



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call – Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Participants

Board Members: Rich Cowger (Chair), Bryce Rogers (Vice Chair), Paul Cerda, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Ryan Melin, Patrick Lonergan, Dennis Strange, Aaron Thompson, Darron Williams, Josh Harvey, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Kyrsten Brinkley (Facilitator), Karly DeMars (Co-Facilitator), Corey Buhl, Cory Calnan, Tara Dana, Charlie Gorman, Jason Jarrett, Jeni Jeresek, Jordan McKnight, Chad Pickering, Melissa Wegner

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) – No report
- CGAC Report Out (Craig Glazier) – No report, CGAC is meeting this week.
- NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)
 - Gave update on status of the IMT recruitment process. To date, there have been around 110 applications received.
 - Corey and NRCC are working with NICC to figure out why there are no Northern Rockies IMT in the national rotation
- NRCC Update (Kate Holsapple) – Please see emailed report out. No additional information shared.
- Dispatch Improvement Tasking Update (Craig Glazier)
 - Dan O'Brien is back working as the lead for the task group. He is working to get up to speed on what the task group accomplishments and taskings. The group will be meeting in January.
 - There was discussion from the Board of Directors to get a memo out to give an update on the status of the work group tasking and their recommendations. Once Rich receives the talking points from Molly Ryan, current task group lead, he will draft a memo with the intent of distributing by the end of the month.
- NRCG Committee Updates:
 - Dispatch Committee – no report
 - Operations Committee – Tate Fischer reported that the Operations Committee has fully transitioned their chair to Jordan McKnight and Nate Rogers as vice-chair. The committee plans to meet in March in Helena. They will be reviewing taskings (both internal and from BOD). They will also be assessing the mid-level leadership pool and reviewing the NRCG memo from 2020-08 regarding Heavy Equipment Taskforce oversight.

Old Business

- *Informational* | NRCC Center Manager & NR Operations Delegation of Authority and Expectations – Status Update
 - Update: Rich reported they are close to signature and will be meeting with Kate and Corey soon.
- *Informational* | IMT Recognition Tasking Update (Aaron Thompson)
 - Update: NRCG and NRCC will be working to re-establish the current recognition program



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- *Informational* | Agency Inputs to NRCG Financial Plan
 - Update: Jeni Jeresek reported that she will have the draft plan available for review by the end of the month.
- *Decisional* | Recommendation for Dispatch Study (Craig Glazier)
 - Craig addressed the board and asked they make decisions on the following items:
 - 1) Propose to consolidate two low complexity dispatch centers (Bitterroot and Kootenai).
 - a. Decision: All board members are in favor of this consolidation.
 - 2) Consolidation of centers in North Idaho (Grangeville and Coeur d'Alene).
 - a. No decision at this time; more analysis requested from the Task Group
 - 3) Consolidation of Great Falls / Helena centers
 - a. No decision at this time; more analysis requested from the Task Group
 - The Board would like the Dispatch Improvement Task Group to have proposals for item #2 and #3 prior to the April NRCG BOD meeting – (Deadline: April 1, 2024).

New Business – There was no new business.

Review of Action Items (Rich Cowger) – no change to action items.

*The next scheduled NRCG Executive Board Meeting will be **February 21, 2024.***

*The next NRCG Monthly Meeting will be **March 19, 2024.***