

Operations & Workforce Development Committee

Boise, ID
May 21-23, 2013
Meeting Notes

Action Items are in italics

Decision Items are underlined

Attendees:

OWDC: Mark Jones (Chair), Jeff Arnberger, Kevin Conn, Don Johnson, Dalan Romero, Mark Koontz, Ron Stoffel, David Utley, Deb Fleming, Mike Morgen, Bill VanBruggen, Brad Gibbs, Buck Kline, Joel Rogauskas (for Keith Smith), Tim Blake

Via Telephone: Tony Doty

Guests: Chad Fisher, Evans Kuo, Barry Mathias, Pam Ensley

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Welcome/Introductions

Buck Kline is replacing David Utley as the southern states member of OWDC. They are using this meeting as a transition meeting.

Incident Response Pocket Guide Update & WUI Revisions (Fisher)

IRPG revision is moving forward. The goal is to have the document finalized by November. Chad is communicating with PMS (Allen Deitz) and the Training Branch editorial staff regarding publishing. He will include Woody Kessler in communications as things progress to ensure the Training Branch is up to speed on changes that may affect the curriculum.

Review and Update Action Log (All)

Action Log was reviewed and updated.

Follow up on status of ATGS memo (Mark)

Bridge Course for Operations Section Chief to Planning Section Chief (from Action Log)

A plan needs to be developed for the people who went through the NR and CA bridge courses on how they can be issued a PTB and become qualified. The bridge course and path don't currently exist in IQCS.

From here forward, disallow the bridge course until speed to competence issue under EIM can be reviewed in its entirety for all C&GS positions.

Draft a memo to the GATRs indicating the bridge course will no longer be valid but it will be considered as a future option when the entire C&GS can be reviewed (speed to competence). The memo will also address the IQCS path folks will need to follow who took the bridge course. (Fleming/Koontz dd: 06/2013 – June conf call)

Gather rosters from NR (Kitty Ortman) and CA (Karen Kufra) planning bridge courses. Build the course and the path in IQCS. (Morgen dd: 06/2013)

Wildland Fire Institute Update (Fleming/2 handouts)

The organizational structure, benefits, challenges and proposed committee priorities presented to the Executive Board last week were discussed with OWDC. The Executive Board agreed in concept with the new proposal and asked the new committee to draft a charter and intent document. Changes include staying within the current NWCG structure by not using the Wildland Fire Institute or Chief Learning Office language, maintaining placeholders for the future Branch Coordinator and Workforce Development piece, bringing delivery under the new committee through some sort of subcommittee, having the right people at the table to make decision, increased collaboration and communication.

Request for Change Form (Fleming/2 handouts)

New Form and instructions were approved.

Work with Tammy Denney to have the current RFC instructions and form currently on the OWDC web page replaced with the new versions. (Hallisey dd: 06/2013)

Complexity Analysis/ONA Tasking (Arnberger)

Final draft will be complete next week. Jeff would like to test it throughout the fire season to collect comments.

Send draft ONA/Complexity Analysis Form and draft email to OWDC. (Arnberger dd: 05/2013)

Vet ONA/Complexity Analysis Form throughout agencies. Each OWDC member will pick a test unit to use the form this summer and provide comments back to OWDC. (OWDC members dd: 10/2013)

Type 2/Type 2IA Handcrew Analysis (Dalan Romero)

A task group has been assembled to work on this tasking. Members include Dalan Romero, Jeff Arnberger, Ron Stoffel, Mike Butteri (AFS), Mark Rosenthal (IC AZ), Chuck Wamack (NICC), George Broyles (FS), hotshot representative (to be determined)

Working on setting up the first meeting. Dalan will brief the OWDC monthly as this tasking progresses.

FEMA Crosswalk (Fleming/1 handout)

The NWCG Conversion to the FEMA National Training Curriculum Phase 1 Transition Plan was presented. This is the final draft that went to the NWCG Executive Board in April. The Executive Board supports the Plan and asked that the Training Branch move forward with implementation. The Training Branch is currently working on communication to the field and determining what required information is necessary in order to get instructors into the FEMA database.

RFC – Modifications to Task Force Leader (TFLD) Qualifications (VanBruggen & Kuo/3 handouts)

The Forest Service is recommending a third pathway to get qualified as a TFLD: a qualification in two Strike Team Leader (STL) positions.

Vet the RFC, to modify TFLD qualifications to add a third pathway, through agencies and bring comments back to OWDC. In addition to the RFC, ask agencies how they feel about a combined qualification for STL/TFLD. (OWDC members dd: 07/2013).

The BLM presented a draft memo of concurrence; they are also asking OWDC to evaluate the TFLD and STL positions to determine if the positions could be combined into a single qualification to reduce redundancy, gain efficiency, and increase speed to competency.

STL and TFLD are both ICS positions under NIMS. NWCG can't combine the positions, but could recommend a change to FEMA since they are currently revising the NIMS Guidance. This issue needs to be discussed further under the Evolving Incident Management speed to competency discussion.

Incident Meteorologist (IMET) into IQCS Position (Conn)

The Weather Service proposed adding the IMET position into the PMS 310-1 in 2012. The decision was made at that time to keep this as a technical specialist position. IQCS will support this position even though it is a Weather Service position. The Change Management Board agreed to include the IMET position under a new National Weather Service SetID using the NWCGO SetID for policy with the Forest Service as their agency sponsor.

IQCS Positioning within the Organizational Structure (Conn)

The IQCS Change Management Board agreed they should remain as a subcommittee under the OWDC. The subcommittee will begin working on updating their charter and intent document.

Executive Board Meeting Update (Blake)

Tim gave an update of issues that came up at the Executive Board Meeting last week:

- NIAC is looking at updating the National Aviation Strategy.
- Incident Business Committee has a new chair, Ron Schilz, USFS in Missoula.
- Equipment Technology Committee (ETC) Chair, Leslie Anderson, is retiring and ETC will have rotating chairs until Leslie's position is filled. Dave Hasten is currently the ETC Chair.

- In reference to EIM, the Executive Board sent OWDC a memo regarding not establishing type 3 positions.
- The Standards Codebook that was a result of discussions with OSHA and the development of a course is up in the air; the Executive Board tasked the Risk Management Committee with determining whether this is something NWCG will pursue or not.
- NRF NIMS is leading the effort on ICS forms review to determine which of the FEMA forms will not work for wildland fire without being modified/endorsed.
- Cohesive Strategy: the Executive Board talked about this and determined it is not yet time to task work down to the committees. Dan Smith will be the NWCG point person for coordinating the workflow and communication.
- The NWCG Emphasis Areas were revised for 2014. There will now be three emphasis areas (Training & Qualifications, Cohesive Strategy, and Evolving Incident Management).

October 2013 PMS 310-1 (Conn/3 handouts)

A draft of the October PMS 310-1 revision is available on My Fire Community. Kevin has also drafted a memo and errata sheet. The changes are fairly minor compared to the two previous years. The plan is to have the document approved on the August OWDC conference call.

Review PMS 310-1 October 2013 draft (on My Fire Community) and provide comments to Kevin prior to OWDC August conference call. (OWDC, dd: 08/2013)

S-230 & S-231 Dual Delivery Methods (Fleming)

The success of the blended learning course has been favorable, although there are some issues and enhancements that have been brought up by the field such as not having student materials available for download. At this time the Training Branch is recommending retaining both the blended and classroom courses. There has been very little feedback about the classroom courses being outdated and they are still valid. The blended courses may need to be revised prior to considering removal of the classroom courses.

OWDC Decision Space (Gibbs/Stoffel)

There were some issues surrounding decision space with NIAC and OWDC on the Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide. Having the same Branch Coordinator for NIAC and OWDC has definitely helped. There is no format/boiler plate available from NWCG to outline how changes to publications are vetted and documented. The parent group may want to look into creating something to assist with this such as an errata sheet. We have to rely on the agencies to work with their counterparts on the various committees to share information. Timing needs to be considered and coordinated in the future (and in the guidance); timelines that incorporate all the frontloading to occur would be helpful. The PMS 900 has guidance on publications and may need to be updated.

Review the NWCG Publications sponsored by OWDC document and update as appropriate based on splitting of publications between OWDC and the Training Branch. (Fleming/Hallisey dd: 09/2013)

Evolving Incident Management (All)

Due to the draft nature of the information discussed and developed, EIM notes are being held as an internal document at this time.

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Round Robin

Ron Stoffel

- Western Fire Managers have been discussing ideas for crew typing.

David Utley

- This is David's final meeting; the transition with Buck will continue for several months.

Kevin Conn

- Fuels Committee has a task group to review the Range and Bonner Reports to look at workforce development and career/learning path related issues.
- Fire Use Subcommittee is meeting virtually next week.

Michael Morgen

- Position naming board has been dealing with some DOI technical specialist positions, MAFF Liaison position, the EMT positions, and BLM is adding Spotter and UTVO positions.

Bill VanBruggen

- SW Coordinating Group answered the questionnaire on how many teams the Area could support
- Bill Waterbury, FS NIFC, is retiring in June.

Tim Blake

- This meeting is a major shift in the way we will do business in the future.

Jeff Arnberger

- Incident Business Committee is working on the ICPI (S-262) course.
- BLM has issued policy on Wildland Fire Modules; they will only recognize Type 1.
- BLM has moved forward with a memo on the Fireline EMT position.
- Federal agency training officers are working on pulling together a Technical Specialist Guide (like the PMS 310-1) to include a page for every technical specialist position and the agencies that use those positions, with hopes of coming together on qualifications that may make sense and getting rid of any positions that aren't being used.

Daylan Romero

- Risk Mgmt Committee is currently working on the Safety Accident Investigation Guide, a Fireline EMT memo, and the Faller recommendations.

Joel Rogauskas

- IQS revision is planned for Fall 2013 and will incorporate PMS 310-1 changes as well as other enhancements.

Tony Doty

- DOI has an All-Hazard Resource Advisor Committee that is trying to come up with a standard for resource advisor that would work across a broad spectrum and identify other resource advisor type (environmental) positions that exist at other levels or in other entities (i.e. USCG).
- DOI All-Hazards program is trying to connect small bureaus to the ROSS system (approx. 400 responders).
- Working on a Memorandum of Agreement to mobilize non-fire personnel at the DOI level with hopes of expanding it beyond DOI to USDA in the future.

Future Meetings

September 10-12, 2013 Boise (BLM will host)

June Conference Call Agenda Items:

- Draft memo re: use of Planning Section Chief bridge course (Fleming/Koontz)
- Flesh out the short term options to get from Type 2 to Complex C&GS (Conn, Utley, Kline, Koontz)
- Complex Position Qualifications PMS 310-1 Mock up Pages (Conn)
- Complex Position Qualifications Flow Charts (Fleming)
- Draft Complex Position Qualifications Memo (Arnberger, Koontz, Utley, Kline)
- Draft memo with concerns/issues identified during EIM discussions at May meeting. (Arnberger, Koontz, Utley, Kline)