

Southwest Coordinating Group Meeting January 11-12, 2010 – Albuquerque, NM

DRAFT – to be reviewed for approval at next meeting

UPCOMING SWCG DATES:

February 8-9, 2010, Prescott
April 6-7, 2010, Albuquerque
May 11-12, 2010, Albuquerque

November 18, 2009

Attendance: *SWCG Members* – Kenan Jaycox, Brent Woffinden, Loren DeRosear, Dave Bott, Gary Kemp, Don Kearney, Bill VanBruggen, Kelly Castillo, Scott Hunt, Jonathan Lee, Cal Pino, Samuel Larry (NPS Southeast Region), Jason Greenlee, Donald Griego
Recording- Nancy Moore

PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Previous meeting notes reviewed, edited and approved. Action Items updated and carried over at the end of these notes.

Agenda

SW Fire Science Consortium – Nancy Neskauskas explained the SW Fire Science Consortium. They are requesting letters of support from each agency by January 30th. Nancy will send out a template for the requirements of the support letter. The Consortium will be hosting a series of workshops over the next 2 weeks. They will support a vendor booth at the IMT meeting.

Talking Points for IC and CGS/SWCG – Donald or Leon for SWCG

- Who should attend IC/Coordinating Group Meeting (Teams Selection AAR)
- Is there too many conflicts in October with the IC AAR?
- Open dialogue with IC's
- Clarification on team rotation – SWCG
- Training – new IMT noms –SWCG
- Organized type 3 teams – SWCG
- Team members being primary on only one team – SWCG
- Short team vs. long team – SWCG
- Different way of doing business (WFDSS, modification of fire policy) – SWCG
- Relying on T-3 organizations vs. a smaller T-1 or T-2 organization – SWCG
- Delegation of authority for State fires, cost-share reimbursable issues – SWCG
- Use of all hazard management teams through fire departments (Homeland Security dollars) potential pool of qualified people for T-3 organizations – SWCG
- Best Value vs. Cooperators – SWCC
- NIMO teams – SWCG
- 209's, frequency and smoke issues – SWCC

Taos Zone Update – Griego. Information provided by the zone was sent out to all members. Some of the items were not updated. National Review is scheduled for May 17-27 and will include Taos, Albuquerque, Gila, Pecos, Farmington and SWCC. A formal request will be made to the National Review Team Leader to include Santa Fe Dispatch- Bott will coordinate this. A suggestion was made to include a member from each agency on the review team and accepts recommendations and outcomes from the review. SWCG supports this suggestion and will recommend team members. Bott will work on the scheduling in February. A review close-out should be scheduled with the SWCG May 27th or 28th. This will be discussed further at the February meeting. The group will recognize and support any national review by a single agency.

2010 Mob Guide – Jaycox. Multiple geographic areas are undergoing a format revision for Mob Guides to follow the Red Book. Kenan showed the new format and explained the page numbers, paragraph numbers and line numbers. He also highlighted and explained the major changes in the SW Mob Guide. All forms were removed from the chapters and moved to the back of the book to the appendix. The SWCG reviewed the neighborhood policy and agreed to leave in place as is. The SWCG also discussed the preparedness levels for changes in the criteria.

Info and Prevention Committee – Dan Ware, NM State. During the monthly conference calls, the committee has discussed what the SWCG’s vision is for prevention and information. The group has good representation from most agencies. The region as a whole is actively involved. Does the committee need to focus on “events” rather than just information? Month-to-month participation will be scaled down during the off season, and may gear up to weekly during fire season. Restrictions will be coordinated through this group for release to the public and the press. One suggestion from the SWCG group was a coordinated effort on the consistency of reporting smoke issues. Other suggestions were events like Smokey’s birthday celebration, Wildfire Awareness Week, and educating the public (internet), positioning ourselves to being pro-active to new technologies. Dan will take this back to the committee for discussion and action.

SWCC Update – Kenan. Vacancies include GS-6/7 on the street (vice Garcia), Yolanda Saldana is detailed to California, Christina McKerracher is detailed into Yolanda’s position. Dispatcher’s workshop is next week in Tucson at NAFRI. Dugger Hughes will MC the meeting. IMT Guide is awaiting the medical standards updates. Frequency guide is being updated for reissue. About 23 applicants applied for the Australian deployment. The Ops group prioritized applicants by agency, and sent the info to NICC. The SW did not get selected for any of the assignments for this round. Bill VanBruggen went on the scoping mission in December, and gave the group an update.

ABQ Mob Center – Kenan/Bill VB. Mob Center relocation is in flux at this time. The FS is not in agreement to pay the financial obligation BIA is requiring. Therefore, the recommendation is to move the ABQ Mob Center back to the old facility for this next fire season. If other agencies are willing to co-fund a new mob center, a new interagency agreement could be developed. Do we need a mob center, and if so, how do we support it? Items of discussion included using armories or schools (SIPI), purchasing capabilities, and administrative support. After a lengthy discussion, the SWCG agreed to discuss this at the next meeting with hard dollar figures presented by BIA (Cal Pino).

AZ Dispatching – Castillo/Jaycox. Kelly and Kenan gave an overview of the task group’s recommendations (see handout).

- AM Victor Frequency Usage in AZ could not be agreed upon by the task group, and has therefore been tasked back to the SWCG for resolution. Option 4. is the option of choice from the SWCG
- Flight following in transitory status – Option 2 is the option of choice, but until ADC has increased NFF capability, Option 1 will continue to be used.

- Aviation Mishap/Rescue Responsibility – Option 2 is the option of choice from the SWCG.
- Deconfliction – Leave as is with Option 1.
- Incident Response by Aviation Resources – Leave as is with Option 1.

There is a discussion to have a proto-type dispatch office whereas Show Low Dispatch will dispatch State Lands in NE Arizona. AZ State will provide an update at next meeting.

Different options were discussed as to the bigger underlying subject of geographical boundaries. Kelly Castillo and Kenan Jaycox will research possible task group members. This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

AZ Aquatic Invasive – Castillo. ADEQ is requesting to be notified when disposing of water from decontaminating firefighting equipment. Kelly handed out the Draft Operational Guidelines from AZ-ADEQ along with a template for notifying ADEQ when this occurs. Requesting concurrence from the SWCG. This will be discussed at the team meeting in February.

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Medical Standards Review – The Draft Minimum Standards for Medical Units was passed out to the SWCG. Final direction from NWCG will not be available until next year. Red Book Medical Standards will be followed until final direction is issued.

ICS 209 Proposal/Submission Frequency – Chuck Maxwell/Jay Ellington.

ICS-209 recommended reporting requirements for 2010 – see handout. New regulations are being negotiated. Until then, the standard reporting will be accomplished. The current process for reporting on 209's is confusing for fires that don't meet the threshold whereas the objective is something other than full suppression (multiple objectives). Some GACCs are keeping separate spread sheets. At the national coordinator's meeting, it was discussed to have a standardized reporting system. A draft document was created and is being circulated through the coordinating groups and dispatch centers. If there are fires that are not going to be suppressed right away, an initial 209 needs to be done. How often do these fires need to be reported on 209's? A suggestion was made to update 209's on a weekly basis that do not meet the daily reporting thresholds (i.e., between 5-99 acres). Is the 209 the tool to report smoke? The new smoke revisions discuss daily reporting. The SWCG is requested to make a decision on two issues: frequency of 209 reporting for MCC fires with or without resource benefit, and using the 209 for smoke data reporting and if so, how often. The SWCG agreed to talk to the Environmental Quality Divisions in each state to see if weekly submissions of smoke reporting would suffice for those fires which have not met the thresholds of daily 209's. One idea is to put a timeframe on when an initial 209 may be required for non full suppression fires, ie 48 hours. The SWCG does support the draft guidelines for requiring an initial 209 on non full suppression fires and then subsequent 209's being done weekly until they meet other thresholds. SWCG representatives will meet with Air Quality to see if this will meet reporting requirements.

Fire Behavior Service Center/SWCC New Approach – Chuck Maxwell/Jay Ellington.

Proposal presented to SWCG for exploration of a new approach.
SWCG agreed to:

- Formalize Interagency WFDSS operational group (Mark Pater, BLM AZ, Ryan Whitaker, BLM NM, Harold Riggs, FS)
- Bring NWCC FBSC (Dan O'Brien) down for presentation to SWCG (Feb 10, 2010, meeting at Prescott). Maxwell will coordinate.
- Will discuss what the GACC PS roles could/should be in WFDSS and what products/assistance could be provided to decision makers/MAC Groups.

Texas Agreement – Samuel Larry/Brent Woffinden. Brent gave an overview of the Southern Area's land management agencies. There has never been an interagency agreement with the State of Texas, only MOU's. There is a new agreement completed and in the signature stage. Once the agreement is signed, an AOP will be created. Will share with the SWCG when the agreement is signed.

Team Meeting Update – Hughes. Reviewed final agenda with SWCG.

IBA Committee Report – Griego. Brent Woffinden will be the new SWCG rep to the IBA committee. The IBA will be tasked with researching options for hosting training classes without paying tuition.

- SWCG discussed multi-shared resources and what agency should pay for what services rather than doing agreements.
- BLM AZ will cover the Mob Guide costs for this year (\$9,500).
- PLIA will be covered by NM BLM (\$8,000)
- Air Tactical Logs will be paid by NM State (\$600)
- SWFF Handbooks will be paid by BIA (\$600)
- MOB Center costs will be discussed in February.
- BIA Navajo (Jason Greenlee) will cover anything under \$2500

Training – SWCG discussed several different options for tuition and training. This needs to go back to the GATR and Training Committee, and the needs analysis. FS is going to be advertising the Vice Jerome Training position again. It will be a virtual position, GS-12/13. The GATR role was discussed at length. Recommendations will be discussed at the next meeting.

Best Value w/State and Private Contractors – Scott Hunt. State of AZ is having discussions about sending private contractors rather than cooperators. Guidelines are being rewritten. Part of the problem is best value resource orders that go to the State of Arizona. State fires (extended attacked) will give private contractors equal time with cooperators. Kenan discussed the dispatching procedures and how SWCC sends requests. AZ State Forester wants to have a meeting with the private contractors in Arizona and wants FS participation with best value knowledge. Scott will let the group know the date of this meeting.

Committee and Zone Reports

- FWS – 2 positions on the street right now, closing on the 19th. DOI held back 10% of all fuels money for this year. Hopefully money will be reallocated soon. Training position FTE is gone, but will dedicate one of the other positions to assist (not full time) in training.
- BLM NM – Al Sandoval (I/A Map) will host on the NM Site again. Pecos Zone will have board meeting next week. Don will attend. Mescalero in process of hiring FMO. Sam Donaldson put a tort claim on the Bonnie Fire from 2 years ago for loss of grazing. BLM Fuels budget not received yet, not until early March. OPS committee will be at team meeting tomorrow.
- BIA Southwest – Regional Forester position filled with John Martin. Ute Mtn agency FJO position filled. Zuni/Ramah were zoned at one time. Superintendents at both agencies have agreed to separate. FMO's and fuels position will be advertised soon. Mescalero has requested cert for FMO position. Laguna and Ramah still have vacancies. Fuels money seems to be available, and then gone with a phone call. Having difficulty getting money to the field. Rocky

Mountain will assist in detailers to fill vacancies. Attended ABZ Zone Board meeting – had presentations from Neskauskas on the Consortium, and the information and prevention committee (Jennifer). City of Abq Open Space (Martin Martinez) inquiring which areas are covered by which agency. If no agency is identified, they have to respond. Requesting to be a member of the ABQ zone board as well as Bernalillo County. Donald stated there is no agreement with the City or open board. The State will deal with issue. ABZ AOP is in draft – final should be completed by next month. JPA for I/A for cooperators is going to be re-looked at. Zone training calendar will be transferred to SPA. SW is pushing for quality rather than quantity in the crew arena. They will be going out on a rotational basis and the crews will be rostered. Crew leadership is a constraint on how many crews are available.

- BIA Navajo – National Risk Analysis exercise completed. Will be hosting the Tri-Area Meeting on Feb 24th. Guest speakers are from NAU. All are invited to attend. Jason will send out the invitation. Window Rock will host a helicopter and possibly a SEAT. Will be hosting 12-15 Scout Crews this year. Crews should be well equipped this year. All but two orders from last year were for I/A crews. There were some leadership issues last year.
- AZ State – biggest thing is budget. Probably second worst in the nation behind California. State is 1.5 billion short in overall State budget. Dave Behrens retired, Ron Melcher will be retiring next week.
- NPS – Working with Texas operations. Vacancies are getting filled. The agreement and dispatching in Texas is taking a lot of time. National Conference next month.
- FS – Budget for FY10 is flat – no increases, no decreases. Trying a new hiring process (FIREHIRE) this year for entry-level positions at the District level. The hiring will be done twice a year. Nationally, risk assessment are being done in aviation operations. The A-Stars will not be rappel capable for this next year due to the risk assessment. Concerns are for airworthiness and inspection processes. Hiring 11 positions nationally for mechanical inspectors, of which one will be here in ABQ. FS wants to add three more NIMO teams. Watch for the announcements. Marsha will be retiring Feb 3rd, Alan Quam from Prescott will be the Acting Director. Fuels assistant, GS-12, will be advertised soon. SWCC (vice Bianca) will be advertised soon. Training position (vice Jerome) will be advertised soon. Decision was made to establish Aviation Officers around the region, maybe in a zone configuration. More details to come.
- BLM AZ – Preparedness budget got a little raise, fuels budget low due to FWS. Will still have two helicopters (Wickenburg and St. George). Helicopter manager positions being advertised. Dolores Garcia (vice SWCC) is the prevention education/ mitigation specialist. Several other positions have been filled. Fuels – Kingman and AZ Strip burning. Biggest efforts have been in WFDSS this fall. Fire management plans are incorporating WAFDSS (about 90% complete). SEAT Academy in Safford will be phased out starting this year. Next year, they want to go to McClellan with the simulators. Aviation Committee – completed the updates for the MOB Guide, Air Ambulance updates should be completed. They are working on Charter updates and will be sent out soon. Some vacancies on the aviation committee. Will be seeking new members. Frequency Guide changes completed. 2010 Ops Guide will be completed after the ISOG comes out. Chair is putting together a task form for the group for tracking assigned tasks. SEZ is supposed to be moving into their new office soon
- NM State – budget shortages. More pay cuts, more furlough days. Legislative session is in progress. Working with legal staff on smoke facilitator contract. TAZ – covered already.

SWCG Action Items

Topic	Action needed	Responsibility	Date
SWCG Committee Liaisons and Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check SWCC website to see if charters, chair names, essential documents, and member lists are up to date. If not, contact Jay Ellington and update! 	All SWCG Members	Ongoing
Zone Boards	<p>SWCG Zone reps: León-CWZ, Jeff-SNZ, Jason-NAZ, Don-PEZ, Donald-TAZ, Kelly-SEZ, Loren-ABZ, Scott-WMZ, Bill VB-GLZ, Cal- alternate as needed. Talking points bullets available on SWCG secure website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually, each SWCG rep should attend Zone Meetings if possible. ABZ, WMZ, SEZ and CWZ reps need to get their zone charters to Kenan for posting. 	<p>SWCG liaisons</p> <p>all</p> <p>Loren, Dave, Kelly, Leon</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Training Committee (Van Bruggen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Committee and GATR need to prepare for coordinating updated WFDSS workshops. Fire Policy Group – still trying to get together 	Womack, Luevano	Ongoing
Aviation Committee (Castillo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop accelerated aviation position development in relation to SW aviation needs, IMT shortages, and zone position needs analysis. (w. Trng./Ops committees) Continue follow-up on UAV business with Rudy Holm, DHS. 	<p>Mathis</p> <p>Mathis</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Interagency recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispatch Committee to develop interagency recruitment for Mob center IBA Committee to develop interagency recruitment notice for Buying Team 	<p>Kenan</p> <p>Transition with Gilbert Romero</p>	<p>Feb 10</p> <p>Feb 10</p>
Solano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address Solano Action items as needed 	Group	Ongoing
CISM Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a SWA team for 2010 Training to be held 1st week of Feb. 	SWCG members	Ongoing

NEW ACTION ITEMS			
Update PLIC (formalize)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBA committee to formalize and make exchange of monies easier 	IBA Committee / Griego	Feb 2010
Aviation Task Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task group to evaluate dispatch center boundaries. 	Castillo	Feb 2010
NMICG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for proposals out – received 2-3 bids. Contract awarded? 	Griego	Feb 2010
209 Submissions/Smoke Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Environmental Quality in each state to determine if weekly reporting of smoke will suffice 	Kearney – NM Castillo/Ben - AZ	Feb 2010
Agenda Items for Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat’l Dispatch Review Team members and formal request to Nat’l Team Leader to include Santa Fe dispatch office • Double Eagle Mob Center Costs • Dispatch Geographical Boundary study group • Update on prototype Show Low/AZ State Dispatch Office • Formalize Charter for WFDSS Operating Group • GATR Options • MAC Group Handbook, SWCG Handbook, Team Guidelines • SWCG Approval of Deputy IC’s. 		Feb 2010