

6/10/97
1000

Southwest Fire Management Board Meeting
Albuquerque, NM

Present: C.Chetwin, A.Alvarez, W.Begay, C.Denton, M.Phillips, F.Smith, B.Lee,
J.Ellington

ISSUES:

I Solicitors Opinion on E. Lente: E.Lente, former type I IC who retired 5/01/97, has been recently hired by the San Carlos Apache Tribe. Willie Begay requested responses from the Board members on the opinion provided to the BIA on E.Lente's status as a type I IC.

The general consensus of the Board was the concern over what would be the nature of the hire. To re-instate Eddie as the type I IC is a good short-term solution, but does not resolve the long term solution. In addition, no cooperative agreements currently exist between the tribes and each agency, board, or otherwise. The Board was also concerned about the hiring of AD's as IC's.

Additional concerns included: placing EL in a position where he could be held liable, solicitors response states that a cooperative agreement does allow for coverage, but no agreements are currently in place, IC is a much more responsible position than other team members and must be covered in case of unforeseen problems, need to focus on long term solution, need something that ties the tribe to the Board (currently, it is through the BIA), looking for legal responsibility, looking for cooperative agreement that passes Solicitor's review between tribe/BIA or tribe/SWFMB, and how all this affects Compacts and 628 agreements.

The Board feels it needs information or direction from the MAC Group at NIFC.

Willie ask what does not satisfy the Board members with respect to the Solicitors Opinion. Responses included:

- Vague
- Does not state cooperative agreements between tribe/BIA/SWFMB, etc
- Does not say 'yes, you can'
- States cooperative agreements 'can,' but do not say 'yes'
- It talks of fire protection, not AD's
- Does not answer the original question

Willie stated he would be contacting each Board member separately to further discuss.

II Dispatch System: Al Alvarez solicited, on behalf of a unit in the SWA, input from the Board on why the SWA uses a 4-tier dispatch system versus a 3-tier dispatch system.

Responses from the Board members seem to indicate that the present system works and it works well. There don't seem to be any specific problems from the current system and it reduces the long distance contact/direction need with SWCC if used in a 3-tier system.

III Fire 21 session in Tucson, AZ: Board discussed a memo received about a Fire 21 training session to be held in Tucson, AZ in the coming week. Overall, each Board member felt it had received the memo rather late and was not prepared to attend. With a better time frame, each member stated that they would be glad to be a part of the project.