



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

### **Participants:**

**Board Members:** Darron Williams, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey – Chair, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Steve Holton, Ryan Melin, Craig Glazier

**Deputies and Others:** Corey Buhl, Kathy Pipkin, Joe Sampson, Aitor Bidaburu, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jeresek, Tara Dana, 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)**

- CGAC is meeting this week. Two-day joint meeting with CGAC and NMAC starting tomorrow. There will be robust discussion about the future of Area Command teams. Covid will also be a topic, with an MPHAT presentation. Believe may trend back to Covid protocols of 2020.
  - Note: Rich Cowger and Aaron Thompson will also try to attend this meeting. Darron Williams will be listening also on Wednesday.
- IMT Coordination will look and feel like last year.
- Crew Coordination – T2 and T2IA contract crews will be national resources, regardless of host GACC.
- Last week at NMAC, had an eye-opening briefing from predictive services staff. Reviewed list of single point of failures for many products that are produced.
- Messaging effort needed around Complex Incident Management memo. Expect discussions and decisions around those efforts.
- Leadership Update – incoming NMAC Chair is Chair Ken Schmit; Shane McDonald is the incoming NWCG chair.

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

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

- Attending CGAC and NMAC joint meetings this week. On Wednesday, will be looking for feedback regarding problems or issues that would be better handled at the National Level.
- Working on the Heavy Equipment Task group addressing several issues, with the intent to produce a proposal for NRCG review.
- Working on trying to fill predictive services position and are experiencing PD challenges.

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

- No fire activity since January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Do have resources are out of GACC providing support for both prescribed fire and suppression.
- As of right now, only the T2 National Contract crews will be moved to NICC for dispatching. Still several details to work out with this change.
- David Lee out of Miles City received a coordinator position at NICC. Multiple dispatch vacancies within the GACC. A new Chair for the Dispatch Committee will be voted on in the future.



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### **Old Business**

#### **Streamlining NR MAC Fire Prioritization Process – Informational Topic – Corey Buhl**

- Are moving forward with this effort. Intelligence Coordinator will be reaching out to Rick Stratton to identify if his product is scalable and feasible for the Northern Rockies.

#### **Tasking – IC Committee – IMT Future Organization – Decisional Topic – Josh Harvey and Joe Sampson**

- NRCG memo attached from December at the end says "The specific tasking for the IC group will be developed in early 2022"
- (See reference documents in pre-reading materials)
- IC Committee is meeting tomorrow. Are looking for clarity of intent since distribution of Complex Incident Management national memo. Would like clarity on configuration summary and if it should be in line with that memo.
- Craig Glazier – Agree; Northern Rockies configuration should be in line with the new national direction.
- Aitor Bidaburu – Memo has been fully supported and signed off on; can take it at face value in terms of intent.
- Aaron Thompson – Some GACCs are looking to go to Complex Incident Management in 2022. Can now order a Complex Incident Management team in IROC. Do feel this is on par to implement in 2023. Do feel Northern Rockies IMTs should be in alignment with memo.
- Rick Cowger – Need exists for a reality check for what will be attainable this season. Also agree that the need exists to strive to meet those timelines set forth in the memo.
- Joe Sampson – Tasking will, in part, come down to capacity. Do have some concerns with the FEC memo. NMAC will have much more control of the teams, regardless of planning level.
- Aaron Thompson – Do feel there is a need to assess if there is capacity to stand up a few T3 IMTs in the GACC. Do not share above concern regarding control, as feel good coordination and communication with NMAC will be functional and assist with taking care of the well being of resources.
- Joe Sampson – Are rolling into the second year of the GYA T3 IMT and have had good success. Worth having on paper that the Northern Rockies will follow the intent of the FEC memo.
- **Action Item: Rich Cowger will draft a tasking memo for Chair's signature.**

#### **Support for Northern Rockies Operations Officer – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier / Aaron Thompson**

- Critical support for this position is needed.
- Proposal is to formalize that process a bit more.
- Would like to offer up Jordan McKnight as a primary back-up to Corey Buhl.
- Aaron Thompson – Do feel that should formalize pre-season and update the Delegation of Authority. Would also like to include additional names as further depth.
- **Action Item: Craig Glazier will update the DoA; including input from Jordan McKnight and Corey Buhl regarding adding roles and responsibilities verbiage.**

#### **RIST Update – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier**

- USFS can come up with two detailers that will get through eight months of the year. This should get the Northern Rockies through 2022. Do need group support that the Forest Service can pick up the



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shoulder season dollars; however, if during season these individuals are not on a P-Code, that they be placed on the Northern Rockies Cost Share.

- Intent would be to bring individuals on in March.
- Action Item – This will be put on the February Agenda for a formal vote.

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

- Per Rich Cowger – remove the medical topic action item as there has been no discernable movement on that front.

**The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is February 15, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time**