



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Heath Estey, Bryce Rogers, Craig Howells, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger, Patrick Lonergan, Steve Holton, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Cory Calnan, Jordan McKnight, Karly DeMars, Corey Buhl, Brian Webber, Kathy Pipkin, Beau Richardson, Aitor Bidaburu, Jeni Jeresek, Melissa Wegner, Tara Dana

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

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- Transition to CIM still a significant topic. NMAC is working to reiterate the process of right-sizing teams and to help establish a process to mitigate shortages.
- FMB group is overseeing the line officer subgroup in relation to CIM.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

CGAC Report Out (Craig Glazier and Corey Buhl)

- The Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG) is working on addressing staffing and improvements to RAWs program. They have requested a town hall with CGAC Group.
- Discussion coming up regarding tasking from NMAC on preparedness levels and staffing.
 - Question from the group: Who is this tasked to? Response: Southern Area is looking to take on the first portion of the task and then other GAs would be asked to carry the tasking forward.
- Looks like we are not the only GA that downsized the number of available IMTs. There has not been a final tally of the total number of national teams available.
- There is a data call request due in May. NRCC has not responded but will complete the request once team selections are approved by the board. Kathy will work with Beau to get the ask completed.

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- The Operations (Ops) Committee met the first week in March and had great participation. The Ops group is working with the Business committee on policy updates, as well as establishing the committee's rotation of Chair and Vice Chair positions.
- Had a meeting with new type 3 IMTs. Reiterated that NR will still be using CAT team and SW All Hazard Team.
- In May, Corey will be traveling to New York City to meet with the NYC firefighters to establish relationships and update them on the new national processes.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Working on incorporating suggested MOB guide changes with a publish timeframe of April.
- Consolidated Dispatch Training in Reno, NV next week. Over 400 dispatchers will be in attendance and will receive training on new WildCad-E, IROC reporting and much more. Every NR Dispatch Center and NRCC will be sending staff to the training.
- NRCC will transition to WildCad-E in June.
- The waiver for Aircraft Dispatchers is expiring soon.



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- NRCC Staffing Update: Dani Johnson accepted the last Assistant Coordinator position. She comes from Missoula Dispatch and will be assisting with Crews and Equipment. Beau Richardson is the Overhead and IMT Coordinator. USFWS made an offer on the second Meteorologist position. Erin Noonan-Wright was hired as the Fire Analyst. The RIST Program Manager position announcement is open until 3/29. Hoping to make a selection in April, with on-boarding in June.
- There is a national effort to include dispatchers into the 0456 series. Dispatch SMEs met with classifiers to explain workload and position. More information to come.
- Task group for recommendation for dispatch framework meeting is on 3/28; will be putting forward recommendations. All NR Dispatch Offices have been interviewed. Task group is developing recommendations. Kelly Cane will present to NRCG BOD in April. Will be looking for a longer-term position for implementation stage.
- Miles City Dispatch is taking in North Dakota Dispatch. The ND BOD voted to make this permanent. BLM is still working through the process, so the transition is not yet a permanent solution.
- PSOG – going forward with recommendations for staffing where Predictive Services would be moved out of the coordination centers and put under Coordinating Groups. Kathy has some concern over reduced communication and coordination; would include the intelligence dispatchers (Informational only).

Old Business

Re-assign IMT Liaisons – Decisional Topic – Rich Cowger

The Liaisons for each team will be as follows and will be updated in the NRCG Financial Plan:

- T10 IMT3 (McManus) - ND
- T9 IMT3 (Martin) - BIA
- T8 IMT3 (Bergman) – BLM MT/Dakotas
- T6 CIMT (Roose) – DNRC
- T5 CIMT (Sampson) – NPS
- T3 CIMT (Behrens) – IDL
- T2 CIMT (Schuster) – FWS
- T1 CIMT (Olson) - USFS

All voting members approved the agency liaison assignments. Jeni Jeresek will update the financial plan to reflect this update.

NR CIMT Participation in National Rotation – Decisional Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- Kathy shared that all CIMT's met qualification requirements. All voting members approved all five CIMTs to participate in the national rotation.
- Beau Richardson explained the application process for all NR IMT participation. Teams have qualified section chief and unit leader positions filled.
- Discussion: The NRCG BOD will need to continue to be diligent in ensuring rosters are built in the approved geographic area process. Will likely need to have a future agenda/discussion topic for the BOD regarding who should monitor IMT rosters to ensure IMTs are truly ready for mobilization according to established NREGA protocols. The NR Operations position could be a good position to



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monitor and provide suggestions and recommendations to the NRCG BOD Chair. The NRCC Center Manager delegation says qualified individuals are being dispatched. Question – is there a protocol for this issue in the IMT plan? Answer – the only direction in the plan is that IMTs must have Section Chiefs. **(ACTION ITEM:** include topic on April’s face-to-face meeting agenda)

- Discussion occurred regarding proposed national rotation and participating teams that will be in the roster. For 2023 – 21 teams available for national rotation (combination of Type 1 IMTs and CIMTs) – NR will have five CIMTs in the rotation.
- NWCG memo to put together a single steering committee to organize the process for two new IMT training products.

New Business

Confirm In Person Spring Meeting Attendance – Decisional Topic – Rich Cowger

- **(ACTION ITEM:** Please notify Pam if you plan to be at the meeting in person.
- The following individuals stated during the meeting they would attend the April meeting in person: Matt Hall, Tate Fischer, Craig Howells, Rich Cowger, Bryce Rogers

MAC Exercise – Informational Topic – Corey Buhl

- The BOD supported Corey Buhl with his request for additional time to develop the MAC exercise and have asked for the delivery in May/June. The exercise will likely have in-person and virtual options. Please let Corey know of some topics you would like to see during the exercise. Decision support and values at risk discussions were two topics requested during the call.

Team Selections – Vote – Decisional Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- All voting board members in attendance voted to finalize the team selection rosters. The vote took place via roll call with all agencies voting to accept the final team selection rosters.
- **(ACTION ITEM/**SPRING MEETING AGENDA TOPIC: Discussion/execution of a memo from the NRCG BOD to AAs on what a CIMT order will look like this year.
 - Kathy recommends when ordering a CIMT, the dispatch office should add information in special needs regarding the WFDSS organization assessment information. The BOD needs to help AA’s understand and move forward in ordering a team. Discussion with ICs needs to take place to ensure they are taking assignments they can handle. Line officer engagement is required in developing expectations regarding team capacity depending on complexity.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- Action items were reviewed – no updates or changes.

The next scheduled NRCG meeting is the 2023 Spring Meeting April 19-20, 2023.