



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Participants: Board Members – Steve Heppner, Avery Thompson, Bryce Rogers, Ken Schmid, Mike Granger, Kevin Benton, Marschal Rothe, Bruce Suenram, Bill Colwell, Patrick Lonergan, Vern Burdick, Ryan Melin, Michael O’Dell, Brent Woffinden, Greg Morris.

Deputies and others- Mike Almas, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Judy Heintz, Aitor Bidaburu, Mike Richmond , Steve Zachry

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

NMAC Update: Aitor Bidaburu

- NMAC met last week and went over recommendations by CGAC
 - Type 3 rostering and management – unanimously supported – memo to come out soon
 - National Buying Teams – supported recommendation
- Training analysis is going on, long term study on how NWCG looks at taskbooks.
 - Multi-year project, starting with Aviation

Predictive Services update: Mike Richmond

- Mild period for the last 7-10 days across the region, lots of snow pack and flooding.
- Heading back into a cold spell for a couple weeks. Moisture that we have received will be locked in by the colder temps.

National & NR Updates: Kathy Pipkin

- Movement of suppression resources – modules and OH (IC’s, Rx positions, suppression mod.) Southern Area went into PL2
- NR is quiet w/a few Rx’s

Operational / Contracting Updates: Tim Murphy

- Equipment committee had a CC this morning, long term chair of that committee will be retiring next month – Warren (from the flathead) will fill the gap until someone is selected.
- Talk of merging Logistics and Equipment Committees into one
- Proposal meetings in contracting will be next week
- Incident contract project inspector class is going on now

Safety Update: Steve Zachry

- Moving forward with revision to saw training: proper fueling techniques
 - Posters and stickers will be coming out shortly
 - STIHL and Husqvarna are still not working with us, believe it is our problem
- National group looking at redoing 215A and 215R across the nation

Follow up on Old Business

1. Executive Conference Call Report Out - Ken Schmid

- Call with Agency Administrators on Feb 3 discussed:
 - Easter Area decision – agreed to support our decision
 - Agency Administrators are looking to come to our spring meetings as they have in the past

- Team plan was sent to Agency Administrators in draft form – stressed the need/desire for Agency Admin to be more involved in Team support

2. Eastern Area Letter – Mike Granger

- Received response from the Eastern Area – FWD'd letter to the board
 - EA will not be surge capacity
 - Stated in the letter that they want to continue to be part of providing people to our NR Teams. People from EA applying to be on NR teams will be priority over other outside GACC applications.

3. NRCC Dispatching All IMT's – Kathy Pipkin

- Type 1 & 2 Teams will be dispatched out of NR.
 - Has been working with IC's and Section Chiefs to get them ROSS access so they can be masters of their own Rosters

4. Montana Cooperative Agreement – Ken Schmid

- Has been signed by everyone – final form should be coming out in the next couple weeks.

New Business

5. IMT Selection – Mike Almas/Judy Heintz

- IC group met Feb 7/8:
 - Primary focus on 2017 Team selections – all 8 teams are rostered up for 2017
 - Granger gave IC's board expectations
 - Priority Training Process
 - New National Standard – each team is allowed 16 trainees which will come from priority training slots
 - Team Plan
 - NRCC dispatching for all IMT's

6. NRCG Team Approval Process – Mike Granger

- Last fall the board agreed to take a larger role in the management over our IMT's
 - Granger drafted and sent initial guidelines
 - Process is targeted towards next year, want IC's to be fully aware of the big changes coming for NR Teams and give them opportunity to comment.
 - What we do on Thurs. will not much different than the IC's have already done. Opportunity for us to see what goes into the rostering how hash out what our future role will be.

7. NRCG Team Guidelines – Mike Granger/Judy Heintz

- Secured actual document on Team Plan/Guidelines on what they should look like nationwide. Plans to have it finished and up on NR website by team meeting in March

8. Changes to MOB Guide – Kathy Pipkin

- Kathy sent out proposal to the board that we no longer publish the MOB Guide in hard copy, will instead be on NRCC's webpage
 - Saves \$2500 in publishing and shipping
 - Allows changes to be made throughout the year as it would be a working document
- **VOTED** on by board – **no opposition**

9. NR/EA and NR/RM dispatching across GACC boundaries – Kathy Pipkin

- Have been working for a couple years to do a MOU
 - NR/RM – in the past allowed adjacent centers to dispatch resources between geographic areas.
 - RM stance is that they don't need a formal MOU as long as it is published in both their and our MOB guides.
 - Kathy drafted verbiage for the MOB guide; with the addition of defining the term "adjacent" i.e.: sharing a boarder
 - NR/EA – would be between ND and MN
 - Eastern area is more comfortable with having an MOU in place and basing their MOB guide verbiage off of the MOU
 - Ran through F.S. grants and agreements; they feel it does not require a formal grants and agreements # as it is more of a gentleman's agreement
 - Need to have the approval in time for publication on March 1

10. MAC plan out for comment – Marschal Rothe

- Marschal needs comments back ASAP

11. Spring Meeting Update – Mike Granger

- Mike will put together and send out Agenda
- Kelly will hopefully be on board and can help with arrangements

12. Team Meetings Update – Mike Almas

- At the IC meeting we worked on IMT meeting plans: March 28-30 in Missoula at Holiday Inn
 - Agenda will follow last year's template
 - Hot Shots have a Main speaker in the works
 - Carpool if possible as parking is packed
 - NRCG Agency Administrators would like open dialoged during the session
 - For 2018 - Move meeting to April 9-13

13. NRCG Executive Assistant – Ralph Rau

- Kelly will be on next month to facilitate and take notes

14. Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species Transport by Wildland Fire Operations – Mike DeGrosky

- Will have these documents as part of the 1st session of the Team Meetings

Round Robin – Updates from agency participants

Steve Heppner/BIA NW: Record Rainfall for Feb. FMO selection has been made. Grants and Agreements person starting shortly.

Avery Thompsom/BIA GP: Fully Staffed at the RO. Floods and extreme fire danger on the same day.

Bryce Rogers BIA RM: Nothing to report.

Ken Schmid/BLM: Fire position freeze was lifted Friday. Sent out note regarding Kitty's retirement gift contributions to NRCG.

Mike Granger/FWS: Hiring freeze has yet to be lifted.

Kevin Benton/IDL: Seasonal recruiting.

Bruce Suenram/MT DNRC: Discussion on Aquatic Invasive Species transport, sorting out process for deploying our buckets. Legislative Bill on county commissions allow IA on fire anywhere, it is not a good deal – will keep board apprised.

Bill Colwell/MT FCA: Nothing to report.

Patrick Lonergan/MT CFW: Nothing to report.

Vern Burdick/MT S&PO: Nothing to report.

Ryan Melin/ND FS: Nice weather, no snow pack in some areas. 200 firefighters currently signed up for Wildland classes. Waiting to hear back on cooperative agreement.

Brent Woffinden/NPS: Hiring freeze lifted for seasonals. Large fire review in Yellowstone. Will be doing our National Glacier fire review in Glacier.

Greg Morris/USFS: Fire positions are exempted from hiring freeze; includes seasonals and AD's. Looking to fill base manager at Missoula Jump base and Air Quality position. 30 folks or so supporting Wild and RX fires outside of region.

No Call in March – Spring Meeting March 27-28