



Willie will be the liaison for the Board to the Committee.

In related matters, Frank Smith stated that NM State has been looking ways of increasing the number of Type II crews available from New Mexico. One alternative is to offer economic development grants available through the State.

**Training Committee Report** (Dan Oltrogee, Committee Chair) - Dan gave a quick overview and a bit of history behind the committee. The training calendar has not been completed, printed, nor distributed for 1997. The committee is looking for funding of approximately \$5000 dollars to get the calendar printed and distributed by September 1. Board members discussed concerns about the cost of producing the calendar if we have other means for distributing the calendar such as the Internet. Dan stated several concerns have been raised by the training committee including (1) confusion on the nomination process for attendees in national training courses, (2) eroding or compromising development process because of the removal of the tenure policy with Type I teams, and (3) cancellation of courses due to lack of nominations. The next meeting of the Training Committee will be March 19-20 in Albuquerque.

The Board discussed the possibility of a needs analysis for training by Zone, Area, or position. Gary Benavidez stated that it might be time to place a commitment statement on the nomination form which states that an individual is expected to participate as a trainee upon completion of a course. Several attendees pointed out that the fire community should be better at marketing training courses, specifically showing that some of the lesser attended courses are vital and as exciting as others. Dan also stated the committee is concerned with the lack of consistency across the area with the number of trainees available for each team (i.e. some teams have 10 trainees at times).

Al Defler will take over for Bill Russell as the Board's liaison to the Training Committee. In addition, Al will be talking with Rick Reitz (R3 AFM Training Coordinator) about Training Committee funds.

**Crew Representative Training Proposal** (Jerome Macdonald) - Jerome presented a training course curriculum proposal for IARR's. The Board discussed the proposal in light of the possibility of using crew bosses from the SWA in lieu of personnel from other parts of the country, developing an annual crew representative workshop, and the possibility of filling future openings with AD's. Jerome will make some adjustments to the proposal in reference to reducing the length of the program and present it before the Board prior to the end of the meeting week. In addition, Jerome will work with the new Crew Committee, continue to work on the curriculum, and update the SWFF crew handbook as needed.

**Wildland Fire Investigation** - Cliff stated that he had received a letter from Tom Gavin, Bitter Lake NWR, on presenting a course on Wildland Fire Investigation "Cause and Origin." Dan stated the Training Committee will follow-up with Tom on the subject.

**Cache Report** (Doug Benton, Silver City Cache) - Doug presented and discussed the costs and levels of activity that passed through the SWA Cache system over the past year. Because it costs between \$4K and \$7K per year, Doug stated the Board should consider changing the current

prescription of pre-positioning the vans by leaving them at the cache until an incident needed the vans. The only exception would be for Northern NM. Doug stated that the Cache Managers felt the cache could match team arrival on an incident. After some discussion, it was decided the vans would be pre-positioned as has been done in the past.

Doug also presented a proposal titled 'Ordering of Cache Supplies from Great Basin Units to Prescott Cache.' The primary purpose of the proposal is to enhance cost savings through direct ordering from some identified Great Basin units. Discussion ranged around the possibility of draw-down of resources in the SWA Cache. The Board approved the proposal. Cliff will forward the proposal to the Great Basin Coordinating Group for their review, approval, and signature.

**ABZ Report** (Jerome Macdonald) - Al King will take over for Dale Miracle as ABZ Board Chair. The Northern NM Training Committee continues to grow. Kim Kostelnik selected as Committee Chair.

**GLZ Report** (Gary Benavidez) - Rex Alford (BLM-LCD) has accepted a new position with BLM-Colorado. FWS is funding a seasonal dispatcher position in the Zone Office for '97. Gary stated the GLZ has not received much snow this winter and the grass is growing intensely over and above last year at this time. Could mean an active season. One Type II team board has been established for NM and Gary has been selected as Chair. A combined Type II team, two day, meeting/training, etc will meet in Albuquerque on March 19-20. Some issues and concerns were presented to the Board including (1) a lack of strike team leaders/division superintendents on the fire line, (2) waiting 24 hours after a short-team ordered before the remaining team is released to freelance, and (3) development of a deployment investigation team. The majority of the discussion wavered around the deployment investigation team. Gary presented a proposal to develop a Pre-identified Deployment Investigation Team. The team would have the necessary experience and training to oversee an investigation into a shelter deployment. And finally, it was pointed out that no rotation scheduled will be maintained by SWCC for Type II Team as was stated in the NM Type II Team Board's charter. Gary noted this and will pass on the change to the NM Type II team Board.

**WMZ Report** (Gary Loving) - No major issues or concerns from the Zone Board. Training sessions have been going well with cancellation of only a few courses due to a low number of nominations. Gary also stated the USFS is taking the lead in focusing on interface fuel treatment in the state of Arizona.

**FLZ Report** (George Kleindiest) - Zone Boards in Arizona are working on a charter for the Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group (AICG) and issues related to Type II team selections in Arizona. George reported the FLZ and GCZ are working together on a Type II team. The GCZ (Billing) Agreement has gone out to agencies throughout the Zone for signature. The latest revision to the agreement includes an administrative surcharge for All-Risk incidents and a revision to the form to include, among others, a line for warrant officer signature. George stated there has been discussion within the Zone about the possibility of combining the FLZ and GCZ Boards for the '98 season. GCZ Center Manager position is open and should be filled in the next several weeks. Training in the zone is going well.

**LNZ Report** (Tom Gavin) - Tom Gavin is the new Chair for the LNZ. The Zone is looking at being evaluated and managed using a Performance Base System. FWS is funding a seasonal Assistant Dispatcher position in the Zone Office for the '97 fire season. The position would possibly become the Intelligence Officer position for '98 season. The Zone Board is also looking at a FWS frequency for zonewide radio use, into better intelligence gathering methods throughout the units within the Zone, a step-up plan for movement of resources, and at having three individuals in the Zone Office by the '98 season. The Zone Office is physically being relocated this year.

**CAZ Report** (Ron Melcher) - The Zone Board is meeting on February 12 to discuss and select the Zone's Type II team. Some concerns of the zone include possibly not able to fill a Type II team and coordination of fire closures and restrictions. Arizona State would like for the Zone Office to move more toward the interagency concept over the next few years. BLM-AZ is looking at putting a seasonal position in the zone office for the upcoming fire season.

**BLM-AZ Issues** (Al Alvarez) - BLM has received inquiry from the Black Professional Firefighters about pulling together a Type II crew. Currently, a crew is being formed in Jackson, MS through the local BLM office. The crews first assignment is expected to be in Arizona.

**Type I Team Selections** (Gary Loving and Eddie Lente) - Both Gary and Eddie presented to the Board their selections for their respective '98 Type I Incident Management Teams. A discussion followed on commitment of trainees to the one-team concept, release of the Deputy IC to be a Type II team IC, a need to use the Deputy position as a means for Type I IC development, development of Type II IC's, and a re-visit to the process of selecting nominations to attend the 520 course at NARTC. Overall, a few additional selections will need to be made to each team's roster. The Board accepted the rosters presented by both Gary and Eddie. John Burton to send out the team rosters, team meeting dates, and the team meeting agenda's to all Zones for distribution. In reference to the S-520 selection process, Eddie recommended that the Board nominate candidates for S-520 based on the priorities expressed by the two Type 1 IC's and that a system be established that provides for a fare and timely response to the applicants's status of selection.

**Southwest Fire Council (SWFCO)** (Steve Servis) - Steve brought several issues before the Board to discuss including (1) sponsoring or expanding fire management awards in dispatching, prescribe fire, etc., (2) the need for assistance of writing a letter on smoke management, fire effects, etc, and (3) reaching cooperators on interface issues. The Board recommended SWFCO continue pursuing the education effort already begun by SWFCO to include assistance in smoke management, fire in ecosystem management, urban interface, increasing prescribe fire acres, and public acceptance for prescribe fire. The Board also recommended SWFCO consider developing an aggressive advertising and marketing campaign using brochures, contacts, the Internet, etc. In addition, the Board recommended SWFCO consider working with the other western fire councils, encourage participation on SWFCO Board, increase council membership, and to tap into the academic world for on-going fire-related projects and research. Overall, the Board feels SWFCO is an excellent forum for getting ideas out to the fire community and to the general public, where federal agencies are unable to.

**Federal Policy Review** (Cliff Chetwin) - A discussion was held on any date changes, responses, etc to the review completed by the Board during the latter part of '96. Some items have been completed and accomplished, others are still in process. Cliff will continue updating the accomplishments and to be ready to present at the NWCG meeting at Boise in March.

**National Wildland Coordinating Group Meeting** (Cliff Chetwin) - It was recommended that all Board members attend the NWCG meeting in Boise, March 12-13. All Board members present stated they would be attending.

**Internet** (Jay Ellington) - The HomePage for the SWA has been completed and a printed copy was shown to all Board members. Jay stated that three, one-hour sessions on the Internet were presented at the Dispatchers Workshop in January. Jay will be meeting with Steve Foley (USFS/R03) the week of February 24 to set-up a LAN connection in the Intelligence Section at SWCC to the USFS/R03 file server. Once connected, Jay and Steve will set up the necessary files for SWCC to access the Internet. Tentative online date is schedule for April 1. Jay will be drafting a letter to be sent from SWCC to indicate the direction SWCC is taking to get Intelligence data on the Internet. For '97 fire season, Intelligence will be distributing all reports via the Data General and the Internet.

**Incident/Entrapments/Shelter Deployment Handbook** (Bob Lee) - The final draft of the Handbook was distributed. Bob would like all Board members to give the draft one last review by February 28. Gary Benavidez will forward info to Bob on the development of Deployment Investigation Team(s).

**Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)** (Cliff Chetwin) - Cliff to continue working with contracted medical units and follow-up.

**'96 Fire Season Review** (Cliff Chetwin) - Only a handful of people showed up for the '96 fire season review that was held in November. The Board feels it is important to follow-up each fire season with a solid review and will work with the Zone Boards to emphasize to all SWA units the importance of a review. Discussions on the review included formalizing the process and to include the review as an agenda item for the Board's fall meeting. The Board proposed developing a process which takes a broad and strategic review of the previous season, capturing points both good and bad in aviation, operations, dispatching, etc. The final report would be presented as positive opportunity where the fire community is provided good feedback (i.e. a solid product). The target for bringing together a review format will be by next Board teleconference.

**Team Awards** (Cliff Chetwin) - Team awards have been distributed to all Type 1 team members through their respective agency. The Board has been requested to look into awards for other areas of fire. However, the Board decided their responsibility was to Type I team members only. A discussion followed on future team awards. Overall, the Board decided to keep the Type I IC's responsible for procuring and selection of eligible team members. Eddie Lente will be responsible for procuring the '97 awards. In addition, the Board decided that each agency will continue providing funds for the program. The Board also decided that six trainees on the out of

area roster should receive the award after completing one season.

**Areawide Agreement** (Cliff Chetwin) - On the heels of the Grand Canyon Agreement, the Board looked at the new Area wide Agreement for Non-Wildfire Emergencies. The agreement is to be used to assist agencies in certifying transfer of funds incidents other than wildfires. The agreement has a ceiling of \$500K. It was proposed and accepted that the agreement would be reviewed and approved during the same time frame as the SWFMB MOU (i.e. every 5 years). The Board reviewed the agreement which will now be forward to the DOI Solicitor. This agreement will not supersede any Zone Agreement, but will enhance the ability to transfer funds between federal units throughout the Area. Cliff will provide each Board member a final draft within two weeks for Agency Administrator signature.

**Southwest Firefighter Crew ID's** (Willie Begay) - The Navajo Area will be issuing photo ID's starting this season to all firefighters. New firefighters will receive their ID's upon completion of initial firefighting training. The BIA will be looking into various ways in which other tribes can issue ID's. No standard ID will be established. Thus, each agency will design their own form of ID. For the '97 season, it looks pretty good that ID's will be issued. Willie to continue follow-up.

John Burton stated the USFS will be utilizing the Department of Motor Vehicles for ID cards.

**Safety and Air Attack Issues** (Bob Lee) - Bob is drafting a letter to NWCG pertaining to air attack and Safety Officer T3. The primary issue is to propose changing qualifications for AAT2 to be ICT3 qualified in lieu of Division Supervisor qualified. And, that a Division Supervisor must go to Safety Officer T3 to address safety issues. Bob will send copy to each Board member for review.

**Smoke Management** (Frank Smith) - A meeting will be held February 26 to discuss creating a new position in NM State office to cover smoke management issues for federal agencies. Frank will follow-up with a 'white paper' pertaining to funding and FTE. A draft should be ready for distribution to the Board by the end of March.

**Department of Energy** (Frank Smith) - Los Alamos Laboratory (LAL/DOE) requested a seat on the SWFM Board several months ago. Cliff responded, but has not received anything from LAL since the letter. The Board decided to remove the request from future discussion.

**NM State Rx Letter** (Frank Smith) - The Board was requested to draft a letter on behalf of State Forestry to incorporate prescribe fire on state lands. The letter was to cover forest health and the need to use prescribe fire in order to obtain funding through pre-suppression efforts. Frank to follow-up and see if the letter is still necessary or if there is a need to sit before a state committee.

**Pack Test** (Cliff Chetwin) - Cliff pointed out that an error was made in the last minutes. The pack test is mandatory for 1998, but is not mandatory for 1997.

**Joint Power Agreement for NM** (Frank Smith) - Frank distributed the latest draft of the JPA

for NM and requested a review by Board members by the February 21. The agreement should be in place by August 1997. Frank stated an entry will be made on the US Forest Service wildland/urban interface structural protection decision.

**Joint Power Agreement for AZ** (Ron Melcher) - Ron reported FWS has some concerns on billing procedures and BLM has concerns pertaining to training standards. It was learned that the current JPA expired January 1, 1997, however, a clause in the documents states it can be carried over for five more years if no changes to be made. Ron and Cliff to check with AZS to see if this is valid.

**Fire Program Management Course** (Al Alvarez) - The cadre for the course has requested the Board formalize a letter to all units stating this course is required for all fire management officers. After discussion, it was decided that this responsibility belongs to each respective agency. Cliff will follow-up with cadre and training committee on the subject.

**Prescription for Health** (Cliff Chetwin) - Several contradictions were discussed between the September 1996 Prescription for Health and the January 1997 Type II Team Policy Guidelines. After discussion, it was stated the Prescription is a 'desired future condition' document and the Policy Guidelines is the formalized direction the Board would like to undertake. Cliff will review and make changes to the Prescription to match-up with the Policy Guidelines, obtain signatures, attach a copy of the Policy Guidelines, and re-distribute to the Zones. The Board recognizes the need to clarify the prescription and feels comfortable with the current document.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Bar Codes on items within Incident Camp** (Al Defler) - Al will be bringing in Gerry Vincent, Northwest Area, March 17-18 to demonstrate and discuss the use of bar codes in incident management camps for food services, supplies, etc. Gerry will be demonstrating the potential savings that exist by using bar codes.

**Agency Administrators Course** (Al Defler) - Al was interested in the status of this course for 1997. After some discussion, the Board feels the course should be delayed and more emphasis be placed on the EFSA refresher and training course. In addition, a national AA course will be offered by NARTC. Therefore, Al is going to make contact with Charlie Denton and Dan Winner to see about pulling together an EFSA refresher, with hands-on computer training, before the upcoming fire season.

**Type II Team Handbook** (Al Defler) - Al stated that Jerome Macdonald introduced the idea of a Type II Team Handbook at the Sept 96 meeting. The mention of the Handbook was eventually placed in the Prescription. The Board decided to contact Jerome about the Handbook.

**Pre/Post Season Incidents** (Al Defler) - Al has been approached by Region 4 to see about providing a team during their primary fire season and they would reciprocate during the Southwest's fire season. It was decided that Al would discuss this further with Dennis Pendleton and Neal Hitchcock.

**Prevention Committee within SWA** (Cliff Chetwin) - Cliff introduced a proposal to establish a prevention committee for the SWA whose primary function would be to look at prevention in the broader, Area wide perspective. This might motivate the fire community in taking prevention to a new level in the SWA. Cliff distributed and led a discussion on the Great Basin Prevention Plan and stated maybe the SWA should consider something similar. The Board decided to establish some goals, direction, and purpose of establishing a prevention committee before bringing together. Several individuals within the SWA were identified and will be contacted.

**Prevention Planning (P-301)** (Cliff Chetwin) - Cliff recently received a letter indicated the SWA has been offered four slots for the upcoming course in Mesa, AZ in March. The Board decided to leave it up to each agency present to inform people of the course and submit nominations.

**National Weather Service Fire Wx Assessment Committee (NWSFWA)** (Cliff Chetwin) - Cliff recently received a letter from the NIFC Fire Weather Group requesting the submission of three names for selection to the NWSFWA group. The group will be looking at alternatives, methods, and direction for the NIFC HomePage. The Board decided to submit the names of Bob Lee, Jay Ellington, and Ron Moody to the committee.

**SWFMB Handbook** (Jay Ellington) - The Board approved the final draft of the SWFMB Handbook. Jay will insert the signed MOU, make several adjustments, and send to Sandy Roberts for printing. Printed copies of the Handbook should be available by March 15.

**Order Processing for Overhead** (John Burton) - John pointed out that during the past fire season, it seemed some AD overhead personnel had been ordered and received without the necessary red-card qualifications or signature. After a lengthy discussion, the Board iterated that it is the individuals responsibility for being red-carded and that it is also the hiring and receiving units responsibility to verify that the individual is red-carded before being allowed on the incident. In addition, it was noted that the all Zones who sponsor and red-card AD's should ensure that the individual is entered into the OVERSTAT system, that the SWA will utilize AD's located within the SWA before going to NICC requesting a regular employee, and that SWCC will state "no contract" on all request orders to NICC. Al Defler noted that Coordination Centers should use "position title" instead of "name requests" when ordering an AD. Otherwise, those who took the "buyout" could be affected and the hiring state could possibly be liable if an injury were to occur.

**Entrapment/Deployment Investigation Team** - The Board discussed the idea of creating an Entrapment/Deployment Investigation Team within the SWA. The team would respond to any incident in the SWA where an entrapment/deployment occurred. Discussion ranged around number and type of team members, purpose, etc. The Board decided to hold over creation of the team until after the Entrapment/Deployment Investigator training is completed in April.

**Issues/Concerns/Information** (Attendees)

**Willie Begay** - BIA is looking into Type 2 and Type 3 crews. Willie will follow up and let the Board know where this issue goes. BIA is also looking into Advisory Boards and

other issues for Type 1 crews. Four fire planners are being hired within the BIA, one will be assigned in Albuquerque at the Coordination Center.

**Eddie Lente** - Eddie stated he would like to see more involvement by the Board during incident close-outs. He also stated that the FAST team led by Charlie Denton went well this past fire season and would like for this approach to continue on an interagency basis.

Eddie is looking for some feedback from the Board in which he can carry to the National IC Meeting.

**Frank Smith** - A contract is being written through the National Association of State Foresters to develop a standard red-card system for the States to utilize. Frank distributed the final draft of the State of New Mexico's "Restrictions and Fire Prevention." He is looking for any final feedback from the Board. The State is looking to create a new position which deals directly with the wildland/urban interface.

**Ron Melcher** - The State of Arizona Division of Fire Management has reorganized. The state is now broken into three districts instead of six. The districts are Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson. In addition, the state is working toward improving coordination through the Zone system. Ron also stated that John Hafterson is working on a State Fire Policy and is looking for any comments or feedback from the Board.

**Al Alvarez** - The BLM is starting to work on a national fire management plan which will include direction on interfacing with neighbors and prescribe fire, especially, philosophy. The BLM Standards for Fire Operations Handbook will be available soon.

**John Burton** - During the '96 fire season, three major dehydration incidents occurred. John will be working with a postdoctoral student to pull together a video on the subject of dehydration to be available before the '97 fire season.

The meeting was adjourned at 1530 on February 13.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be with Agency Administrators to include, but not limited to, topics brought up during the last AA meeting, a briefing on the coming season, and smoke management. No specific dates were established. Board members will work with their respective Agency Administrators to find a suitable date sometime between April 21-25.

Jay Ellington  
SWFMB Secretary