



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Participants

Board Members: Steve Heppner, Ray Hart, Bryce Rogers, Ken Schmid, Mike Granger, JT Wensman, Marschal Rothe, Mike DeGrosky, Bill Colwell, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Brent Woffinden, Greg Morris

Deputies and Others: Kelly McKee, Steve Zachry, Mike Almas, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Judy Heintz, Roy Robinson, Ryan Patrick, Melissa Wegner, Patrick Murphy, Anthony Krause, Michael Odell, Rich Cowger

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

NWCG Update: None

Predictive Services Update: None

National, NR, and Operational Updates: SA at PL 3, NR Buying Team dispatched to SA last Friday (4/14), Fort Belknap had 2 fires for 26 acres.

Operations: Not much to report, next week Roger Staats will be over to start work on square chutes.

Contracting Updates: NPS closed Weed Wash solicitations, BLM has closed most of theirs, DNRC still has a few open, FS in week 2 of evaluation panel for Heavy Equipment, Faller Module, Mechanics.

Safety Updates (Zachry): Sending messages about fuel geysering, want to make sure everyone is getting them. Send him a message if not. Last couple weeks, two hospitalizations with Rhabdo in SE. May want to standardize our incident within an incident plans within the GA, board could look at. Seems as though some IMT's are adjusting the 206WF form, need to keep it to NWCG standard. In the MAC Plan, some Safety Officer's would like to see Steve's position come visit the IMT's and have that written in. Finished up Type 3 Safety Officer course last week, very successful, should definitely continue within the GACC, small class but opened up communication lines, variety of positions represented. Granger – wanted clarification on visits – per Zachry, priority has been forests/units.

Pipkin – will send IC's email list, ask for Incident within an Incident plans, Judy confirmed they were using 9-Line at IMT meetings.

Follow up on Old Business:

Recommendation and Decision to combine Equipment/Logistics Committees – move forward, will send out a letter.

Private Resources Letter (DeGrosky) – had a good discussion about the letter last year, with input from State Fire Chief's Association, so recommending we just change date and signature for 2017. Greg asked if there were any incidents with private resources that would cause change in letter – no one is aware of any. Recommendation was accepted.

NRCG Financial Plan – Agency Contributions (Ryan Patrick) – sent out a spreadsheet yesterday, still looking for what payments are going to be, but Ken will discuss further. Ken – meteorologist position that BLM funds, what if we did not include and how does that balance out? There is a lot of uncertainty in the federal agencies, so we need to have a good idea of what our budgets are before proceeding. Proposing holding off on meteorologist

position for now, but try and have someone come in to help in the summer. We can reevaluate when we know more.

Granger – how does that impact our organization this summer? Kathy – biggest impact is workload to Michael, but could try and order in when we go to 7-day coverage. Question was asked of how it was handled when Bryan Henry left; Mike Kreyenhagen was able to come in as an AD, but it has been a few years so not sure of his comfort level at this point. Kathy could work with Michael to see what is out there; there is definitely a shortage of meteorologists and they don't often take fire assignments. Concern brought up about workload on 7-day coverage and perhaps unintended consequences of not having position.

Granger - makes sense from a financial standpoint, it balances the financial plan out a little better.

Greg – asked if they could look at a detailer/temp promotion option without commitment, if budget works out.

Ken would be willing to work to find detailer, can work with Ryan to update sheet and distribution.

Proposal to fill for the summer (detailer/intern) was accepted, Ken will work with Kathy and Ryan to come up with alternatives and costs.

Ryan still needs the payment amounts from agencies for the fair share piece of the financial plan. It was brought up to use the agreements that are already in place, as states are on a different FY and getting something in place at this point to transfer funds might not happen. Do we need to have an agreement with all the BIA regions, or can we work with one to keep things simple? Agreed to work with the Rocky Mountain region when an agreement needs to be used for exchanging funds because they are contributing the positions for the BIA in the financial plan.

The decision was made that the DNRC will work with BLM utilizing the agreement in place for the payment they made to the BLM last year. As we determine the meteorologist position, and the costs associated with that position the amount of over contribution will change and payments from agencies may change as well. IDL and FWS will work together, as they did last year. Once the amounts of the payments being made by IDL and DNRC are known please contact Ryan on the numbers. Ryan will also send out an updated financial plan once an amount for the meteorologist position is determined. These are the final steps to getting the Annual Operating Plan ready for signature by the NRCG board members included in the financial plan.

Operations Position (Schmid) – still waiting on business office in Denver for final approval on retirement coverage (NIFC gave approval, hoping for this week). Cannot fly until that is in there. Hope to have it out as soon as they get confirmation on that component. Even if it is out in the next few weeks, a person would not be in place until 45-60 days after offer. Need to fill behind Almas (done mid-May). Greg Archie is interested, proposed to have him come in when Mike is done. Need a decision from the BOD to have Greg come in for 60 days or until position is filled. Will work with DNRC for funding and payment. BOD approves, will move forward with this.

MAC Plan (Rothe) - had to get off the call, but per follow-up email, he has no comments back from the draft he sent out on 4/17, will finalize by Friday, 4/21 if he does not hear anything else.

New Business:

Type 2 Crew Mobilization Time (Pipkin) – have issue with some agency crews mobilizing quickly, been some instances where they are waiting a full day, made phone calls to negotiate when there are other crews available to mobilize quicker. Would like to add verbiage to the mobilization guide to firm up response time. Proposal from DeGrosky to task Ops Committee with coming up with a standard; Mike and Kathy will work with them to have a draft by May 1.

NRCG/Executive Board/IC Workshop to develop IMT Guidance (Granger) – DeGrosky is leading this, but had to get off the call. We need to send an invitation soon – will be including Agency Administrator's, NRCG BOD and IC's. Would also like to identify 2-3 "future" IC's and extend the invitation to them. Should be a group of 30-35. Board members are representing the needs of the zones, so group identified above should be sufficient. Kelly will send out facility costs when they are firmed up and ask for payment contribution from each agency.

Automated technology for IMT's (Almas) – looking for input, as an IC, how do we bring technology into the team. Put together a “task force” of some sort for ideas, presented briefing paper to IC’s at breakout. IC’s were in agreement to immediately implement. Also benefit to standardize, as each team is doing something different. Pre-season work to be done. Have come up with a couple options, preferred would be to have a pre-season task force come on in May/June to prepare some of this. Would have to ask people to use their own management code (Preparedness) to come to Missoula, need to identify agencies. 1 SITL, 2 GIS and 2 Trainee GIS, put together packages. 2nd option is to wait until we have fires to use support code. Not preferred. Southern Area has already done this so there are people out there that can help.

Granger – identify who you want to be part of this, find out if that agency would be willing to support. Also identify if there are OT needs. By next CC, firm up plan, identify people. Granger – need names/numbers, route it around to discuss.

IHC Evaluation Form (Almas) – Ops Committee tasked Almas with coming up with a draft, worked with Chris Smith (chair of IHC group). IHC group approves, has run up to Ops Committee and IC’s, and talked to Greg. Would like to have this final by the time the IHC’s are on. Form will be electronic and fillable, and will be a beta test for national use. Two small changes to include all-risk, and change “Northern Rockies” to read “Region 1” but this is likely 95% complete. All Northern Rockies IHC’s will get evaluations, but will also be required for any IHC that comes into the GA. For FS crews, copies will be sent to Greg; for BIA crews, copies will be sent to BIA/Boise.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants

BIA NW – no update

BIA GP – Slow right now, rain.

BIA RM – Bryce attending local leadership first week of May, readiness reviews.

BLM – Ken leaves May 1, Cory Buhl will be filling in for month of May. Will send out personnel changes in an email.

Mike Granger/FWS - RX Burn season – 4200 acres accomplished in NE Montana. Will be burning for next month or so. Entering into Service First agreement with BLM for fire suppression response in Jordan area.

IDL - same aviation resources, issue for upcoming year is working out moving resources between Region 1 and Region 4.

MT DES – no update

MT DNRC – no update

Montana State Fire Chiefs Association - state chief’s conference in October in Helena, will reach out for other attendees.

Montana Fire Wardens - conference a couple weeks, topic of evacuation standard within state, developed a recommended best practice doc that went to MSPOA, will be moving forward with that. Officially transitioned with Rick Seidlitz, Patrick will be primary, Rick will be alternate.

MT Peace Officers - absent

ND FS – pretty quiet, active weather pattern, not anticipating much of a spring fire season. Will be able to staff 5 Type 6 engines.

NPS – have the cert for wildfire specialist position, will be located either in Lakewood, CO or Montana.

USFS – smokejumpers have rookie training, no requests for R3 yet, supporting R8, working to fill smokejumper base manager position, IT specialist detail request came out, do not have an air quality person, finishing up IMS/EMT training, working through budget process. YWNSA training next week, Greg will be at National Fire Director meeting in OR, RLT/FMO meeting this week.

The next scheduled Conference Call is Tuesday, May 16, 2017 @ 1000 MDT