



SOUTHWEST COORDINATING GROUP (SWCG)

November 17, 2005 Meeting Minutes
Albuquerque, NM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Pam McAlpin (BLM-AZ) (Chair)
- Bob Lee (BLM-NM)
- Don Griego (NMS)
- Tom Beddow (USFS)
- Dave Lentz (USFWS)
- Willie Begay (NM-SWC for AZ-NAO)
- Dugger Hughes (NM-SWC)
- Jay Ellington (NM-SWC, Ex. Sec.)

GUESTS:

- Jerome Macdonald (NM-R03)
- Ginger Brudevold-Black (NM-R03)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

- Ken Castro (NPS) (Vice-Chair)
- Leon Ben, Jr (AZ-PAO)
- Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZS)
- Cal Pino (NM-AAO)

The meeting began at 1000, November 17, 2005.

Minutes for the October 21, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Dave Lentz distributed two Operations Committee Briefing papers, IM Team Incident Evaluation and SW Interagency Fire and Aviation Leadership Summit. Discussion of the IM Team Evaluation paper revolved around appropriate criteria to use, use of the term "performance evaluation," collection of submitted evaluations, and who may submit an evaluation (i.e. agency administrators, field folks, etc). Discussion of the SW Interagency Fire and Aviation Leadership Summit revolved around the purpose, background, and proposal. In order for the Summit to occur, the Committee needs to know the number of FMO's to be involved, location considerations, travel/per diem constraints, outside speakers, agency restrictions on large meetings, and when the meeting should occur.

Decision: The SWCG tasked Dave to provide the Operations Committee with the information gleaned from the discussion.

SW TRAINING COUNCIL

Jerome Macdonald distributed a revised Training Council charter for SWCG review and discussion. Highlighted changes included (1) chair may come from inside or outside of the Committee, (2) breakdown of membership, (3) Ad Hoc members, (4) 2-year versus 3-year membership, (5) meet 2 times per year with conference calls as necessary, and (6) updated language in Operation Procedures including website replacing handout, timeline for needs analysis, compiling numbers from field and SWCC, and adding new appendices (Training Responsibility, Course Coordinator, IQCS).

Decision: The SWCG tasked Jerome to review and change two parts in the draft that pertain to selection of the Chair (sections V.b and 1.B), insert language stating Chair and Vice-Chair should be from separate agencies, and set up a rotation between agencies (planned event vs selection).

S-520/620

A discussion was held on the S-520/620 process including the need for the Training Council to compile the needs assessment instead of IC's, the shortage of candidates, long term assessment instead of a short-term view, closed ranks when selecting members each year, selection process utilized in other GA's, and the need for SWCG to be more involved in the nomination process and selection of IM Teams.

Decision: The SWCG tasked Jerome to do some research on the California and Northern Rockies nomination process and provide a report at the January SWCG meeting, SWCG members to check out the process used in other GA's, and Dugger to discuss at the National Coordinators meeting.

SW ENGINE OPERATORS ACADEMY

The SW USFS engine operators have held a number of engine academies over the past few years, but would like consideration for the Academy to become more interagency.

Decision: None. The 2006 Academy is already established and the SWCG will consider for 2007.

FIRE PLANNING ANALYSIS

Ginger provided the SWCG with a review of the Agency Administrators presentation package. The package includes a DVD and PowerPoint, and discusses the different phases of the program, and the need for optimizing results. Ginger also talked about the number of FPU's the SW has in the system (11 of 17). According to Ginger, the National FPA Committee is pleased with the work coming out the Southwest. The next deadline for FPA is February 15, 2006, where all GA FPA's submit a certified and approved FPU analysis, and details on the preparedness portion of the FY-08 budget submission. In general, the numbers coming out of the FPA Program so far are not matching with the actual numbers established within the FPU.

Decision: The SWCG tasked Ginger and Pam to attend the next SW Strategy meeting and seek their assistance in getting Agency Administrator involvement. The SWCG gives high "Kudos" to FPA Committee for being proactive and continuously moving forward with this project.

The next meeting of the Southwest Coordinating Group is scheduled for January 18-19, 2006 in Phoenix, AZ.

The meeting adjourned at 1700, November 17, 2005.

/s/ Pamela McAlpin
Chair
Southwest Coordinating Group

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