



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey – Chair, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Steve Holton, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Heath Esety, Sarah Lee, Corey Buhl, Jay Mcallister, Aitor Bidaburu, Jeni Jeresek, Melissa Wegner, Tara Dana, Anthony Krause, 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)

- NWCG Parent Groups are meeting throughout this week. FMB issued latest Covid guidance.
- NWCG meeting on Wednesday. Complex Incident Management discussions continue.
- NMAC will be meeting on Thursday. National Mobilization Guide should be out soon.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Paperwork has been submitted vice-predictive services positions. Detailer will extend.

NRCC Update (Jay Mcallister)

- 7-Day Product and other products that will be affected by NFDRSv.4 – some that relate to fuel model G will no longer function. Are working on solutions. Draft proposal out regarding this issue and will be a topic on the March NRCG Meeting agenda.
- Continuing to work on Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide updates.

Old Business

RIST “Roles and Responsibilities” One Page Document – Decisional Topic – Craig Glazier

- *(See Draft in pre-reading materials.)*
- Action Item from 2021 MAC AAR - Propose that if are in MAC, RIST Coordinator would work for MAC Coordinator. Prior to MAC activation, RIST Coordinator would work for whomever the NRCG BOD designates. Also, will include one page “roles and responsibilities” document for this group for a future meeting discussion and decision to outline the “prior” part at either the February or March regular NRCG monthly meeting.
- First Part is do want to continue down this road; second part is the funding aspect (see next topic).
- Reviewed history of this topic.
- Proposal is that the Forest Service would host two back-to-back detailers to cover the season for 2022.
- Bryce Rogers – Do have a half, FTE position that could explore options regarding this aspect. Is this still something to delve into further?
 - Craig Glazier – Interested in any long-term solutions.
- Conducted vote to approve the draft:
 - BIA GP – Support
 - BIA RM – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support



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- MT DNRC – Support
- MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
- MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – Support
- NPS – Support
- USFS – Support
- **Approved – unanimous consent.**

RIST Support for 2022 – Decisional 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 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.
- Funding for the first and last month would be picked up by the Forest Service and the rest would be covered by the cost share. Last fiscal meeting it was proposed that RISK was not needed on the NR Financial Plan, so could replace that with the RIST position.
- Tate Fischer – During the agreement call, did take out the RISK or not – and proposed to replace with RIST?
 - Craig Glazier – That was a discussed proposal for moving forward.
 - Sarah Lee – This change is being discussed for FY23. This funding being discussed for a vote would be coming off the Suppression Cost Share?
 - Craig Glazier – Correct.
- Matt Hall – Confirming that individuals will charge to active incidents being supported as much as possible?
 - Craig Glazier – Correct.
- Vote to approve FY22 proposal for detailers (Fiscal Vote):
 - BIA – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Do Not Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - NPS – Support
 - USFS – Support
 - North Dakota Forest Service not on this call.
 - **Fiscal vote not unanimously approved.**
- **Tate Fischer will discuss concerns direct with Craig Glazier. If resolution is reached, will document in an email and then will reach out to North Dakota Forest Service for a delayed vote.**
- **UPDATE: On March 04, 2022, Tate Fischer sent email documentation supporting this proposal. On March 08, 2022, Ryan Melin cast an email vote in support of this proposal.**
 - **The proposal stands unanimously approved on March 08, 2022.**

NRK – Cache Update – Informational Topic – Anthony Krause

- Working to fill critical positions.
- Multiple contracting issues exist. Two larger issues are trucking and temporary labor services.



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Working with the contracting officers that support the cache system nationally for solutions.

- Parts shortages are occurring. Need to expect some shortages that will require modifications to operations.
- Equipment changes – no fish strainers will be attached to the pump kits; have not changed fuel mixture ratio as of yet; discussions are ongoing around this issue. Fire shelters are also being discussed. Nationally, are committed to change over to rechargeable repeater batteries at some point.

IMT Selections – Decisional Topic – Jay McAllister

- *(Roster Selection document will be distributed post meeting.)*
- ICs met last week; roster were completed late last night. All that applied were placed on a roster.
- Rosters will be disseminated. There are holes on every roster and some rosters have excess individuals.
- Tate Fisher – How many individuals are on more than one team?
 - Josh Harvey – Would need the rosters to verify.
 - Sarah Lee – Last year, from a spreadsheet view, there were only four. That may not reflect reality. BLM does have some concerns around multiple job shares and open positions. As a Board need to ensure are setting teams up for success.
- Rich Cowger – Sat in on IC meeting reviewing the rosters. There were a few individuals represented on multiple teams between primaries and alternates. The ICs did work that out to where they were comfortable. Emphasized the need to have confidence in the IC's decisions regarding rosters.
- Paul Cerda – Same thoughts on supporting ICs.
- Josh Harvey – Move to approve rosters today.
- Craig Glazier – Support Josh Harvey motion.
- Vote to approve IMT Rosters:
 - BIA RM – Support
 - BLM – Conditionally support; however, are reserving the right to object once review the rosters.
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – Support
 - NPS – Support
 - USFS – Support
 - **Approved – majority consent.**

New Business

Priority Trainee Program Proposal – Decisional Topic – Melissa Wegner

- *(See proposal in pre-reading materials.)*
- Priority Trainee program in place since 2015.
- Proposal to not have an application period; however, to still have a program.
- Effort to set the region up for future success by always having wide inclusion.
- All Northern Rockies Trainees with sufficient qualifications and appropriate support will be considered



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priority trainees.

- Have never reached a “maintenance” point with IMTs.
- Craig Glazier – Requesting clarification that IMTs go out without the full complement of trainees?
 - Melissa Wegner – Yes; and intent is to have as much inclusion of all trainees as possible.
- Paul Cerda – Request clarification regarding prioritization and the national approach of this program?
 - Melissa Wegner – Do work in tandem with other Geographic Areas and coordinate closely with counterparts. Admittedly, some of the process is subjective. Northern Rockies does run it’s program differently from other Geographic Areas.
- Tate Fischer – What kind of feedback was received from Training Committee?
 - Melissa Wegner – Training Committee does not meet until April. Many of the training officers also work in Dispatch. That crossover helps tremendously with feedback.
- Sarah Lee – Concerns over prioritization process as well. Suggestion for survey to inquire feedback on improving the process moving forward.
- Vote to approve proposal:
 - BIA RM – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs’ Association – Support
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – Support
 - NPS – Support with the caveat that there is an established list and a prioritization process.
 - USFS – Support
 - **Approved – majority consent.**

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Postponed by the Chair in the interest of time.

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