

**NWCG - Fire Environment Working Team - Fire Behavior
Committee**

Teleconference

Wednesday, July 12, 2006 @ 1000 MDT

Present:

Dan Jimenez
John Barborinas
Larry VanBussum
Risa Lange-Navarro
R. Ziel
Wayne Cook
Punky Moore, Executive Secretary

Absent:

Dave Whitmer
John Saltenberger

Approve Minutes from June 16, 2006 conference call:
Approved and finalized for posting

Added to the Agenda:

Pat Andrews to make a presentation at 10:30

Action Item Table Status:

#164 – No update on this call
#175 – Timeline and web page being discussed, there is full funding for the project, should have finished product to present at Oct. meeting- revise and change due date
#180 – No change, some progress on fuels modeling session in the Northeast
#190 – sent to FENWT, will be agenda item on next FENWT call, 8/22/06.
#191 – Issue whether NIFCG site is capable of holding the repository. This is not one of their priorities right now. FBC needs to decide to what extent to take the lead, it is not just a FBC issue. Wayne will raise issue on the next FENWT call, 8/22/06.
#197 – change due date to 10/16/06
#198 – completed
#199 – change due date to 8/16/06
#200 – change due date to 8/16/06
#201 – BLM Weather Refresher – Discussion about intent for lesson. It is not intended to be a mandatory course; it is an optional module. NWS is interested in consulting/developing the refresher further by providing content expertise, but they do not have enough staff to teach. FBC should seek ways to fund the project.
#209 – change due date to 8/16/06
#210 – waiting on response, revisit 8/16/06

Charter Revision:

FENWT recommends that committees address necessary revisions to individual charters during the year. FENWT approval and signing will take place on an annual basis. FBC charter will be changed to the following:

V. Membership

The FBC shall consist of seven (~~7~~) 8 members representing NWCG agencies and the National Weather Service.

- Chairperson
- Two Qualified Fire Behavior Analysts or Long-term Analysts
- Wildland Fire Behavior Research Representative
- National Weather Service qualified Incident Meteorologist
- Predictive Services Representative
- State Representative
- S-590 Wildland Fire Behavior Interpretation Chair or Steering Committee Member

Business Practices:

Discussed whether changes in meeting/conf. call pre-work is working for the group. Committee decided to stay with current method for now. Responsibility for agenda setting and notification resides with Executive Committee.

Zeke suggested that Action Item #180 falls under this topic – FBC endorsement of Continuing Ed projects.

Pat Andrews joined the group:

Presented an update to the committee on BehavePlus guide. Information included format, updating capability, distribution – possibly mirrored after Canadian Fire Danger Rating System Notebook with RMRS publications for some sections. With RMRS pubs, updates can be made easily. Andrews requested assistance from FBC to find out requirements for PMS publication.

Question whether MFC could be used to inform Behave Community about updates. Can we use this forum to actively send messages? Task: Wayne will check with MFC about notification capabilities. This process can also enhance our ability to modularize other curriculum.

Action Item #211: Cook & Barborinas will contact PMS and ask their requirements to host BehavePlus guide, due date 8/16/06

Fire Behavior Curriculum Development Strategy:

Matrix update

S491 & S493 are still works in progress. Paul and Wayne will work on S491, Chuck, Rob & Wayne will work on S493. Action Item #209

Fire Behavior Curriculum:

Update on S190 – S490

Fuel moisture sampling inconsistency – Action Item #207 – issue was presented at FENWT meeting – group acknowledges problem with live fuel moisture sampling.

- Research study problem – not just a fire behavior issue
- FENWT has given the committee leadership on the issue

- Should look at our lessons for accuracy and completeness where it can be pulled and developed into a module and posted for use as a refresher.
- Fire effects monitor position – there is no class in IQCS for that position and taking live fuel moistures. S290 doesn't teach taking live fuel moistures.
- Need to determine range and scope of issue
- JFS as an unsolicited project? Suggestion for Call for Proposals to improve standards for ways of collecting live or dead fuel moisture.
- With FUWT and FENWT, should FBC send issue to TWT to look at a way to improve Field observer course? (FEMO taskbook talks about taking live fuel moistures) Highlight lack of utility in the FEMO taskbook
- Raise issue during the next FENWT conf. call. This is an issue that deserves a higher level of concern.

Action Item #212 – Zeke will draft memo regarding fuel sampling and related training (FOBS & FEMO) and forward to Wayne & Risa, due date 7/12/06

S490 Plus:

It is time to regroup and readdress FBC maintenance of the curriculum.

Status quo for S490, Training Development Group says course will be ready for distribution and use by this fall.

S290 – still no reply to message and request to meet and resolve concerns.

Risa was contacted by Training Development Group regarding her liaison position on S290. She was requested to attend the new workshops with new SMEs to pull FLAME out of course, put back old lessons while keeping FLAME as an optional lesson. FBC discussed protocol for committee business. (ref. the memo sent to Training Development Group – FBC is interested in working with the Development group to resolve issues). FBC has been involved with the rewrite for the past 2 years. FBC needs to regroup and look at the content of the course and how the goal of getting good info to the field is being met. *Agenda item 8/16/06*

Action Item #213 – Risa will send memo to Noble Dunn that this request needs to go through the committee and suggest John B. as alternate liaison, due date 7/12/06.

Status of Other Courses:

Update on S491 – S590

S492/493 – Discussion about next year's courses and holding both courses during the same year. New developments for both courses could be coming soon; Wayne will pass on information when it is available.

S590 – Counter proposal for FBC as adhoc steering committee member was communicated to Steering committee and FBC should be hearing back possibly maybe this week (7/12/06).

Applications:

FLAME

- No new developments. Discussed need for instructor handoffs. Scheduled at the NRTC, but unsure of progress. Risa will add this point to the memo to Noble. Budget may need to be adjusted.
- Optional lesson concept depends on communication with Training Development Group. Possibly package materials and encourage use outside the fire behavior curriculum context. Are we limiting ourselves by focusing on fire behavior curriculum applications?

New Fuel Models:

Joe Scott will meet with Interagency Fuels Coordinating Group to give intro to the new fuel models. Where they stand in the curriculum is fine, northeast session is appropriate – more developments to come.

2nd Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference

- Support – IAWF and WSU are onboard; website is up and running
- Some inquiries from the fire behavior community already
- Sponsor template – examples are useful for how to approach and draft agreements with potential sponsors. After formally requesting sponsorship, work with Cook or Butler to craft the agreement language. Using IAWF template is appropriate. IAWF will manage the money.
- One possible source of funding is a grant from NOAA. Larry will look into this and if there is a grant application, he will fill out for the FBC.
- Roles and responsibilities that were originally drafted need to be revisited, Cook & Butler will redraft; another conference call will be set for Planning Purposes.
- Staff Ride is being worked on by Cook & Butler

Budget Revision:

FBC has exhausted FY05 \$13K, confirmation has been received for FY06 funding of \$10K – FS Fire & Aviation Mgmt. Wayne and Punky will work on revising and updating budget to reflect the following expenditures and projected expenses through the end of this fiscal year.

- Firefighter Math – \$3,000.00
- Joe Scott's Work Order - \$5,600.00

Next teleconference date and time:

Aug 16, 2006 1000 MDT

Round Robin:

Bob Means – BLM Fuels rep. is working on a joint fire behavior workshop with NRTC. Other geo areas are coming on board with local workshops along with national workshop.

There is a firefighter/LTAN trainee on Hahnenberg's team looking for trainee assignments.

Call adjourned 1145