

Operations Committee Meeting

November 27-28, 2012

Helena, Montana

Introductions

Chairman Greg Archie reviewed the agenda and introductions were done.

- **Agenda:**
- Fire Season Review – Successes/Challenges
 1. Team Assignments
 2. NR Zone Review
- Questions/Ideas from the NR BOD
- Team Applications – New computer program
- Team Meetings
- Risk Analysis/Complexity – rewrite?
- Training Update
- Contracting
- Updates from the Hotshots / Jumpers
- Zone Updates
- Other NR Committee reports
- Other Items:
 1. Working with landowner resources
 2. Info sharing in the digital age of IMTs
 3. Process for Team Member approvals in/out of GACC

Fire Season Review – Successes/Challenges:

Team Assignments: McBratney – WFDSS was a major challenge during assignments. Good relationship with Region 3 personnel on team worked well. Pearson – 68 days out, busy year. Challenging incident related to the Steep Corner fatality fire and the investigation teams. Biggest success was the safety record. Kusicko – Filling holes on the team was a success using freelance overhead but may be missing a Finance Section Chief next year. 3 long assignments and 2 short ones. Good safety year with minimal issues. Benes – 4 assignments for over 40 days. Good safety record for the year. Cooperation was very good this year. Succession planning. ADs are critical to be able to operate. Challenge with getting agency support for team members. Social media was a challenge. Fry – 5 assignments for over 80 days. Challenges were similar to other teams on issues of ADs and region sharing – Discussed the MAFFS crash on White Draw and the All Hazard incident in NJ. McKelvey for Heintz – Length of season showed for safety issues. Cooperation went well during season. Mobilization of team went well with some challenges related to agency support. Hutton – 2 and 1/2 assignments. Challenge on first assignment came with interpretation of letter directing more suppression on federal lands. Challenge of managing long term fires using Type 3 resources (logistics issues). Poncin – Similar to a lot of other IC issues. 55 days out on assignments. Discussed Eastern MT issues; ready to work quickly and be able to work nights. Team was used effectively to manage incidents. Good use of social media and technology. Turman – 3 assignments. Used staging assignments to go over team protocols and this really helped over the long haul. Utilized long range planning effectively for risk management near end of year. Team maintenance maintaining a roster always a challenge.

NR Zone Reviews:

Downs ND zone – Good success working with local VFDs. SW part of ND had some resource utilization issues and doesn't want NR to forget them. Concern over the oil boom activity and related potential for fire starts. Pallas Eastern Zone – Good sharing of resources throughout season. Staging area size was an issue due to kitchen limits of Type 3 kitchen. Would like to see some flexibility for Eastern MT on the kitchen issue. Unified Command training will be a priority this year after AARs. Will utilize a coordinator for MAC calls. Gagen South Central Zone – new Zone rep. Busy year but had good interagency coordination. Always had good cooperation from NR Operations. Could have used a regular MAC call to help with coordination. Booster program for jumpers worked well. Restriction program needs to be reworked. Utilized Type 3 organizations quite a bit and still struggled with support positions. Archie Central zone – Working on zone MAC coordination. Fire season started in January and is still continuing. Type 3 organizations are getting better as the season progressed. Very good mutual aid and cooperators cooperation across zone. NR Operations was excellent to work with. Also struggled with restrictions. Thompson Southwest zone – JT new rep. Fairly typical activity. Missoula Dispatch had challenges with the amount of contract equipment hosted. Osborn NW zone – Cassidy will be the NW rep next year. Fairly slow year. Passed out Libby Superfund Fire Suppression briefing paper and briefed on it. Pearson North Idaho zone – Busy year with record year on Clear Nez. R1-R3 agreement was very successful. Good resource sharing in the zone. Type 3 organizations were very busy and worked well. New charter being developed for the zone. Workforce planning will affect support for teams.

Questions/Ideas from the NR BOD:

Discussed team membership and makeup. A long discussion about the number of teams occurred. Patti Koppenol will work on a letter recommendation for support of team personnel from application through the season. Wally Bennett and Steve Frye will draft a letter of recommendation to the NRCG board for the Plans position to have the field qualification removed in order to allow more Planning Section Chief trainees. Succession planning for ICs was discussed. The NRCG board will be discussing the list of IC trainees.

Team Applications-new computer program:

Turman and Fry's teams will be reapplying for the whole team. Judy Heintz discussed a new system posted on the Northern Rockies Coordination Center site that will host the application process and also a training video is posted on youtube about the application process. The process is called eAuthentication and the system is called ICAP, Incident Command Application. The application process will be closed January 30th. All teams will be open if critical positions are needed but only Fry and Turman's teams need to have their entire team reapply.

Team Meetings:

Greg started the discussion on the target audience and agenda. Discussed doing the functional updates via web based prior to the meeting. Irv Leach worked up a draft agenda that was accepted. Greg, Doug, Irv will finish up the agenda development. If interested in the agenda development contact Doug Turman. Judy will coordinate the final team meeting and facilities management. Team meetings are April 16th, 17th, & 18th in Missoula.

Contracting and Equipment Committee Update:

Debbie Weselius and Kevin updated us on Contracting and Equipment status and provided handouts with information. Information is posted to the NRCG Contractor website. Tactical water tenders were discussed. They can be ordered if we put them in Chapter 50 & 20. We don't need to solicit for them due to the lack of use currently. If they get used more, in the future, it could be solicited.

Hotshot update:

Fred Thompson updated us on the status of the NR IHCs and missions for the year. Provided us with an example of how we could use a crew to fill some overhead support positions by using a few of the crew in the positions and that the NR crews are interested in being utilized like that.

Smokejumper update:

Tory Kendrick updated us on missions and getting overhead assignments passed out an annual report.

Training Update:

Greg Archie led the discussion on the NRTC training. The hiring of the manager is still in limbo.

Business Management Update:

Tracy Nimlos and Pam Okon gave an update on changes. Type 3 Caterers were discussed. Will be discussing a number of things with current Finance chiefs to identify issues and prioritizing finance candidates for the upcoming season. Business committee feels it would be good to have a Logistics committee and this was discussed. A procurement workshop will be added this spring in Billings. The Yellow Book has been recently updated and released and should be reviewed for the changes. If you have anything needed for the team meeting brief please let Tracy know.

Native American Crews Update:

Kevin Weaver updated us for NAC. The number of crews may go down due to hiring practices.

Prevention Update:

Pat McKelvey gave an update on the Prevention meeting. A prevention plan was drafted and is available for zones to use. Firesafe MT will be doing one day seminars throughout MT.

Risk Analysis/Complexity – rewrite and other items were tabled until the February meeting.

Next meeting date and location

The meeting will be February 20th & 21st starting at 10 am. The location will be in the new training room at the Central Land Office at DNRC Helena.

FOR INFORMATION ON DOCUMENTS CONTACT CHAIRMAN GREG ARCHIE AT garchie@mt.gov.
A SPREADSHEET CONTAINING THE ATTENDEES ACCOMPANIES THESE MINUTES.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Fry Montanades3@gmail.com
Operations Committee meeting minutes – NRCG

November 27th & 28th, 2012

NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING DATES: November 27TH & 28TH, 2012 MEETING LOCATION: HELENA, MT

ATTENDEES	REPRESENTING	EMAIL
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