feedback from multiple functional areas and agencies. Overall, tool was well thought of and functioned well. Idea is to ensure all are on the same page with expectations of the tool and meeting policy.
- Corey Buhl – Intent going forward is to form a small, diverse group to refine the operations guide.
- Ralph Rau – Recognition that this is all interagency work. Suggestion around inviting extra, diverse individuals to flush out tasking at Fall meeting.

Questions Regarding IC Application Process – Decisional Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- Need to identify notification protocol regarding IC stepping down; particularly notification to NRCG BOD Chair.
 - **NRCG Decision – Individual will notify the IMT coordinator; and then the IMT coordinator will notify the board.**
 - Once they step down, do they have to re-apply to occupy other roles?
 - USFS - Think should consider for question 1. Don't think an IC stepping down and requesting to be the deputy would be automatic... should ask the question if another person is ready and qualified to step in as a deputy who has not yet had an opportunity to be an IC for one of the NR teams has that opportunity as are trying to build bench strength. Think this would especially be true for someone that is retiring and comes back through another agency. The team will likely know this and manage appropriately; just think BoD needs to be proactively thinking about that and making sure that succession planning is happening and then being implemented. NRCG BoD needs to proactively engage with ICs and ensure are supporting them on these items.
 - BLM - agree with Ralphs comments. One piece of the process that was daylighted this year was that obtaining executive's signatures and letters in a timely manner can be challenging. Wonder if there is a way to simply this.
 - If an IC trainee becomes qualified and wishes to take a team, have tentatively told them they do need to apply as an IC.
 - **NRCG Decision – if moving from Deputy to IC or from IC to Deputy – do need to**



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reapply.

- If individuals want to change IMTs, what is the process?
 - NRCG Decision - Affected IC's must both agree to the change.
 - BoD will be notified when go through the selection process.
- Do trainees have to re-apply every year?
 - IMT Coordinator tentatively answered as no to this, as long as individual is staying on the same team.
 - BLM – Agree with Kathy's recommendation.
 - NRCG Decision – If changing status, must re-apply; if not then do not have to re-apply.

Other Items

- Karly DeMars – Assisting with Fall Meeting preparations while Pam Jolly finishes detail.
- Tate Fischer – New FWS BoD member.
- Matt Hall – New MT DNRC BoD member.
- Recognition of Ralph Rau's pending retirement and that this will be his last NRCG meeting.
- Corey Buhl has accepted the Northern Rockies Operation's Officer position.
- Information regarding a future MAC AAR for the 2021 Fire Season will be forthcoming from Corey Buhl.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- Deferred in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Session will be the 2021 Fall NRCG Meeting that will be held virtually the week of November 1st, 2021.