

## SOUTHWEST FIRE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

January 20-21, 1999

#### BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Frank Smith	NMS	Willie Begay	BIA/Tri-Area
Charlie Denton	FS-RO3	Kirk Rowdabaugh	AZS
Dan O'Brien	NPS	Bob Lee	BLM-NMO
Mike Fisher	BLM-ASO	Mike Phillips	FWS/R2
Jay Ellington	SWCC/NPS		

#### GUEST ATTENDEES:

Ken Butler	WMZ/BIA	Van Bateman	FS-COF
Larry Humphrey	BLM-SAD	Jim Desmond	BLM-ROD
Mike Bencoter	FWS/R2	Eva Wilson	BIA-ABZ
Paul Chamberlain	FS-MSO	Jerome Macdonald	FS-CIF
Jim Paxon	FS-GNF	Nate Shourds	BIA-PAO
Brian Power	FS-LNF	Roger Jensen	BIA-ZUA
Rick Reitz	FS-R03	Rod Bloms	FWS-R2
Dan Huisjen	BLM		

The meeting was held at Executive Air in Albuquerque, NM, and was called to order by Frank Smith at 0900, January 20, 1999.

#### TYPE I TEAM SELECTION:

IC's Van Bateman and Larry Humphrey distributed their respective team rosters to the board for discussion.

The IC's pointed out that the majority of people on the rosters are from AZ and more specifically the Northern Arizona Zone. The Board noted it is becoming harder and harder to fill the current two teams, especially at the expense of the type II teams. Do we keep two type I teams or go to one? If we have a very busy '99 season, it could have a major affect getting personnel for type I team for '2000 season. Is there a way to work with the type II teams to fill the voids on the type I team when necessary? According to the IC's, it is possible, but must be watched very closely. Are we working ourselves in a situation where we are leaning toward only one type I team? How long can we go with the current mode, given the fact that if we keep stretching, how long will it be before we stretch the type II and extended attack teams to far.

It was mentioned that the SWA might use type I team's from other areas. They are not burning, generally speaking, when the SWA is burning. Safety Officer's, Fire Information Officers, Communication Unit Leader, Medical Unit Leader, Procurement Unit Leaders, Ground Support Leaders, and especially Air Operations/Support personnel are very hard to come by. Need more trainees. If anyone has trainees, send their name to either of the IC's, especially people from NM. IC's are in agreement that the Area should continue to go with 2 teams, working toward building the trainee list up during the coming season. Swapping people between teams works out fine, especially trainees. Trainees expected to work for T1 team vice freelancing. The IC's indicated that there are some difficulties working with FEMA. Primarily due to what FEMA is in need of when working non-fire assignments.

A discussion was conducted on the specifics of team members selected. A type I team meeting will be held on March 11-12, tentatively, in Arizona. Fire cache, B. Zamoroa (Finance), SWFMB, Denton (R3), Schulte (Regional outlook), IHC's, Communications, etc. invited to speak. SWFMB recommends that Command and General Staff (T1 and T2) meet together before the individual teams.

It was discussed that the Board continue to meet with Agency Administrators, work with FMO's, and use the role of the Board in a more advisory capacity (i.e. getting the message out about personnel shortages,

etc...). The Board noted that there were no serious holes in the current rosters submitted by the IC's for the coming season. Thus, the rosters submitted by the IC's were accepted by the Board. Only some minor changes made. Trainees understood to be 12 in SWA and 6 out of Area. IC's to distribute the team roster to team members, Zone Offices, and SWCC.

#### LCES WORKSHOP, Paul Chamberlin, Missoula Fire Depot

Gave an overview of a newly developed "LCES Workshop, Where the Consumer is the Boss." Standards for Survival came out in the early 90's, but has been recently revamped. A handout was provided with the following the following topics: Unit I - Focuses on LCES (attendees are assigned to particular table, mixed group, each table is give LCES ideas and works on task.). Unit II - Respectful communication begins with attentive and respectful listening. Creating listening and speaking environments. Utilizing ideas generated in groups, trainees will produce a contract which will guide performance in the field. "This is the service we agree to provide each other." Unit III - In scenario exercises, trainees will demonstrate a procedure for evaluating hazardous operations and practice applications of their LCES contract. Solutions are reviewed by the class and instructors. Initial attack, smokejumper scenario. Large fire, firefighter/crew boss exercise. Urban interface exercise. Scenarios currently being developed for air attack, Rx Fire, Hazardous materials, engine, initial attack, long distance safety zone, NFDRS/Severity conditions, communication, lack of respect, hazardous fuels planning, etc. Facilitator ("hands-off") session in development. Consider using LCES Wkshop in rotation w/Standards for Survival. For example, after Standards the first year, use Unit I and II the next and Unit 3 the third year. Having given standards a break, start the cycle again with standard in the fourth year. Where are we now? Expanding vision to include homeowners, etc. NWCG has adopted course, to be published. "Do basic things, very well." Comments and questions followed. E-mail: [pchamber/r1@fs.fed.us](mailto:pchamber/r1@fs.fed.us) with comments and questions.

#### SWA Fire Use Training Academy (FUTA), Jerome Macdonald, Cibola National Forest

Jerome gave an update and overview of where the academy stands after it's first season. For the '99 (Feb 26 - April 16) spring program, there were 35 applications, 21 to be accepted. Interagency program blending classroom and prescribed burning experience. FUTA is an eight to ten week accelerated program in fuels management. Trainees work on completing taskbooks. Offered NWCG courses to non-FUTA attendees during fall session. Looking to fill some detail positions in the academy organization. A steering committee has been created to look at curriculum and other aspects of FUTA. Committee met in December. The committee discussed connection to IHC's, short courses, etc. FUTA is charted as a sub-committee of the Training Committee. FUTA is seeking some form of endorsement or recognition from SWFMB to indicate that FUTA is a SWA program, not NM program. Board agreed to provide a letter showing support, recognition, and endorsement of the Academy. Jerome/Jim Paxon agreed to write a letter and present it to the Board for signature. Any questions on FUTA may be directed to: [jmacdonald/r3\\_cibola@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmacdonald/r3_cibola@fs.fed.us)

#### HOTSHOT CREW PROPOSAL: Roger Jensen, BIA-Zuni Agency

The BIA has requested funding from Congress in FY-2001 to establish an additional Hotshot Crew. Any start-up costs will be covered by BIA-NIFC. Because of their strong historic fire program, BIA-Zuni Agency has made a proposal to be the host location for the new crew. There is tremendous support from Zuni Agency, Area Offices, and the National Office to have the program at Zuni. There is also tremendous interest and involvement by the people of the pueblo, especially in moving up in the fire organization. New buildings are currently in the works for the crew and other resources. The crew would be available year-round. In the meantime, BIA-Zuni is looking to work w/USFS to see about getting Zuni folks on some of their IHC's. Overall, BIA-Zuni/AAO is seeking acknowledgement, encouragement, and support from the SWFMB. A discussion was held about the proposal, including "Will Zuni be the only tribe to be submitting? (i.e. San Carlos, Navajo, etc)." "Will Board be showing support to soon?"

After the discussion, the Board noted that it cannot provide sanction to BIA-Zuni Agency. It is up to the BIA to determine who will be the host unit. However, the Board will provide letter of support. Letter will

include, among other things, a need for additional T1 crews in the SWA, 12 month support, fire season is longer than other Areas, Rx fire, and support because we are running out of crews, each season. Letter to be completed by BIA-Zuni and submitted to the Board for signature.

#### AVIATION COMMITTEE, Frank Smith (for Committee)

No activity since last meeting. Committee to meet in March in Prescott, AZ.

#### DISPATCH COMMITTEE

No formal report.

#### EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

No formal report.

#### TRAINING COMMITTEE, Jim Paxon, Committee Chair

Jim stated that Jerome Macdonald, Cibola NF, is now the Assistant Chairperson and Edna Harlan, Cibola NF, is the Secretary. Each Zone going through a needs assessment for 2000-2001. Assessment to be compiled by R. Rietz. It's become a real problem getting AA's to attend FLLMA and fire folks to the FPM course. Committee is looking into alternatives to get people to attend. Getting message out, but no takers.

Part of the problem is there is no specific document that states the courses are required. There is a meeting in Phoenix in April to discuss both courses. Bob Lee, to attend on behalf of Board. Each Zone is responsible for 300 level courses. Alternate years in getting ops/finance/planning, courses. Hardline in getting course information to Zone Training Coordinator by Nov. 1 of each year. Seems the Zone Training Coordinator is the most effective means for getting the word out. National groups are looking to putting on a PowerPoint training course. Bob Lee suggested the minutes to be posted on the SWA website?

A separate discussion was held on SWA representation to the National Training Group. Who represents the SWA? Is it Rick Reitz or a Training Council Member? Charlie Denton stated there is one national group that deals with 400 level courses at the national level and Rick represents SWA on this committee.

#### PREVENTION COMMITTEE, Rick Rietz, USFS Southwestern Region (R03)

Notes from the January 21, 1999 meeting were distributed. Rick submitted two proposals to the Board; (1) produce a video and (2) Southwest Fire Protection Assessment. In addition, two concerns (1) difficulty in going on 21-day assignments and (2) non-fire personnel in prevention were presented by Rick. The committee plans to finish video, complete hazard, risk, and value layers of assessment, organize, schedule fire prevention/education teams for '99 season, and design a consistent fire role and use message for recommendation and adoption in the Southwest. Next meeting March 4-5 in Albuquerque.

A discussion was held by the Board on the need for up-front \$8k to fund the Fire Protection Assessment. For example, there is data already available and can be sent to a group leader (i.e. Prevention Committee).

Cautions in the use of data, especially the "values" layer. States of AZ and NM interested in project, other agencies concerned about it's ground level use and whether the maps will make it to Congress and be seen different from their original intent. The Board did agree that agencies could provide information to the Prevention Committee if they wished to do so, so the Committee could prepare a broad brush assessment. Other Board discussions included being better prepared going into the season if the '99 season takes off like the '96 season and making sure the video correlates with what the teams message is (i.e. burning on BLM lands in June while not allowing fireworks, campfires, etc.).

#### TYPE II CREW COMMITTEE, Roger Jensen, BIA-Zuni Agency

No major activities being conducted by the committee. The Board requested that the Committee look into "why we had less crews available in '98 as compared to '96, type II crew standards such as requiring radios, etc to maintain higher quality crews, and revisions to the SWFF Handbook." In reference to the handbook, BIA national standards are changing which could affect what is written in the current handbook (i.e. Pack Test, Chainsaws/crew, Home Unit standards, etc). Other discussion evolved around looking into better means for setting up Zone/SWCC rotation lists and ID cards.

WEATHER WORKING GROUP, Larry McCoy, Coconino NF

Looks like the NWS-Flagstaff Office will not be able to fill its Fire Weather Forecaster positions. The Committee requests a letter from the Board to be sent to the NWS-Western Region expressing concerns about not having people available and their reorganization in Phoenix and Flagstaff Offices. The Flagstaff Office is looking to make sure they are up and running by May 1. If not, there could be a problem with quality of the fire weather forecast through the fire season. Larry will write a letter and present to the Board for signature. Minutes to the meeting in December to be mailed to committee members. Larry also spoke on NFDRS Training Course and NFDRS Operating Plan. The NFDRS Operating Plan was dropped as a duty for the committee.

LINCOLN ZONE REPORT, Brian Power, Lincoln NF

Jim Desmond, BLM-Roswell District, is the incoming chair to Zone Board Flying. Next meeting of the Board will be 1/29/99 in Carlsbad. Some Rx burning throughout the Zone.

WHITE MOUNTAIN REPORT, Ken Butler, FTA

Questions have arisen on contracting resources. Ken made a request to the Board asking for some Area direction on how to handle contractors. Next meeting of the Board will be 2/02/99.

GILA/LAS CRUCES ZONE REPORT, Dan Huisjen, BLM-Socorro District

New radio consoles in the Zone Office. Seeking to establish a 13/13 seasonal person in the Zone Office. Working to coordinate resources for upcoming season. Looking to bring in a Prevention/Education Team from outside. Two SWFF crews in Silver City. Next meeting of the Zone Board will be 03/31/99 in Truth or Consequences, NM.

TAOS ZONE REPORT, Frank Smith for George Devis

Nine zone training sessions coming up in Zone. The Taos Zone Board will meet in February (date and time to be announced later). For 1999 fire season, New Mexico State Forestry and BLM will have a presence in the Zone Office.

CENTRAL ARIZONA REPORT, Nate Shourds, BIA-PAO

There are discussions about combining CAZ/CRZ. Working on type II team selections. Next meeting of the Zone Board will be a CAZ/CRZ meeting on 02/06/99.

ERC CURVE, Kirk Rowdabaugh, AZS

There are some real concern with the ERC Curve that is produced in SWCC. Bob Lee to discuss with John Schulte, SWCC.

NWCG MEETING, Frank Smith, NMS

NWCG is inquiring about a NWCG/Geographic Area meeting in the Spring. Board identified following items that should be discussed at the meeting: fire weather, coordination, pay, etc. Any additional agenda items must be sent to Frank so they can be sent to NWCG by Feb 1. Frank to represent the Board at the meeting.

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS Rx FIRE COORDINATION, Frank Smith

The Western Governor's Association (WGA) is concerned about the increased burning that will result with the federal land management agencies receiving funding for fuel reduction. The WGA wants to support these agencies in the fuel reduction but wants to be prepared to answer questions from citizens when they call or write the respective Governors. The WGA has formed a Prescribed Fire Program Coordination Task Group. The Group will be meeting on February 1 through February 3 in Portland, Oregon to begin a process of identifying what is already being done within states, regions or geographic areas in the line of coordination between agencies on prescribed fire activities, smoke management, etc. The Prescribed Fire Program Coordination Task Group has invited a member of each Geographic Area to attend their meeting in Portland and make a brief presentation on existing coordination activities within their geographic area.

Since there was a short lead time on this invitation, Frank Smith contacted Pete Lamm and asked him if he would represent the Southwest Area and give a presentation on how the agencies in Arizona have been going about coordinating prescribed burns. The real concern by the WGA is that throughout the west that there is no current coordination of prescribed fire activities. For example, smoke does not stop at the state line. Who is doing the actual coordination? A discussion on the subject was held.

MOBILIZATION GUIDE, Jay Ellington, SWCC

No significant changes need to be made to the mobilization guide for '99. However, lots of minor (i.e. ibm addresses, personnel, etc) changes. Jay inquired, on behalf of the Dispatch Steering Committee, whether the Board required D-110, D-310, and D-410 to be completed prior to being a qualified dispatcher in the SWA. The Board stated it has no authority to supersede agency direction. Thus, no statement will be made in the Mob Guide to reflect these courses as required.

Mike Phillips has accepted the position of Agency Representative on the Tri-Data Study for the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Mike will be working for the Boise Office, but out of Albuquerque. Mike Benscotor, NIFC, will become the new FWS Regional Coordinator in SWA.

The Board has been invited to speak at the Southwest Strategy Meeting, Feb 11-12, in Phoenix. Bob Lee will speak at the meeting on behalf of the Board.

/s/

Frank Smith  
Board Chairperson

/s/

Jay Ellington  
Board Secretary