



SOUTHWEST COORDINATING GROUP (SWCG)

January 19 – 20, 2005 Meeting Minutes
SW Training Center, Albuquerque, NM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam McAlpin (BLM-AZ) (Chair), Bob Lee (BLM-NM), Nancy Neskaukas (NMS), Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZS), Tom Beddow (USFS), Ken Castro (NPS), Mark Kaib (Acting USFWS), Frank Bedonie (SWCC for Willie Begay – BIA and Dugger Hughes - SWCC), Jay Ellington (Ex. Sec.)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Willie Begay (BIA), Dugger Hughes (SWCC)

GUESTS (at various times): (1/19) Jim Whittington, Jim Payne, John Selkirk, Jeff Whitney, (1/20) Jeff Whitney, Dan Oltrogge, Bob Lineback, Jerome Macdonald, Paul Sumerfelt, Roy Hall

The meeting began at 1000, January 19, 2005.

Minutes for the November 8-9, 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved.

FOLLOW-UP AGENDA ITEMS FROM NOVEMBER 8-9, 2004 MEETING:

SWCG/SWFMB PAST CHAIRS

Jay to post all past SWCG/SWFMB Chairs to SWCG website.

Outcome: Done.

CWN T2/T3 TEAM

Kirk to provide SWCG with update of CWN T2/T3 Teams.

Outcome: AZS is overseeing initialization and development of this CWN team. They have used the team and will shortly be working out procedures for use by other Federal units and other State units. AZS will issue redcards to team members as State employees, not as AD's, and maintain typing for use in Wildland fire community. The plan is to have the team up-and-running, and moving forward for the 2005 fire season.

INTERAGENCY FIRE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (IFPM)

SWCG to distributing letter to agencies addressing future training and education needs.

Outcome: SWCG decided against drafting letter, and decided that each member of the SWCG should work issue through their respective agency discussing IFPM, primarily development versus implementation, crosswalk procedures, and qualifications.

WFU TEAM ROTATION

Dugger to make presentation to National Coordinators on a different way to manage WFU Team Rotation.

Outcome: Dugger not at this meeting. SWCG will follow-up.

TYPE 2 CREW COMMITTEE

Willie to draft letter to committee proving direction

Outcome: Willie not at this meeting. SWCG will follow-up.

ROSS SELF-STATUSING LETTER

SWCG to draft letter and distribute.

Outcome: Completed, distributed, and posted to SWCG website.

THREE-TIER DISPATCH

Pam to draft letter for SWCG review detailing specific direction of Committee.

Outcome: Draft charter is being completed and will be distributed to SWCG for review. Pam needs response from SWCG members by January 28. Committee is also working on selection of a chair and the development of an implementation strategy. Next Committee meeting scheduled for February 15.

SOUTHWEST FIRE COUNCIL

See below.

SWCG COMMITTEE CHAIRS

SWCG seeking Chairs for Communication, Fire Business Management, and Operation Committees.

Outcome: No new chairs as of meeting. Liaisons to Committees to follow-up and provide Chair names by the next meeting.

FIRE PLANNING ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

John Selkirk distributed National FPU TechNews for SWCG review and discussion. Discussion revolved around meeting with Agency Administrators pushing for their support, some units not quite ready, lack of PCHA training, turnover, lack of subject matter experts within FPU's, first round of results could require a tweaking of the current boundaries, etc. Current deadline for FPA is March 1, 2005 to meet 2008 budget process.

Outcome: SWCG recommended to send letter to Agency Administrators (AA) and to meet with Southwest Strategy (SWS) to inform them of where FPA stands and that they do not have to sign off. Bob will be meeting with SWS at their 3/08 meeting to discuss FPA. In the meantime, each SWCG member need to meet with their AA's suggesting they stay informed of happenings with FPA. SWCG direction to FPA Committee: waiver for several FPU's for the 3/01 deadline and keep pushing high priority FPU's. For 2006, FPU's in the SWA need to include State data and resources. A number of FPU's state they cannot show adequate allocation without State input. GOAL: All land, all fire, all resources.

INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Jim Whittington provided the SWCG with an update. He stated the committee needs 1 member from each Zone, is developing pre-season media meetings expanding to each Zone, is picking 1-2 themes to discuss at meeting, the use of Firewise and personal responsibility, and developing message specific to Southwest, Arizona/New Mexico.

Outcome: Committee to submit draft letter for distribution to SWCG requesting participation on Committee by each Zone.

FIRST AMENDMENT COALITION (FAC) MEETING

Jim Payne provided an overview of the last meeting with the FAC. Jim stated there are still some ongoing issues, but some good bridge building is happening. The FAC would like to continue discussion on embedding reporters, working more with local fire departments, and resolving some of the jurisdictional issues.

Outcome: SWCG feels it is very important to keep the lines open at all times with the FAC.

AVIATION COMMITTEE

Ken Castro stated the committee continues to work on their charter, SEAT Implementation Plan, interagency review of bases, and criteria for the ordering agency to use dispatch channels.

Outcome: SWCG suggested committee talk to dispatch community and review SWA mob guide.

SOUTHWEST FIRE COUNCIL

A general discussion was held on the purpose and future of the Council. Discussion revolved around the value of the Council (i.e. need), loss of academia and fire departments, filling a meeting versus filling an opportunity, charter for the group, use of Council as a forum for networking, bringing various committees/meetings together under one heading, etc.

Outcome: Ken Castro to talk to current SWFCO folks pertaining to their thoughts on direction of the Council and provide report back to SWCG.

AD ZONE HOSTING

Issue is the lack of participation by some Zones to sponsor AD's.

Outcome: SWCG recommended Dugger draft letter to each Zone Chair stating the value and importance of AD's toward national and area mobilization, and emphasizing the dispatch world is responsible partner.

AD HIRING

Tom Beddow raised a concern about the SWA's long term strategy as it pertains to qualified agency personnel. Discussion revolved around use of AD's, providing training for agency personnel, types of dispatches, position needs, by-passing agency personnel for AD's, etc.

Outcome: SWCG decided there needs to be a definite commitment by AA's and regional directors, potential use and outreach of local fire departments, and the Dispatch, Training and Operation Committees should be

tasked with working on this issue. Tom Beddow stated he would draft his thoughts into an e-mail and send it to SWCG members for discussion at the next meeting.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM SIZE

SWCG reviewed letter dated December 17, 2004 from the National MAC Group pertaining to limiting the size of IMT's to a total of 33 members. Discussion revolved around defining needs, expectations, size of current SWA teams, negotiations between AA and IC, use in the SWA versus use outside of Area, tracking resources, media, impacts, loss of participants due to not being on team roster, use of additional positions (i.e. GIS, Web person, etc) that don't actually put a fire out, etc.

Outcome: All IC's and other persons at the meeting left the meeting to draft a response. The response would focus on the expectations of IMTs as they come to work on incidents in the Southwest Area, to include those positions needed over and above the positions stated in the NMAC letter. After a period of time, the draft was presented to the SWCG. SWCG reviewed, made some edits, and pulled together a final draft. Pam to forward letter to NMAC. Changes to be incorporated into 2005 SW Mob Guide.

2005 SWA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM ROSTERS

Dan and Jeff distributed their proposed rosters to the SWCG. Dan's roster consisted of 50 positions and 11 trainees, while Jeff's consisted of 48 positions and 9 trainees. Discussion revolved around number of AD's, out-of-area roster versus SWA roster, trainees for out-of-area assignments, negotiating with Incident AA, problems with filling FBAN, etc.

Outcome: SWCG approved both Team rosters. Dan and Jeff to inform team members selected and not selected.

2005 SWA FIRE USE TEAM

Roy Hall discussed some of the ups and downs of the 2004 season and presented his roster for the 2005 season. Nationally there will be 7 teams and the rotation of the 7 teams will change to a rotation similar to the T1 rotation schedule.

Outcome: SWCG reviewed and approved the 2005 roster.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TRAINING FUND

Jeff distributed Chuck Maxwell's notes on the problem of providing travel and per diem for NWS employees who provide assistance and training in the S-290/490 and/or other fire courses. There is a national agreement to provide for emergency incident support, but it does not allow for reimbursement (i.e. transfer of funds) for other non-emergency needs such as the S-290/490 issue. According to Chuck, future participation by the NWS is at stake with this issue. Thus, Chuck proposes a centrally managed agreement and the funds to deal with the problem. This can be done on an interagency basis or a single agency.

Outcome: SWCG recommended Chuck follow-up to see if anything can be worked out through the FUTA agreement, and to also review any other national agreements with the NWS to see if there can be a task order attached to the current agreement allowing for this reimbursement.

2005 SWA MOBILIZATION GUIDE

Jay provided the SWCG with specific change requests made from the field to be entered in the 2005 Guide.

Outcome: After providing several suggestions, the Guide was approved.

The next meeting of the Southwest Coordinating Group is scheduled for February 28 – March 1, 2005 in Phoenix, AZ.

The meeting adjourned at 1700, January 20, 2005.

/s/ Pam McAlpin

Chair

Southwest Coordinating Group

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