

Southwest Coordinating Group

January 12, 2011

UPCOMING SWCG DATES

February 28 - March 1, 2011	1200 MST	SWCG - Prescott
April 12-13, 2011	0800 MST	SWCG - Phoenix
May 17-18, 2011	0800 MDT	SWCG - Albuquerque
August 11, 2011		Leon will assess the need
October 11-12, 2011	1300 MST	SWCG/IC AAR - Springerville

Attendance: *SWCG Members* - Don Kearney, Vice Chair, Bob Leaverton, Kenan Jaycox, Brent Woffinden, Donald Griego, Dave Bott, Loren DeRosear, Steve Shaw, Cal Pino, Kevin Boness, David Geyer, Dave Behrens, Duane Tewa, Dale Glenmore
Recording- Nancy Moore

PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEM REVIEW

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

Center Manager's and NMAC/GMAC Meetings - Kearney/Jaycox. Approved notes have not been posted yet. Don Kearney and Kenan Jaycox both attended. Center Managers met on 11/30 prior to NMAC/GMAC.

- Highlights included other GACCS going to the e-app process for team nominations. Nancy Moore will be the contact for consolidating changes to the IMT Center. Ideas for changes include searching for a name, editing an application after submission, as well as other changes. This will also be discussed tomorrow at the team selection meeting.
- Robin Heffernan, Predictive Services Lead from NICC, has taken another job. This will leave a huge void in the workload. They are discussing only filling one vacancy at NICC. Some of the workload has been delegated to the SW Predictive Services Group, which has impacted them some.
- IHC's were discussed as being dispatched as T2IA (downgraded IHC's) versus fully qualified IHC, and the communication that needs to happen between GACCS. In most instances, this is not a problem.
- Proposed ROSS changes discussed included having the default be "agency only." This will help prevent mobilizing AD's before agency personnel.
- GACCS are starting to look at the preparedness levels and how these are decided when managing fires with multiple objectives. After much discussion, this was tabled and sent to NWCG for discussion.
- ROSS mnemonics are going to change adding the all-hazard position codes. Homeland Security is looking for a system for the all-hazard incidents, and will be looking at ROSS.
- ICBS for cache items now interfaces with ROSS. Any items with NFES numbers can now be placed in ROSS and sent directly to the caches.

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Update from NMAC/GMAC Meeting in Boise

- IMT Succession was another item discussed at length. They are looking at a 10 year implementation timeframe and will be putting out a document which outlines approx 7 “options” of what the IMT structure configuration could/should look like in the future. All the options deal with such things as..... Long or Short Teams, IMT typing, AD/Contract “surge” teams, pay equality/incentives, etc.. There will be a comment period to the field once the document comes out. Any solutions that come out of this may be a blend of several of the options.
- Incident Business reimbursement clause in the new agreement was discussed and how this affects state agencies to be able to support other agencies. In the new agreement, the USFS is no longer the clearinghouse for billing/payments when states help other agencies.
- Fire season was mild for most areas except Alaska.
- Cohesive Strategy was discussed. Looking at risk as a common element. They are meeting on this in Boise this week. Comprehensive Risk Assessment form will be posted on the website.
- 520 candidates need assignments on a national scale.
- Federal Fire Policy and information sharing was discussed, i.e., common terminology. This is a work in progress.
- Incident Business Update included no rate change for AD’s. Yellow book will be updated this year with non-FEMA/non-Fire response as business practices do not exist. An AD central pay location was discussed.
- International Support was discussed. Discussed the Israeli response with the crews and the supertanker being mobilized. Talked about expanding the program to include Portugal and Spain. Discussed non-federal employees being able to respond to these incidents.
- Bin items included incident within an incident, PL levels (NWCG forming task group), deputy IC substitution, cross-walk fire experience with military.

SWCG tasked the Incident Business Group (Woffinden) with taking our concerns about the new Master Agreement to the national Incident Business Group level. A suggestion was made to invite Sarah Fisher to one of our meetings to discuss our concerns. There are only four western states that do not have a compact agreement.

Incident EMS Task Group Update – Kearney. Leon Ben is the liaison. Bequi Livingston has sent out a draft charter for the SWCG Incident Emergency Medical Services Task Group (IEMSTG). The draft was e-mailed to the SWCG members and IEMSTG committee for review and comment. The group has not met to date. One member of the committee (Tom Gavin) is no longer employed by the Ruidoso FD. He has responded to Bequi expressing interest in continuing with the committee.

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Communications Committee Development Update – Kearney. Leon Ben is the liaison for this group. The group is formed now and will be holding a conference call in February to review draft charter and begin some work on issues identified by the SWCG.

GIS Subcommittees of AICG and NMICG – VanBruggen/Riggs. Leaverton presented this. Harold Riggs suggested rolling this subcommittee and the WFDDS subcommittee into the Fire Planning Committee. A proposed charter was reviewed.

Border Protocol Update – Bott. Operations Committee is putting a task group together to work on the Border issues. The Safety Alert issued in 2009 will be updated and reposted to the web. Additions to the protocols were made this last May (copies available). Website has a lot of good information that is listed on the Safety Alert. Leaverton stated there is a Government Accounting Office engagement team (GAO Team) looking into the Border issues. They are meeting in Boise today, spending time with Neil Hitchcock, then will be traveling to Arizona. This group will probably be contacting SWCG for more information. Records show statistical increase in human-caused fires, thus increasing the safety aspect for personnel and aviation, and the effect it has on border patrol and law enforcement. A recommendation was made to have the GAO Team contact this Committee as the main point of contact for border issues as it is an interagency group. Draft Updated Safety Alert will be ready for next meeting.

NIMO Training Recommendations Update/SW Training Council Update – Villard. NIMO report was completed and handed out. There is nothing in the report that is new or unique to the SW area. The only difference is the challenge of training locations without the FUTA building. Twenty recommendations were made within the report, five of which were critical. Most of the recommendations are completed or ongoing. Efforts are ongoing to look at workforce succession. Reorganize the membership of the training committee. There will be a meeting during the AZ Wildfire Academy to start working on this recommendation. Request one training person from each agency attend this meeting. The training committee is a valuable asset in getting interagency zone training committees active and working together again. A suggestion was made to have the SWCG generate a letter with direction on getting the zone training committees fully operational again. The Training Committee Charter is in place and current. Training in the SWA has been FS driven. GATR would like to see training needs analysis done by March this year and sent to a central point of contact by April 1st. Goal is to get in line with other GACCs for national training needs. The Nat'l GATR meeting is the beginning of May. We can change our nomination deadlines for the 1st of November for all classes as the other GACCs do. Each agency needs to designate a zone training representative(ad hoc)to the training committee, route the training needs analysis to this rep by March, and then formally adopting the IQCS

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nomination process (letter from SWCG). Agency training reps need to meet in October to prioritize out the GACC training nominations.

ACTION: James will draft a letter from SWCG to be sent to the zones within 2 weeks.

Workforce Succession – Leaverton. FS is going to ask NIMO team to do an assessment of the Region to determine how many teams are needed in the SW. The decision was made to move forward rather than waiting for National direction resulting from the IMT Succession study.

SWCC Interagency NEIS Agreement Update – Brudevold-Black. Acquisition Management says we still have a band-aid on the problem, which will become an issue again in the near future. The agreement being used was temporary. Agreements need to be developed with each agency for the SWCC that is good for 5 years. The Service First agreement is not a long-term solution. There is already an agreement with BIA that can be used as a model. There is a 4-year rotation on equipment replacement (computers, screens, etc.). Ginger will get a template from AQM and start a draft agreement. AQM stated we can't use MOU's because there is a value associated with the service.

Cost Share by Agency – SWCG - What is your agency doing? Ginger handed out a summary of the SWCC costs, and what each agency pays. Each agency needs to look at the costs, and if there needs to be corrections, let Ginger know before the next meeting. She will revise the handout and send to each agency rep for discussion at the next meeting.

Other GACC Cost Share Agreements – Jaycox. Some GACCS support with staffing, and in-kind, and others put in actual dollars. There is no national standard. Agreements, not MOU's, are in place. Some are geared more toward staffing rather than operational costs. Copies of other GACC's agreement were passed around for Group review. SWCC will compile some stats to further discussion on the possible formation of an agreement for the costs of SWCC.

IDOP Update – Leaverton. SW team is moving forward with identifying common dispatch issues and is planning an initial task group meeting Feb 16-17 in Phoenix. Update at next meeting.

Wildfire Impacts with both Resource and Protection Objectives – Kearney. This topic generated much discussion at the NMAC/GMAC meeting. Some of the concerns that came up last year were smoke, and coordinating with AZ. How are we monitoring this and what can we do in the future. Can the SWCG recommend shutting them down and say no more resource benefit fires? Planning Levels need to be revised to include resource benefit fires. Resource component alone can drive us into a higher planning

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level. Trigger points need to be decided (social/ political perception or committing resources to zones rather than incidents).

ACTION: Ops group will put together a briefing paper as a starting point for revisions. Include pre-season talking points for line officers.

Interaction with NIMCG Chair – Griego. Mostly working on smoke issues. Contract expired. Still in limbo with Air Quality Bureau. New administration will appoint all new members. All of the money that was donated has been obligated. Haven't moved on anything else.

2011 IMT Agenda/SWCG Meeting – Templin. Will get final agenda e-mailed out to SWCG tonight. Tuesday, 1300, will start team meeting. Would like SWCG member there for welcome. Comments from last year said too many presentations and not enough time for team meetings. Nelson's team will do the fire refresher this year. Presentations will be on the last day. IMT succession planning needs to be discussed. Kim Lightly will be the keynote speaker. IC's will meet with the SWCG.

SWCG Annually Hosting IMT Meeting @ same facility – IBMG, Woffinden. This was discussed on the November Conference Call. If the combined meeting is going to take place, the dates need to be set, and should be the same from year to year. A suggestion was made to meet next year with only C&G due to budget constraints, still meeting the first week of March. This will be tabled until the team meeting.

SWCG Committee Reports –

- IBM (Woffinden) – still up in the air on interagency funding and percentages. Two new buying teams will be available for the region this year. IBM Chair will be changing.
- Information/Prevention (Pino) – Jennifer did a report on the November conference call. Nothing new to add.
- Operations (Kearney) – Gary Kemp is Chair, Steve Shaw is vice chair. Will be working on the taskings. Active with the border protocol and team selections.
- Predictive Services (DeRosear) – everything is current.
- Dispatch (Jaycox) – workshop next week in Tucson. All are invited to attend. Developed a dispatch assistance plan, when one office gets slammed, their “sister” office can be given ROSS user accounts and help out until expanded dispatch can get set up. Stu Rodeffer and JR Calkins will spend time next week explaining the priorities when a team is ordered, and how important the communication is between the team and dispatch.

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Zone Board Updates – SWCG – Need to work on updating Annual Operating Plans and Zone Charters for posting on the web. Also need more Line Officer participation. SWCG will re-issue the letter from 2 years ago.

- Central West Zone – new chair (name?)
- Pecos Zone – new chair, Julian Affuso. Training – Sierra Blanca Academy 170 people registered. Ruidoso site does not cost them anything. Eddie Tudor is Type 3 IC, and will be available Feb 7th. No changes to the I/A map. Several prescribed burns planned. Most resource will be on by mid-March. Roswell Air tanker Base will be doing upgrades on the containment tanks. BLM has 6 engines available, NM State had questions on the resource benefit fires, mini-MACs were useful. Lincoln NF has five new line officers. Alamogordo Dispatch will be going year-round starting next week.
- Albuquerque Zone – Bea Day will be new chair. Will be meeting within the next month. T-3 team will be available mid-February. Ryan Romero will be IC. There is a change in the zone maps between Albuquerque and the Gila. Cost share is not finalized yet. Discussion on delegation of authority is ongoing.
- Gila Zone – meeting tomorrow. No report.
- Santa Fe Zone – There is a lack of people applying for the IC position on the T-3 team. New Chair is Manny Esperanz from Los Alamos Lab.
- White Mountain Zone – in the midst of recruiting for T-3 team. If they can get an IC, they will have a team. Dispatch issues between county, Forest and State are being discussed. Training calendar is out.
- Northern Arizona Zone – has not met due to Jason Greenlee’s retirement.
- Taos Zone – looking at moving to a new building. Biggest problems are infrastructure with radios. Pat Pacheco’s term is due to expire, and they want him to extend one more year.
- Southeast Zone – no report.

Type 2 Crew Committee will be meeting 2/1/11 to review the charter and the documentation to the guide. Looking at changing the matrix and some of the training requirements because of the interest in converting some of the crews from T-2 to T-2 I/A.

Agency Reports –

- FWS – operating under CR. Facing 2011 budget which was 42 million reduction. Actively looking to seek other opportunities for habitat management on the refuges. New FMO on Buenos Aires NWF. Patrick Pearson accepted a new position. Don’t know what will be done with his position yet.

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- AZ State – don't know what new budget will look like. Scott Hunt is acting State Forester. Ten positions open that can be filled – 2-year term positions. Two current AFMO positions open.
- NM State – 60 day legislative session starting 19th. Don't know who new State Forester will be.
- NPS – Budget woes and cuts. Len Dems' position will be filled soon.
- BIA Navajo – No good news from DC. Several vacancies at Navajo being advertised.
- BIA SW – Low on budgets, several agencies operating in the red. Some of the fuels positions will not be filled. Will maintain Mescalero and Ute Mountain helicopter, and the SEAT at Double Eagle. There is a cap on short-term severity for this year. Looking at combining agencies for cost savings (Zuni/Ramah).
- BLM NM – Same budget woes. Filling critical vacancies. SE NM is still in severity (extended staffing). Travel restrictions/caps are in place. New medical standards in place causing some problems.
- BLM AZ – two district FMO vacancies will be filled. Still working on T-3 team.
- FS – prep for 10 percent reduction for 2012. Eleven forests will meet next week for strategic planning section. Critical positions are being filled (FMO's, Forest Supervisors, etc.)
- BIA Western – filling several critical vacancies at FTA.

Recorder for SWCG – Is it possible to find an Executive Assistant for the SWCG and MAC Group? Please be thinking of someone. Maybe Leon can find someone from Western. Rocky Mountain hired a business manager just for their coordinating group. Maybe we should consider this. BIA SW would like to hire someone in their office. Maybe this person could assist.

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Topic	Action needed	Responsibility	Date
SWCG Committee Liaisons and Chairs	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
	Re-issue SWCG letter from 2 year ago. Ops group to draft.	Kearney/Ben	Feb 1, 2011
	Draft letter to zone re: training.		
Zone Boards	SWCG Zone reps: Leon-CWZ, Brent-SNZ, Dale Glenmore-NAZ, Don-PEZ, Donald-TAZ, Kelly-SEZ, Loren-ABZ, Behrens-WMZ, Bill VB-GLZ, Cal- alternate as needed. Talking points bullets available on SWCG secure website.	SWCG liaisons	Ongoing
	<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. 	All	Ongoing
	Work with each zone on Smoke collaboration	Loren, Dave, Kelly, Leon SWCG liaisons	Ongoing Ongoing
Radio Capability	NMICG and AICG will develop an MOU for frequency sharing for each State	Future Communications Committee/Ben	Feb 2011
	Do a cast up of radio capability/issues from the dispatch centers (digital vs analog)	Future Communications Committee/Ben	Feb 2011
S-590	Nominations for S-590 candidates need to be collected, prioritized, and submitted.	GATR/Leon Ben	Apr 2011
GIS Subcommittees	Provide direction for formation of GIS groups underneath AICG and NMICG	VanBruggen to follow up with H.Riggs	Feb 2011
Border Protocol		Bott/Kemp	Feb 2011
IBM	Concerns to the Nat'l Level re: National Agreement	Woffinden	Feb 2011
Ops Group	Draft paper on starting points for revision of Planning Levels	Bott/Kemp	Feb 2011

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Agenda Items for Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IMT shortages, T-3 organizations• IQCS needs analysis• SWCC Funding from each agency• IDIP Update• Planning Levels revision• Meet with IC's• Team meeting	Kearney Steve Shaw Leaverton Castillo Ops Group SWCG SWCG/IC's	Feb 2011
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