

Southwest Fire Management Board Meeting

April 5, 2001

Board Members present:

Bob Lee (BLM-NM), Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZS), Willie Begay (BIA), Jeff Whitney (Acting FWS), Mike Fisher (Acting BLM-AZ), John Schulte (SWC), Frank Smith (NMS), Bill Waterbury (USFS), Bryan Swift (NPS)

Guests:

Dave Boyd (SWC), Bequi Livingston (CIF), Edy Williams-Rhodes (R03), Jay Ellington (SWC)

The meeting was begun at 1000pm, April 5, 2001.

Prevention Committee

The Board discussed the purpose and direction of this new committee. The Board decided the Committee should work toward developing a charter, an Implementation Plan (i.e. Restriction/Closures website and 1-800- number), and procedures for disseminating Restriction & Closure information. Bequi Livingston, FS-CIF, will be committee chair. Board contact: Bob Lee.

Equipment Committee

John Schulte to follow-up with Mike Draper, who has interest in being the chair for this new committee. Board contact: Bill Waterbury

Texas MOU

An agreement for initial attack support has been signed between the Texas Interagency Coordination Center, SACC, and the SWA. A streamlining process is being looked at to possibly set up MOU's with other bordering states.

14-Day Policy

The Board was asked if they would provide some clarification on the 14-day policy statement being placed in PL-5 in the Y2001 National Mob Guide. The clarification pertains to the statement "4-days off after a back-to-back assignment." The Board decided the SWA would interpret the statement as "2-days off and 2-days of light duty."

The Board went on to point out that they (i.e. the Board) cannot address every issue pertaining to the 14-day policy that arises with respect to each incident. In other words, these issues need to be resolved between the IC and the Agency Administrator at the time.

Type 1 Team Funding

Mike Fisher presented a proposal on behalf of the Type 1 teams to create a funding source to support the teams. Discussion revolved around setting up a specific fund, submission of an expenditure plan, each agency support their own, fund coordinator, and use of the SWCC 'move-up' account. The Board decided that the teams should submit an annual expenditure plan in August of each year.

As an aside, the Board decided that each committee sanctioned by the Board should present an annual operating plan to the Board by August. This way, the agencies can budget these funds in their annual budget.

Geographic Area Training Representative

Jerome Macdonald presented to the Board for signature a proposal/charter to establish an Area Training Representative. This person would forward/relay any concerns and needs to the National Training Group. The Board signed the charter. Jerome Macdonald will represent the SWA.

Southwest Strategy

Bob Lee provided the Board with a draft letter that describes the role of the SWFMB and its' relationship to the Southwest Strategy group. The letter was written for the benefit of the Strategy Group.

Mob Guide Changes

The Board has been requested to send each Zone Board a letter defining the changes being made to the SWA Mob Guide for Y2001. The letter will specifically address contingency resources, prescribed fire, peer review, annual meeting to discuss prescribe plans, notification of neighbors, etc. Bob Lee to draft letter.

The Board decided to the term "peer review" is inappropriate to use when referring to a neighboring units participation in prescribe fire. Instead the Board preferred that when neighboring units meet to discuss burn plans that the session be referred to as "information and coordination" of prescribed fire activity.

Department of Energy, and Defense

The DOD and DOE are signatories to the new National Fire Plan. The question arose during the meeting as to whether these Departments should become members of the SWFMB. The Board suggested that instead of being members of the Area Board, the associated units within the DOD and DOE become part of the Zone Boards within their respective areas.

Mobilization of T1 and T2 Teams

John Schulte made a proposal, on behalf of SWC and the team IC's, that team orders be a negotiated process between the IC and the receiving unit Agency Administrator prior to a team order being passed through the national system. The reasoning behind this is that often times a canned list of positions is placed into the system, and NICC will sometimes insert people into positions before the order arrives into a GACC. As a result, the IC has to re-negotiate positions for the team before they even depart their own area. During the discussion, it was learned that the IOS Working Team is currently looking at ordering and configuration standards for teams. John Schulte will discuss issue with Bob Leaverton and draft a letter for the Board to pass on to the IOS Working Team.

Southern Area Type 1 Team

The Board is anticipating a proposal from the Southern Area to share Type 1 team resources. The Board believes this could be a way of developing personnel and getting early season experience.

Fire Weather Meteorologists

The Board discussed how the new meteorologists positions will fit into the SWA program, including duties, responsibilities, and direction. The Board decided the Weather Committee should be tasked with looking into their overall direction. John Schulte to contact Larry McCoy and discuss the issue.

AD-5 Pay Plan

Billy Zamora provided the Board with the proposed AD-5 rates for next fiscal year. The Board was requested to review the rates and let Bob Lee know if they are acceptable. Bob will let Billy know the Board's decision prior to September 30.

Contractors Association

Some misunderstandings have occurred about the hiring of contracting resources within the SWA. Several of the Board members offered clarification of the issue. Kirk Rowdabaugh, State of Arizona, stated that the State of Arizona will be signing up contractors for work within the State only, but will not dispatch any contractors outside of Arizona. Contractors within the State can sign-up with Federal agencies. No action required by the Board on the issue.

Zone Reviews

The Board discussed methods for completing reviews of Zone Coordination Centers and Zone Boards. Some of the topics to be included in the review will be the Zone Charter, Agency Administrators involvement, dispatch office support, facilities, coordination of activities (i.e. Rx, Prevention, Training, etc), office staffing, customer service, etc. A review will require 3-4 days of work. The Review Board will include, at minimum, a line officer, zone coordinator, dispatcher, and an agency administrator. The TAZ will be the first to be contacted for a review.

The next meeting of the Board will be May 31, 2001 in the Flagstaff/Williams, AZ area.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm on April 5th.

/s/ _____
Bob Lee
Chairperson, SWFMB