

NWCG Fire Environment Working Team
Fire Behavior Committee
Teleconference
September 13, 2007

Members on call:

Kelly Close
Dan Jimenez
Punky Moore
John Saltenberger
Larry VanBussum
Robert Ziel

Others present:

Wayne Cook, S493 Chair
Paul Schlobohm, FENWT Chair

Not on call:

John Barborinas
Kyle Cannon
Risa Lange-Navarro
Tami Parkinson

Minutes from June 14, 2007 conference call approved with minor edits; ready for website posting.

Fire Behavior Curriculum:

S190:

Update from J. Saltenberger about online course review. Initial impression was favorable about the professional looking format; however, in the weather portion the graphics did not illustrate well the principle point of the text or narration. The discussion included how the FBC heard about the review at a late date, allowed less than 10 days for the evaluation. Saltenberger sent his report to FBC chair and TWT. FBC's concern is that the recommendations were not included in the review and that the process is going forward without needed changes. P. Schlobohm will follow-up.

S290:

Comet project is on course as reported from L. Van Bussum. TWT is continuing to look into the process of directing some funds to the effort and how to transfer to Comet. Understanding the need for fire behavior SMEs and agency perspective led to the discussion about ensuring there are experts who are committed to the project. Initial SME identification was made. P. Schlobohm will contact D. Epps before the Nov. meeting about additional subject matter needs for the project in coordination with VanBussum and W. Welch.

Action Item #296: Zeke will forward committee intent about S190-490 SME continuity between courses to Schlobohm, due date Oct. 1.

S492/S493 curriculum proposal:

FENWT is responsible for maintenance of these courses. The emergence of decision support centers, incident analysis at the geo level, outdated and new spatial environment tools necessitate the examination of how the curriculum is preparing course graduates to work in support of wildland fire incidents today. A briefing paper is being developed that P. Schlobohm will present at the joint TWT/IOSWT meeting (last week of Sept.) that recommends changes in course content and offerings. The need to adjust position taskbooks and course content leads to the proposal of holding fire behavior and risk assessment training needs workshop(s) starting in December.

Schlobohm added that shifting content in the taskbooks for FBAN/LTAN is one thing, but if there is a shift in the function and skills needed in the positions; we will need to work with IOSWT about changes to position taskbooks. FBC concurred there are some differences in the skills needed in the positions.

Further discussion on this topic will happen after the decision is made on '08 course offering.

Action Item #297: Paul will present recommendations to TWT/IOSWT meeting and relay decision to FBC, due date Oct. 1

Action Item #298: Participant list will be developed for workshop, Zeke and others, due date Oct. 11

Oct. 18th conference call agenda item

FBC members offered FBAN/LTAN perspective about FSPro, who is the target audience, who is using, who should be using and who is interpreting? Unclear what FBAN role is? Discussion continued about the need to revise outdated curriculum to keep pace with a changing environment.

Course Evaluations and Critiques:

Oct. 18th conference call agenda item.

Implementation for fire behavior courses is planned for winter '08.

RAWS/ROMAN:

FENWT is building a set of recommendations for NWCG. Included in the pending report derived from input provided by users is a more defined purpose of the RAWS network to support a system wide overlook at point and gridded applications of fire weather for fire danger, fire behavior and planning. It is recommended that NWCG conduct the kind of analysis that FENWT was not funded to do, that will help directors understand the size of the network and growth potential.

FENWT will make both short term and long term recommendations for the ROMAN such as making it a NWCG project managed like its' other projects. Long term recommendation is that ROMAN continues to be one-stop shop for RAWs, hourly data, with integrated capability to interact with other systems, i.e. WIMS. Changes made in one would be affected in others.

Paul will present the report the 2nd week of Oct. to NWCG parent group. For more information, go to FENWT discussion topic to see RAWs/ROMAN, S492/493 info. Ziel added that FBC participation was valuable.

FBC Budget 2008-2009-2010:

- State Travel: \$7,500.00
- Firefighter Math: \$7,000.00 for Phase 2 – one year to spend funds, each chapter will have interactive test, user account and Google analytics to get feedback from the user community
- Field Ref. Guide: Was converted into electronic format. Needs serious updating. FBC should review and strategically plan where to take it from here. Discussed task orders and how to solicit, Dan will continue to investigate.
- FLAME outreach: Professional service contract including travel and per diem. Define what is necessary and what Erin can help with
- S492-S493 Workshop: Funds from project \$ for development materials

Annual Refresher:

No funding requests were made of the FBC. K. Close will contact Al King to get more information about direction of the project. King has asked to attend the Nov. meeting.

2008 money has not come to FENWT yet. Money that is not spent in the fiscal year is lost. FBC will make some budget decisions at Nov. meeting. Discussed management of funds whether projects are in Missoula or in Boise. Erin could help with credit card purchasing/larger contracts.

Action Item #299: Dan will followup on budget process and provide info to FBC co-chairs, due date Oct. 1.

Action Item #300: Zeke will draft budget items for FENWT meeting, 1st week in Dec.

Taskbooks Review:

Our job in the review process is to make sure the fire behavior knowledge and skills are adequately evaluated, i.e., what kind of expectations do we have for the single resource boss position and does the taskbook cover the skills needed for the position? Are safety zones adequately addressed? What should be added or changed?

Action Item #301: Taskbook review deadline is Oct. 31; draft feedback to Zeke by Oct. 18th.

Assignments follow:

- ICT3/ICT4/OSC1-OSC2
- SRB (ENGB, TRPB, CRWB, DOZB, FIRB, FELB)
 - Kelly
- FFT2/FFT1/RXCM/ICT5
 - Zeke
- RXB1-RXB2/RXB3/FUM1/FUM2
- SOF1/SOF2/SOFR
- DIVS/TFLD/STLD
 - Kelly
- FEMO/FOBS
- AIR OPS Books
 - John B.
- Other Support Books (PIO2, PETM)
 - Punky
- J. Saltenberger & K. Close will look at all books for wx components

Fire Lab Report:

Dan reported that Pat Andrews would like to attend Nov. meeting, at least 2 hours toward the end of the meeting week. She has many items she would like to address; upgrades to BehavePlus version 4.0, implementing a training plan for Behave, next generation of Fire Danger Rating/Fire Severity features, interface and web capabilities.

Wind Wizard – Working on ironing out some quirks, ready to release later this month. Support will be provided thru the lab. B. Butler also obtained JFSP money to pursue “Improving Guidelines for Safety Zones in a Slope Environment.” (3yr project)

FSPPro – products were being generated from an analysis and computer standpoint. Managers were pleased to see that requests were being generated into products, but the products received mixed reviews. There is more work to be done to determine how the technology impacts managers and how the data is interpreted. Future work includes integrating Google earth products; lead, R. Stratton.

John Szymoniak is retiring in the next year, stay tuned for more information.

RMRS is going thru a large reorganization process which involves developing a new charter and 5-year strategy. There is a national level R&D effort to design new fire spread model that would replace Rothermel model. FBC may consider providing a letter of support for this kind of initiative. Changes are coming

quickly, such as running FSPRO from the incident which now takes 8 hours but may soon become a 1 hour process.

Round Robin

Kelly – will draft observations about FSPRO on the Zaca Fire

Larry – shared info about his assignment and NWS filling every IMET request this season.

Conference call adjourned 1200 PDT