



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Participants:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers, Justin Kincaid, Mike Granger, JT Wensman, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky, Bill Colwell, Patrick Lonergan, Vern Burdick, Brent Woffinden, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Kelly McKee, Kevin Benton, Rich Cowger, Greg Archie, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Michael Richmond, Melissa Wegner, Patrick Murphy, Anthony Krause, Greg Morris, Warren Appelhans

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

NWCG Update: (E-mail update from Aitor) From discussion in NMAC yesterday: nationally still holding at PL2 but an uptick in activity with scattered lightning last, also a couple of large fires made big runs last night most notably the Highway fire in SOPS. The big story from the fire fighter safety standpoint is the persistence of the heat in the southwest quarter. Evidently one fire reported five heat illness evacuations per day, hence the NMAC note to all GA's regarding heat related injuries. The only pinch point so far has been lead planes and their scheduling to maintain coverage.

Predictive Services Update: Critical conditions today and tomorrow on the east side, from Great Falls east into the very western portion of ND. There will be isolated mixed wet/dry storms on the east side, temperatures will be in the low 90's, and RH 20-25%. Dry breezy conditions will exist tomorrow on east side until late evening hours, cooler on west side. Cold front will drop down late Thursday to give relief on east side, temps will be in 60's Friday/Saturday, some scattered showers but not a widespread wetting rain. Early next week, high pressure ridging will return, temps slightly above average. Fine fuels will start drying out in lower elevations, typical seasonal drying.

National, NR, and Operational Updates: From national call: GB had some lightning, 5 new large fires that didn't make SIT report. In NR, 5 new fires for 18 acres. 1 lead plane, EU helicopters, 2 rappel platforms available. West Yellowstone jump ship returning from Silver City, once it is back, the region will have one plane available. Sherpa still in maintenance. 3 Type 1, 9 Type 2IA crews available. Southern California may start to get busy, NR busy supporting other GA areas.

Operations – GA pretty quiet. Started visits to eastern part of GA, general consensus is that they are 1 week to 2 weeks out from critical fire conditions.

Contracting Updates: Everything is being finished up, on track for fire season.

Safety Updates (Zachry): Greg Morris for Steve: NMAC correspondence has been sent out regarding the heat advisories in the SW. Talked to Steve, who is working in R3 right now, and there have been 20 cases of heat related illness. Emphasize the need to get the information to crews.

Follow up on Old Business:

Equipment Committee Update/Draft Letter(s) on AIS (Warren Appelhans): 2 draft letters, one to the field, and one a formal request from NRCG to MTDC/San Dimas to prioritize AIS issue.

Degrosky – letters will be extremely helpful, as this is a major issue and concern. There is one point to clarify; in PMS 444, the table makes it appear that chlorine bleach is an effective treatment for zebra mussels, but there is

also information circulating that states it is not effective. **Warren will follow up with MTDC** and add a bullet statement in the document clarifying this.

Granger – last bullet statement directs 30 day quarantine of equipment if infected. How will that impact cache?

Krause – with only 2 infected areas, not a big impact. Fittings will go through hot water wash, same with pumps. If hose came from those affected areas, will just sit on it for 30 days. Can order from other areas if needed. Needs to confirm with MTDC that washing/drying method is sufficient.

Change last bullet statement, allow flexibility. “30 days OR approved hot water wash OR another method approved by AIS specialist”.

DeGrosky – hoping for a quick turnaround. Warren will work on the clarification and edits this week, and send to Kelly to forward out.

NRCG Website Update (Kelly McKee): With quite a bit of help from Julie Polutnik at NRCC, the NRCG website can be moved off the Forest Service server to the NIFC server. This will allow the NRCG Business Manager to manage the site directly, updates and changes will be much quicker. Will send out the link to the new site once this is done (hoping by Thursday, 6/22). Template and look changed a bit, but all the same content will be moved over.

IMT Summit (Granger): Thanked everyone for their work during the Summit. Bob Habeck took on editing the draft document, did a great job. Notes have been circulated, BOD agreed upon some significant changes. Mike Granger has the document at this time, by the end of June, will have reviewed and will be able to circulate to BOD. Goal of having the final draft by fall meeting.

New Business

Tents (Tim Murphy): The BLM CO and Tim are recommending not awarding contracts for tents this year. There were 3 reasons for this:

- Logistics personnel were wanting to move away from tents.
- Cache has 30 type 4 tents, which represents about 80% that we see in camps.
- Received unacceptable bids from vendors, \$1600-\$1800 a week for bigger, \$1200-\$1300 for smaller. Mileage rates are also high.

There will be a resource list for tents if the cache supply is exhausted, will go to incident-specific agreements.

Fall NRCG Meeting Date (Kelly McKee): Last year’s fall meeting was the week of November 14; proposing the same week or one earlier. Will send out a Doodle poll and capture the majority.

Michael Goicoechea ICT1 Recommendation (Granger): Task book and documentation for Goke’s Type 1 IC was sent out a few weeks ago; letter of recommendation from Greg Poncin was sent out this morning. As Greg is still in his tenure as IC, if/when the BOD recommends Goke, he would take over at the end of that tenure (end of 2017).

DeGrosky – what about a letter from his Agency Administrator?

Rau – as there is no formal written process that requires a letter, Ralph has discussed with Melany Glossa, who supports the qualification and commitment.

No objections from the BOD, the official letter from NRCG will be drafted for Granger’s signature.

Lessons learned:

- Need to formalize the process, from completion of the task book to official transition with the current IC. **Action item for fall NRCG meeting.**
- Where does the documentation from NRCG go? The IMT Coordinator just needs the recommendation and approval letter from NRCG. Governance of the qualification (currency, experience) will remain with the host agency.

Resource Statusing/Commit Messages/NRCC Staffing (Kathy Pipkin):

- Resource statusing issues over the weekend (not isolated). Spent quite a bit of time trying to get a position mobilized, at least 7 individuals showing available national (most statused within 3 days), ended up UTF'ing. Had the same with the priority trainee list, showing available, were really not. Kathy would like to send a note to all the agency FMO's with expectations regarding statusing. Ralph would like a little more weight to it, can mention on FMO call? How will it be most effective? Kathy will send out, and will include BOD members, so they can send out to their respective agencies.
- NRCC Staffing – still down a meteorologist, 7-day staffing effective July 2, a couple will switch the 25th. Will not have the weather part of predictive services Sat/Sun, Michael will work Mon-Fri. Harold Gemmell is retiring relatively soon, will have to move people around to cover for the summer. Will be doing their own preparedness review, and will send out a checklist to BOD.
- Commit messages – Kathy sent out a message regarding commit messages, from many years ago, dispatch would send out a commit message for national resources informing of commitment to incident. With all the resource statusing and reports, this is being duplicated. Polled dispatch community and it was unanimous to discontinue. No concerns from the group with discontinuing. Local center info requirement will not change, but National commit messages will no longer be required.

Priority Trainees (Melissa Wegner): Over the weekend, worked with Julie/NRCC to get some priority trainees with Poncin's team, unique situation as they were going to staging. Melissa will work with Goke or Kopitzke, once they get placed, to mobilize more. Communicating with NRCC/Poncin/Goke about mobilization.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants

BIA NW - absent

BIA GP - absent

BIA RM – readiness reviews are done, not much going on fire-wise.

BLM – Justin Kincaid is in place for a 120 day detail, coming out of West Central Utah. Few fires on the east end, Roosevelt County may be looking at going into fire restrictions. Supporting other GA's. Hope to have Operations position announcement out by the end of next week, will be looking for help putting the panel together.

Mike Granger/FWS – Medicine Lake NWR in Roosevelt County (restrictions), will likely initiate severity request within the next couple weeks. All on board, losing one FF to state of WA. Things are drying out, did not experience green up or rainfall expected.

IDL - not much for activity, crew to AZ yesterday. Finished up Guard School and engine academy. Aviation assets come on next month.

MT DES – Jake Ganieany officially starts Monday, June 26th, Marschal will be done on July 14th.

MT DNRC – absent for Round Robin

Montana State Fire Chiefs - last call for Bill, Rich Cowger will be taking over after this. Thanked the BOD and group. Local FD's preparing across the state. Have not had a whole lot going on in the western part of the state. Rich – central part of state is relatively quiet, east side is drying out.

Montana Fire Wardens -

MT Peace Officers -

ND FS – absent

NPS – busy in SW, park is sending NR resources to help, trying to get Yellowstone ship to CO.

USFS – Tory Kendrick new Smokejumper Base Manager, supporting other GA's with resources.

The next scheduled Conference Call is Tuesday, July 18, 2017 @ 1000 MDT