



## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP**

**Bureau of Indian Affairs** (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions)  
**Bureau of Land Management** (Colorado and Wyoming)  
**Fish and Wildlife Service** (Mountain/Prairie Region)  
**Forest Service** (Rocky Mountain Region)  
**National Park Service** (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)  
**State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas**

### **Minutes of Winter Meeting January 23-24, 2013 Sidney, Nebraska**

#### **In Attendance:**

##### **Members:**

**Chair** Ken Kerr

**Vice Chair** Ron Graham

**Executive Liaison** Bill Crapser

Bob Jones

Jay Esperance

Rocco Smart

Angie Foster (*Acting*)

Bill Ott

Mike Davin

David Carter

Ron Graham

Cal Pino

Willie Thompson (*Acting*)

Don Westover

Dave Hall

**Facilitator** Jim Fletcher

**Business Manager** Brooke Malcolm

#### **Guests:**

Paul Hohn

Dave Niemi

Cliff Hutton

Earl Imler

Elise Bowne (*by Telephone*)

Gaylene Rossiter (*by Telephone*)

Lynn Barclay (*by Telephone*)

Rich Sterry (*by Telephone*)

Ron Simpson (*by Telephone*)

David Lucas (*by Telephone*)

Todd Pechota (*by Telephone*)

Todd Richardson (*by Telephone*)

#### **Unavailable:**

Ross Hauck

Dan Smith

#### **1. RMCG Meeting Procedure**

**Ken Kerr**

- Need to be consistent in capturing decisions and action points for RMCG members throughout meeting.
- Critical to stay on track and clarify items for further action, person(s) responsible for taskings, timeframes, etc.
- Support for completing agenda items at times when they are scheduled to improve efficiency of group.

#### **2. RMCG Charter & Operating Plan Approval**

**Mike Davin**

- Review of amendments discussed at Fall Meeting.
- Membership list edited to reflect current delegated state agencies.
- Addition of GAC liaison responsibilities of Chair/Vice Chair.
- Addition of RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS Committee to list of standing committees.
- Further technical edits discussed by group and completed by Davin & Malcolm.

- Consensus to approve finalized charter; Crapser signed as RMA-FEC Chair.
- Signed charter was distributed to RMCG members and posted to RMCG webpage.
- Consensus to approve Operating Plan with completed edits to attachment numbers and addition of verbiage to match Charter language.

### 3. NMAC/GMAC Update

**Ken Kerr**

- Managing multiple incidents with mission-specific requests.
  - NMAC required mission-specific requests to justify need and assist with prioritization and allocation of resources.
  - Jeff Whitney described difficulties with mission-specific requests as it was last summer.
  - Requests were very taxing on GACCs with high activity and request was made to avoid this practice in the future.
- Dan Smith spoke about crew management.
  - Type 2 IA vs. Type 2 crews: Type 2 crews underutilized; higher capabilities of Type 2 IA preferred.
  - Task group working on solutions.
- National serious accident investigation guide under development.
  - Differences between agencies for managing serious incidents/accidents.
  - Attempting to coordinate and standardize response protocols.
- Medevac hoist capabilities discussed.
  - Hoist helicopter availability not always necessary for medevac to meet "Golden Hour" requirements.
  - Looking at other alternatives for medevac plans.
- M-480 (MAC Coordination).
  - Discussion about eliminating M-480 and replacing with FEMA course.
  - Little or no demand for course and course materials.
- Predictive Services
  - Changes to national wildland fire potential outlook format.
- Radio interoperability
  - RMCG letter to NMAC last summer
    - Reply from NMAC outlined possible actions to work around issues.
  - Have used workarounds in RMA, but still a need to address original issues.
  - Re-addressed again at NMAC meeting with request to work on interoperability problems.
- Incident Management Organization Succession Planning (IMOSP)
  - Working to clarify and coordinate between all areas and sections.
  - Still need to outline pathways from status quo to goal of homogenous Type 1 teams.
  - Target for completion and implementation is 2016, but full integration is more likely an ongoing project.
  - No need or benefit to rushing into RMA transition to new configuration.
  - Feeling that there is too much current resistance to proposed changes to reach goal of 2016 implementation.

- Geographic Area Coordinating Group Advisory Committee (GACGAC) Representation
  - Need to appoint liaison to attend council meetings; for continuity, best solution is to have consistent person as liaison to attend with chair/vice chair.
  - Suggestion to appoint RMACC Center Manager or Assistant Center Manager as liaison; will not be possible due to scheduling conflicts at NMAC/GMAC meeting.
  - Previous meetings were held in December; would prefer that schedule so new chair isn't attending meeting for previous year.
  - Will add GACGAC representation to Chair/Vice Chair responsibilities in RMCG Charter.

#### **4. Executive Liaison Update**

**Bill Crapser**

- Thank you from execs for work during 2012 fire season.
- Motivation to become more engaged in regular RMCG business; historically been involved only when there were problems or specific needs.
  - Executive group places trust in RMCG to conduct business autonomously.
  - Looking to find "happy medium" for exec involvement with RMCG.
  - Other than meeting minutes, etc. no additional briefings to execs should be necessary from RMCG.
- Succession Planning
  - Several positions on IMTs are critical shortages.
  - Agree with RMCG that team configuration should be coordinated with national strategy.
  - Want to see RMCG address team configuration again to develop preferences for RMA.
  - Request that RMCG re-address issue to develop product for executives.
  - Can integrate parts of national plan to align with IMOSP.
- Input from RMCG on needs for executive group involvement, support, etc.:
  - Regular involvement from consistent member of Exec Group at RMCG meetings, etc.
  - Leaders' Intent for RMCG.
  - Taskings to RMCG for issues of concern for Exec Group.
  - Better communication and engagement to clarify taskings and requests from Exec Group.
  - RMCG will distribute meeting minutes to executives, as well as copies of any important decisions or communications from RMCG; each RMCG member should be informing their exec of any issues out of the ordinary.
  - RMCG needs assistance from executives to alleviate critical shortages on IMTs and improve succession on teams.
  - Year-end AAR or short session to review season & pressing issues.
  - Crapser will work with Graham to incorporate execs into the Spring Meeting in Cheyenne.
- Team C Discussion

- Zone team tasking to RMCG was precipitated by State of South Dakota executive representative, who was in favor of zone team configuration.
- Execs were compelled to investigate issue, which led to RMCG being asked to conduct feasibility study.
- RMCG decided to revert to 2007 status for Team C as a Great Plains Zone Team, with ability to accept out-of-zone assignments when Teams A & B are unavailable and zone agrees to let Team C go.
  - Letter was sent to Great Plains Zone Board explaining decision and 2013 configuration.
  - GPZ Board sent response to RMCG (via Dave Hall) requesting reconsideration of decision.
  - Concerns that change in team status may be a problem for 2013 team applicants.
  - Consensus reached that prior decision stands. Kerr will draft a reply to the GPZ Board. Crapser requested execs receive cc: also.
- Zone Team Concept
  - RMCG determined zone concept for all teams was not feasible in RMA; no one zone can field IC and complete C&G staff, let alone entire Type 1 or 2 team.
  - Other geographic areas are finding that zone team configuration is not optimal.
  - Fall Meeting minutes reflect discussion/briefing.
  - Ott & Malcolm will coordinate formal written closeout on zone team concept analysis and Team C issue for exec group.
- Concerns about all-hazard involvement and direction of RMCG with those incidents, etc.
  - Consider inviting other (*ex-officio* or SME) members to participate with RMCG and MAC when needed.
  - Need to coordinate roles & responsibilities of external entities.
- Discussion about Precision Container Aerial Delivery (PCAD) system for water drops on fires.
  - System being tested to drop wooden pallets containing bags of water from large aircraft.
  - Being promoted because of the ability for states to activate in absence of other (federal or interagency) alternatives.
  - Highlighted dangers of proposed system, including falling debris from pallet structure.
  - Consensus that this would not be a good system for use in the RMA.

## 5. **RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS Committee Charter**

**Dave Carter**

- New committee created as a result of recommendations in Lower North Fork Prescribed Fire Review, and according to commitment made to Colorado Governor Hickenlooper.
- Flint Cheney (USFS Region 2) volunteered to be first committee chair.
- Charter presented for review and approval by RMCG.
  - Concerns raised that committee should not be made responsible for RAWS system maintenance.

- Clarification that committee should be and over-arching strategic planning and advisory group for the RAWS/WIMS/NFDRS program.
- Committee needs more definitive tasking from RMCG for clarification of direction and mission.
- Charter was finalized in supplemental session for final approval and Chair signature.

## **6. Letter to South Dakota re: Team C Gel Issue**

**Ken Kerr**

- Response to request from executives; letter drafted to address perceived conflict of interest with Team C and gel.
- Letter will be sent to State of South Dakota from USFS Region 2 and BLM Colorado, not RMCG.
- State of South Dakota Attorney General awaiting letter and ready to respond.

## **7. Nebraska Fire Organizations**

**Earl Imler & Don Westover**

- Nebraska Forest Service is fire management organization, but Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is payment organization, via Governor's Emergency Fund.
- NEMA looking to take more active role with RMCG for future; will move into delegated RMCG member seat.
- NEFS will continue to work with fire training, wildfire academy, prevention, fire qualifications, property and equipment.
  - Developing excess federal property program to offer fire departments engines and water hauling equipment from existing chassis.
  - Aerial fire suppression program in cooperation with NEMA.
    - State only charged for flight time, according to agreement signed annually.
    - Retardant caches distributed across state.
    - Ability to create landing strips near fires and reload on site, reducing turnaround time for water/retardant reloads.
  - State Fire Assistance fund took 35% reduction before 2012, which reduced staffing and capabilities of NEFS to provide services.
- 2012 record fire year—more than 500,000 acres burned.
  - Governor signed emergency declaration in June 2012, which allowed NEMA to assume control of ongoing incidents.
  - State legislature increasing fuels and maintenance funding for 2013.
- Working to develop SEAT program for initial attack.
  - Military air resources are available to state for firefighting, but response time is 3-4 times as long as a SEAT.
- State Fire Marshal's Office
  - Oversees Wildland Incident Response and Assistance Team (WIRAT).
  - Will not typically assume control of incidents, but provides support for ongoing incidents.
  - Signatory to cooperative agreement, but does not speak for local fire departments.
  - Each local VFD is autonomous, requiring agreements to be negotiated with each entity individually.

- Incident Commanders Pechota, Richardson and Esperance shared concerns and experiences on Nebraska incidents in 2012.
  - AARs were conducted after incidents with NEMA and other agencies.
  - Unclear Delegations of Authority & spans of control made command transition to IMTs difficult.
    - Delegation only allowed command & control of federal and state assets; did not include operational control over local resources & volunteer fire departments.
  - WIRAT role and statutory responsibilities not clearly understood initially.
  - Team C was last RMA team called in to Nebraska incident; felt that coordination and cooperation was much better on their incident than what other ICs experienced.
- NEMA will work with local departments at Nebraska fire academy to communicate standardized procedures for transition to IMTs.
- State of Nebraska encouraged to coordinate with Great Plains Zone Board to ensure agreements are in place for future cooperation on incidents.
- Recommend clarifying roles & responsibilities of state agencies in statewide agreement.
- Suggestion to work with other RMA states to find fire coordination configuration (with VFDs, etc.) that is compatible in Nebraska.
- Operations Committee recommends delegating a representative from State of Nebraska for committee.
- Fedrizzi compiled issue paper for RMCG as starting point for improving relations and coordination in State of Nebraska.
  - Redistributed to RMCG members for reference.
  - Kerr will sign issue paper as approved, with recommendation for action plan development.
  - **TASKING:** Kerr and Ott tasked to write letter to State of Nebraska addressing issues stated in issue paper and proposing plan of action. Letter will be provided to executive group (Crapser) for signature and distribution to Imler for presentation to Nebraska officials.

## 8. **Ex-Officio RMCG and MAC Stakeholders**

**Bill Ott & Ken Kerr**

- Discussion from Fall Meeting regarding inclusion of non-voting members and their involvement in MAC.
  - Development of concept of various layers of authority and involvement, depending on delegations of authority. (See 2012 Fall Meeting Minutes)
  - 2013 MAC Plan revisions include this configuration of participants.
- RMCG ex-officio members discussed at 2012 Spring Meeting.
  - Concerns about mission creep and blurring of responsibilities between multiple (voting and non-voting) RMCG state representatives.
  - Suggestion that ex-officio attendees be referred to as "guests" or "subject matter experts" to prevent any confusion about roles & responsibilities.
  - Per Crapser, guest attendees to RMCG from any RMA state should be coordinated and approved through the state's delegated representative.

## 9. Dispatch Center Managers

- Delegations of Authority
  - PBC – No Del., no CM (FS)
  - FTC – No Del. (FS)
  - CRC – No Ass't CM (BLM)
  - GJC – CM out 120 days, no Del. (BLM)
  - MTC – OK
  - CDC – OK
  - DRC – No CM, no Del (FS/BLM)
  - CPC – No Ass't CM, no Del (BLM/FS)
  - RWC – No CM (BLM)
  - GPC – OK
- Each dispatch liaison needs to check delegation for the zone dispatch Center Manager & bring issues back to RMCG.
- **Tasking:** Fletcher will draft letter to zone boards re: delegation of authority by end of February. Letter will be signed by Crapser and distributed to executive committee for communication to each agency.
  - Recommend including dispatch in step-up & severity plans and provide sample delegation of authority.
  - Tie-in LMAC liaisons and importance of coordination with RMA MAC.
- Dispatch Liaisons
  - All Center Managers were asked to rate their RMCG dispatch liaison.
    - Only one rating received from RWC so far.
  - Request from Chair for all liaisons to increase engagement with zones, including attending zone board meetings.
  - Liaisons should be a conduit for information flow between RMCG & zone and be available to guide and advise zone boards however necessary.
  - Davin developing MAC Plan checklist to direct liaison responsibilities.
  - CMs requested backup liaison for periods of heightened activity when liaison can't be available for meetings, etc.
- Request from center managers for support code guidance.
  - USFS support code direction has been clarified.
  - National BLM guidance forthcoming in BLM Business Practices ("Orange Book"). Most information already available on BLM intranet.
- Fire information management
  - Need to get information function out of RMACC and back to agency experts.
    - Housing this function at RMACC is a distraction from center's primary mission and hinders functional efficiency.
  - Fletcher working to coordinate fire information strategy with agency public affairs officers and incident information officers; meeting tentatively scheduled for Feb. 7.

## 10. Preparations for 2013 Fire Season

**All**

- Re-evaluate preparedness level on a regular basis in "off-season."
  - RMA needs to be as self-sufficient as possible during off-season times for teams, crews, IR flights, etc.
- Shoulder season team availability alternatives:
  - Extend season of IMTs (will make change in 2014—see *2012 Fall Meeting Minutes*).
    - Decision needs to be made in concert with executive group, and should be communicated before team applications are due.

- Possibility of year-round or extended IMT season will be discussed at Spring Meeting with executives.
  - Consider ordering Type 1 team instead of Type 2 during off-season.
- Explore alternatives to fill center manager role when position is vacant (details, etc.).
- Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project (IDOPP)
  - California & Southwest areas conducting studies.
  - WY dispatch study conducted, but no changes were made.
  - Need alternatives to consider for future.
  - Decision about distribution of dispatch centers needs to be made by executive group, informed by RMCG.
- Prepositioning strategy for resources was successful in 2012.
- Review fire season AAR for best practices and successes/failures.

## 11. Mob Centers

**Jim Fletcher**

- Suggest 4 centers: CO Western Slope, CO Front Range, Great Plains Zone, Wyoming.
- Provide temporary food & support (including crew time and payment) for incoming and staged resources.
- Transportation is very important issue that needs to be resolved.
  - Working on VIPR solicitation for contract buses now, but VIPR is limited to vendors that choose to answer solicitation.
  - Need better coordination of vehicle inspections for transportation vendors.
  - Suggestion from Crapser for states to procure vehicles at GSA auctions to make available for crew transportation when needed.
- Need consolidation of Service & Supply Plans between dispatch centers (outside of VIPR).
- **Tasking:** Fletcher will coordinate with RMCG members, Business Committee, Operations Committee, RMA states, Don Scronek, et al, to develop Mob Center Plan and arrange pre-season contracting.

## 12. 2013 IC Expectations & Delegations

**Ken Kerr**

- Review of 2012 IC Expectations letter for 2013.
- Consensus to approve with minor changes; will be signed by Kerr & distributed at Spring IMT Meeting.
- **Tasking:** Operations Committee (Hutton) and Davin will develop similar letter for Firefighter Expectations to be distributed to all team members.
- RMCG member Delegations of Authority are due in March.
- **Tasking:** Business Manager will provide samples of past years' delegations as reference.

## 13. Operations Committee Report-Out

**Cliff Hutton**

- IMT Applications
  - First year using ICAP system for team applications.
    - Several existing team members didn't know they needed to apply.
    - IQCS qualifications for many applicants were not current, partially due to updates needed by IQCS managers.

- Many applicants lacked supervisor approval; likely due to e-mail system glitches that sent approval request e-mails to spam folders, or wrong person was designated as supervisor.
  - “Retired” designation confusing—more useful to know if resource is AD.
  - Requested to add jetport on report to assist with locating resources.
- Working with ICAP development team to iron out issues for next application cycle.
- Working to develop internal system for out-of-GACC applicant approval (coming from another GACC or going to another GACC).
  - Support all applicants to out-of-GACC teams except Chris Tipton (ATGS), due to shortages in RMA for that position.
- 30 positions considered critical shortages were re-opened for recruitment. All applicants in extended period will apply to pool.
  - Air Operations and Safety significant areas of concern.
  - Efforts needed to increase trainees being sent out with teams to improve future applicant pool of qualified resources.
  - Improving opportunities for resources to expand outside their current training track may also alleviate shortages in some functional areas.
  - Air Operations qualifications also seeing bottlenecks due to rotor-wing requirements for fixed wing qualifications. Operations Committee will draft issue paper for RMCG to elevate to NWCG.
- In future years, all trainees will apply to pool to be assigned to teams by GATR and Ops Committee, according to Priority Trainee list.
- Operations Committee representatives will make notifications of selection status to all applicants for their respective agencies.
- Incident Commanders will follow-up on supervisor approval for any applicants that need it.
- Consensus to approve all IMT rosters as presented, including exceptions to selection priorities (with justifications provided).
- Confirmation that IMT rotations will not be extended for 2013. Availability schedule will remain status quo until 2014.
- Rocky-Basin BUYTs making selections end of January.
- New Operations Committee members for 2013:
  - Scott Sugg (USFS)
  - Chris Boulair (SD)
  - Rodney Reddinger (KS)
  - Dick Terry (WY)
  - Rocco Snart/Vaughn Jones (CO, shared)
  - Bill Ott (RMCG Liaison)
  - Need representative from Nebraska
- State of Wyoming chairmanship postponed due to new representative from WY.
- Operating Guide will include language regarding conflicts of interest when chair and RMCG chair are from same agency.
- Operations Committee still needs administrative support person (vice Amy Stephens). Requesting recruitment from all agencies in RMCG.
- Charter & Operating Guide will be presented for RMCG approval before Spring Meeting.
- Developed Operations Site Visit form for IMT incident reviews.

- Operations-specific questions; will create consistency for site visits.
- Hope to improve coordination to prevent overwhelming teams with multiple visits.
- Completed forms will be routed through Operations Committee chair to RMCG Business Manager for filing in RMCG records.
- Form will be modified for clarification and re-presented to RMCG for approval.
- Agreed that RMCG site visit form needs to be updated; will be added to conference call agenda.
- Operations Tactical Group was discussed at January Operations Committee meeting.
  - Trying to clarify roles & responsibilities of group in order to alleviate confusion.
  - Group went from being informal to more formal, including many agencies and aviation partners.
  - Group's mission needs to be defined, and is separate from RMCG and MAC.
  - No official tasking from RMCG because group is not RMCG-sanctioned.
  - Value of group is for information sharing and informing interagency decisions (by RMACC & RMCG Duty Officer and/or MAC) to allocate resources for emerging Type 3 incidents and initial attack preparedness (including severity requests, prepositioning resources, etc.).
  - Decision space for this group is within each individual agency, according to agency policies, priorities, needs, etc.
  - Request for Operations Committee to make recommendation for how this group should operate, define its roles & responsibilities, and identify guidelines for participation.
  - Suggest brief description of group be written by Fletcher, Hutton & Ott to clarify roles & responsibilities; will be presented to RMCG for decision about where it should be codified.

#### 14. Fire Program Analysis Committee Report-Out

Rich Sterry

- See Attached Committee Briefing
- Presented FPA Committee Operating Plan for RMCG approval.
  - **Note:** *Operating Plan approved for signatures. Finalized copy to be distributed to RMCG members and posted to RMCG webpage.*
- New guidance will likely require separation of private land from some FPU's in RMA.
- Black Hills will need to modify some of its FPU's to accommodate new lands added by Wind Cave.
- Possibility that fire work areas will be reconfigured to be agency-specific.

#### 15. Training Committee Report-Out

Ron Simpson

- Fall Meeting had good participation from committee members.
- Task group established to develop RMA Priority Trainee Mobilization Guide.
  - Desire to improve, standardize and codify procedures for scoring and assigning priority trainees.
  - Draft due Feb 28.
- Task group established to support succession planning by constructing training plans for 3-4 years into future.

- Also looking at ways to increase efficiencies course offerings to avoid constraints with travel budgets.
- Charter being edited; will have ready for RMCG approval on Feb. 7 conference call.
  - Deadline Feb. 15 for inclusion in 2013 RMA Mob Guide.
- Mike Bournasian was vice chair last year, but will be out for medical reasons. 2013 chair transition will not take place until he returns to work.
- From RMACC: Priority Trainee process very successful in 2012.
- Need for TNSPs on IMTs; critical shortage position, with only one qualified applicant and no trainee applicants for 2013.
  - Will work with Operations Committee to coordinate more TNSPs for teams.

## 16. Information & Education Committee Report-Out

**GayLene Rossiter**

- See Attached Committee Briefing
- Request for RMCG support to fill vacancies on committee for State of Nebraska and BIA.
  - No representative for Nebraska due to staffing/budget shortages. Will fill as soon as possible.
  - BIA has a representative and Dave Hall will coordinate with committee.
  - State of South Dakota representative (Beth Hermanson) retiring; replacement will be assigned to vice chair position when filled.
- Committee has several questions regarding fire information management tasking from December.
  - RMCG recognizes scope of tasking is beyond the purview of the InfoEd Committee.
  - Want to avoid mission creep for RMCG by taking on this issue.
  - Resolution of issue reassigned to non-RMCG interagency group of PAOs, facilitated by Fletcher. First meeting scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Lynn Barclay and Traci Weaver will participate in meetings with PAOs to communicate decisions and action plans back to InfoEd Committee and PIO Subcommittee.

## 17. Geospatial Technology Committee Report-Out

**Elise Bowne**

- See Attached Committee Briefing
- See Attached Draft Issue Paper: Data Flow Issues
- Re-drafted issue paper as response to RMCG request at Fall Meeting to refine best management practices for GIS data management.
- Request GeoTech Committee be allotted time at Spring IMT Meeting to discuss GIS data issues.
  - Suggestion that GIS data flow guidelines be added to IMT inbriefing, not delegation of authority.
  - Will contact InfoEd and Operations Committees to coordinate dissemination to IMTs.
- Need more qualified GISS in RMA.
  - Trying to increase offering of S-341 course to improve trainee preparation for assignments.
  - Request RMCG support for arranging course in RMA due to difficulties with national Geospatial Training Unit.
  - Foster will interface with Training Committee to coordinate course offering.
- State & County EOC Cooperation Issue Paper

- Committee feels this is not an issue it can handle on its own.
- Graham tasked with organizing group to address issue. (*Participants listed in Fall Meeting Minutes*)
- John Guthrie (USFS Ret.) willing to participate also.
- Currently have three plotters at cache to be checked out by incidents.

## **18. Incident Business Committee Report-Out**

**David Lucas**

- With retirement of Beverly Derringer, Lynda Berckefeldt assumed chair position in late 2012.
- Very successful year in 2012, with good cooperation on committee.
- Fall Workshop and AAR conducted in October.
- Spring Workshop scheduled for February 12-14 in Deadwood, SD.
  - RMA supplements to yellow book will be completed for new year.
- Conducted Finance Section Chief conference calls throughout season to help resolve incident issues during fire season.
- Many S-260/261 enrollees in 2012.
- Ron Graham will continue to act as RMCG liaison to committee until 2014.
  - Need to determine new liaison by August to allow for transition.
- Mob Center and transportation issues will involve committee for resolution.
  - Will include coordination of pre-season and incident contracting and service and supply plans.
- Business Committee will be on agenda for Spring IMT Meeting.

## **19. MAC Plan Update**

**Mike Davin**

- Review of updates to MAC Plan for 2013, including cross-referencing with Mob Guide.
- Business Manager coordinating "MAC-in-a-Box" for 2013.
  - Will include all materials necessary to activate MAC and track files, etc.
  - All forms & documents will be updated and housed on a flash drive each year.
- Approval of 2013 MAC Plan pending technical clean-up. All edits approved by consensus.
  - Annual review of MAC Plan will be added to Recurring Action Log for Winter Meeting, with final approval at Spring Meeting.

## **20. RMA Mob Guide & RMACC Updates**

**Jim Fletcher**

- All Mob Guide updates are due by 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February to RMACC Center Manager.
- Overview of changes received so far by RMACC.
- Preparedness Levels and trigger points for step-up/step-down will remain the same. Some minor changes may be made to clarify verbiage.
  - Adding triggers for fixed wing, operations, MAFFS and crew coordinators.
  - Removing triggers to order resources for which RMACC does not have control (airtankers, etc.).
- Significant changes will be made to Chapter 30 to reference MAC Plan and update accordingly. Davin will review with Fletcher before publication.
- Fletcher will work with each agency to coordinate dispatch center payments; need to have arrangements made prior to June 1 to meet state fiscal year deadlines.
  - Difficulties with State of Colorado, due to organizational constraints regarding multi-year agreements.
  - Suggestion to find alternative ways to make contribution via direct purchases, etc.

- Still need agency to sponsor FTE position at RMACC (crews) to continue Deane Poore's position. Term expires this spring, and cannot be extended by BLM. Salary fully funded by State of Colorado.

## **21. MAC Exercise Planning**

**Jim Fletcher**

- Plans to incorporate MAC exercise into Spring Meeting not optimal.
  - Conflicts with other meetings and events scheduled for that meeting.
  - Consensus that alternative date is preferable; will determine date according to availability of coordinator, but sometime between April 8 and May 10.
- Exercise should take full day, follow format of actual MAC schedule, and use scenarios from 2012 fire season.
  - Potential to invite LMACs to participate as well.
  - Should include invitation to executive group members to participate.
  - Regular season scenario with resource shortages and prioritization.
  - Shoulder season & emerging Type 3 incidents with potential, where available resources are scarce or not immediately available.
  - Simulate triggering of Mob Centers.
  - Practice gathering & dissemination of information to/from all entities that need to be involved.
  - Practice SAT & FAST activations.
  - Define MAC support function roles & responsibilities.
  - Coordinate fire information management.
- Suggestion to invite Hahnenberg's NIMO team to coordinate.
  - Hahnenberg familiar with RMA and historical incidents.
  - Ott & Thompson will make contact with Hahnenberg to determine availability.
- Business Manager and Fletcher will put out Doodle Poll for MAC Exercise dates.
  - Include RMCG and executives in invitation.

**Rocky Mountain Fire Program Analysis Committee**  
**Briefing To**  
**Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group**  
**January 2013**

What FPA is: (source FY 2012 FPA Status, Direction, and Timelines)

- Fire Program Analysis (FPA) is a national strategic budget model that will be used within the wildland fire budget formulation process to substantiate and defend Departmental preparedness requests.

FY 2012 FPA Recap

- FPA was coming off of a testing year (“FY 2011 Improvement Process”).
- FPA utilized what was known as Support Working Team (SWT). This group did most of the testing to changes to FPA and also led the Fire Planning Units (FPU) submission. A SWT member was assigned to each FPU and was only person that had edit access to FPU data within FPA program.
- Calibration of FPUs was completed based on fire size class instead of IA success.
- The use of SWT did reduce workload to field and provided consistency to FPU data. However, this has decreased field knowledge of FPA.
- All FPUs in RM completed calibration reviews with their SWT member and FPA Committee Representative.
- All FPUs in RM met April 1 deadline submission.
- The RM FPAC developed paper on Significant Findings of the 2012 FPA Analysis which was provided to RMCG
- To date, FPA committee members have not seen results 2012 submission

FY 2013 Outlook

- Interagency Guidance was released in mid-December 2012.
- Due date for submission is February 1, 2013.
- FPA will again be using the SWT in FY13. The field does not have edit access so SWT will do editing to FPU data.
- There is expected to be little impact to the field for 2013 analysis.
- With the late release of the guidance and rapidly approaching due date, the SWT will only really be able to work on calibration, the FPUs that had anomalies (RM had 2 – CO-007 and CO-008), and the fuels portion of FPA.
- Fuels module has some changes – there is a new WUI layer that has led to a reduction of WUI acres in most FPUs. In turn, this means treatments need to be adjusted because of loss of WUI acres.
- The following will remain the same as 2012 analysis:
  - Budget Numbers (2009)
  - Non-budgeted resources will remain same
  - Prevention module to remain the same
- No reviews at either FPU or Geographic level are planned for 2013.

## 2014 Analysis Outlook

- It appears that more field input maybe required for the 2014 analysis.
- Budget numbers used in the program (currently 2009) are going to be updated to 2011 or possibly 2012 numbers. This will in turn require changes in resources.
- A new LANDFIRE layer is coming out this spring so potential changes to fuels – esp fuel models.
- New guidance for FWA boundaries should be coming out shortly.
- Changes to FPU and/or FWS boundaries for 2014 analysis will be due March 1 for FPUs and June 3 for FWAs.

# RMCG INFORMATION AND EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO RMCG WINTER MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2013

The Info/Ed Committee and subcommittees held nine conference calls (three Info/Ed Committee calls, one FPET subcommittee call, one RMA Tasking subcommittee call and four Info/Ed website calls) and one meeting in Fort Collins, October 24, 2012.

## Areas of Work

1. CY 2012 RMA Fire Prevention Education Team Activity
  - a. Two RMA FPETs – FPETs supported R2 Fire Prevention Education Efforts (July 4th, Smokey Cares Event, Fire Restriction Educational Materials, RMA Recommendation to improve upon Fire Prevention efforts prior and during extreme fire danger situations).
  - b. Wyoming FPETs – One at WYOFIRE to support FPET trainees and work with local community of Hartville; the other was located in Lander, WY and they were there to help the Wind River Fire Prevention group identify needs and focus fire prevention efforts.
  - c. Black Hills FPET – Team brought in for the high visitor activity along with very high fire danger.
  - d. Kansas FPET – Statewide team utilized to increase fire danger awareness during drought conditions and up-coming fall burning period.
  - e. Trainee Accomplishments – Four PETMs qualified; One PETL qualified.
2. The FPET Subcommittee outreached the RMA application and provided a recommended roster to Info/Ed Chair for approval by RMCG for CY2013.
3. Rocky Mountain Wildland Fire Information regional website – after lengthy discussion, it was no longer viable for the CSFS to continue hosting the website. During the first quarter 2013, the site will migrate to and reside on the RM Info/Ed link on the RMACC website. The CSFS will migrate and maintain the grants database on their website. Working through RMACC Center Manager Jim Fletcher, it was agreed that the RMACC Webmaster would maintain the website and any changes and additions to the materials offered/housed there.
4. Continuing discussion and information sharing regarding Fire Adapted Communities Cohesive Strategy.
5. And, the Committee continues to interface with the USFS Regional Prevention Committee, share messaging and prevention-related information, and attend meetings.
6. The I&E Committee is making a direct request of RMCG representatives from all agencies and states for help and support in ensuring active participation on the I&E Committee. Vacancies are: Nebraska, BIA.
7. RMA Public Fire Information Management Plan as tasked to the PIOs by RMCG.

*Officer Transition: Effective February 1, 2013, the chair position of the Info/Ed Committee will transition to and be shared by Traci Weaver and David Eaker as Co-Chairs; Beth Hermanson will be Vice-Chair. The rotation is partially out of order due to member vacancies, as per item 6 above.*

## Geospatial Technology Committee – Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group

January 24, 2013

**Committee Meetings** – The committee meets once a month, at a fixed date/time, alternating in person meetings for those who are local and conference calls. Most meetings/calls also include a Live Meeting session.

The committee continues to provide RMCG/RMACC support. Though no geospatial support has been requested for any briefings this past year, the capability exists and we're still able to help. We provided assorted software updates and assistance, specifically John Guthrie from USGS. John is no longer working in the same capacity with USGS and has now retired. We are also providing assorted GIS data and assistance to RMACC when requested. John Guthrie continues to lead the development and modification of RMIRS (Rocky Mountain Incident Reporting System).

The committee was working on Wildfire Perimeter polygon data standards, to see if we can develop an interagency standard for the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area. This has been tabled due to other more pressing issues. Additionally, it appears that there may be some efforts to restart the national NWCG effort to come up with a revised standard. This would help Type 3 IMTs and other entities in getting their data into a format that can be shared, or for submitting to either GeoMAC or other entities. It will also promote interagency sharing.

The committee members were very busy during this fire season, supporting incident operations both on teams and in the background at their home unit.

**GIS Data Drives** – with the busy fire season for the Rocky Mountain area and more exposure to California's GIS Data Drive and contents, the team decided to see what we could do to pull together base GIS data for the Rocky Mountain Area. Good progress has been made. Both the BLM and the Forest Service have provided external drives to house the data. We will have these drives ready for the IMTs no later than the spring IMT meeting.

**Incident Data Flow Issue Paper** – this was presented at the Fall RMCG meeting and progress has been made. We have a draft ready for review and will begin to work with the other suggested committees (Operations and Info/Education).

**State/County Cooperation – EOC Issue Paper** – this is the issue the geospatial committee brought to attention during the Fall RMCG meeting, but requested to have another committee or group lead the effort. It was felt to be out of the general realm of Geospatial, though we expect to be contributing to the resolution. We haven't heard about any progress on this and would like to know where the project is and who the lead and committee members are.

Several members of the committee are also on the GSTOP revision committee, both as Chapter leads and team members. The project is nearly completion with a number of issues close to consensus. The hope is to have the new version out by this spring/summer. Other committee members provide review of draft and soon, the final product. The revision is important because the original GSTOP was published in 2006 and technology and procedures have changed in the intervening time. As a committee, we have

also reviewed drafts for chapters and discussed and provided feedback on issues that are emerging during the process.

## Draft – January 22<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Issue 2 – Data Flow issues

#### General

1. Fire perimeters and other geospatial data (*e.g. fire line, drop points, water sources*) will be posted **as soon as they are updated**. Follow GIS Standard Operating Procedures. Below are more specific procedures.
2. All maps and geospatial data must be approved by the SITL/IC before posting.
3. Where to post – [ftp://ftp.nifc.gov/Incident\\_Specific\\_Data/ROCKY\\_MTN/year/firename/date](ftp://ftp.nifc.gov/Incident_Specific_Data/ROCKY_MTN/year/firename/date). GISS/SITL need to have the password for posting data to <ftp.nifc.gov>.
4. Have a plan of how data and/or products will be distributed to agencies and entities which need to have access to incident data and products. The plan and the list of agencies/entities should be developed by the SITL/PSC/PIO/Liaison.
5. If there is more than one PIO, designate one PIO as the contact for the SITL.
6. This document or its contents should be added to each Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team's Standard Operating Guide to ensure that the team SITL and GISS see it.
7. This document or its contents should be added to the Delegation of Authority to ensure that any incoming ICs also are aware of it.

#### Sensitive Data Issues

1. IR
  - a. When there are no sensitivity issues with the IR data, as determined by the IC, host agency, or agency administrator(s):
    - i. Follow normal GSTOP procedures and continue as normal with IRIN posting IR data to:  
[ftp.nifc.gov/Incident\\_Specific\\_Data/Rocky\\_Mtn/year/firename /IR/date](ftp.nifc.gov/Incident_Specific_Data/Rocky_Mtn/year/firename/IR/date).
    - ii. SITL verifies and approves IR data as soon as possible after it has been posted. Data can be left on ftp site.
  - b. When sensitivity issues with the IR data are identified by the IC, host agency, or agency administrator(s):
    - i. IR data is posted to password protected site on <ftp.nifc.gov>. The username and password must be given to the IRIN, SITL and GISS.
    - ii. SITL verifies and approves IR data as soon as possible after it has been posted.
    - iii. Updated perimeter and associated incident data. If it is approved, the GISS updates incident perimeter as directed by SITL. Updated perimeter is posted immediately to [ftp.nifc.gov/Incident\\_Specific\\_Data/Rocky\\_Mtn/year/firename /GIS/date](ftp.nifc.gov/Incident_Specific_Data/Rocky_Mtn/year/firename/GIS/date). IR data can be left on ftp site in password protected folder.
2. Other sensitive data –
  - a. When other data is determined to be sensitive by the IC/host agency/agency administrator(s):

- i. The plan developed in #4 above should include what data is sensitive and the limits to its use and distribution.
- ii. Sensitive data will not be placed on the public ftp site.
- iii. If sensitive data comes to the incident from another entity, follow all the guidelines for its use, copying and/or distribution.