



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call – Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Steve Holton, Ryan Melin, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Sarah Lee, Bob Jones, Calvin Miller, Jay McAllister, Jeni Jeresek, Tara Dana, Anthony Krause, Brian Webber, Chad Pickering, Aitor Bidaburu, Kate Wilson, Karly DeMars (Facilitator)

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

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- Nationally at Preparedness Level 2. NMAC is still meeting weekly.
- Southwest area is starting to see relief with the onset of monsoons.
- NICC – Sean Peterson will be on leave for rest of month. Derek Hartman is acting.
- NWCG hired full-time Incident Workforce Development Group Manager, funded by BLM. Jesse Bender was hired for the position and will report directly to the NWCG board.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- No update.

NRCC Update (Calvin Miller)

- Bonny Resner, employee at NRCC passed away last week. Please keep Bonny's family and the NRCC staff in your thoughts.
- 2022 NRCC Mob Guide has been posted. The guide is now a supplement of the national mobilization guide
- Staffing Updates: Fire Analysis detailer (Jon Rieck) started this week and will start working with agencies on fire analysis. NRCC's new front desk person starting today. Mike Richmond will be covering Predictive Services this summer.

Old Business

NRCG Charter Update Discussion – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier

- Still working on draft document. Have reviewed several examples from other GACCs. Of note, will likely review the status of current membership – including inclusion of BLM Idaho and other cooperating agencies from North Dakota. Membership will also be evaluated as to who should be part of the membership. The charter will also outline financial plans/obligations – who pays for what, etc. There is no expectation to do anything big or too disruptive immediately.
- Will move forward with the draft this fall.



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NRCG Committee Liaison – Data Gathering Discussion and Request – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- Ask is for each liaison and NRCG member to go back and complete the questions.
- At the July meeting, expect that have a more robust report out on the questions and moving forward. (Questions will be emailed again with the notes)
- [NRCG Boad Liaisons to Committees and Zones](#) can be found on the [NRCG website](#).

Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) – 2022 Update – Decisional Topic – Sarah Lee

- The REMS Guidance has not been changed, but it was proposed by the BOD Chair and task group to be re-signed for 2022 to ensure everyone is aware that the BOD's stance has not changed since 2019.
- Sarah explained the updates and answered questions.
- Vote to adopt the 2022 Update to the Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS)
 - BIA NW – Supports
 - BIA RM - Supports
 - BLM – Supports
 - FWS – Supports
 - MT DNRC – Supports
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Supports
 - MT Fire Wardens Association - Supports
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Supports
 - ND FS – Supports
 - NPS - Supports
 - USFS – Supports
- Approved – unanimous consent.

NR Geographic Area Briefing Letter (Out of GACC Team Letter) – 2022 Update – Decisional Topic – Sarah Lee

- The Out of GACC Team Letter has added/updated information on cost shares, the use of electronic incident files, REMS and the Heavy Equipment Task group.
- Vote to adopt the 2022 Update to the NR Geographic Area Briefing Letter
 - BIA NW – Supports
 - BIA RM - Supports
 - BLM – Supports
 - FWS – Supports
 - MT DNRC – Supports
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Supports
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- NPS - Supports
- USFS – Supports
- Approved – unanimous consent.

NRCG Board Apparel – Rich Cowger

- Rich and Aaron have researched samples for shirts. If interested in ordering a shirt, respond to the meeting notes email. Rich mentioned that the MT State Fire Chiefs could likely help with funding for this effort.

New Business

Updated AIS Protocol for Montana – Decisional Topic – Matt Hall and Kate Wilson

- Kate Wilson presented the proposed updates/changes to the AIS Protocol for Montana. The recommendations include:
 - NRCG updated guide to provide more prescriptive protocols and improve efficacy
 - NRCG Updated directive/letter – changed mandatory to recommended in the title and provided clear, concise direction.
 - Recommended strategies for dissemination online.
- Vote to adopt the updated AIS Protocol for Montana
 - BIA NW – Supports
 - BIA RM - Supports
 - BLM – Supports
 - FWS – Supports
 - MT DNRC – Supports
 - MT State Fire Chiefs’ Association – Supports
 - MT Fire Wardens Association - Supports
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Supports
 - ND FS – Supports
 - NPS - Supports
 - USFS – Supports
- Approved – unanimous consent.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- Reviewed spreadsheet. Updates have been provided in the tracking spreadsheet.
- Of note, the updated [NRCG Restrictions and Closures Guidelines](#) have been posted.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is July 19, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time