



SOUTHWEST COORDINATING GROUP (SWCG)

August 16, 2005 Meeting Minutes
Phoenix, AZ

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Pam McAlpin (BLM-AZ) (Chair)
- John Selkird (BLM-NM for Bob Lee)
- Nancy Neskaukas (NMS)
- Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZS)
- Tom Beddow (USFS)
- Ken Castro (NPS)
- Dave Lentz (USFWS)
- Jay Ellington (NM-SWC, Ex. Sec.)

GUESTS:

- Ginger Brudevold-Black (NM-R03)
- Mary Zabinski (NM-R03)
- Tricia Roller (NM-R2R)
- Dave Behrens (AZ-AZS)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

- Leon Ben, Jr (AZ-PAO)
- Cal Pino (NM-AAO)
- Dugger Hughes (SWCC)

The meeting began at 1000, August 16, 2005.

Minutes for the July 7, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

FIRE PLANNING ANALYSIS (FPA)

FPU's have done a wonderful job in getting data to work, but the results are less than desirable. Results are not approaching reality. White Mountain has completed their run, but chose not to submit, they may change some FMU's. They plan to be done before Nov. 11 deadline. Committee continues working people into training, especially those that had some earlier training. Some issues remain pertaining to agencies that don't seem to want to participate on the FPU level. A SW Area FPA timeline was provided to the SWCG.

Decision: Make presentation at SW Strategy meeting in September to discuss program management problems that exist and provide FPA training (short-course) to Strategy.

SW INCIDENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE

SWCG received for review the SW Incident Business Committee Charter. Shana Miller (BLM-NMS) will be Chairperson. Preliminary tasks assigned to the committee include review and advise on the new medical standards, review equipment standards and training for Contractors, track trends (e.g. EERA's), and method for manage contracts.

Decision: SWCG provide comments on charter to Sharon as soon as possible.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS / CLOSURES

A lot of discussion was conducted on coordinating restriction and closures throughout the SWA. Discussion revolved around external affairs getting info out in news releases, FIO's not often involved, getting field AA's engaged and involved, communicating between partners, getting correct message to the media, alternative methods, delegation to staff members, and involving the SW Strategy.

Decision: The AA's suggest that AICG (or SWCG) organize interagency meetings next spring (prior to anyone implementing R&C's) for each of the five interagency fire management zones in Arizona. They believe local (field level) line officers and their respective fire management staffs should attend. SWCG recommended updating information in SWA Mob Guide and removing SWCC Center Director as Coordinator of Restrictions and Closures for SWA in the SWA Mob Guide.

NFDRS OBSERVATION MONITORING / IMPACT ON PRODUCTS

Chuck Maxwell discussed via teleconference some of the issues related to WIMS, missing observations, mitigation of observations, and decision points with respect to NFDRS. Discussion revolved around non-NFDRS stations, workload, training, Predictive Services products, and primary NFDRS stations.

Decision: SWCG recommended that Chuck check Red Book and focus on educating those responsible for WIMS and NFDRS program, provide list of primary and secondary stations, and identify alternate stations. The goal is to make all stations as primary (approximately 70) and improve those stations as needed and follow-up.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Two letters were presented to SWCG on establishment of Zone Level Fuels Collaborative Groups.

Decision: SWCG approved the letters for distribution. Pam to sign and distribute electronically. Copy to Jay for records.

FIRE USE TRAINING ACADEMY (FUTA)

Tricia Roller provided the SWCG with their July 26, 2005 meeting notes. Their next meeting will be held November 17, 2005. Primary discussion revolved around funding of FUTA, including FS share, national funding by BIA and NPS, program management and administrative support, individual funding by BLM State Offices, and splitting costs pertaining to suppression training and FUTA courses.

Decision: SWCG recommended that the Steering Committee keep total control over activities of FUTA, fiscal review group move forward and provide report to SWCG at January 2006 meeting, provide a complete Fiscal and Organizational Review (i.e. include Org. chart), develop a clear Mission Statement for FUTA Steering Committee (i.e. Strategic Plan, where FUTA fits in with national goal), and provide an Annual Operating Plan to SWCG.

INCIDENT QUALIFICATIONS & CERTIFICATION SYSTEM (IQCS)

A draft copy of the SW IQCS Implementation Plan was provided to the SWCG.

Decision: SWCG to provide feedback to Jerome Macdonald within 2 weeks.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- SWCG received letter from NM-BIA Southwestern Region stating Cal Pino will replace Willie Begay as representative to the SWCG.
- SWCG received and approved AZ Interagency Coordinating Group (AICG) charter.
- **S-420/520/620:** Additional positions are requested for the 520/620 course. NMAC states 6 mentees can't start task book until attendance at 520/620.
Decision: Nominations due to Jerome by November 1. SWCG will make decision on who attends.
- **S-590:** All qualified individuals encouraged to attend.
- **DRAW DOWN LEVELS:** NMAC is providing direction on this issue, but doesn't state draw down levels in each PL. A response to the direction is due from the SW. The SWCG reviewed a draft response but, noticed it did not discuss draw down levels.
Decision: Ken will work on a new draft and send to NMAC.

The next meeting of the Southwest Coordinating Group is scheduled for October 21, 2005 in Albuquerque, NM.

The meeting adjourned at 1700, July 7, 2005.

/s/ Pamela McAlpin

Chair

Southwest Coordinating Group

je