

Southwest Fire Management Board

Meeting 1/20-21/2000

January 20, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 0900.

Board Members Present:

Bob Lee (BLM-NM)	Frank Smith (NMS)	Bryan Swift (NPS)
Al Alvarez (BLM-AZ)	Willie Begay (BIA)	Mike Benscoter (FWS)
Charlie Denton (FS)	John Schulte (FS-SWC)	Jay Ellington (SWC)

Guests:

Larry Humphrey (BLM-SAD) Van Bateman (FS-COF)

Type I Team Selections

Incident Commander's Bateman and Humphrey presented their team rosters to the Board for review and acceptance. A total of 161 nominations were submitted. This is the largest number of nominations submitted in recent years. Of concern to the IC's is the fact that 58 of the nominations came from the Northern Arizona Zone. Another concern is that only 28 nominations came from New Mexico. All positions were filled except for a COML on Humphrey's team. Larry Humphrey will follow-up with phone calls and contacts to fill the position. A total of 20 trainees were added to the rosters, 12 on Humphrey's team and 8 on Bateman's.

The Board agreed if AD's were used on the team that a trainee would be assigned. This would help in building future qualified personnel.

A concern raised by the IC's is getting trainees assigned to out-of-area assignments. The problem seems to be when the team order comes into SWC from NIC, it has team positions already assigned. The IC's will be taking this issue to the National Type I team meeting in Florida. The Board will pass the issue on to the National MAC Group.

The Type I team meeting will be held March 9-10 in Hondah, AZ. The Board approved the rosters for both teams.

Phoenix Mob Center Operations Plan

The Tonto NF sent a copy of the current Phoenix Mob Center Ops Plan to the Board for signature. The Board discussed some of the wording in the Plan, the need for Board signature, TNF Plan, etc. The Board decided it was a TNF ops plan and does not need a signature from the SWFMB. John Schulte will draft a letter for the Board's signature to send to the TNF.

MOU's with Contractor Association

Questions and concerns pertaining to an established Contractor Association were addressed. The Board questioned "the need for contracting," "legal counsel involvement," etc. Bob will obtain a copy of the Northwest Area Contractor's Agreement and distribute to the Board members and to DOI, USDA, AZS, and NMS solicitors. It does not appear that this issue will be resolved before the 2000 fire season.

Allocation of Resources

Mike Benscoter inquired about the process for severity funding among agencies and units within the SWA. The overall response was that the units within the respective Zones work together to coordinate crews, engines, etc...

Prevention

There is a Prevention Working Team meeting in Albuquerque during the second week of March. The Board decided that a conference call might be necessary during that week to discuss bringing in a Prevention Team for the SWA.

January 21, 2000

Board Members Present:

Bob Lee (BLM-NM)	Bryan Swift (NPS)	
Al Alvarez (BLM-AZ)	Willie Begay (BIA)	Mike Benscoter (FWS)
Charlie Denton (FS)	John Schulte (FS-SWC)	Jay Ellington (SWC)

Guests:

Jerome Macdonald (FS-CIF)	Roger Jensen (BIA-ZUA)
Rich Schwab (BIA-AAO)	Bob Shindelar (FS-SWC)

Crew Representatives

Jerome Macdonald, Crew Representative Sub-Committee of the Type II Crew Committee, passed out recommendations made by the Crew Management Committee for Crew Representative training. The recommendations included minimal acceptance training, protocols, assignments, prerequisites, and required annual refresher. Discussion of the subject included length of course, offered every 2-3 years, current problems that exist to warrant the training, mandatory, etc. The Board recommended the committee change the title from "training" to "workshop," reduce the session to 8-hours, obtain input from IARR's, and work toward presenting the first course in April.

Type II Crew Committee/Crew Management Guidelines

Roger Jensen, Type II Crew Committee Chairperson, requested the board formally or informally send issues pertaining to Type II/SWFF crews over to the committee. In addition, to provide early notification when the Board holds it's annual meetings. Roger passed out a 'draft' Crew Management Guidelines. Some of the items requested to be changed included changing the term

“Guidelines” to “Handbook,” removing wording on IARR’s, formatting, etc. The main issue of discussion was on length of assignment (i.e. 14 vs 21 days) including the difference in the wording in the National Mob Guide, the SWA Mob Guide, the Incident Business Management Handbook, and the specific Agency Guidelines, in addition to home unit involvement and the incident management team involvement. The Board recommended placing the draft on hold until the 14/21 day issue is resolved at the national level. Once the issue is resolved, a conference call will be set-up to discuss the language to insert in the Handbook.

SWA Mobilization Guide

The Board decided to remove the SWFMB Handbook and Crew Management Guidelines and to change the wording in the Red Flag Warning. No other major changes were made.

IMET and Fire Weather Training

Bob Shindelar, Fire Weather Coordinator at SWCC, distributed a draft letter for review and signature by the Board. The letter is to be sent to the Meteorologist-In-Charge requesting their assistance in providing IMET’s for training and incident assignments. The Board recommended some tweaking of the wording before signing.

Modernization of National Weather Service

Bob Shindelar distributed a draft letter for review and signature by the Board. The issue addressed in the letter is the change in how the NWS in Texas is seeking to cease distributing daily fire weather forecasts. The Board recommended before sending a letter to NWS, that a formal letter of concern should come from the NWS. Bob Shindelar to follow-up with the NWS.

Red Flag Warning

Bob Shindelar distributed a draft recommendation to the Board to change the current criteria established for Red Flag Warnings. The current Red Flag Warnings are issued based on sustained 20ft. wind speeds and planning level two or higher. The recommendation is to base Red Flag Warnings on 20ft. wind speeds of 25 mph or greater, relative humidity 20% or less, and NFDRS reading of “high” or higher. The Board agreed with the recommendation. Bob Shindelar will draft a letter to be sent to the NWS. In addition, the change will be made in the SWA Mob Guide.

Areawide ERC Curve

Bob Shindelar opened a discussion on the compilation and use of the current Areawide ERC Curve. A recommendation was made to move from the FTS method for developing the curve to using FireFamily Plus software. After a discussion of the means, methods, and purpose, the Board accepted the change. Bob Shindelar will provide the Board with charts using different base years than the current 1974-87.

SWFMB Handbook

Bob Lee to review updates and changes to the Handbook.

The meeting adjourned at 1300.

/s/

Bob Lee

Chairperson