

Southwest Fire Management Board

Meeting of July 22, 1996

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Attending:

Cliff Chetwin (NPS, Chair)	Al Alvarez (BLM-AZ)
Frank Smith (NM State)	John Burton (SWCC/USFS)
Bob Lee (BLM-NM)	Willie Begay (BIA)
Bill Russell (USFS/R03)	Dave Boyd (BLM-AZ, guest)
	Jay Ellington (SWCC/NPS-Board Secretary)

The meeting was called to order at 1000.

OLD BUSINESS

Team Awards (Cliff Chetwin) - A discussion was held on the allocation of \$9,000 in funds toward purchasing awards for teams. It was agreed that funding the awards would be shared evenly by each of the eight agencies. USFS will set up a reimburseable account with each agency responsible for transferring \$1300.

Prevention Team (Cliff Chetwin) - The Prevention Team close-out occurred last week. An accomplishment report has been completed and is being forwarded to all SWFMB members. In addition, the report is being sent to each zone along with a cover letter and a survey. The survey is to find out where problems were encountered, how the zones felt about having a coordinator, successes, failures, etc. Discussion of the prevention program will be placed on the agenda for the Zone Chair meeting in September.

A suggestion was made to nominate Prevention Team leaders for the national 'Golden Smokey' award. Bob Lee to follow-up.

Problems arose during the fire season pertaining to qualifications when ordering 'prevention specialists' through the resource ordering system. It was suggested that the specialists have a mnemonic identifier, that ordering could be done through a module format, and that ordering should be initiated through the Coordination Center rather than a zone office.

It was also proposed that language should be written under one of the Preparedness Levels (i.e. Level 4) which would state that ordering a prevention team should be considered. This will be discussed at August SWFMB Meeting.

Mentoring Opportunities (Bill Russell) - Tabled for a later date.

Rural Fire Department Opportunities (Al Alvarez) - Al will follow-up on letter initiated by Kirk Rowdbaugh which invites Rural Fire Department personnel to become involved in wildland fire assignments, training, and teams. It was decided that the letter should be tabled until after the September meeting.

Weather Service Survey (John Burton) - John forwarded to the National Weather Service requested survey information.

Aircraft Mob Guide Revisions (Al Alvarez) - Al will look at the instructions in the Mob Guide and make changes as necessary. New language will be written and either released as pen & ink changes or wait for Mob Guide revision.

Mutual Aid Agreement - Language to be included in the SWFMB Handbook and the Joint Powers Agreement that the use of the 'Incident Command System (ICS)' will be instituted on every incident.

Free Market Approach on Zone Study (Bob Lee) - Ready by the August meeting.

Response to Lincoln Zone Letter of January 16, 1996 (Cliff Chetwin) - A letter was sent on February 26, 1996 in response to the Chair of the Lincoln Zone's Type II Fire Management Board's letter dated January 16, 1996. The subject of the letter was title 'Support of State Incident Management Team Board Initiative in New Mexico.'

Letter to Zones: Type II Team rotation (Cliff Chetwin) - Completed and mailed.

Arrangements for September meeting in Phoenix (Al Alvarez) - All arrangements have been made. The meeting will be held at the Arizona BLM Training Center (near Metro Center). The dates have been expanded to September 16-21. No response to date from any zone regarding Type 2 team management issues for this meeting.

Internet Access (Bob Lee) - Working with SWCC to establish a location on the Internet. Jay Ellington to work with Bob Lee on this project.

South Zone Coordination Center's Rockwell System (John Burton) - John will be going to the South Zone over the next month to evaluate the Rockwell System used to run dispatch operations. The zone is currently using the 'Beta' version of the system developed by Rockwell, Inc. John will give a demonstration of the system at the August Board meeting.

Dome Fire Shelter Deployment - Management review has been completed and distributed. Ten recommendations were made as a result of the review. Each recommendation will be discussed at the August meeting.

Incident Reporting Form - Would like to consider placing the Incident Reporting Form in the SWFMB Handbook and perhaps the SW Mob Guide. To be discussed at the August SWFMB Meeting.

Formal Method for Providing Information to the Public - The Board feels that all firefighters and the public should be aware of current fire situations which are occurring throughout the Southwest Area. This can be accomplished through use of the Internet. Jay Ellington & Bob Lee to follow-up.

Team Nomination Process - The Board will be sending out notification to all zones to inform them that nominations for next years Teams must be received by November 1, 1996. Chetwin to follow-up.

NEW BUSINESS

September Meeting - The September meeting of the Board will be held in Phoenix, AZ during the week of September 16-20. Starting time will be 1:00pm on the 16th. Type II management issues will be discussed on the 17th & 18th.

All Zone Board Chairs will be invited for these two days and will be welcomed to remain for the latter two days.

BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Willie Begay - The Southwest FireFighters Crew Management Handbook has been completed and will be coming out soon.

John Burton - Would like to see the SWFMB Handbook become a part of the Southwest Mob Guide (i.e. added on as an additional section).

Al Alvarez - Will be working to bring internet access to Arizona BLM. Al introduced Dave Boyd to the Board. Dave will be coming onboard SWCC in early August as an Assistant Area Coordinator.

Bill Russell - Noted that there would be a briefing on the Clark Peak fire at 1300, later in the day. The briefing will include a review team to look at various allegations.

Bill stated that a 'severity analysis' should be completed in the near future and should be done on an interagency basis. All members agreed.

He went on to say that the Southwest does not toot it's own horn enough... that it is time to put out a publication which shows what has been accomplished during the past fire season (i.e. recognizing the 99% of the good things in the Southwest that have occurred).

Bill will be the keynote speaker at the New Mexico Fire Academy on August 4, 1996.

Bob Lee - Problems have been surfacing with smoke management issues with the State of New Mexico. This could affect prescribe burning activities conducted by federal and state agencies throughout New Mexico.

Frank Smith - Frank agreed with Bob that air quality issues are moving to the forefront and will need to be looked into appropriately.

New Mexico State will be re-writing fire and smoking regulations after this year. Assistance will be needed from other agencies in providing information.

Fran noted that New Mexico State did not recognize the SWFMB's decisions on fire restrictions. It was suggested that language be placed in the SW Mob Guide under a Preparedness Level to indicate what steps should be taken to restrict activities as fire conditions change. Frank to follow-up.

A draft of the Joint Powers Agreement will be ready by the next Board meeting in August. The current JPA expires in August, but suggestions are being made

to extend it through December 1996. New language may be introduced to include 'all-risk' incidents. Frank to follow-up.

NEXT MEETING: August 21-22, 1996 @1000 in Albuquerque, NM

* In addition to the other items on the agenda for this meeting, Steve Worden will discuss problems with cache replacement ordering.

The meeting was adjourned at 1240.

Jay Ellington
Board Secretary