

**RMCG Information & Education Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**October 24, 2012**  
**9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MT**

**Present**

**RMCG I&E Members:** Lynn Barclay, Shannon Gurney, Jason Hartman, Linda Hecker, Larry Helmerick, Cathy Lujan, Gaylene Rossiter, Steve Segin, Traci Weaver, Ted Young

**RMCG Guests:** Jim Fletcher, Ken Kerr, Bill Ott

**Old Business**

**Review Charter**

- Charter: membership on page 1: The committee will be comprised of one voting member and an alternate from each of the following agencies. The alternate can vote in the absence of the primary member.
- The group is tasked with looking at the mission statement and rewording for more definition/clarification. *Task group is Linda Hecker, Gaylene Rossiter, Lynn Barclay, Cathy Lujan.*
- Membership: Clarify wording in membership and voting.

**Chair/Vice Chair & Committee Representative Vacancies**

- We need to more clearly define our committee's mission
- Subcommittee rewrite mission statement: Cathy Lujan, Gaylene Rossiter, Linda Hecker, Lynn Barclay

**2013 Scheduled Rotation/Member Vacancies – Chair: NPS/Vice Chair: BIA**

- Vacancies need to be filled:
  - Nebraska- Bob Vogltance retired in July. Sheryl Page is talking to Nebraska staff about vacancy.
  - BIA vacancy-Interim Dave Hall. Possibilities Bruce Runningcrane & Bert Shields. Shannon Gurney will contact.
- Steve Segin is taking a job with USFWS; he will continue on our committee as the FWS representative
  - Steve Segin has taken a position with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and will join our committee as the FWS representative.
  - Need a representative for South Dakota
  - Rich Homan has not been replaced at Liaison

**RMACC Incident Information**

- Lynn updated: Whitmore Fire, 1700 acres, 12 structures lost. Got about 130 personnel on the fire. Evacuations in effect. Opened two evacuation centers open, in Florence and Pueblo. Maybe ordering a type 2 team. Extreme fire behavior. Fern Lake Fire in ROMO is 17% contained, aggressive backing, intermittent group torching. 980 acres. Across the state, they continue to pick up small human-caused fires from abandoned campfires.

**2012 Annual Report**

- Gaylene will prepare the RMCG Information and Education Committee annual report. She will send to committee for review.

## **2012 RMA Fire Prevention Education Team Summer Activity Report**

- 2 RMA FPET's – FPET's 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)
- Wyoming FPET's – 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
- Black Hills FPET – Team brought in for the high visitor activity along with very high fire danger
- Kansas FPET – Statewide team utilized to increase fire danger awareness during drought conditions and up-coming fall burning period.
- Trainee Accomplishments: 4 PETM's qualified, 1 PETL qualified, and two other PETL (t) with ink in their taskbooks

## **New Business**

### **RMCG Update**

- Developed a tasking for our group.
- Historically, PAO function at RMACC has been a POC; been a good job of trying to inclusive
- Remove PAO from coordination center to the agencies where it belongs, with a central phone number and a PIO on call rotation.
- We may be working with RMCG to come up with a staffing plan for the RMACC.
- Look at charter, membership, etc. Information management, both internal and external, web pages, predictive services pages.
- Duty officer concept.
- Trigger points for preparedness levels.
- We would set up a JIC, clearing house to pass on requests to responsible agencies.
- We would like this group to reach out to SME in their agencies. Common platforms for posting information. Looking for products with committee: strategic plan, operations plan, duty officer linked to RMAC duty officers. Levels of expectations – how to get agencies to pick up slack.
- Committee will work on during January call. Establish a sub group to work on this prior to January call. Lynn, Cathy, Steve, Traci, Gaylene; 3:30 p.m. Nov. 13.

Jim Fletcher, Ken Kerr and Bill Ott spoke to us about a task for our committee to consider taking on in 2013. They will develop a detailed task paper and send to the committee by the end of October.

### **2013 FPET Applications/Announcement**

- Put on committee page and wildland fire; Applications due Dec. 14; Gaylene will send another announcement out.
- FPET Applications are on the RMCG website.
- December 14, 2012 is due date for applications.

### **National PIO Notes/Updates**

- What you encounter on the Front Range of Colorado when you come in as a team PIO.
- There is disconnect between all-hazard PIOs and wildland fire PIOs. Trying to figure out how to bridge that gap.

- Had a PIO symposium in Glenwood Springs about mobilizing and setting up and our capabilities as IMT PIOs. The feeling we get is that we're not relevant or up to date on social media and such. Their philosophy is that IMT PIOs fall under the direction of the EOC, rather than the other way around. They feel we're too slow to react. Part of the reason there is a training Nov. 5-9 and we're combining S-403 & L952 (all hazard PIO) being organized through Wendy Fisher, the Wildfire Academy coordinator.
- Lynn and Laura McConnell to help bridge the gap and build some understanding. It is going to get down to the relationships. Communication, Collaboration, Trust and Respect.
- Lynn Barclay: Extreme disconnect on Front-range (TEAMS). There is dialogue as to how we can make this work. Training in November 15-will begin to help facilitate on how we operate on both sides.

### **Website and Grants Database – Update/Recommendations**

- Discussion about how the website is going
- Sub team was not able to get together because of fire season
- Grants database is needed; should we move website to RMCG I&E web page?
- Colorado State Forest Service has maintained and financed the website for years. Resources are short

### **2013 Work Plan/Goals – Discuss Ideas or Focus**

- Will be based on the new tasking from RMCG and focus for our website
- Form a sub team to discuss role of investigation in prevention teams (David Peters, Patti Maguire, Dawn Sanchez and Larry Helmerick agreed to serve on sub-committee); whether it's something our committee should tackle.
- Do we need someone from the Wildfire Academy to participate? Lynn will check. After further discussion, committee members determined that no further action is required at this time, other than to consider what information, if any, related to investigations should be posted on the website. David, Patti, Dawn and Larry will pursue.
- Fire Adapted Communities
  - Should our Committee help facilitate Fire Adapted Communities in our region?
  - Suggested helping to deliver materials, put information on our websites, etc. Sharing information amongst the group. Part of Cohesive Strategy. "Broadens the platform from which we speak". Could we work with FAC, dialed in to their website?
  - All agreed it does help disseminate materials, helps with our education focus. This will help keep us informed of communities that have joined.

### **2013 Conference Calls/Fall Meeting**

- Schedule approved (See below).
- During April meeting, we will discuss where we will meet in October.

### **Round Robin – Accomplishments/Updates from Committee Members (emailed to Traci/Cathy)**

#### **National Park Service, Wyoming**

- NPS is embracing Cohesive Strategy, success stories are turned in quarterly and placed on the <http://www.forestsandangelands.gov/>.
- Fire restrictions were a challenge this year in Wyoming. While Wyoming has a statewide plan, seems many entities were not adhering to it. Part of that may be to BTNF being in Region 4, but

we need to make sure we include Western Wyoming when doing any restriction plan modifications this year. Also, BLM hosts the statewide fire restrictions page for federal and some county lands, and Wyoming Forestry has another statewide page for county information. This led to confusion -- need consistency and communication between the two sites.

- Teton Interagency Fire worked on some great radio PSAs with Harrison Ford this summer as part of a campaign called "Know Before You Go." Many of them are pertinent throughout the West. They are available at [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com) on the education and prevention page. (I forgot to mention that yesterday, but thought it was pertinent for the notes).

#### Bureau of Land Management

- BLM is embracing FAC and incorporating it into our Community Assistance program in conjunction with Cohesive Strategy. On the front range of Colorado, BLM Mitigation/Ed/Prevent Specialist Ed Skerjanic joined with Lowes and held two workshops for homeowners regarding FAC principles and practices. BLM MEP Chris Barth has attended the state FAC meetings representing BLM.
- MEPs are in the process of reviewing and revising Prevention, Trespass, and Restriction plans and will attend a fire trespass work session at the annual BLM Fuels/Mitigation meeting in late November.
- Community Assistance grants were recently awarded to applicants for projects ranging from CWPP planning to hazardous fuel reduction across Colorado.

#### Wyoming State Forestry

- Wyoming State Forestry Division presented prevention materials at statewide county fairs, rodeos and Expos.
- Designed Fire Information page on their website.

#### Colorado State Forest Service

- Jeff Jahnke, State Forester/Director retired July 31. Joe Duda is Interim.
- More than 180 CWPPs developed across Colorado
- July 1 Transition of CSFS Fire Management Division to Colorado Department of Public Safety
- CSFS programs still include areas such as wildfire mitigation/education, post-fire rehabilitation

**Sub-Committee to Review RMCG Tasking Document:** Lynn Barclay, Cathy Lujan, Gaylene Rossiter, Steve Segin, Traci Weaver, Gaylene Rossiter will meet via conference call on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 3:30 p.m. MT

#### Bin Items

- Charter/Mission Statement  
Vacancies
- 2013 Chair/Vice Chair
- Website
- 2013 Work Plan Goals

#### **Calendar 2013 Conference Call Schedule**

(10 a.m. - Noon Mountain Time)

January 23 (4<sup>th</sup> Wed)

April 24 (4<sup>th</sup> Wed)

July 24 (4<sup>th</sup> Wed)

#### **2013 Face to Face Fall Annual Meeting**

October 23-24 (Wed-Thurs) Time/Location TBD on April call