



# **Northern Rockies Coordinating Group**

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

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

**Tuesday, July 18, 2017**

### **Participants:**

**Board Members:** Steve Heppner, Bryce Rogers, Justin Kincaid, Mike Granger, Kevin Benton, Mike DeGrosky, Patrick Lonergan, Vern Burdick, Michael Odell, Brent Woffinden, Ralph Rau

**Deputies and Others:** Kelly McKee, Greg Archie, Tim Murphy, Patrick Murphy, Anthony Krause, Steve Zachry, Julie Shea, Julie Lockman, Cynthia Tate, Warren Appelhans, Tam Kolar

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

**NWCG Update:** No report.

**Predictive Services Update:** Greg for Michael – fairly benign pattern, some chance of isolated thunderstorms, Wednesday being the hottest day.

**National, NR, and Operational Updates:** Busy with IA, from west side to east side, transitioned in terms of IMT's to the west, but still actively fighting fire on the east side. Multiple fires on the east side, large fire growth, w/out the team activity. Central Zone has Lookout fire (Turman IMT, 390 acres), Park Creek (Hutton IMT, 1400+), Whetsone/Myers (Sutton, IMT3), Sliderock (Leach IMT) 188 acres, which includes Hogback, NW Zone will be transitioning to Type 3 from Thompson (Rogers) Thursday AM, Almas transitioned to Powerline/Corral (7000, 1600). Busy moving crews across the GACC, a lot of crews are timing out around the same time. Aitor is helping at NMAC level.

**Contracting Updates:** Last week, exhausted GA contract engines, but only had to bring in 1 contract engine out of the GA. There are more coming available now. 3 Heavy Equip Task Forces out, plus more heavy equipment. 3 motor vehicle accidents w/contractors, 2 with FD, 1 agency. 1 vendor suspended for anger management issues, dealing with questions about how DPL works. 3 out doing contractor compliance checks.

**Safety Updates (Zachry):** Emphasis with all folks regarding motor vehicle accidents and taking necessary safety measures to prevent. Will be getting out to forests/districts to check in on fatigue, heat illness. If we continue with IA and activity as we have been, recommend putting together a Safety Assistant Team in the next week. Also recommending starting safety conference call on a daily basis. Based on what we are seeing in the eastern part of the GA, do we need a fire behavior/fuels advisory?

Brent – what is the trigger point for ground Safety Team? Steve - consistently busy for a week – 10 days.

### **Follow up on Old Business:**

#### ***AIS Prevention Documents – Aviation & Equipment (Warren/Cynthia/Julie)***

DeGrosky reviewed the comments on the draft document from Julie and Cynthia; the group agreed to adopt the recommended changes. It was also suggested to put the recommendations into some sort of pocket card format. Under prevention, 5<sup>th</sup> bullet down, remove "if possible" (Rau).

Per IMT closeouts, distributing the final document ASAP is recommended (Kincaid).

Final letter will be put together ASAP and distributed to all, including IC's.

## **New Business:**

### ***Solar Eclipse (Rau/Granger)***

Want to get it on the radar, we are not right in the path. Just want to make sure the southern part of the GA is aware, could be a concern with extra traffic and communications.

FWS in Idaho is in the direct path, talking about closing off a portion of the Interstate in Idaho.

IDL – portions of direct protection in path, local area offices doing intensive planning. Will be prepositioning of extra resources, duration 7-10 days, trying to get message out on Prevention side with extra campers, etc. PNW is also in path of totality.

Ralph – if we start hearing from units about impact, need to make sure to communicate.

Brent – is going right over Grand Teton NP, expecting largest visitation in park history – there will be resource competition from other GACC's where path of totality is not an impact.

### ***IMT Closeouts (Granger)***

Need to assign BOD member to each, did any board members attend so far, representing the BOD as well as agency?

Kincaid – attended both Almas and Connell's closeouts. Key item for both was how AIS works on the ground, implementation on the ground in remote locations is almost impossible. Almas – used potable water on all equipment. Getting chemical was an issue through IBA and Finance, got with the state and borrowed some to replace. The document is great, but logistics and real time implementation of AIS protocols will likely come up again. Has copies of transition documents if anyone would like them.

Question – are the chemicals a cache item? Recommendation from Connell was to make it a standard item, along with heater units.

Granger – emphasized pointing people back to the PMS 444.

DeGrosky – Turman IMT is in a prime spot for AIS questions, good to have Granger there and part of IMT to point back to official guidance.

Odell – met with Pearson's team off of Magpie. This was first Type 2 complexity fire in ND, had some issues coming in, delays with internet. Equipment trailer was in disarray when they got it back, dealt with that. A lot of political issues on this fire. Team came short, a lot of trainees functioning as fully qualified. From AA standpoint, good feedback.

### ***MAC Discussion (All)***

Lonergan – is there a need for a MAC representative at the NRCC? Greg Archie and Granger have talked, Greg will advise when he sees the need and will work with Granger to make that happen. Patrick and Ralph would like to participate as liaisons.

Greg – on a nightly basis, prioritizing around 7 fires. Have a nightly call, also work with Kathy/Tim to prioritize, currently workload is pretty easy and does not take very much time.

DeGrosky – also interested and has two alternates who could help as MAC liaison.

Ralph – mentioned charter talks about switching out people, so would not be a long-term commitment.

Historically members of MAC group work with separate functional area, report to MAC group representative or Greg, recommend someone assigned to AIS.

### ***MAC Call vs. NRCG Call (All)***

Group discussion about starting MAC calls and difference between MAC call and normal NRCG business. Group decided to have a regular NRCG call in a week and discuss need for MAC call at that point, unless activity between now and then warrants something different.

## **Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants**

**BIA NW** – nothing to add.

**BIA GP** – no report.

**BIA RM** – quiet, working on severity request.

**BLM** – bringing a few more SEAT's in from SW, spread around. May have a couple CL215's and bird dog unit to Lewistown, need to do inspections. Active IA on the east end, working through severity dollars, ordering resources to cover IA activity. Working on how we use support code within the GACC, in GB use it a lot to support SEAT's – can we use in this GA to cover support functions and maybe even availability of SEAT's. Brent – Tracey sent out information, emphasized MAC calls cover some of these issues/topics. DeGrosky – within scope of Zone MAC. John Monzie – try to work out in Zone MAC.

**Mike Granger/FWS** – quite a bit of activity in eastern area, not a lot on the west side. Working on severity and bringing in additional resources.

**IDL** - Corral/Powerline significant incidents, need Type 1 and Type 2IA crews, brought in 6 contract crews through NW compact agreement.

**MT DES** – Sturgis rally Aug 13/14, influx in SW Montana.

**MT DNRC** – echoed sentiment about Interagency cooperation, in Musselshell county, North Delphi – great example of avoiding a bad situation with Interagency cooperation. Turman IMT on Lookout, Thompson IMT on Rogers Mountain, sharing Leach on joint delegation on Sliderock, a lot of IA, been keeping really busy but good success catching things. CL215's are one of two groups that were brought in from Canada, through NW compact, among other resources. SWLO is in the process of setting up regional/zone interagency fire prevention team.

**Montana State Fire Chiefs** – no report.

**Montana Fire Wardens** – noting to add.

**MT Peace Officers** - no report.

**ND FS** – resources staying ahead of work/rest, Thurs/Fri going through certification process to use type 1 National Guard helicopters on federal land, shooting for 3 this year.

**NPS** – trying to get severity packages on eastern and western part of the GACC.

**USFS** – going around and meeting with FMO's, etc. appreciate great support to get everything done.

**The next scheduled Conference Call is Tuesday, August 15, 2017 @ 1000 MDT**