



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers – Vice Chair, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Steve Holton, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier,

Deputies and Others: Craig Howells, Corey Buhl, Kathy Pipkin, Melissa Wegner

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

NWCG/NMAC UPDATE: KATHY PIPKIN

- NMAC taskings:
- From NMAC Correspondence L2023-01
 - Tasking #1 – Evaluate GA Preparedness levels – Southern Area (SA) has the lead.
 - Tasking #2 - Drawdown survey out and replies have been received back, need to compile the data. Northern Rockies (NR) has the lead.
 - Tasking # 3 Priority Trainee Program - NRCG approved all trainees are priority. IWDG has asked how the GAs are prioritizing those to go through CIM field evaluation. Melissa Wegner responded that is happening within our CIMTs/IMTs/NRCG, not through standalone priority trainee program. – Status Complete.
 - Tasking #4 - standard processes for GA Coordinating Groups to participate in CIMT mobilization roster negotiations between Agency Administrators (AAs) and Incident Commanders (ICs) – Status?
- NMAC Correspondence L2023-02 tasking to IWDG, – Increasing Incident Support Capabilities
 - Billy Phillips, PSCC NR CIM Team 2 is volunteering to be on a task group for this, with Remote Incident Support.
- NMAC tasking L2023-03 Geographic Area complex Incident Management Team Transition Plans – **Reply due June 15th**. Kathy will start the reply and share draft for edits.

CGAC REPORT OUT (CRAIG GLAZIER AND COREY BUHL)

- IMT composition reply to CGAC – Submitted – Status complete.

NRCG Operations (COREY BUHL)

- Canada: 1 CIMT, 4 IHCS (Lolo, IDF, BRF, Helena), Flathead IHC to MI. Could not do a second CIMT to Canada. It was a challenge getting LSCCs that are available.
- Chief Mountain – still working on status. Internal review to occur at the end of June.
- Jumpers – all going well, completing training. Can put together a load to staff weekends if needed.

NRCC Update (KATHY PIPKIN)

- Intelligence functional area is vacant. Kate Holsapple on 120-day detail, and Teresa Sage retired. Very little response to the detail outreach.
- Staff are cadre for D311 Initial Attack Dispatch and D312 Aircraft Dispatcher training this week at NRTC.
- Employees on assignment helping some of our understaffed centers.
- Mobilization Guide is being formatted and should be published and posted to the website in the next couple of weeks.



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OLD BUSINESS

Internet Capacity (NRTC & NRCC) – Update – Informational Topic – Bryce Rogers

- BIA to cover costs between \$25,000 and \$30,000. BIA willing, NRTC FS CIO involved. Looking at having an update within the next couple of weeks.

NRCG Charter Update – Informational Topic – Rich Cowger

- Tate Fischer shared screen and went through the comments received.
- Membership from all the Montana agencies discussion: Rich Cowger discussed the Montana State statues and gave historic view but the Montana members should be reaching out to the other states.
 - Intent is to discuss revised charter and schedule future vote.
 - Decision: Montana Dakotas State Representative is the voting member for BLM, and Rocky Mountain Region is the voting member for BIA.
- Tate Fischer captured specific edits in the document.
- Discussion around need to define NRCG versus BOD.
- MT statewide agreement brings a strong tie to local government. NRCG discussion around need to reestablish the values for the NRCG partnerships.
 - Matt Hall to provide an overview of the statewide agreement and discuss the overall membership. Discussion topic for the fall face to face meeting.

Delegations of Authority (DoA) – NR Operations and NRCC Center Manager Positions – Rich Cowger

- Vote to approve (both) - **Approved - Pam Jolly to prepare for Chair's signature.**

Monitoring IMT Mobilization Readiness – Decisional Topic – Rich Cowger

- **Corey Buhl to type up the memo and combine it with the CIMT Ordering for AA/s and get it out for review for next June meeting.**

CIMT Ordering for AAs – Memo – Decisional Topic – Rich Cowger

- **See bullet statement above.**

Private Firefighter Resources Guidelines – Informational Topic – Rich Cowger

- (See DRAFT updated memo in pre-reading materials)
- Private insurance and how interface with land management agencies and private forest landowners.
- **Get comments back to Rich Cowger - decisional topic for June meeting.**
- FS Chief signed an agreement with the national alliance of forest owners in Idaho/Montana.

Startlink Update – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier

- FS changes to acquiring star link. Canvassed the IMTs and some have it and all want it.
- All agency liaisons able to provide star link to the IMT they represent.

NEW BUSINESS

Dispatch Improvement Tasking – Next Steps – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier

- Introduced Dan O'Brien – retired NWC Center Manager. He will continue the process after Kelly Kane.



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- June will start the next steps. Dan will meet with Kelly Kane and develop a plan.
- Next Steps will be more operational. Not a big group.
 - NRCG members get Line Officers names to Craig by June 1.
- This will be a standing topic on the monthly call agenda.

Spring MAC Exercise Update - Informational Topic - Corey Buhl

- In Person / Hybrid option to be held with the monthly meeting of June 20, 2023. Missouri Room NRCC. Pam Jolly to revise the June invite with additional time allotted for the exercise. (Need additional 3 hours)
- Erin Noonan-Wright has reached out to help.
- GMAC exercise will be:
 - A day in the life – A few fires.
 - Risk Information Dashboard
 - Priorities
 - Expectations and needs of NRCG

NRTC updates - Informational Topic - Melissa Wegner

- S520 candidate packages are with Operations Committee for prioritization; 25 total.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- Deferred to next meeting.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is June 20, 2023 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time