



SOUTHWEST COORDINATING GROUP (SWCG)

July 20, 2006 Meeting Minutes
Southwest Coordination Center
Albuquerque, NM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Pam McAlpin (BLM-AZ) (Chair)
- Bob Lineback (NPS) (Vice-Chair)
- Hector Madrid (BLM-NM)
- Donald Griego (NMS)
- Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZS)
- Mark Kaib for Dave Lentz (USFWS)
- Cal Pino (NM-AAO)
- Leon Ben, Jr (AZ-PAO)
- Mike Baca for Tom Beddow (USFS)
- Willie Begay (NM-SWC for AZ-NAO)
- Cyndie Hogg (NM-SWC)

GUESTS:

- Len Dems (NPS)
- Trisha Roller (FUTA Chair)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

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The meeting began at 1000.

MAY 25 2006 MEETING NOTES

May 25 Meeting Notes were approved.

SWA UTILIZATION OF INFRARED INTERPRETER (IRIN)

Discussed the utilization of Infrared Interpreters in the SWA. Discussed the possibility of hiring one or two IRIN and placing centrally in the SWA to manage a number of fires. For instance, this past summer one IRIN could handle all the fires in the SWA from Albuquerque. They would post the maps on a FTP site for the IMTs to download.

- Send a letter on this proposal to the SITL and to the IRIN in the SWA. Jaycox to send to IRIN. Lineback to send to SITL.
- Schedule an Infrared Interpreter course in the Southwest Area. Kaib to work with the SWA Training Committee
- Consider the use of Radio-metric. Low elevation low speed helicopter flight. Baca to present information to the SWCG and to the IMTs.
- Discuss when the SWCG meets with the IMTs.
- Draft language for the SWA Mob Guide. Hogg to draft.

TYPE 1 HANDCREW REQUEST FROM PRESCOTT FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City of Prescott applied for IHC status of the Granite crew. Discussed the differences between type 1 handcrew and IHC.

- Decided the City of Prescott would apply for Type 1 crew status.
- SWCG will support this request.
- The State of Arizona will be the agency support.

- Kaib will research the Readiness Review and Peer Review to see what the process is.
- McAlpin will draft a letter proposing a process to institute interagency review of all SWA Type 1 handcrews in Mid-May.

S-590 CANDIDATES

Discussed the process for nominating candidates to S-590 at NAFRI. This is for the future FBAN and LTAN.

- Decided to process the nominations through the normal SW Geographic Area process.

FUTA

Went through the budget figures. Madrid advised the National BLM office can no longer contribute to FUTA.

TEAM CLOSE OUTS

Navajo Mt – Going through 4th tier dispatch center.

Brins – Importance of Liaison Officer

Reserve Complex – Too short of notification to attend closeout.

Bear – Utilization of preplanning

Area Command for Gila Large Fires – Works better when all entities – BUY, Expanded, Area Command in same location.

Tiger Rock – Lack of Fuel Truck

White Hills – Lack of key overhead positions. GIS printing problems.

Warm FU – use of resources

103 – No issues

Raley – No issues

Ojo Feliz – No issues

Rivera Mesa – Expanded Dispatch problems - IR Interpreter shortages

Garley & Anderson – If there was a standing Type 3 organization, they could have handled these fires.

Martinez II – No issues

Skates – No issues

Ranger 2 – BIA driving policy

Bear Paw – left 3 miles of unlined perimeter - Did not come with full team

TEAM FIRE ISSUES

- Issues with the supporting computer programs – ROSS and ISuites
- Expanded Dispatch
- Missing key C&G staff positions
- Availability of computers for IMTs
- WFSA and WFIP – Quality
- Incoming IMT Briefing Package – Need other agency maps

PREVENTION TEAM IN NEW MEXICO

Handed out a summary of the activities in New Mexico.

- Web Site was excellent.
- Coordination of Restriction and Closures Information was not completely successful

FUMT #2 SPONSORED BY SWA

Discussed the second FUMT being sponsored by the SWA.

- Will send out nominations to Zones and IC.

LESSON LEARNED FROM THE 2002 SEASON

There are still two items left to finish.

- Three tier Dispatch Center letter. McAlpin will work on letter via email. Will ask for Waterbury and Rowdabaugh assistance finishing
- Formal process for Line Officer Shadow busy units – Individual agencies are handling.

SEAT OPS PLAN

Lineback and Begay went through a few comments on the plan and was finalized.

TYPE 1 IMT FREELANCE POLICY

Discussed the SWA policy on freelance and further defined the time periods. Hogg will draft a letter from the SWCG.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Preparedness Levels and Fire Use Fires – Language in Preparedness Levels SWA Mobilization guide (See May 2006 Meeting Notes)
- Wildland Fire Use in SW Preparedness Level Guide
- Humphrey's Type 3 Team

Next conference call: No Call set

Next meeting: No Meeting set

/s/ Pamela McAlpin

Chair

Southwest Coordinating Group

Notes compiled by: Cyndie Hogg, SWCC Center Director

Action Items from May Meeting Notes

LANGUAGE IN SW MOB GUIDE

Language in the SW Mob Guide Chapter 26.3.3 differs somewhat from what is written in the National Mob Guide. The difference is causing some confusion in the use of resources and shutdown of Prescribed Fires.

- Bob Lineback will write-up draft language for SW Mob Guide that follows lead of the National Mob Guide, and send out to the SWCG for review. Language currently in the SW Mob Guide remains in place until the draft has been approved.

NWCG/GACG MEETING

Pam recently attended the NWCG/GACG meeting to discuss various issues. A copy of the meeting notes was distributed. A number of topics were discussed including, NWCG Advisory Group Charter, FPA, Federal Drivers License, Contract Crews, NIMO, ROSS, etc.

Follow-up discussion:

- Should the National GACG meet more often? What's the issue with alerts and distribution? How are proposals made to the national group?
- Operations Committee tasked with working on language to determine drawdown levels for each Preparedness Levels? Language to include Teams, helicopters, engines... check with California.
- Type 2 Crew Committee to research the number of Type 2IA crews in the SWA. **Willie Begay to draft letter on behalf of SWCG to be forwarded to BIA encouraging crews to move toward Type 2IA capability, allow units to free (i.e. waiver) folks up to attend ICT5 training, and determine the minimum level of T2IA crews for each agency.**