



## SOUTHWEST COORDINATING GROUP (SWCG)

July 7, 2005 Meeting Minutes  
Albuquerque, NM

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Pam McAlpin (BLM-AZ) (Chair)
- Karen Michaud (NM-NSO) (For Bob Lee)
- Nancy Neskaukas (NMS)
- Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZS)
- Tom Beddow (USFS)
- Ken Castro (NPS)
- Dave Lentz (USFWS)
- Willie Begay (BIA)
- Leon Ben, Jr. (AZ-PAO)
- Dugger Hughes (SWCC)
- Jay Ellington (Ex. Sec.)

### GUESTS:

- Cal Pino (NM-AAO)
- Ginger Brudevold-Black (NM-R03)
- George Leach (AZ-FTA)
- Don Griego (NM-NMS)
- Bill Waterbury (NM-R03)
- Kristi Gordon (NM-R03)

### MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

- None

The meeting began at 1300, July 7, 2005.

Minutes for the May 19, 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### FIRE PLANNING ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

A number of FPU's are ready for roll-out by July 15, but a few FPU's still need assistance. FPA will be replacing Southern NM Mountains FPU with Central Arizona FPU to meet the number of FPU's ready for roll-out in the SWA by the July 15 deadline. Southern NM Mountains has a few issues within their FPU, including breaking off some units with Pecos Valley District, GIS structure, multiple planning units, Agency Administrator buy-in.

**Decision:** Ginger Brudevold-Black will draft a letter on behalf of SWCG to Southern NM Mountains FPU stressing importance of dedicating personnel to this project. Also, FPA Committee will need to provide SWCG with the next group of FPU's that need to be ready by the next roll-out date.

### TRAINING COMMITTEE

George Leach, Committee Chair, stated the number of members on the Committee seems to be declining and is in dire need of help in getting people to participate from each Zone. In addition, his position as Chair is up and available. The current charter states the SWCG nominates the Chair. Other discussion topics included IFPM and its effect on Training (possible IFPM sub-committee), folks represented on the Committee (e.g. FMO/AFMO's vs dispatchers, etc), and a broad view approach to training needs.

**Decision:** SWCG asked George to review charter and adjust to allow the Training Committee to make the Chair selection. The new chair will draft a letter on behalf of the SWCG for sending to each Zone Board stating the importance of having folks sign-up for the committee and participate in the Committee's functions. Pam will meet with Training Committee sometime in August/September to generate ideas and incorporate some of these items into their charter. George will schedule this meeting and also provide SWCG with latest Needs Assessment by the next meeting.

### SMOKE MANAGEMENT

SWCG reviewed NM Smoke Management Plan and found several discrepancies and issues that need further follow-up, including parts of II.c, what is a conflict, who does one go to in order to find out who can and cannot burn, self-regulating, etc. Kristi Gordon will take comments back to NM Smoke Management Group.

**Decision:** SWCG will ask AICG to review NM Smoke Management Plan or provide SWCG with their plan which pertains to Arizona.

### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Bill Waterbury provided the SWCG with a draft charter for review.

**Decision:** Pam signed the charter.

### **FIRE USE TRAINING ACADEMY (FUTA)**

USFS Southwestern Region, as account manager for FUTA, is encountering difficulties with the transfer of funds between the various signatories on the FUTA Agreement. It is not an issue of lack of funds, simply an issue of moving funds from one agency to another in a timely manner. Tom Beddow stated if the funding issue cannot be resolved it could have detrimental affects on the future of FUTA. With respect to this issue, Tom stated he had recently met with the National Interagency Fuels Committee discussing the future of FUTA. From the meeting he came back with (1) draft a national umbrella agreement, (2) develop and Area oversight committee, and (3) FUTA to become a part of a National strategy for "Centers of Excellence." Additional SWCG discussions pertaining to FUTA included keeping FUTA at the regional level where each agency funds specific components, interagency agreements, agreements contingent upon AOP, management and operation of FUTA, National Agreements, and Steering Committee management of curriculum.

**Decision:** SWCG stated Steering Committee membership should not include personnel employed at SWCG, except the possibility of the Center/Academy Director, who should be a non-voting member. Ken Castro will draft a letter on behalf of SWCG re-activating the FUTA Steering Committee to discuss consideration of a fiscal person on the committee, organization/staffing of FUTA (i.e. Center/Academy Director), other training activities that occur at the Training Center, ability to fairshare personnel with SWCC, and develop alternatives discussing the means and methods for funding of FUTA (i.e. national agreements vs regional agreements, etc).

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

#### **THREE-TIER DISPATCH**

On hold due to current fire activity. Committee working on draft charter.

**Decision:** Topic tabled until next meeting.

#### **PREDICTIVE SERVICES**

**Decision:** Chuck needs to run new charts and compare to old charts. Tom will soften letter for SW Strategy signature if things look good.

#### **SWCG HANDBOOK NOTE**

**Decision:** If SWCG member is a Committee Chair, then the member cannot be a SWCG liaison to the same committee.

#### **FIRE RESTRICTION COORDINATION**

**Decision:** Topic tabled until next meeting.

#### **NAVAJO HOTSHOTS**

**Decision:** The SWCG recognizes that Navajo Hotshots have successfully completed their Readiness Review and are now considered a fully operation Type 1 crew.

The next meeting of the Southwest Coordinating Group is scheduled for August 16-17, 2005 in Phoenix, AZ.

The meeting adjourned at 1700, July 7, 2005.

/s/ Pam McAlpin

Chair

Southwest Coordinating Group

je (These minutes approved by the SWCG at the August 16, 2005 meeting.)