



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Notes

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Rich Cowger – *Chair*, Bryce Rogers – *Vice Chair*, Craig Howells, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Patrick Lonergan, Jason Jarrett, Ryan Melin, Paul Cerda, Chad Pickering, Darron Williams
Deputies and Others: Cory Calnan, Karly DeMars, Corey Buhl, Kathy Pipkin, Erin Noonan, Dan Borsum, Rebecca McCormick, Melissa Wegner

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

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu) - EMAIL UPDATE

- Aitor is representing NWCG on the Wildfire Commission meeting this week. He reports: *“Since NR has completed the transition to CIM I believe there are no pending taskings from NMAC. NMAC, FMB and NWCG continue to oversee the Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) efforts. The next big event will be to conduct the AAR and to incorporate input. Still on track to implement in January 2024. Information on AAR schedule will be shared as soon as its available.”*
 - NWCG continues with the Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) as its top priority. An [overview](#) has been provided, which includes a brief YouTube video.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

- **CGAC Report Out (Craig Glazier and Corey Buhl):** Nothing new to report from the last CGAC meeting
- **NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl):** Pretty slow fire activity in the GACC – supporting Canada. Team 2 (Schuster) short team has been ordered/filled for support to Canada. Received a second request for a Type 3 organization to support Canada. Smokejumpers are driving to Canada – waiting for aircraft to be approved.
- **NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin):** Mobilization workload to Canada. Kathy, Roy and Billy Phillips visited four dispatch centers last week (Great Falls, Kalispell, Libby and Coeur d’Alene). Billy Phillips started with NRCC as the RIST Coordinator today. NPS Intelligence Specialist position is still open. DJ Johnson is filling in on the Intel Desk.

Old Business

NRCG Charter Update – Informational Topic – Tate Fischer

- Topic will be discussed further at the fall face-to-face meeting. Tasking has been updated on the Action Items spreadsheet.

Monitoring IMT Mobilization Readiness – Decisional Topic – Corey Buhl

- The updates are still being worked on in the small working group (Rich, Craig G., Craig H.). Corey will finalize feedback and make available for discussion/vote at the July meeting.

Private Firefighter Resources Guidelines – Decisional Topic – Rich Cowger



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- After discussion, the group unanimously voted to approve the memo. Ryan Melin did mention that item #10 in the document may cause some confusion in North Dakota due to wording, but he was supportive of the document as presented and approved.

Dispatch Improvement Tasking – Next Steps – Standing Item – Craig Glazier/Chad Pickering

- Dan O'Brien is in place and re-engaging after some time off. FWS requested some documentation/direction on what the Agency Administrator commitment for this tasking would look like. Chad will send information to the group.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger):

- Action item document was reviewed and updated by the group.

New Business

Spring MAC Exercise– Corey Buhl - [LINK TO NR MAC OPERATING GUIDE \(2022\)](#)

- Exercise Objectives:
 - ✓ Introduce and refresh MAC members to the Northern Rockies MAC daily process and procedures.
 - ✓ Participate in an incident prioritization process.
 - ✓ Build a better understanding of the MAC process, MAC expectations, and create an learning environment that contributes to better preparedness when the Northern Rockies MAC convenes.
- The GMAC exercise will simulate a 'day in the life' with a few fires. The intent is to work through the following:
 - Risk Information Dashboard
 - Priorities
 - Expectations and needs of NRCG

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is July 18, 2023 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time