

NRCG Business Committee 2020 Fall Meeting

11/23-11/24/2020

In attendance: Wanemah Hulett, Amber Honsaker, Tracey Nimlos, Amanda Boatright, Sarah Lee, Biddy Simet, Becky Shepard, Susan Dowler, Chuck Tapia, Katie Baret, Ann Vogt, Debby Wesselius, Jeff Gardner, Kelly McKee, Doug Turman, Joanne Marceau, Wendy Walter, Fauzia Massey, Randy Linthicum, Erin Lally

Current Action Items Review

- **Dispatch OT Guidance**
 - Tracey has worked out FS guidelines with Kathy Pipkin @ NRCC
 - Not an issue for BLM because of how they charge for incidents.
 - DNRC dispatchers only code their overtime when they are on a resource order.
 - This topic may have originally come up when the DNRC was reviewing FS bills for FMAG fires, was just trying to figure out how FS dispatchers are coding their time
 - If FS dispatchers are working at their home dispatch, they shouldn't be charging to an individual fire
 - When statewide agreements are up for renewal there are issues with current language re: dispatchers charging their overtime. Will be a topic to revisit in operating plans and agreements.
 - Now says dispatchers will not charge to specific fire, it should say they should. Incident job code guidance states that if you can charge to specific incident, you should.
 - All 3 current agreements in the GACC expire at the end of 2021
 - Revisit when we are looking at statewide agreement revisions – due date spring meeting.
- **NR Daily Avg. Equip rates comp to rates in Chapter 20**
 - Sarah- thinks it was just a reminder to make sure our rates are in line with national policy.
 - Anne has not gotten a lot of feedback from Tim Murphy or Chris Loraas.
- **Cost Share Implementation –**
 - Intent? Deanna's suggestion was to provide IMT direction on desired end state.
 - No report.
- **Donation Guide – Push to 2021**
- **S260/261 Standardization TS 20/21**
 - Have reviewed available materials and determined standardization not necessary. When going into the next training cycle we will revisit this topic. Initial intent of this group is already met, may reconvene at a later date.
 - S-261 delivery - this will be taught virtually at SWMT Training Center. There will be discussion on virtual courses later in agenda. Content is there, now will need to transition content to virtual delivery.
- **Gratuity Language**
 - Done, added language to Chapter 20 this Spring
- **State Equipment Rate Review – on hold**
- **Review Business Matrix**
 - Nemah sent one last edit to Tracey. Will be posted in the next round of website updates.
- **Succession Planning in Finance-** no developments since Spring Meeting.

Committee Reports

- **Operations**
 - o Met Wed 10/14. Short meeting. Nothing major discussed.
- **IC**
 - o Meeting will take place the first or second week in December. Have had a few calls, nothing major. Still waiting to hear how many IMTs, will need to reapply for 2021.
- **Training**
 - o Committee @ NIFC for training delivery. Assist with 2021 training.
 - o Wildland Fire Learning Portal is not secure. Submitted letter to board to make FireNet platform available for training. Currently can only be used for certain applications.
 - o No tuition at NRTC this training season, except L380 and L381, which will be delivered via contractor.
 - o Rosie is retiring, backfilling with training tech. Bill Phillips will now be full time.
 - o NRTC is all virtual. No IT support now. Did get funding for new IT equipment.
 - o Remote Education Development, or RED, train the trainer – Matt Gibson is currently holding open hours for folks to join in, will post more formalized schedule in future.
 - o Course Coordinators have been updated from previous years.
- **BUYT**
 - o BUYT was VERY busy this year. Supported all large fires in NR with IMTs assigned. Traveling home from assignment in CA today.
 - o Two more BUYL have been signed off this season.
 - o IDL has people who would benefit from working with qualified BUYM and BUYL to get qualified.
- **NRCG BOARD**
 - o IMT management and IC report outs. Decided will have BOD/IC summit to discuss issues and if there is a need another more formal meeting later.
 - o MOU Wildfire Defense systems – PRI insurance contract resources. Possible certification on the table, will see what NWCGs stance is on that.
 - o Taskings – DOA, Leaders Intent, Structure Guidelines
 - o Had an AAR from GMAC, chair rotation, AA session.

Fire Contracting Update

- VIPR solicitations next year are for Misc. Heavy Equip and Chippers.
- FS still in the middle of an AQM reorganization – many details not sorted out still.
- Debby and Jeff now work for Kim Luft.
- Very focused on nationwide standardization. Customers should not see difference. Fire support for other regions will be improved.
- Not sure what changes are coming. Will be fully engaged with all parties effected. NR shouldn't see much of a difference in product or timeline
- Jeff is back as a Fire Contracting Officer in R1 and Debby is retiring at the end of the year. Her recommendation is to consider adding Jeff as fire contracting SME to the committee. A second fire CO will be hired after Debby retires.
- BIA payment office info needs updated on VIPR template. Jeff and Debby can submit change requests to the template.
- DNRC will solicit for CWN scoopers, amphibious, and helicopters this season. Portable Toilets and handwash stations expire next year, and DNRC rental vehicles will be the year after.

Evaluations: IMT and NR current team evaluations

- Finance/Logistics joint evaluations not being done consistently. Only received 2 in 2018, 0 for 2019, and 1 submitted so far this year. Just a reminder to please submit as they are sent to the NRCG BOD.
 - o Value in keeping these separate evaluations. There is only one question in the overall IMT evaluation related to finance. Better to take what feedback we can get.
 - o Consider submitting for Type 3 IMTs as well
 - Would be a good tool to identify additional training for those IMT members. In the past have done a Type 3 workshop. May be something to look at resurrecting post-COVID.
 - Central Zone and NW Zone both have standing Type 3 IMTs and meet preseason. Albeit before practices changed for this season
 - The bar is raised for these IMTs and we are using them more. Additional training and follow up after the fact would be valuable for them.
- Tracey sent out evaluation NRCG is considering adopting in lieu of the GACC-specific version currently utilized
 - o Proposed form is from the red book. The BLM in the GACC use this and not the NR version. The BLM is strongly encouraged to use this version, not necessarily required.
- NRCG BOD has decided they want to use this version and would like comments.
 - o Suggest “Representative” should be plural. All applicable agency reps should be included in development of IMT evaluation.
 - o Old NR IMT evaluation was worded almost the same.
 - o Discussed specific questions and how they pertain to finance sections.
 - o Question #14 should reference disposition of records package and how well the IMT followed the host units Incident Business Operating Guidelines.
- Brief discussion re: personnel and contractor evaluations. This are hit and miss as far as the quality of the content and don’t always make it back to the contracting officer for contracted resources.

Transportation contradictory language

- FS preseason agreements and NR Chapter 20 supplements provide two differing directions on documenting on how a transport will be retained on-incident
- FS preseason agreement reads that “retained transports must be documented on shift ticket.” And provides no further documentation-specific requirements.
- NR Chapter 20 specifies that signed shift tickets are not adequate documentation for retained transport.
- Per Debby Chapter 20 and the solicitation do not have to be the same.
 - o Solicitation – binds awardees to language.
 - o Chapter 20 – is how we in the GACC have determined to administer EERAs/anything not with a solicitation.
 - o Doesn’t see an issue leaving the supplement language as is but does not pertain to preseason agreements.
- What about IMTs requiring GMs to document retaining transport for VIPR resources?
 - o IMT can decide however they want how to manage communication internally. But lack of general message is not a payment problem, as long as the transport is documented on the shift ticket.

Incident Operations driving – Chapter 10

- BIA employees now limited to a total of 8 hours of driving, instead of 10 behind wheel. Include. Exploring avenues for internal exemption for incident driving. Submitting update to next years' red book.

IBA consistency (consumables, cache items, etc.)

- Bidy has fielded questions from fire staff on her units regarding inconsistent approvals from different INBAs.
- Experienced inconsistent approvals of Government Property Loss and Damage reports working in other GACCs.
 - o Per Chapter 30, non-standard items should be approved up to cache value
 - o No way to follow through to see if purchaser stayed within the cap.
 - o Apportioning purchases between multiple job codes is not a split purchase.
- Many experienced vehicles being broken into and Gov. property being stolen.
 - o Property replacements were denied when government property not secured.
 - o This was an issue this year in the Northwest and Pacific Southwest.
 - Vehicles broken into in hotel parking lots. Vehicles were locked, parked in a well-lit area, even right in front of hotel.
 - Amanda had an example of an engines' compartments being pried open and equipment stolen in a hotel parking lot in another GACC. In another instance a generator used to power a finance trailer being stolen while finance was inside working.
 - Hard to apply same standards for these circumstances.
 - Difficult to make determinations in cases of theft. Even in examples where incident personnel did everything correct- locked items in vehicles, files police reports, determinations were inconsistent.
- Things that should have been fairly cut and dry were denied. Ex: Should mics.
- On the new chains saw part form, why are rim sprockets in the section that must be approved by the INBA?
 - o Manufacturer's recommendation is to replace every 3 new chains. Should this be consumable? Cost is 14-25 dollars.
 - o This was brought up when the form went out for review. Consensus that there is no consensus and there are lots of opinions about whether that is really a consumable or not.
 - o NFES system does not consider consumable.
- Approval of UTV damage also inconsistent.
 - o Need good documentation including witness statements documenting how UTV being utilized.
 - o Totally case dependent. Maybe we won't be consistent because of that
- Ultimately there won't really be consistency. INBA's come from all over the country, different agencies, and different experience levels.

IMT Pre-orders

- Discussion on how these are developed and having suggested vendors for items
- This is a topic comes up every few years. Technically the AA is the one who approves what's on that order. The BLM working with their AAs on what to look for/identify for discussion.
 - o Is it appropriate to include suggested contractors? Should look for something local? Seems like a red flag.
 - Preorders still must go through ordering process and legal procurement avenues for host agency.

- Some did see differences in IMT preorders considering COVID this season- different sanitizing methods, meeting platforms, etc.
 - o Hopefully now that we know more and more about COVID some of those kinds of orders will no longer be necessary. Regular cleaning contracts may be sufficient for our needs.
 - o Wide variety of ideas for COVID mitigations. Most teams had a COVID LOFR and/or MEDL. Most found it had to be a dedicated job for at least one person.
 - o Many teams were able to work with Dr. Harry Sibold. Thank you, Bidy and Deanna for their hard work to make that possible!
 - o DNRC was successful with implementing COVID mitigations and response on their incidents.
 - o IDL had verbiage in their delegations of authority for IMTs that the IMT would work with their COVID Liaison. First IMT did have a positive case and were successful with that partnership.

Greening Fire Initiative

- Tracey sent out material for everyone to look at.
- This is a national Forest Service initiative. National. Have approached R1 to see if there would be interest in using the current BPA for recycling or potentially pursuing our own
 - o Current BPA is in CA/NW/SW. Can be used by all agencies.
- Vendor comes to ICP and provides all recycling service, bins, personnel to sort, and hauls away- all inclusive.
 - o Reduces number of camp crews necessary.
 - o Cuts down on trash generated by camp
- Interagency partners might not be turned off by using out-of-state vendors
- Current recycling practices might be difficult in most of our GACC with lack of recycling resources in rural areas. We should be willing to go to the table and look at the requirements and how that could be successful in our GACC.
- Looking for an ambassador to IMTs. If interested or know of someone that might be interested, please let Tracey know.
- Agency leads please send Tracey an email if you think your agency would be interested in taking advantage of recycling BPA.
- Recyclables change with location and the market, etc.
 - o Glass cannot be recycled in most of the Northern Rockies
 - o Plastic bottles and cardboard would be a good start.
 - o Consider pre-cycling as well and stop things before they even make it to camp.
 - o Surprising to see caterers using Styrofoam clam shells for the meals. Might cause pricing issues if agreement changed to require biodegradable alternatives.
- Use next season? Depends on whether or not we are able to find vendors in our area or a host agency is willing to pay the mobilization cost of an out-of-area vendor
- Opportunity to see if there is local interest. Can do EERA with language from current BPA. These parties would have better local intel and be more cost effective to mobilize.
- Battery recycling available from NRK. Do not have capacity to backhaul cardboard from incidents to recycle with their cache

Northern Rockies Finance Section Chief AAR

- NR FSCs met two weeks ago for their AAR, report distributed to committee.
- Each was FSC allotted time to report out for their IMT.
 - o Northern Rockies IMTs had a cumulative 15 assignments. Business conducted across the board between hard copy and electronic.

- Discussed the benefits and challenges of managing virtual employees.
 - Easier to navigate if resource was known and had a working relationship before assignment.
- Access and familiarity with FireNet. Many resources arriving to incidents without a FireNet account
- Issues with using an automated document flow from a shared inbox.
 - Doesn't always work.
 - Flow disrupted when personnel who set it up left incident.
- Adobe Pro is critical software in the electronic environment and should come on Smart Source rental computers.
- Naming convention/filing standard – lack of a national standard created a lot of frustration, especially when transitioning from one IMT to another.
- Lots of variations how documents were submitted, including a video CTR complete with its own soundtrack.
- Stable, fast internet connection more important than ever.
- Filing standards overall were good for individual teams but need consistency when transitioning from IMT to IMT.
- Host unit documentation expectations
 - If expectation is electronic, must have alternate way to submit their forms for resources without tech to submit electronic. Will require more staff.
 - If hard copy documentation is preference results in extra time printing documents
- Email inbox management is a full-time job, and should have at least one person dedicated.
 - Essential for incidents with 100% electronic documentation expectations.
 - Too many individuals with access to inbox is problematic.
- Sneeze guards not as effective or utilized as planned.
- Hunting down missing information in the electronic environment is a big workload.
- SOLUTIONS –
 - Create a QR code to a Linktree that houses several links, rather than multiple QR codes for individual items
 - Utilize more USGS employees as trainees in hard to fill positions.
 - Create a FIDL, or Finance Inbox Distribution Leader position specifically to manage incoming data. Broad range of finance knowledge and functions would be required to effectively route communication and documents.
 - Would like to see self-paced training for virtual processes and FireNet navigation.
 - Need more staff when operating electronically.
 - Finance preorders might be better left standalone to expedite IT orders getting delivered timely.
 - Smart Source- need printers/scanners that work with laptops.
 - Trello- SITL made maps to show where resources are working and who they are working for.
 - Assign virtual mentors for virtual trainees
 - Develop standard form with NR teams for check in/demob that includes pertinent finance questions/directions so less information slips through the cracks in the future.
 - Assign finance personnel to specific DIV
 - One item not discussed worth mentioning is using a Google Voice phone number.
 - Creates local telephone number that can be forwarded to anyone at any time.
- ICP locations with fast, reliable internet. And be flexible with that for IMTs.
- Type 3 organizations will need to be more robust and staffed appropriately for the increased workload.

- Debby worked with ASC this season to assist Incident Finance with payment processing.
 - o Errors in payment packages were beyond what they would see in a normal year, specifically related to hotel reimbursement. Receipts not included with many payments that require that documentation. There was a significant uptick in resources staying in hotels this season, in light of COVID.
 - o If the Finance and Logistics evaluations are not completed there isn't a good way to report that intel back to IMTs.
 - o Lots of factors this summer between COVID, being at PL 5 nationally so long and navigating the electronic environment. Some of the basics seem to have been forgotten.
 - o Electronic finance takes more time and more personnel. Tracking how and when invoices are audited is more complicated and takes more time.
 - o Seems to be a good argument for host units to require electronic documentation
 - o Reviewing feedback from the NOC is on the Fall BLM meetings' agenda in December.
 - This has been discussed on National BLM group monthly calls already. They are seeing the same errors as ASC
 - o Should get data from payment centers on errors and add to webinar training
 - o ASC is bound to the batch- if moving more toward electronic submitting invoices individually would help. An electronic process that did not let the user submit the invoice without all the required documentation would be ideal.
 - o Huge number of interims payments never got submitted.
 - o BLM is beta testing sending invoices electronically. Still doing in a batch but limited to how many at a time.
- COVID not going to be around forever, but many of these new processes likely will be.
- All of our IMT members returned home healthy.

Incident Business Webinar

- Decision made at last meeting to no conduct workshop virtually and produce another round of webinars instead.
- Reviewed session descriptions developed for workshop vs. last webinar series to determine which sessions could be presented in webinar format.
 - o Some overlap between the two deliveries-- INBA and Local Incident Procurement.
 - o General session
 - Add topics that had been planned for the workshop.
 - New to Fire should standalone session.
 - o Most topics will need to address COVID.
 - o Electronic-specific information should be delivered in a standalone session
 - o Keep INBA refresher with additional virtual INBA material.
- Rental vehicles
 - o There will be changes in use of NERV, but don't have them all yet.
 - Two separate task groups have been created, have not met yet.
 - Extent of changes not known at this time but should be a topic addressed in a session that would reach the largest audience.
 - Will be a section in the General Session of the webinars.
- Add IROC 101 for Finance rather than Dispatch 101.
- Add an Auditing and Payments session in lieu of EQTR.
 - o Address common mistakes and errors, and all address how to do electronic. Refer participants to the 2019 version for nuts and bolts of how to do. Recommend attendees watch 2019 recording of prior to attending 2021 session.

- Timeline for FS removing current requirements for PROC unknown, assuming will be included in next FS Fire Qualification Guide Update. Advanced EQTR could be a great tool to get individuals interested in pursuing.
 - Payment office clarification for different agencies great topic to address
 - Would like guest speakers from all agencies on what they need for their payment package.
 - Give a behind the curtain look at what happens at the agency level and why they need what they are.
- Local Incident Procurement Refresher – include updates from all agencies.
 - USFS AQM Reorg - Discuss changes to Micro purchasing support for FS.
 - This would be a valuable topic to discuss and blend in to how each agency is organized and what to expect, not to expect, etc.
- Many requests for a Personnel Time session.
 - Do not have a recorded version. Previous session done before we could record.
 - Focus on application, with beginner, intermediate and advanced portions. Could probably hit on all topics if we did as a progression. Could easily be a half-day session
- Injury
 - Requests for review of how to fill out forms.
 - Should include how this works for tribal resources.
 - Hospital LOFR should be a portion.
 - Focus on injury.
- There are limitations in Teams for recording, GotoMeeting is a better platform to record series.
- Amanda, Nemah, and Becky will be coordinators.
- Will poll participants for best schedule for delivering sessions. One week of sessions or weekly.
- **2021 Webinar Sessions**
 - General session – Amanda lead
 - New to Fire – Sarah lead
 - Electronic Processes – Fauzia, Wendy McCartney lead
 - INBA Refresher – Tracey lead
 - IROC for Finance – Sarah lead
 - Equipment Time – Fauzia, Joanne
 - Procurement and Purchasing Support – Jeff lead
 - Personnel Time – Bidy Becky
 - Local Government – Nemah, Becky & Amber
 - injury Refresher – Deanna lead

S-261

- Group didn't get far, discussed content, which hasn't changed.
- There is a question with course delivery this season in the SW zone. Deanna and Bidy were going to work on this together. Unsure if the proposed method of delivery will be successful.
 - Proposed method is to have an instructor in Missoula providing instruction to satellite areas, and each satellite area would have a coach to get through the more hands-on material.
 - Finding a satellite location might be difficult if conditions don't change in the next few months.
 - Finding qualified coaches for satellite locations might be challenging.
- Virtual delivery model – can we put together or should leave it up to the zones?
- Bidy has a self-study option. Has used once and was successful.
 - On-incident delivery for time recorders who haven't had the class.
- IDL has a lot of new employees who need the class. Would be open to any delivery method.

- Wendy McCartney at Lewistown BLM is in the process of looking at virtual delivery of a combined 260/261, has been working with Matt Gibson at NRTC on virtual delivery options.
- Many agencies have travel restrictions in place that would make in-person delivery with social distancing an unviable option.
 - o BIA - some programs not allowed to travel at all.
 - o FS has been advised to not plan to do anything business as usual through 2021.
- Matt Gibson might be able to help address some of the concerns we have about coaching small groups. Some meeting platforms have different groups/channels where students can break out into smaller groups.
- Final exam is another concern. Bidy has idea for how to set up with responses submitted in a way to ensure student understands material and can put into practice.
- There is still a need for S-261 and support combining efforts into a GACC-wide course, rather than splitting up by zone.
- Bidy will reach out to some folks. Was in the RED session last Tuesday with Wendy. Potential for presenting content in smaller segments, mixed with self-study.
- We have the tools, just need to figure out a flow and what tools are best.
- To clarify this is S-261 only, no combination course quite yet.
- Dry runs with practice students would be ideal.

National Electronic Filing

- NWCG IBC has assembled a group to address.
- Some confusion about where folder structure in Teams came from. Remote SIT in the NR and RM both developed structures preseason. Seems like most geographical areas had something similar.
- National filing structure and naming convention standards will be worked on over the winter
 - o Deanna is already working with this group. Also, has designed a naming convention that can be uploaded into a spreadsheet. Naming had to be exact. Should be a topic for the next call
- Question - Are we going to follow something national or agency direction.
 - o Potential the direction will be interagency. Can't see agency specific direction for on-incident. Naming, structure, etc. should be coming from NWCG.
 - o National standard has not been established yet. Right now, there is only an FS group addressing.
- Structure we used this season mirrors the hard copy filing structure. Need direction specifically for sub-files and individual files.

Training for new electronic filing and processing experiences this season (FireNet, OneDrive, SharePoint, adobe, edit/sign etc.)

- A Train-the-Trainers course would be helpful
- Process simple for local fires but a whole different world on larger incidents with multiple IMTs assigned.
- Would need beginner, intermediate, and advanced segments and emphasize how complex this can get when there are a whole lot of hands in the same pot.
- Finance personnel would be target audience.
- Lots of potential for change and updates to these processes. Might be hard to nail down definitive details right now.
- Great for a webinar topic.

NR Contracted Resources SOP regarding LGFF as available resources

- Brief discussion on these SOPs and GOV resources vs. contracted resources

BUYT DOA

- Buying Teams need a signed DOA to get authority to spend funds for the host agency. There is a standard template that is in the national BUYT guide. Template is included in FS IBOGs as well.

Covid-19 vs. Fire Season

- Virtual INBA - Tracey
 - o Early in the season she sent around a virtual INBA plan. When NR started to pick up most of the INBAs on assignment, it left Tracey to step (duplicate word?) into the virtual INBA role.
 - o Thought it worked well. All planning meetings conducted via Zoom or Teams, so a significant amount of driving time was cut out of the day.
 - o Was able to support 3 incidents at the same time.
 - o Probably some issues went unaddressed, but overall, successful.
 - o Government Property Loss and Damage forms were easy to do via email.
 - o Then went to OR on an INBA assignment in October. Host unit wanted her on-site.
 - o Because of variability of offices being open ended up working essentially as a virtual INBA and supported 3 incidents with two IMTs from her hotel room
 - o Going to different GACC helped to be able to go in person initially and meet players and IMTs in person with no prior relationship helpful.
 - o Virtual INBA is doable. Not maybe the most ideal, but allowed her to support more incidents than normally would have by cutting out the drive time to attend meetings
 - o Viable solution for busy seasons when ordering INBAs is difficult.
 - Would work well for a qualified INBA to mentor advanced trainees virtually.
 - o Provided we continue to use electronic processes. Seems like there is a good chance we will.
- BIA
 - o COVID impacted a lot of their on the ground decisions. One fire took off quick, more than what the local unit could handle, but a decision was made not to order IMT based on COVID situation in local area.
 - o Tribes were hesitant to have outside resources come in and this played into decision making. Intentionally spiking out contractors, keep out of local unit.
 - o Similar situation in CA. Area was not a COVID hotspot, but local unit didn't want a lot of outside resources in community. Resources with the Type 3 organization had to stay off reservation.
 - o Resources not allowed to leave reservations, including their IHC.
 - o Overall COVID had a significant impact on the agency.

Website Updates

- Quick review of items on website. Loading standard electronic forms would be helpful.

2021 Supplement Updates

- Chapter 0 - Tracey
- Chapter 10 - Becky
- Chapter 20 - Susan, Chuck
- Chapter 30 - Sarah and Bidy
- Chapter 40 - Tracey
- Chapter 50 – Becky, Nemah, Tim
- Chapter 70 - Amber

Zone Reports –

- **Southwest Montana** – no report
- **Central MT** – Started out the season with a lot of coordinating calls. Both forests have acting Fire staff officers. Will be evaluating training needs for zone.

- **South Central** – Had a short meeting last month. Gallatin county and Zone considering developing an organized Type 3 IMT.
- **Eastern** – No meeting. 3 of 5 FEMA fires this season were in the Eastern Zone.
- **North Dakota**- Provided assistance to other areas.
- **Fire Wardens, Fire Chiefs** – No report.
- **NW BIA**- regional FMO retiring and AFMO going to FS, so both will be vacant. Active season.
- **GP BIA**- Slow season, most reservations were locked down. Did bring in outside resources. Pine Ridge most active spot.
- **NWCG IBC**- No report.
- **North Idaho Zone**- Idaho Panhandle NF moved their SO to a new building. Chuck's first season, active as an INBA trainee.

Agency Reports

- **BIA**-
 - o Many personnel changes and vacancies.
 - o Discussing moving Fort Peck agency to Miles City Dispatch rather than Billings. Makes more sense logistically.
 - o COVID impacted was significant for resource availability.
- **IDL**
 - o Personnel changes - New Bureau Chief, Wendy Walter is retiring at end of May.
 - o Busy with fires in September. Set up ad hoc IDL buying team to support multiple incidents due to shortage of Buying Teams.
 - o Successful COVID response with the counties. Had good plans in place for testing, contact tracing, etc.
 - o Prepositioned engines and 1 crew
- **DNRC**
 - o Getting new director.
 - o Several small fires, 7 larger fires. 6 FMAGs.
 - o Did have COVID cases on a smaller fire, successful in testing/quarantine.
 - o Did have at least one dispatch center use the DNRC agreement for a rental vehicle for a federal fire. Sarah will make sure topic is addressed at upcoming dispatch center manager meeting and as well as the workshop in the spring.
- **USFS**
 - o Starting next year, the federal agencies will not be using the ODF type 2 crew contracts. The FS is going to be soliciting for their own Type 2 Crew contracts.
 - o Regarding the Acquisition Management reorganization, overall, fire has come out looking good. AQM has been organized into five different branches that will cover different areas fire needs support. Supervisors and team leaders in these groups have good experience, will be beneficial.
 - o Debby and Tim Murphy are retiring this year. Both positions will be backfilled.
 - o An audit of CA Coop agreement included many findings that were not in our favor. Findings will result in some changes for rest of the regions as well.
 - Will be having new procedures in cooperative billing process. A second level of review on most cooperative billings will be required.
 - Reviewing various cost share methodologies and processes. Nothing changed as of right now - no extra approval currently required for signing a cost share agreement, it's the settlement that will require second level of review.
 - Waiting for process to be confirmed regarding implementation.
 - Changes to CA Cooperative agreement is causing issues with the BIA and Tribes.
- **BLM**
 - o Offices are back to maximum telework for the foreseeable future.

- MT/Dakotas BLM was the first agency to be able to send resources out of GACC.
- Exceeded fuels target.
- Staffing- NRCC Assistant Center Manager position vacant soon.
- National Incident Business group will be meeting next month.
 - Will be discussing – cost share settlements, coop agreements, AD pay plan changes- potential for one single pay plan for DOI and FS
 - Orange book updates and trespass cost recovery
- NWCG IBC – will transition to Dave Burley as Chair, Sarah will be national BLM representative to IBC

Chair Rotation

- Amber will be chair next year and Tracey will remain as Vice-Chair

Upcoming Meetings

- Quarterly conference call – January 12
- Spring Meeting - March 16th and 17th