

NRCG OPS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

January 22, 2003

Value Inn Conference Center

Present:

Committee Members:

Technical Specialists

North Idaho – Mark Grant
 Northwest Montana – Mark Romey (Chair.)
 Southwest Montana – Jack Kirkendall
 Central Montana – Bret Ruby
 South Central Montana – snowed out
 Eastern Montana – Phil Gill
 North Dakota – snowed out

Kathy Elzig
 John Specht
 John Monzie
 Pat Nooney
 Brian McMannis – Eastern Area Rep.
 Tom Boatner - NRCG
 Joni Bras – note taker

Chuck Stanich – Dep. T1IC, Wally Bennett – T1IC, Gary Boyd, Rodger Kechter – T2IC, Allen Chrisman – T2IC, Bill Swope – T2IC, Sandy Evenson, Bob Sandman – T2IC, Stan Benes – T2IC, Rich Lasko, Jeff Scussel, Steve Frye – T1IC, Jim Gray – T2IC, Chris Shelton.

SHARED POSITIONS ON TEAMS

Discussions of shared position on teams took into account availability, freelancing, numbers per team, what positions fit, need for positions to be able to staff a team. Agreement was reached to take the recommendation of shared positions will be limited to 2 qualified positions on a team.

Action Item: Specht will take recommendation to NRCG. A letter should follow up if accepted.

SELECTIONS FOR NORTHERN ROCKIES INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

FRYE	BENNETT	FUMT	BENES	TYPE 2 ALT.
Dennis Danzl	*Stephen Creech	Chris Hertl	*Gerald Vickers	Jim Gray
Jay Sylvester	Alan Harrison	*Scott Studiner	Tim Reid	Debbie Phillips
Lenny Kempf	Mike Dannenberg	Larry Svalberg	Ellen Bogardus-Szymaniak	Dave Larson
Ross Williams	Mike Granger	Bart Hoag	Jess Secrest	Jacque Parks
George Riffle	Jim Harrington	Maggie Pittman		Mark Giacoletto
Peggy Polichio	Wendy Whiteman	Risa Lange-Navarro	SWOPE	Tammy Clark
*Kevin Sullivan	Mike Gagen		*Nick Giannettino	Al Christopherson
Ron Hvizdak	Allison Robb	FUMT ALT.	*Tim Norman	
Larry Russell	Mike Ware	Jacque Parks	Kurt Schierbeck	ID ALT.
Bruce Windhorst	Shane La Valley	Lee Clark	Sheri Schlader	Jeffrey Polack
Deena Shotzberger	Bob Derleth	George Weldon		Gary Weber
Rick Floch	*Kathryn Engel	Paul Mock	KECHTER	
Mike Meyer	Bill Widrig	Grant Godbolt	Steve Gally	
Bob Ethridge	Dixie Dies	Diane Taliaferro	Bob Pridham	
Jane Ingbertson	Keith VanBroeke	Chuck Mack	Mark Wilson	
Brenda Nelson	Darrel Steinberg	Marty Gardner	Dave Grace	
Trini Garrison	Rick Carlson	Darrell Schulte		
Dana Horton	Paul Moore		GRAY	Dean Bitterman?
*Deborah Wesselius	Cathy Calloway	SANDMAN	Bill Erhardt	
Mary Lovejoy	Rhonda King	*Paul Kollmeyer	Eugene Mannelin	
Jeanne Robertson	David Ondov	*Tim Tevebaugh	Gary Olsen	
William Burkhardt	Martha-Jo Smith	Tom Westby		
Steve Zachry	Dewey Arnold	Maggie McDonald	CHRISMAN	
	John Kastner	Gary Vallieres	Joel Skjerven	
	Mark Goeller	Aaron Madsen **	Shawn Pearson	
TYPE 1 ALT.	Karen Wandler	Bill Caldwell **	Dennis Talbert	
Darryl Wurst	Lori Braley	Allen Branine		
William Bowman		Mark Lennon		* support
				** shared with Frye's Team

Qualified ASGS

There needs to be clarification of what fully constitutes a qualified ASGS in the Northern Region. Previously the NRCG decided that an ASGS should have the opportunity to work with a T1 IMT before becoming fully qualified. Interpretation of this “direction” is varied among members. It is not totally accepted by all members of NRCG. The Operations Committee suggests that a letter documenting the intent of this “direction” from the NRCG BOD be written clarifying this direction prior to the fire season.

Action Item: NRCG letter clarifying “direction” for a fully qualified ASGS in the Northern Region.

S-420 and S-520

We put a lot of energy into putting folks into S-520, not seeing the same with S-420. First priority are those going to 520 this year, next priority is getting together a list for S-520 in 2005. At the team’s IC meeting in the spring, we need to identify who should be going to S-420 as well as S-520. We need to remember to use Northeast people to fill in slots in S-420. We use them on the teams, should utilize them for S-420 also. People attending *S-520 this year: Bill Caldwell, Cathy Calloway, Rick Floch, Bruce Fox, Jane Ingebretson, Peggy Polichio, and Steve Zachry*

List of name potentials for S-520 in 2005.

ICT1 – Tom Corbin, Allen Chrisman

SOF1 – Craig Bobzien, Gary Kirpach

IOF1 –

OSC1 – Rick Kusicko, Andy Mitchell, Greg Poncin, Jeff Secrest, Mark Giacolletto

PSC1 – Glen McNitt

LSC1 – Mike Dettori, Erik Heyn

FSC1 - Brenda Nelson, Jeannie Robertson

We should have this discussion at team meetings, with sign up sheets. We need to start prodding people to look into taking both S-520 and S-420.

PROFESSIONAL FIRE TRAINEES

In the NR, there are 9 professional fire trainees. They have no understanding of fire management. A proposal was developed to team attach one of these trainees to NR teams. The team would use an O# to order them. They would be shadowing each of the Command staff to understand each of the functions. The training will shift to moving them up to the next level that they are interested in. This will be a 3-year training course. Not limited to just FS trainees. **IC will have to take this on with the support of the dispatch system and trainee’s supervisor.** This would be a good opportunity for them to see the big picture by shadowing the team. The fire would be paying for them. When the team is going to another geographic area, they will need approval from the host unit. This is because they will be paying for it and providing an O#. It should be an automatic dispatch in the NR, with the FS cooperation.

FIRE USE MANAGEMENT TEAMS

There are some significant changes proposed with FUMT’s with how they work in the geographic areas and nationally. 4 national teams got out 60 to 80 days each last year, with 4 to 6 assignments. Most of these were suppression events, very little wildfire use. This year, ended up with 3 national teams. There is a proposal to roll the national teams back into the geographic areas and add them to what the GAC’s are forming. This would make 6 FUMT’s in the system. They would operate similarly like a T1 Team on a rotation. It is highly likely we will inherit Cook’s national team. If NR has a fire, we can use our own NR teams before we go to the National rotation. It’s a year around rotation, so it’s more of a concern to the players and their supervisors. Their composition will have 10 people, 3 of those slots will be trainees, with 7 core positions. They’re all qualified at the T2 level except for the IOF, they will accept an IOF3. We may be heading towards separate T1

and T2 and FUMT's. This is an issue that needs to be dealt with on a national level. If we could meld these organizations together it would make more sense.

TEAM MEETING

March Team Meetings Agenda, week of **March 18th to 20th in Kalispell at Outlaw Inn**. The focus this year is Leadership. We have looked for speakers that could address leadership issues and along those lines we wanted to talk about 30 Mile. We're looking for someone to talk about Lesson Learned, specifically examples. Next year the issues will deal a lot with financial issues, we'll spend some time with that. The scene has shifted with large incidents and teams assigned, frequent use of area command, the relationships that are evolving. Rex Mann has given presentations of the evolution of large incidents. We are hoping to get him to as a speaker. Homeland security needs to be addressed with what the expectations of incident management teams will be. There's more likelihood that we will be called on to assist on incidents other than fire. Mike's idea was to talk generally about the changing roles of incident management teams. Let Mike or Steve know of any suggestions or ideas for speakers. We should try to address the 30 mile speaker (maybe Tom Payne?) about the roles of the Forest Service versus the other players with the 30 mile issue. There's still some confusion with the agency differences. There will be an Incident and Accountability report coming out soon. We need to try to get someone to speak on this. Per diem and travel can be paid for AD's that are carried on your teams to attend the team meeting, if they are regular team members and not support. They have to be signed up with the feds. Last year the IC's put together a pre-season letter to address team topics; will we do that again this year? It spelled out some expectations and principles; it can be handy later in the year. It was a positive step but it was obvious it didn't get distributed well. Will we be talking about personal liability issues at the team meeting? Right now it's been focused around the IC's, but it should be around our Ops chiefs and others too. We need to address it in a realistic fashion instead of over email. Looking for a logical evaluation and a regional resolution about personal liability when we're rolling on these incidents.

EARLY SEASON STRATEGY

NRCG asked Specht to gather up a task force for early season strategy, with cross regional and cross agency representation. This will be held Feb. 18th. The recommendation is that we use the zones, but if we have names we can do that. Write a very simple plan using some bulleted ideas. For example, putting hot shot crews on early, line up some SEAT's early, etc. What people do on the local level already, but do it collectively for the bigger picture. We had a group of 18 last week discussing it; it was too big, hoping for a group of about 6.

THANK YOU'S FOR TEAM MEMBERS

This fall we sent thank you letters to every IMT member and agency administrators. It didn't get to every one. This year let's try to get a list of all of the supervisors to get a thank you directly to them. Is that worth doing, or too much of a hassle? Maybe we can try a different zone each year to try to recognize their contributions to IMT's, including awards.

DRAW DOWNS AND COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS

Two items that need to be taken on, Draw Down from the GACC, and Complexity Analysis. As far as draw downs and preparedness levels, we need to tie in with Plattes to make sure we're on the same page. Couple of things needs to tie with that, severity funding; the MAC group needs to draw all of that together. We need to get a small group of folks who have draw down plans so we can make an outline of what we need to do. If you have the common elements you can add up the numbers to do it. Let's have Wally/Monzie, Mark Grant, Jack and Phil Gill and Mike/Kathy for the group. Lets take what we have existing and funnel it towards Kathy and see if we have some common threads. Kathy will get a letter out to the zones to see if we can gather some common things and start gathering things to put together. Specht is going to gather up info from 2000 and 2001 and what was done in Region 3. He will put together a packet of information to send out. We'll get together the 10th of Feb. Then we could draft the format. We'll run it by the NRCG by the 18th. The intent is to have this in place by April 1st. It's a geographic strategy as to when people go in to severity, who will take the lead on things. Like the BLM took on the role of the SEAT's. Set some priorities for initial attack. We just need some guidelines for the MAC group. Last year there were a lot of versions of Complexity Analysis

coming out of 30 mile. The red book identifies the minimum items that need to be covered. The thought was to get a standard one for the geographic area. The format isn't as important as people just doing them. Some IC's were requiring them to do them daily. On the 30 mile plan, it needs to be redirected towards type 3 and 4 fires, not 1 and 2. We need to try to identify needing a FUMT versus a type 2 team. The red book did clarify the different types of organizations you need. You have your large fire analysis; we need to make sure there's a separation between your organizations

IMT Issues

Shared positions

There is a need to have shared positions in the Command-General Staff on the IMT's in the Northern Region to field eight teams. More than two shared positions in the Command-General Staff do not meet national standards. The Operations Committee recommends (with input from NR IC's) that shared positions on a team be limited to 2 qualified positions on each IMT.

Action Item: NRCG letter limiting the number of qualified Command-General Staff positions to two on NR IMT's for out of GAC assignments.

Staging IMT's

There is no direction from the National MAC on staging IMT(s) in hosting GAC(s). Once these teams are ordered they are unavailable to other GAC's and should not be hoarded in one GAC. To prevent the mismanagement of IMT(s) there is a need to set a staging protocol for hosting IMT(s) from other GAC(s) in the Northern Region. It is the opinion of the NR IMT's, when ordered to the NR the IMT(s) should be put on top of the team rotation list. Also the teams coming into the NR GAC should not be staged longer than 72 hours without an assignment.

Action Item: NRCG letter setting protocol for hosting IMT(s). The letter should stipulate that incoming IMT(s) will be placed at the top of NR team rotation and not be held in staging longer than 72 hours.

IMT Standby

There is concern by all NR IMT'(s) that when a team is on standby they will be put on 8 hour days. This is a big moral issue and disincentive for team membership. The continuity of the team will be in question after 8 hours and may not be intact until the following duty day. The Incident Business Management Handbook stipulates that if you are in **ordered standby** hours can be more than 8 hours. The NR IMT's (OPS Comm. Concurs) suggest that when a team is ordered for staging, they are requested as **ordered standby**.

Action Item: NRCG letter stipulating that as part of staging protocol when an IMT is ordered they are requested as **ordered standby**.

Also the NRCG BOD work with the Business Committee to draft a letter-requesting wording in the IBMH is changed to accommodate 12 hours for standby.

CACHE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nooney brought a final copy of the Cache Management Plan, needs to be brought to NRCG for signatures. Also developed the National Management Plan kept them the same. Have comments in by Feb. 7th.

MEDICAL KITS

An emerging issue regarding medical kits (100 person and 500 person kits) has been coming for about 3 years. The growth and use has doubled. Up until last year R1 and R6 were the only ones to use them. Last year we experienced tremendous losses in these kits. It is illegal in any state to dispense any kind of medication without a license and that is happening out there. One component is that medical unit qualifications may not be enough,

they aren't making good decisions. In having the kits on fires, they are not having certified personnel to manage the use of the kits. We have a new rule to implement, since we are the suppliers, we will be the only ones to issue the 1835's so we can supply them directly to the incident and returned directly from the incident. ***The issue isn't significant in the NR or the NW geographic areas. That's because we have the IMS programs. There will be a draft letter out in March.***

CONTRACTORS and AD's

The contracting issue is exploding in the NR. How are we or should we include the contractors to our NRCG committees? Should we include the contractors association on our mailing list for NRCG items so they could come and comment if they wanted to? Any association could send a rep to our meeting. Right now there's only one association that has gotten his act together. We need to get the word out to the contractors to form associations; we can't deal with 250 individual people at the NRCG. This item will be discussed at the NRCG BOD meeting.