

**NWCG - Fire Environment Working Team - Fire Behavior Committee
Meeting
October 16-19, 2006
Marquette, Michigan**

Members Present:

Dan Jimenez
John Barborinas (via phone)
John Saltenberger
Larry VanBussum
Risa Lange Navarro
Robert Ziel
Wayne Cook
Dave Whitmer

Colleen Finneman, Acting Executive Secretary

Minutes from September 27, 2006 teleconference approved and finalized for posting.

2nd Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference:

The Fire Environment – Innovations, Management and Policy

- First Conference Committee call on Oct. 5 - bi-monthly calls initiated; teleconference notes posted to MFC
- Top 3 sponsors – IAWF (Marc Titus, liaison), FENWT (Paul Schlobohm, liaison), and Joint Fire Sciences Project (Tim Swedberg)
- Will prepare a proposal to IAWF to provide the Conference Committee with \$10,000 cash that can be used at the Conference Committee's discretion; also will be asking for a \$50,000 loan that will be paid back at end of conference; proceeds to be split 50/50 between IAWF and WSU
- Registration, Speaker Prep, Panels – FBC will need to participate at some level
- Poster Presentation Lead needed along with WSU – is a subcommittee of Program Planning; establish relationship with San Destin; figuring out best configuration for number of posters
- Hope to have organizational chart pulled together by end of October
- How can FBC assist from financial aspect and hands on support? FBC should assist in securing additional posters. John S. will assist with poster lead; John B. will help as support - would like to coach at FARSITE a week earlier; Larry will be support to Zeke with workshops; Larry will contact IMETs to help as support; Risa – support (good thru Wed)
- Scholarships may be offered to assist in getting folks there
- Workshops – Zeke – main point of contact
 - Ideas for Workshops:
 - Smoke Management
 - FLAME
 - FARSITE/FLAMMAP

- GIS Techniques for FARSITE/FLAMMAP
- FSPRO/RERAP
- Behave Plus
- Fuels Classification
- Wind Wizard
- Fire Mgmt's Interaction with Weather Service
- Fire Behavior for Meteorologists
- FireFamilyPlus/Fire Danger Tools
- Canadian Fire Danger
- Prescription windowing with fire behavior tools
- Canopy fuels/FCCC

How can we carry the information outside the conference to others? It can be built into the proceedings.

Can the workshops be taped or carried live for a minimal fee for those that can't attend? This will be addressed on the Conference Committee call Oct.17.

Budget – FY07 contributions are not available at this time.

Expenditures that need to be covered:

- FLAME handoff = \$4,000 - Jim Bishop's travel to San Diego and Florida conferences - includes travel expenses and conference registration; also recommend to Jim he present a poster at the Florida conference
- Colleen's travel to Marquette = \$1,000
- Exec. Sec. Spring meeting travel = \$1,500; will not pay for Exec. Sec. to attend Florida conference
- State Rep = \$1,200 per diem/lodging/conference registration for Florida conference; spring meeting = \$1,500

Do not need the \$2,000 for S-490 completion so these funds are available to use elsewhere.

Action Item #215: Wayne will update spreadsheet with his contribution and other FBC expenditures.

FF Math – Dan J. Updated the Committee on Fire Fighter Math – www.firefightermath.org Review comments that have already been sent to Dan have not yet been incorporated. If you have other changes, i.e. template or the look of it, get back to Dan. FBC will have editing powers. Interactive screens for tests and exercises will be done last. Suggestion – is there a way to track student's success of course, i.e., certificates.

Business Practices

Executive Secretary vacancy - Larry will pursue with NWS to seek availability of someone. Dan will check at the Fire Lab. Everyone else should continue to look for someone.

Fire Behavior Committee Chair/Member Vacancy - Wayne Cook resigned as chair of FBC effective immediately. Wayne will volunteer in a task group position to still work on how to address the curriculum issue; need to determine how FBC will proceed – who will lead, etc.

Risa and Zeke are co-vice chairs. Chair goes to several other meetings in addition to FBC meetings, i.e. FENWT meetings (4 times/year), S-590; can everyone split attendance at additional meetings?

The goal would be to bring someone in as a member with the intention to groom that person as the Chair.

How do we operate in the interim? Drop back on amount of conference calls; co-chairs put together agenda for Spring 2007 FBC meeting; have Wayne tell us what he has coming up and divide amongst the FBC -- Wayne will go to the FENWT meeting in Athens, GA. Wayne will provide a list of upcoming meeting dates, conference calls, other communications, etc.

Action Item #216: Contact potential candidates for new FBC members.

Potential Candidates:

Clint Cross – Risa will contact

Lisa Elenz – Zeke will contact

Colin Hardy – Risa will contact

Kelly Close – Zeke will contact

Paul Schlobohm will also be looking for candidate.

Chair/Vice Roles	Membership at Large	Executive Secretary
NWCG participation	FENWT participation	Budget
Budget (Zeke)	Project/Proposal - Strategic Plan	FBC MFC
Exec. Sec. (Risa)	Membership care & feeding	
Info Sharing/Point of Contact (Zeke)	SME Participation	
Meetings (Risa)	Curriculum Mgmt.	
Annual Accomplishment Report (Zeke)	Intra-committee communication	

Extreme Fire Behavior - Phone call with Brian Potter; discussion going on MFC; has stalled out; need to get feedback from Joint Fire Sciences as to why it wasn't considered and where do we rank in the future with this proposal; suggest a panel session at the Florida conference.

Action Item #217: Dan will send e-mail to Tim Swedberg asking why the proposal wasn't considered and the future of the proposal before end of this meeting. Dan will post the proposal to MFC.

Action Item #218: Proposal to have this as a panel at the Florida conference (Dan).

NWS Fire Refresher - Larry needed to know what the FBC is looking for from NWS? Fire Refresher is a mandatory refresher for all every year. Each year, a couple of emphasis items are taught in addition to standard items, i.e. shelter training, etc. The refresher course will be in booklet form, videos or on-line material, (wfstar -- nifc.gov -- go to safety site). FBC hopes to have a clearing house of ideas for refresher training, i.e. how to take good weather observations, visual indications, thermal belt affects, critical weather pattern. Will start with web page of glossary in mid-November and have something flushed out in March for videos. Have NWS folks join MFC to provide ideas.

Action Item #219: Web page – deadline mid-November; Larry and John S. will contact Al King regarding costs associated with adding glossary of terminology and report back to FBC (Larry and John S.)

Action Item #220: Deadline for space for videos is March; Larry and John S. proposing 2 subjects – need to have something to review and agreed upon; Dave will contact Ted Mason to find out what the process is. Dave will report back at the next teleconference.

Action Item #221: At Fall meeting, need to discuss what we want to contribute to videos and spring meeting what to contribute to web page.

FBC Charter - Reviewed charter. Flexibility relating to number of members on the committee. Paul Schlobohm will support recommendations and decisions the committee has relative to the FBC charter. FENWT expects representation from the committee at every meeting/teleconference -- suggest adding this under Meetings paragraph in the FBC charter.

Action Item #222: Wayne will talk to Paul about the budget process/work plans. Transfer budget process/work plans from Wayne.

Action Item #223: Wayne needs to communicate to Paul our intention to provide participation in FENWT with shared responsibility.

Action Item #224: Everyone will review Strategic Plan in relation to FBC charter and associated tasks. Zeke will look at the Wayne and Punky items. Discuss on November teleconference.

IRPG Input - Risa handed out comments received in reviewing the 2004 Response Guide - some of the comments may or may not have reached the 2006 Guide.

Fire behavior material is spread around in the Guide. The Risk Management Process needs reinforcement. Reorganize the green (Risk Management Process) pages to include the white pages.

- Look Up, Down and Around pages – put footnote # within the fire environment factors and put footnote at bottom of the page referencing the white page # - white pages should move forward to immediately follow the Look Up, Down and Around pages
- Fuel models missing general fuel groups
- Look Up, Down and Around – take the numbers out on Fuel Moisture Indicators and mark with asterisk - make footnote at bottom of page to check local conditions/thresholds
- No supporting tools for terrain – small snippet of topo map identifying key features and some quick reference for determining slope, i.e. chart
- Wind Reduction Table – no description of how to do a reduction – use the table from App. B; no description about relationships between different types of winds; re-emphasize wind direction.
- John S. and Larry going to make suggestions to improve the Spot Weather Forecast.
- Decrease font size for ERC and BI text
- Fire Environment Factor Stability – add Instability as an Indicator
- Add fine fuel moisture table to support S-290
- Safety Zone Guidelines: Dan will request Bret Butler to look at and provide input by end of next week (10/27)
- Pocket Card definition/description in ERC & BI
- Fire Environment Factors – Fire Behavior – replace Watch with Observe
- Common Denominators of Fire Behavior is consistent between Fireline Handbook and IRPG
- Have FLAME pages be added
- MFC – Wayne has posted the change proposal form; timelines; suggested edits;
- Probability of Ignition – John B. will look at.

Action Item #225: Better way or pointed tool for assessing wind in a given situation – John S. and Dan (March 2007)

Action Item #226: Any other proposed changes to IRPG, post to MFC and Risa will pull together a draft and post under Reports by COB Monday, Oct. 23. Wayne will take document to FENWT meeting at end of October.

DHS partner to FENWT - Recommendation brought forward to FENWT to include DHS as a strategic partner – FENWT is in agreement. Is it in the FBC's interest to have an open invitation to have a DHS individual and if so, how do we go about doing that? Do we have FENWT take to higher level? Should explore possibility of inviting DHS – give them a range of level of participation, i.e. participate/observe, minutes of meetings, conference calls, etc. for information exchange. Need to be proactive as opposed to reactive. Maybe someone from FEMA or US Fire Administration (Mike Dougherty) would be appropriate. Another suggestion - FENWT might want to consider a DOD representative.

Action Item #227: Larry will draft memo with FBC's recommendation as to how we think FENWT should proceed and post to MFC under Reports – by end of meeting. Wayne will take to FENWT meeting at end of October.

MM5 Modeling - John S. updated committee. Plans to present a paper at the Florida conference. Larry would like to invite NWS folks to next meeting for further discussion regarding grids.

Action Item #228: Invite NWS to spring or fall 2007 meeting (Larry). Add to spring meeting agenda.

Action Item #229: John S. will present at Florida conference on how Predicted Services is using gridded data.

Taskbooks - Need to make sure that Deb Epps and company are aware that FBC and S-590 steering committee need to have input to the taskbook updates for LTAN and FBAN.

Action Item #230: Dave will draft memo before end of this meeting and post to Reports in MFC. Wayne will take to FENWT meeting at end of October.

Firefighter Refresher - Take a look at Al King's response with several Safety web links which Wayne has posted to MFC under Wildland Fire Refresher Training.

Some things lend themselves to video versus web page environment.

Action Item #231: Wayne will update Al and Paul by the end of this meeting as well as recognize them for their prompt reply to this request.

Action Item #232: Everyone review web links posted to MFC – will discuss of where we want to go with this on November teleconference.

TWT letter to FENWT

OBJECTIVE: develop reply to TWTs response to FBC memo regarding Liaisons to S290 Course Development

- Survey SMEs
- Counterproductive to distribute misinformation
- Fund and staff curriculum coordinator
- Funding for SMEs
- Treatment of FLAME
- Inconsistency in TWT relation with other Teams and course development
- Criticism of current curriculum
- Relation to curriculum matrix
- TWT qualification to dictate science content
- NWCG Strategic Plan quotes
- NWCG uphold FBC charter

Action Item #233: Zeke will draft memo for Wayne to take to FENWT meeting at the end of October.

Live Fuel Moisture Sampling Memo - At our Boise meeting, Tim Sexton stated fuel moisture sampling lacks consistency and accuracy in the field – leads to concerns; asked FBC to do something about it. Items to include in memo: Firemon course (website) has a detailed protocol for fuel moisture sampling and could be a resource; consider Firemon as an NWCG course or developing a new NWCG course for fire effects monitoring and fuels sampling; gap in training curriculum. Zeke will draft memo thru FENWT to go to TWT, Fire Use Working Team, and Interagency Fuels Coordinating Group.

Action Item #234: Zeke and Risa will draft memo by end of this meeting for Wayne to take to FENWT meeting the end of October.

Windspeed Gusts - Refer to Tim Sexton's e-mail asking if there is any science which might explain how to consider wind gusts for a burn prescription or for modeling fire behavior for any purpose. Why are people using wind gusts? Is this a bigger issue than prescribed fire?

Action Item #235: Risa will send an e-mail asking "If you have wind gusts predicted in your spot weather forecast or from observations, manual or RAWS, how do you use them in your fire behavior assessment?" Will request responses back by end of November. FBC members will contribute to discussion as well. Risa will post responses to FBAN/LTAN/IMET on MFC.

BehavePlus - Discussed PMS support for other programs and FBC role in maintaining and distributing paper products. FBC inquired and received information about PMS process. FBC needs to make a recommendation on how to proceed to meet the need and intent of the curriculum.

Action Item #236: John B. will assemble his e-mail by end of meeting and Wayne will provide the staff work findings to Pat Andrews; will be posted in the meeting minutes for the record.

Fire Behavior Applications - How does the FBC interweave the ongoing fire behavior applications considering barriers and protocols working under NWCG.

How to integrate into the curriculum – how to support? Maybe leave them as stand alone tools that can enhance a training session if so desired.

Action Item #237: Fire Research (Dan) and S590 Steering Committee rep (Dave) asked to report to FBC on decisions, actions, findings, etc. at bi-yearly meetings. FBC should also report back to S590 Steering Committee when needed. Fire Research and S590 Steering Committee discussion groups added to FBC neighborhood on MFC.

Action Item #238: Noble Dunn report to FBC at next teleconference on curriculum update and future status, self-study CD for FLAME, any budget expectations, expectations of FBC. Wayne will notify Noble of date and time (November 21, 1000 Mountain).

Action Item #239: Wayne will communicate with Jim Bishop about FBC's support to cover travel and per diem for the 2 upcoming conferences (San Diego, CA and Destin, FL): to present a FLAME workshop in San Diego and request Jim to present a FLAME paper, poster, and workshop in Destin, FL.

FLAME – Wait and see after hearing update from Noble Dunn on November 21 teleconference.

Action Item #240: Zeke will respond to Brian Potter and suggest he talk with Jim Bishop.

New Fuel Models – Fuel Modeling Workshop in the Eastern Area (Columbus, OH) Dec.12-14 – the process is to look at what different burning environments they have, understand what fire behavior range and thresholds there are, and then find appropriate fuel model. FBC should take a look at what comes out of this and make a determination how to support and where/how it fits into the curriculum.

Action Item #241: Zeke will create discussion thread on MFC and populate with several items.

Action Item #242: Agenda item on January or subsequent meeting.

Nomographs - Wait until publication comes out.

FENWT - FENWT provides support to the committee – they are looking for feedback from FBC.

Action Item #243: Wayne will take feedback to FENWT at the meeting the end of October:

- **budget – communication of new budget process – how will it work, timelines, ties to FBC strategic plan**
- **self-evaluation of FENWT as well as FBC**
- **continued communication of meetings, conference calls with FENWT**
- **help facilitate clean and efficient information and accomplishment flow up and down organization**
- **resolve conflict between FBC and TWT charters in relation to authority/responsibility of course content (FBC charter objective #3)**

Action Item #244: Wayne will contact Paul Schlobohm to determine process of giving access to identified individual on the FBC to have access to FENWT's meeting notes.

November 21, 2006 Teleconference

What is Wayne's role on the November teleconference? FENWT update; updates on interactions with Wendell and Joe; open invitation to participate in upcoming calls and FBC MFC as liaison.

Action Item #245: Wayne will introduce Gotomeetings on November 21 teleconference.

Action Item #246: Set up teleconference phone line (Risa)

Agenda Items: FENWT update (Wayne); Noble Dunn update; Invite NWS to spring 2007 meeting; wind speed gusts; FBC self-evaluation; Strategic Plan review; Safety web links

Next meetings, dates and times

- November 21, 2006 Teleconference @ 0800 Alaska, 0900 Pacific, 1000 Mountain, 1100 Central, 1200 Eastern – phone number to be provided at later date
- April 10-12, 2007 Meeting in Marquette, MI

AAR

Add to charter - vice chair moves into chair; develop some operating principles; Distribute the workload