



**SOUTHWEST COORDINATING GROUP (SWCG)**

January 18 – 19, 2006 Meeting Minutes

AZ BLM State Office

Phoenix, AZ

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>		<b>GUESTS:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pam McAlpin (BLM-AZ) (Chair)</li> <li>• Ken Castro (NPS) (Vice-Chair)</li> <li>• Bob Lee (BLM-NM)</li> <li>• Don Griego (NMS)</li> <li>• Tom Beddow (USFS)</li> <li>• Dave Lentz (USFWS)</li> <li>• Cal Pino (NM-AAO)</li> <li>• Leon Ben, Jr (AZ-PAO)</li> <li>• Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZS)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly Castillo (Taos Zone Chair-BLM-Farmington)</li> <li>• Rich Nieto (Albuquerque Zone Chair-USFS Cibola)</li> <li>• Dan Oltroggee (ICT1 NPS-GNP)</li> <li>• Jeff Whitney (ICT1 USFWS-PHX)</li> <li>• Bill VanBruggen (Deputy ICT1-USFS)</li> </ul>
<b>MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willie Begay (NM-SWC for AZ-NAO)</li> <li>• Dugger Hughes (NM-SWC)</li> <li>• Jay Ellington (NM-SWC, Ex. Sec.)</li> </ul>		

**WEDNESDAY 01-18-06**

The meeting began at 1025.

Minutes for the November 17 meeting were reviewed with some revision to Operations Committee, specifically coordination with Fire and Aviation Leadership Summit. SW Strategy replaced by Natural Resource Executives or Resource Executive Council. Minutes were approved.

**SWCG COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT (Bob Lee)**

Bob retiring at end of March, and is the liaison for 2 committees, FPA and Prevention. Group needs to look ahead for how to fill those liaison positions, especially FPA. Tom Beddow is willing to step in as an interim liaison until NM-BLM will fill the job. State Director has committed to fill the job-ASAP. Leon Ben will pick up the liaison responsibilities for the prevention committee. Prevention Committee is working on a Fire Prevention Week; March 26<sup>st</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> of April, completing communication plan, coordinating between states and federal partners. They need active participation at the field level.

**FIRE PROGRAM ANALYSIS (Bob Lee)**

FPA committee has drafted a letter for SW Strategy group signature. Their strong recommendation is for the national office to use phase one as a model for further evaluation not as a budget model with its current problems. Tone needs to be reevaluated with some recommendations for further use. Agency Administrators need to be made aware of the limitations of the model and we are not confident that the model is ready as a budget model and allocation tool. There is an interagency review group that has been tasked with an evaluation of FPA that is independent of the Core or Implementation group of FPA (Amy Luders). Bob will talk with this evaluation group to see if a letter of concern should be addressed to this group with CC to Agency Administrator committees or groups.

Letter needs to be factual and address shortcomings with expected results should the interagency groups move forward. This is apparent from the field and unit, FPU level as well as the next state or regional levels. Letters from various FPU's that are being drafted to accompany FPU submittal should be addressed to the SWCG or FPA steering committee.

Southwest Strategy - Regional Executive Forum (next meeting the 1, 2 or 3<sup>rd</sup> of February at Ft. McDowell in Arizona) is an entity that has evolved from the SW Strategy. They are meeting twice a year as a regional group. This may be the group that needs to receive FPA letter outlining concerns. Kirk will place FPA letter from FPA Steering Committee and SWCG on the agenda for the Regional Executive Forum (The Chair/Vice Chair will try to get letter out by the 25<sup>th</sup>).

### **THREE-TIER DISPATCH**

Three-Tier Committee asked to implement by the Interagency Steering committee. This task group is to complete the 3 tier implementation strategy and timeframes. Some of the field areas within the zone are still resistant to making this happen.

SWCG has received direction from the SW Strategy to move forward and complete an implementation strategy.

Kelly Castillo will be sending out messages to the dispatch offices. Emphasis needs to be at the zone level or FPA areas. Clarification to work as fire dispatch centers dispatch, instead of zones.

Tom Beddow, on behalf of Dugger Hughes, presented a proposal for three-tier dispatching creating the Central Arizona Zone. Using FPU as a driver for this change, partners within this dispatch zone would include (see handout);

- Tonto National Forest
- Pima Agency BIA,
- Salt River Agency BIA,
- Ft. McDowell Tribe BIA,
- Salt River pima-Maricopa Indian Community BIA,
- Truxton Canyon Agency BIA and
- Tonto National Monument NPS.

The Central Arizona Zone, Central West Zone, and Arizona Interagency Fire Center will all report direct to SWCC. The Central West Board which is represented by members of all three zones. Management of the Type II IMT and Type I IMT nominations, fire restrictions and closures and training will be managed by the Central West Zone Board.

The Central West Zone Board needs to finalize their discussions on this proposal. The SWCG does not object to this proposal/briefing as discussed here. Leon will re-issue a letter to SWCG once the Central West Zone Board reaches a decision.

(Tom Beddow has original letter from Leon Ben and will give to Jay Ellington for records).

### **SW TRAINING COUNCIL**

Review of the Operational Handbook for Southwest area Training Council. There are various edits and comments on the draft. Pam will consolidate comments and get with Jerome on changes.

There is an overall concern that the 520/620 nomination process is not following the process in the operations guide. This needs to be improved.

Members are concerned that membership could be held in perpetuity, this would not be healthy and we encourage that this committee rotate chair, vice chair, and recording secretary to various members, representing the different agencies on a two year basis.

The title "Council" is changed to what SWCG sponsors, which is a "Committee."

Part I, some changes in wording, Part II stress effectively and efficiently...Part III, delete this section.

Ad Hoc is not membership, but rather needed for specific task or function.

### **520/620 NOMINATIONS:**

Single page paper of 520/620 candidates may have not followed guidelines within the training operating guide. Agency reps need to ensure that supervisors have approved nominations and that they meet all criteria and pre-requisites for these positions.

Pam will contact Jerome to ask about the process that has been taken to date.

Has there been sufficient outreach to fill these needs and positions.

### **PREPAREDNESS LEVELS**

Discussion on regional versus national preparedness levels. History of SWCG's intent on previous language. Ken will craft language on changes to PL-4 and possibility 5. Get to next meeting.

### **BUDGET REQUEST LETTER**

Review of letter was completed with no revisions. SWCG members will use this letter to promote discussion with IC's on budget needs, agency restrictions, and funds available to support teams.

### **THURSDAY 01-19-06**

Meeting started at 0820. There was additional discussion of 520/620 Nominations and training. Pam had an opportunity to get with Jerome to find the status of the nominations. Sheet of nominations are complete. This is a total list of applicants. Where is process failing? What are responsibilities of the GATR. This needs to be an agenda item to determine what the process of selection of the GATR is?

Ask Dugger to draft a letter for SWCG signature to individuals who applied to type 1 IM Teams who were not selected. We want to nurture interest and support folks to apply in the future.

Type I IMT built rosters on concept of 44 and 6; review of recommended rosters.

### **TYPE I INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM DISCUSSION AND SELECTION**

Review of Oltroggee's IMT, will be 44 qualified with six trainees. SAZ-5, FDNY-3, SNM-0, FD&Y USFS 21, BLM-1, NPS-9 BIA-2, USFWS-3. All positions meet NWCG standards 4-AD. About 6 new personnel, all FDNY are new.

Looking at individuals and we need to be cautious

Ask Dugger to draft a letter for SWCG signature to individuals who applied to type 1 IM Teams who were not selected. We want to nurture interest and support folks to apply in the future.

Discussion on personnel living in and working in other geographic areas.

Review of Jeff Whitney's IMT:

44 qualified and 6 trainees. logistic, 3 AD, 25 USFS, 2 IC, 2 SAZ, BIA-2, NPS-3, BLM-4, USFWS-2, TFS-1. There are 6 new personnel on this team this year. Would like to continue using Ray Kinston. Choose to carry helibase manager. Need comms and FBAN these are critical shortage. Management of all risk is more demanding and needing additional discussion and more logistical needs.

Hurricane response this past summer and fall gave a lot of teams varied experience. Administration with partner agencies, now have an awareness of what our teams can do and like our response.

Tom Beddow asked should there be an effort to develop an all risk response guide for SW-IMT's. Group acknowledges this is a need and we need to help prepare our teams for all risk incidents.

Kirk brought up discussion on the implementation of NEMO teams. There is general concern that if a NEMO team is brought into the SW that positions needed to fill out a NEMO team will poach members from existing type 1 teams. Do we need to have a roster of qualified personnel available for NEMO team that would not impact rosters of existing type 1 IM Teams.

Tom brought up that last summer SWCC were trying to put together logistic, short teams. This was difficult as both type I and several of the type II teams had committed extra positions that were not on their rosters.

Note to Dugger, we would like to see all the applicants for the Type 1 and WFU teams next year.

Review of WFU roster, some discussion and approval.

#### **PREDICTIVE SERVICES UPDATE – Chuck Maxwell (see handout)**

Major change in using fire family plus data to those new requirement using WIMS, fuel model G. Units need to begin gathering data, along with initialization of the RAWs station. Units need to better comply with NFDRS standards.

Automation of NFDRS will begin tested this spring. Need agency contact points for trouble reports... Agency commitment to get observations in on time.

Chuck will get a list of attendees from the NFDRS course to the board members to follow up on fixes to stations.

Board approved Chuck's request for contacts, entering FM-G, and bringing up stations to NFDRS compliance by April 1 and agency commitment to entering daily obs on time and correctly managing herbaceous state.

#### **BIN ITEMS:**

1. Operations Leadership Summit, Agency's to appoint coordinators to get summit together (all members). Need names from each agency and date for CC or meeting.
2. Members need to ensure agency executives are participating in REC or other executive council for gaining information on FPA. Bring back information for the next meeting.
3. Next Meeting February 14-15, in Las Cruces, in conjunction with the Incident Management Team Meeting.
4. If time allows, finish review of operational procedures for the training committee.
5. Ask Dugger to draft a letter for SWCG signature to individuals who applied to type 1 teams who were not selected. We want to nurture interest and support folks to apply in the future.
6. Agenda item for Las Cruces for Jerome to discuss process of 520/620 nominations, why is the process different than what is in the handbook. What is the role of the GATR and the selection process of that position.
7. Tom Beddow and Ken Castro will take on drafting an all-risk preparedness/incident guide for the SWA.
8. Discussion on state/regional severity coordination and needs.

9. Note to Dugger, we would like to see all the applicants for the Type 1 and WFU teams next year.

/s/ Pamela McAlpin

Chair

Southwest Coordinating Group

Notes compiled by: Ken Castro