



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

## **Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

**Board Members:** Darron Williams, Bryce Rogers – Vice Chair, Craig Howells, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey, Brett Lloyd, Rich Cowger – Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Craig Glazier

**Deputies and Others:** Cory Calnan, Jason Jarrett, Pam Jolly, Kathy Pipkin, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jeresek, Melissa Wegner, Dan O'Brien

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

### **NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)**

- *Unable to participate due to scheduling conflict.*
- ICAP will not be ready for use this Fall for IMT the application process. This was shared by Forest Service partners at NIFC on Monday, September 18th.

### **NRCG Operations (Kathy Pipkin for Corey Buhl)**

- Have a couple of loads of jumpers; T1 Crews are still a national need. Northern Rockies is balancing what can be offered up for national assistance.
- NMAC has set resource allocation priorities – wildfire needs within the U.S., FEMA ESF4 needs, Prescribed Fire (RX) and international assistance.
  - Do still have resources in Canada.

### **NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)**

- New Center manager selected, Kate Holsapple. *(For those that were not aware, Kathy Pipkin will be retiring at the end of the year.)*
- NPS Intelligence Coordinator position filled with Alex Brooks.
- Morganne Lehr accepted the RIST position of Deputy Coordinator, out of Region 05.

### **Old Business**

#### **NRCG Fall Meeting / Program Support – Informational Topic – Pam Jolly and Craig Glazier**

- NRCG Program Support – capacity support
  - Pam Jolly will be taking a 120 day temporary promotion. USFS is not detailing anyone in behind here due to need for realizing fiscal savings.
  - Ask if for another agency to provide this NRCG Program Support coverage during the interim.
- NRCG Fall Meeting planning:
  - Both Pintler Room at NRTC in Missoula, MT and the USFS R01 FAM meeting Owl have been reserved for NRCG Fall meeting, November 6 – 9, 2023.
  - Logistics for the hybrid format meeting will need to be addressed.
    - Room table arrangement.
    - Meeting Owl set up, testing and utilization.
- Craig Howells – can try to find someone to fill in for Program Support capacity; however, no guarantees.
- Dennis Strange – clarified that **names of interested individuals need to be provided to the NRCG BOD**



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by October 10, 2023. The next meeting regular NRCG Monthly meeting is on October 17, 2023.

- Rich Cowger – clarified that agenda item topics for the fall meeting should be submitted to Pam Jolly as soon as possible, and at the latest by COB end of next week.
  - Intent is for the Chair to review these with Pam Jolly the following Monday.

### **Dispatch Improvement Tasking – Next Steps – Standing Item – Dan O'Brien**

- Review two items in pre-reading materials.
- Core group came together well; Program of Work (POW) developed and is intended to be a show of transparency.
- Desire is to use the POW as a public, living document. Intent also is to publish.
  - Do not intend to publish the individual meeting notes.
- Anything requiring a decision, NRCG will be the first informed before moving forward.
- Do want to ensure group has NRCG concurrence to go direct regarding communications with the dispatch community.
- Assigning tasks:
  - Desire formal taskings out of NRCG; signed by the Chair. These will be drafted and submitted to the Chair by the group.
  - Having the ability to create groups Subject Matter Expert (SME) Groups would also be helpful, moving forward.
- Reviewed the scope of the POW and discussed specific, BOD, line-item feedback.
- Asks:
  - Dispatch Workforce Coordinator – need to further develop this proposal, in terms of what is being committed to; desire to having as an immediate task and pushed forward.
    - Tate Fischer – agreed.
    - Bryce Rogers – agreed.
  - Dispatch Admin Assistance – do wish to pursue as an immediate task; however, not sure at this time of decision ask of BOD.
  - Desire the ability to task Predictive Services and/or agency research units to identify what Northern Rockies expects regarding activity and workload level planning over the next five to ten years.
- Discussion only around BOD endorsement of above planning. Will create formal proposals for official BOD vote during the October NRCG Monthly meeting.
  - General BOD consent and support expressed for continuing to pursue above outlined POW.

### **NR Operations Committee Meeting – Ask – Informational Topic – Tate Fischer**

- On Oct. 17, have two other overlapping commitments. As BOD liaison, am seeking an alternate NRCG BOD member to participate. Meeting is hybrid at Central Land Office, in Helena, MT.
  - Patrick Lonergan volunteered to attend.

### **ICAP Update – Informational Topic – Kathy Pipkin**

- ICAP not available for use this year. See previously distributed email for historical context.
- Exploring multiple options for use this year; will work with IC committee to identify the best solution.



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### **New Business**

- No new business.

### **Review of Action Items: (Bryce Rogers)**

- Deferred in the interest of time.

**The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is October 17, 2023 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time**