

Southwest Coordinating Group Meeting February 13-14, 2007

DRAFT – to be reviewed for approval at April meeting

1300 Feb. 13, 2007 – Chandler, AZ

In Attendance:

SWCG Members – Willie Begay, Leon Ben, Dave Behrens, Helen Graham, Donald Griego, Dave Lentz, Bob Lineback, Hector Madrid, Richard Nieto, Cal Pino

Recording- Bianca Juganaru

Guests – Dugger Hughes, Jeff Whitney

PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES & UPCOMING MEETINGS

January meeting notes slightly revised and approved. Action Items reviewed, uncompleted ones are carried over to the end of these notes.

Future Meetings:	April 24-25	Albuquerque, NM in MAC room at SWCC
	May 23-24	same
	July 25-26	(tentative) same
	Oct. 10-11	same

TYPE 1 TEAM BUDGETS FOR FY07 AND TEAM ISSUES

Dugger Hughes presented a 2007 proposed budget for the SW Type 1 Teams. There has been no standard for how to distribute cost sharing/contributions from the various agencies. Procurement regulations have tightened, and raises the question as to what can be legitimately bought. SWCG working on the answer to these questions.

Jeff Whitney shared some IMT issues. There is a need for more S-520 slots as the teams need to accelerate their replacements for outgoing members. There is a need for Agency Administrators to make candidates available to take the classes, go through the training, and be available for assignments. There is a growing problem with filling finance positions. The question of mentorship and training suggests the need to build a comprehensive long term training plan. There is a desire to incorporate the Type 2 IC's in more discussions. A possibility would be to develop some kind of GACC wide sharing/swapping. One idea (of several) thrown out was making SW Type 1 Teams short with command and general staff, and placing all other team support positions in a pool for all teams to be drawn from.

TYPE 1 IMT '06 EVALUATIONS

Review and discussion of more 2006 IMT evaluations. The issue of Agency Administrators not always being well informed on fire matters, and contributing to

raising the costs on incidents. The Fire Management for Agency Administrators course was mentioned as overwhelming to many AA's, and not giving AA's the critical tools they need. Need to focus on WFSA, delegation of authority, etc. The USFS has done the best job of mentoring green AA's with experienced staff, but still has a lot of new to fire AA's out there.

REVISED SWCG HANDBOOK AND MAC GUIDE

Revised SWCG Handbook was examined and confirmed. Appendix work underway for team management and MAC guides.

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0800 Feb. 14, 2007

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Recording- Bianca Juganaru

Guests –Dugger Hughes, Kirk Rowdabaugh

DISPATCH UPDATE (2006 SUMMARY)

Presentation of the SWCC 2006 Summary providing information on 2006 fire season including statistics regarding number of fires and acres, (both regional and national), and time in various PL levels and Type 1 IMT deployments. This also included information on the potential of utilizing the smokejumper program to provide support on Type 3 fires.

DISCUSSION ON NEW INTERAGENCY MASTER AGREEMENT

The new NWCG Interagency Master Agreement was discussed. JPA in New Mexico will need to be renewed in 2008. Arizona expires in 2009. It takes a year to update because these agreements have to go through the solicitors' offices and general counsel. Since NWCG is now referring to these agreements as Interagency Master Agreements (IMA), perhaps that is how they should be referred to, as opposed to calling it a JPA. A committee was created to start pulling together a draft for the New Mexico agreement.

The new IMA's will be referenced in the SWCG Charter which will be expiring in March of 2008. There are also the matters of other subordinate agreements to the JPA, and as to whether those cost share agreements will be affected. These issues will be investigated.

In AZ the question of utilizing rural fire departments to assist with severity and RX's has arisen as an issue. AZ State does not have the up front funds to continue to make the

system developed in the present JPA continue to work. The USFS, via the ABQ Finance Center, has discontinued its policy of providing advance funds. Changing the AZ JPA will trigger a sooner than expected rewrite using the new Master Agreement template. The State of AZ will encourage the Federal Agencies to contract directly and individually with the Fire Departments. The State will continue to support the upgrading of Depts., PPE, Training, Red carding, etc., but not the severity / RX assignments. AZ State would like to see local dispatch centers become responsible for dispatch of rural engines on federal fires with some state notifications. These changes will not affect the current inmate crew program, which is a stand alone program. There are concerns from the Fire Departments regarding pay and processing by the feds. Until a new JPA or IMA is in place, the current agreement will continue to stand. Kirk will prepare a draft new agreement using the master template.

POWER COMPANY FIRELINE ACCESS

There was an incident on the Potato Fire in 2006 when power company linemen were initially barred from access to a power line because they were not Red carded. Major city safety issues with power supply, and risk to firefighters could result. The critical nature of the access for life safety was emphasized. SWCG emphasized that linemen are to be given access and escorted where necessary. USFS will emphasize in upcoming agency administrator trainings, and also call the power company back.

TEAM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK

Draft of proposed Team Management Handbook started by Dave Lentz with the group; will be sent out for further review.

FUTA BUDGET UPDATE

All looked at the FUTA FY07 operating budget and discussed future reorganization under NAFRI. Agencies need to sign and send in their copy.

COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS AND UPDATES

Almost all members of the Engine Committee who were on the Charter are no longer around. The Ops committee will evolve into the Ops Group, with engine, crew subcommittees under it. Committee updates were gathered by Bob and will be put on the SWCG website. Ops Group will get more active.

BIA BUDGET

The BIA Budget is being reduced and a broad overview of changes was presented.

AGENCY PERSONNEL NEED TRAINEE OPPORTUNITIES

There is a need to pull more agency people into dispatch positions, even if we need to head out of region. Need to keep training agency staff whenever possible.

Action Items - February 13-14, 2007

Ongoing Action Items followed by new ones

Topic	Action needed	Responsibility	Date
SWCC Briefing Packet for Out of Region IMT's	Packet needs to be updated with SW updates, oilfield safety hazards, and BLM maps. Kenan assembles and keeps.	Hector M. Helen G. Kenan J. Bob L.	March 30, 2007
Three Tier Dispatch	Unsubmitted plans need to be sent to Kelly. Committee will present recommendations at the April SWCG meeting.	All and Kelly Castillo	April 24-25, 2007
T1 Crew Location Analysis	Task Ops Committee to study/assess optimal crew locations	Dave Lentz	November 07
Revitalize Ops Group	Bob L. to re-organize according to new hierarchy on website. Dave and Donald to talk to subcommittees and get work reorganized. Rich Nieto to talk to IHC committee about getting affiliated with SWCG.	Dave L, Donald G., Bob L. Rich N.	April 24, 2007
Interagency Dispatch Support	Work on NFAEB letter dealing with interagency IT issues, per Lincoln Zone discussion	Helen G. and Kirk R.	March 07
SWCG MOU	Review and comment on old MOU in preparation for drafting new one	All SWCG Members	April 24, 2007
SW IMT AAR Mtg Action Items	Continue to follow up to action items gathered from IC AAR in Springerville	Hector Madrid Donald Griego	Oct. 07
Granite Mountain IHC	SWCG needs copies of Granite Mountain certification process letter.	Helen/Pam M.	Feb. 07
FAMWeb Changes	Keep abreast of changes to Mob Guide, FAMWeb, and 209's so as to keep IMT's and Dispatch Centers up to date.	Ken J.	Spring 07
Charters	All committee liaisons need to check SWCC committee website to see if their assigned charters, memberships are up to date. If their	All SWCG Members	March 30, 2007

	web info is not correct, contact Jay Ellington to update.		
IHC Certification and Standards	Ask Mark to bridge his IHC certification group proposal with the IHC Committee (Robert Auza) and solicit participation from them.	Dave L.	Spring 07
SW Engine Academy	Discuss more with Mike Baca regarding H. Graham's offer to form an Interagency Agreement for future SW Engine Academies in the hopes of enabling it to become interagency.	Rich N. & Roy H.	Spring 07
Late Season Fire Use Team	Joe Reinharz to pass recommended action to NAZ board, and reply to SWCG chair by week of March 6.	Bob L	March 15, 2007
<i>New Action Items from this meeting listed below</i>			
SWCG Handbook, Appendix V, Team Mgmt.	Continue consolidation and revision work. After have 90% draft, circulate to teams for comments. Add red book team evaluation reference to the guide.	Dave Lentz, Leon Ben, Bob L.	March 30, 2007
SWCG Handbook, Appendix IV, MAC Guide	Draft has been completed; send to SWCG members for individual final review after Bob updates page from Nat Mob Guide. Plan MAC exercise for April meeting.	Bob L.	March 30, 2007
Proposal for CWZ Mega-Expanded Dispatch	Kenan discuss with CWZ Board and CWZ Center Mangers; prepare to implement after consensus to try	Ken J.	March 30, 2007
FUTA Annual Operating Plan	All members have received the FY07 AOP (Amendment No. 3) for the Interagency Agreement allowing the transfer of funds. Please check with your appropriate agency office, (BLM, USFS, NPS are left to sign), to insure signature and mail to Susan McDonnell, USFS.	Bob L. Ginger B. Hector	March 10, 2007
IC's to SWCG Meeting	Invite Type 1 IC's (Oltrogge) to future SWCG meeting. Jeff came to Feb SWCG mtg.	Bob L. Ken J.	April 24, 2007
SW Team Freelancing Policy	Teams want to look at again. Bob to send to Dugger and he will gather team comments.	Bob L.	March 15, 2007
Fire Mgmt for Agency Administrators	Contact GATR Jerome and discuss the weakness of the course. Consider putting on a one day SW version in Spring of 2008?	Helen G.	April 07

Interagency Master Agreement for New Mexico to replace expiring JPA	Committee formed to begin drafting new Interagency Master Agreement for New Mexico that will replace expiring JPA. Other members can help as available or review draft when put t/g. Status report at April meeting.	Hector M., Don G., Ginger B., Dave L	April 24-25, 2007
JPA Subordinate Agreements for SWCC and SWCG	Bring subordinate agreements related to SWCC or SWCG to the April meeting. This will help with updating the SWCG MOU and also the new state Master Agreement processes.	All	April 07
Power Company Access to rights of way on fires	Confirmed that teams need to insure this access safely happens in fire emergencies. Issue will be addressed at USFS Agency Administrator training. All need to inform Type 3 IC of need to cooperate with power companies regarding this issue.	Roy H. and Rich N.	April 07
AZ Joint Powers Agreement	Kirk to prepare a new AZ draft using the new NWCG approved master agreement.	Kirk R.	April 24-25, 2007
Upcoming Center Manager Meeting	Emphasize to center managers to bring in and develop agency employees in dispatch centers whenever possible. AD's are a great help, but we must continue to train and develop agency employees. One trainee per AD when possible.	Ken J. Hector	March 1, 2007
AD's in dispatching	Donald to talk with chair of dispatch committee regarding future training	Donald Griego	April 24, 2007
March 14 IAAR training	Represent SWCG in 15 min. introduction talk	Cal Pino	March 15, 2007
T1 Team Support	SWCG members will take the T1 team budget to get feedback on latest procurement regs., SWCG will then develop support allowance.	Bob L., Hector, and SWCG members	March 15, 2007
Some Agenda Items for April SWCG Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to having SW Type 2 teams managed by SWCG in 2008 • Consider team unit level and below "pool" concept for 2008 • Kenan present updated SWCC Ops Guide • MAC exercise • Recommendations from 3 Tier Committee • Predictive Services presentation on fire season outlook • Kirk present draft new AZ Master Agreement • SWCG MOU review for 08 revision 	Bob L., Bianca, Kenan	April 24-25, 2007

