

New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

April 20, 2011 – Santa Fe, NM

Approved Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Jeff Hickerson, NPS (Chair); Emily Irwin, FS; Butch Wilson, FWS; Lisa Bye, BLM; Claudia Standish, NM Smoke Coordinator (BLM); Josh Hall, FS Air & Water Quality, Susanna Ehlers, FS Air Quality; Pam Bostwick, FS; and Rita Bates, NM State - Air Quality Bureau

Review and Approval of the last NMICG Meeting Notes

The Jan. 27, 2011 meeting notes were reviewed and approved as distributed, and will be posted on the Committee's website by Jeff.

NMICG Action Items

The following is the updated NMICG Action Item and Assignment List. New or Updated Action Items are in red. Completed Action Items have been removed.

Topic	Action Needed	Responsibility	Date
NMICG Chair Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check SWCG website at see if NMICG's membership list, and essential documents are up to date. If not, contact Jay Ellington. ▪ Coordinate meetings, prepares agenda, and distribute meeting notes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hickerson ▪ Hickerson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing
AZ Interagency Smoke Management MOU and Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide comments on the draft NMICG Charter to Hickerson ▪ Review NM RX Fire Councils mission statement and see if additional verbiage can be adapted to NMICG's Charter ▪ Begin Process to replace existing MOU, which expires in Aug. 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALL ▪ Bye/Hickerson ▪ Hickerson/ALL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May 31 ▪ ASAP ▪ Fall 2011
NM Smoke Management Rule Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate meeting with NM State Forestry and NM State Lands with the federal agencies to address issues related to language in the draft SMP Rule. ▪ Work with AQB to draft Talking Points/PowerPoint about the SMP rule revision/changes for units/burners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hickerson/ALL ▪ ALL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ASAP ▪ Ongoing
NM Smoke Management Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weekly Smoke Coordination Call ▪ Encourage units to register all unplanned fire with "multiple objective" in the online NM Smoke Management Program database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Standish/Hall ▪ ALL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing
Interagency Fuels Agreement to Exchange Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exchange Interagency Fuels Agreements as prepared for utilizing resources (federal and state) on planned events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing
Integration with the SW Consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrange a info sharing meeting to discuss the opportunity to develop a relationship between the two groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irwin (lead) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summer 2011

The following is a summarization of discussions for each existing issue or topic.

New Mexico Annual Smoke and Planning Meeting AAR - All

The 2011 NM Air Quality Bureau's annual smoke and planning meeting was held on Feb. 22 and was well attended by various burn organizations and agencies. Group discussion and feedback recommendation for the next meeting include: set clear intent/purpose at the start of the meeting as well as utilize a facilitator to better manage time and to keep everyone on task, consider hosting the annual meeting prior to the planning portion of the meeting, set the meeting date far in advance, as well as incorporate Google Earth. It was further suggested to consider having the next meeting in concurrence with the 2012 SW Fire Ecology Meeting, scheduled in late February in Santa Fe.

New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

NM Smoke Coordination Calls – Standish

BLM and FWS are planning large burns in the next couple of weeks; weekly interagency smoke coordination calls will resume on Friday April 29th. Units with fire activity are encouraged to make courtesy calls to the smoke desk, and to register fires that are managed with resource objectives.

Santa Fe Watershed Poll Results - Hall

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) recently polled registered voters related to the Santa Fe Watershed project. Overall smoke was considered low in importance, with 12% of the population extremely opinionated about smoke issues. TNC will present their findings to the Santa Fe City Council later this year.

New Mexico Smoke Management Plan Revision Status - Bates

No new changes or progress to report, currently waiting to get on NM's Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) schedule. Rita is currently busy presenting other topics to EIB, hoping to present the proposed rule revision to the Board this fall.

Rita noted that NM State Forestry and NM State Lands Office have expressed concern about some of the language in the proposed rule. Rita expressed the need for compromising language and resolution, as she fears if an exemption was made to state resources than legally the rule would not be enforceable. The federal agencies agreed to try to meet with State Forestry and the Lands Office to seek understanding and resolution.

NMICG Charter - Hickerson

The Group quickly discussed issues and potential impacted to the NMICG Charter from a recent email from the Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group chair. The Group concluded that there is a need to keep these groups in place and not to pursue a merged GAC level Fuels Group. NMICG will continue to pursue updating its existing charter.

The Group then reviewed and discussed a new NMICG charter shared by Jeff. Jeff will edit and then send out the updated version to the Group for further comments. The timeline is to have a near final draft ready for approval by the Sept. meeting; Jeff would then take it before SWCG for signature this fall.

Interagency Agreement to Exchange Resources on Planned Events Update - Irwin

The FS and NPS worked on this, and each discovered that there is no clean financial process in place for a broad interagency agreement to work effectively. Presently the best solution is do supplemental one on one relationship (unit to unit) agreements. Emily said she is going to instruct FS unit to get such agreements in place (to include contingency resources) and will share example with the Group.

Agency Round Robin

FS: There may be opportunities for NMICG to work on various issues with SW Consortium.

NPS: It appears DOI FY2011 fuels programs are going to be funded at 2010 levels, which is \$44M than what the department was anticipating.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will take place on Sept. 21, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. New Mexico State Forestry Division will host the meeting at their office in Santa Fe; the room location will be announced at a later time.