



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call – Notes

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Participants

Board Members: Rich Cowger (MT Fire Chiefs' Assoc., Chair), Bryce Rogers (BIA, Vice Chair), Aaron Thompson (BLM), Dennis Strange (BLM), Tate Fischer (FWS), Brett Lloyd (MT DES), Matt Hall (MT DNRC), Steve Holton (MT Sheriff's & Peace Officers Assoc.), Paul Cerda (NPS), Craig Glazier (USFS), Adriane Beck (Montana Co. Fire Wardens Assoc.)

Deputies and Others: Karly DeMars (BLM, Facilitator), Kyrsten Birkley (MT DES, Facilitator), Kate Holsapple (NRCC), Aitor Bidaburu (NWCG), Jeni Jeresek (USFS), Amanda Boatright (BIA), Melissa Swaim (USFS), Cory Calnan (MT DNRC), Jason Jarrett (MT Sheriff's & Peace Officers Assoc.)

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

Standing Reports

- **NWCG/NMAC Update (Aitor Bidaburu)**

- NMAC Memo (M2023-06) regarding CIMT Standard Configuration and National rotation went out November 28, 2023.
- Selections for rotation were made at the National Coordinators Meeting
- NWCG is moving forward on the development of the Basic IMT course, anticipated to be available by end of 2024, and Advanced will be out by the end of 2025.
- Making plans for NWCG All Chairs meeting coming up in Boise. All chairs will meet with the NWCG Executive Board.

- **CGAC Report Out (Craig Glazier)**

- National Mobilization Guide edits can still be submitted until January 1, 2024.
- In person meeting will be the same week as ICAC. The agenda is robust and will be covering PSOT update; 2023 Lessons Learned from Canadian mobilization, ISAP update, CIMT updates, quals/training updates.
- National Coordinators Meeting was also discussed.

- **NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl) – no updates**

- **NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin / Kate Holsapple)**

- Kate attended the National Coordinator's Meeting. Geographic Area Coordinators are asking NICC to go to NMAC to suggest teams start with a 90-person roster then remove positions as needed instead of buildup the rosters in IROC.
- Over past month – NR has had 87 fires under 1700 acres; resource orders have decreased.
- Intel personnel are working on building the preparedness level tool in excel as a backup plan to the current software available. The excel version would allow for more accessibility.
- NRCC is going to start tracking PL levels daily to monitor trends.
- Overhead – IMT recruitment out for NR – due COB January 19, 2024.
- Kate's transition with Kathy is going well. She is working on building timeline and task list.
- Kate met with Northwestern Energy (NWE) to establish a line of communication. In talking with NWE, there will be some larger asks of NRCG/interagency partners as NWE establishes a detection camera network. NWE would like to collaborate with interagency partners on camera placement where feasible.



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- Staff are working on year end stats and NRCC will be minimally staffed for the rest of the year.
- Questions –
 - Is there a plan for NRCC to establish a CIMT Roster Coordinator? NR will be working on establishing this position but has not yet finalized their plan. The BOD should be aware of the implementation of the new NMAC guidance.
 - Roster size – many teams are modernizing how they mobilize; Need to also be careful of how we look at the subordinate resource order numbers (the dot numbers) as some positions may be filled with virtual, part-time and/or trainees.
 - PL Criteria consistency efforts– Kate isn't part of this tasking but will follow up.
 - Master IMT Roster approval for NR – Is there any desire to investigate team make up? It was suggested to task the Operations Committee to be involved in team selection and roster review. Would be in conjunction with existing IC committee tasking.
- **Dispatch Improvement Tasking Update (Craig Glazier)**
 - Dan (contractor) will be coming back after holiday season in January. The committee will have their first round of recommendations will be out in January 2024.
- **NRCCG Committee Updates:**
 - Fire Prevention & Education Committee (Matt Hall): Has a standing charter, membership consists of zone representatives. The committee has plans to re-establish representation – NRCCG will need to validate their membership list. Additionally, the committee will have updates to make on the NRCCG website. There is currently no tasking to this committee from the BOD. Other items discussed at fall committee meeting: Community of Practice in Prevention & Education Realm (similar to fire adapted learning network); Wildfire prevention (WPSAP) – spatial tool to direct prevention efforts; coordination and planning for Smokey Bears birthday in August 2024. Coordinating messages across agencies. AAR for Restrictions/Closures.
 - Chair - Kevin Sweeney (NPS); Jennifer Russell (IDL)
 - IC Committee (Paul Cerda): No updates from group. Applications for NR is out. Lots of good engagement from ICs on committee.
 - Chair has changed to Brent Olson; Paul Roose is vice chair.

Old Business

- **Decisional | NRCCG Committee Report Out Procedures – Reporting Rotation**
 - The 2024 Board Liaison Report Out Schedule was approved by consensus. Each Committee Liaison is expected to report out at the regular monthly meeting as outlined below:
 - January/May/August: Dispatch Committee; Operations Committee
 - February/June/September: Training Committee; Business Committee
 - March/July/December: Fire Prevention & Education Committee; IC Committee
 - All committees will report out at in-person spring and fall meetings (April/November)
- **Informational | NRCC Center Manager & NR Operations Delegation of Authority and Expectations – Status Update**
 - Rich and Bryce will schedule a meeting with Kate & Corey to go over their new delegations and expectations. Kate will send version with edits to Rich and Bryce.



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- **Informational | IMT Recognition Tasking Update (Aaron Thompson)**
 - There were 684 participants in 2023 on IMTs; Aaron is working with Beau to figure out what and how to recognize these individuals.
 - There is a current IMT awards recognition program – need to reinvigorate this program with ICs and committee chairs to those teams.

- **Informational | Agency Inputs to NRCG Financial Plan (Jeni Jeresek)**
 - Would be sending out emails for inputs to agencies today (December 19, 2023).

New Business

- **Decisional | Incident Business Committee – National Buying Team Sponsorship for 2024 (Amanda Boatright, Melissa Swain)**
 - The NR Incident Business Committee is requesting to recruit and fill two Buying Teams (BUYT) in the Northern Rockies. One would fulfill the national rotation and the other would be a geographic area specific BUYT.
 - Melissa: The Geographic Area BUYT could be a little smaller in size and could meet the need in Northern Rockies. There has been some pushback to using the ad hoc team with agency administrators because they aren't recognized as a qualified BUYT.
 - Can we fill two teams? National team would take priority to fill. If we can fill two teams, it would give us more flexibility. Geographic area team would not take national team out of national rotation, but could go out of GACC, if available.
 - Geographic area BUYT would follow all rules/documentation that the national team would use.
 - Who has oversight of BUYTs? Incident Business Committee has coordination oversight. When ordered, the individual fire would have supervision. Melissa Swain is the BUYT Coordinator for NR.

Decision Record: Does the NRCG BOD support the Incident Business Committee in an effort to recruit and fill two BUYTs – one national level (first priority to fill) and the second would be a Northern Rockies geographic area specific team?

	\$	Agency	Agency Support / Vote
1	\$	BIA	Supports
2	\$	BLM	Supports
3	\$	FWS	Supports
4	\$	IDL	Unavailable
5	\$	MT DNRC	Supports
6	\$	ND	Unavailable
7	\$	NPS	Supports
8	\$	USFS	Supports
9		MT DES	Supports
10		State Fire Chief's Association	Supports
11		Montana County Fire Wardens	Supports
12		Montana Sheriff's & Peace Officers	Supports

Final Decision: NRCG BOD **supports** the Incident Business Committee with their effort to recruit and fill two BUYTs – one national, one geographic-level.

Review of Action Items (Rich Cowger)

- The group reviewed the current 'Action Items' list during the meeting and adjusted as necessary.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is **January 16, 2024** at 1000 hours Mountain Time