



**FEWT MEETING NOTES
NOVEMBER 7-9, 2006
Atlanta, Georgia**

Members in Attendance:

Bill Hicks, GSA
Kim Christensen, USFS, NFES
JP Greene, USFS
Kirk Bradley, Michigan DNR
Steve Counts, Virginia DNR
Leslie Anderson, MTDC
Ralph Gonzales, SDTDC
Roger Spaulding, USFWS
Tory Henderson, USFS
Dan Lang, CDF
Dale Miracle
Matt Cnudde

Absent Members:

Jacquelin Hawley, BIA
Dan Yturriondobeitia, BLM

Guests

Carl Dorsey, BLM
Wes Throop, MTDC
Dave Haston, SDTDC

Welcome and Introduction:

Introductions were held as Carl Dorsey was representing BLM at this meeting. In addition Dave Haston, Chair of the Mobile Equipment Task Group and Wes Throop, Chair of the Ground Ignition Task Group were able to attend.

Action Item Follow-up Review:

Updates were provided on open FEWT action items:

Wes Throop: Needs one more State representative for his Ground Ignition Task Group, Dan Lang will look into it and get a candidates name and send to Wes in the next month or so, Wes said the next meeting will probably be in April.

Dave Haston: Mobile Fire Equipment Task Group needs some expertise outside of Wild-land fire engine community and **Steve Counts** will send him a candidate. **Kirk Bradley** will check with Supervisor to see if available to be co-chair of the Mobile Fire Equipment Task Group (new name for the Engine Subcommittee). **Dave Haston** will stay on as the official chair from his previous role of acting chair.

Action items: Steve Counts will provide name(s) to Dave Haston for mobile equipment task group.

Kirk Bradley will check with supervisor as to his ability to serve as co-chair for the mobile equipment task group.

Potable Water Specifications

The specifications are complete and Tory advised NWCG in October that they would be submitted for their January 2007 meeting for decision.

Action Item: Tory will submit potable water standards to NWCG in December for decision.

Whirling Disease Hazard Analysis – Critical Control Point Planning

Action Item: Matt will make sure that HACCP link gets posted on website.

Action Item Tracking System general discussion:

There was a request to create another column on action items list “waiting for NWCG approval”. Also discussions occurred concerning the storing or archiving of the action items and the list itself.

Action Items: Tory will modify the form to include a column for nwcg approval. Tory will develop independent lists for accomplished action items for archiving purposes and these will be posted to the web.

Host narrative:

J.P. Greene: Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) is fairly high volume Coordination Center although this season 9,000 of the orders they processed were UTF requests for western support. Their facilities include about 4,000 square feet, 10 staff members and they have some expanding capabilities so the move to the new location has served them well. They had minimal hurricane support this year. Pretty much a 24/7 operation 365 days per year although manage to squeak in a couple of days that the Coordination Center was un-staffed.

Agency/Membership Updates:

Carl Dorsey/BLM

- BLM equipment is pretty much status quo
- For 2007 we have approximately 10 million dollars of vehicles on order
 1. crew carriers, 7 & 10 passenger
 2. Hummer engines
 3. Helicopter support vehicles
 4. Light engines 662 class
 5. Heavy 667 class
 6. Water tenders
 7. Fuel trailers
 8. Command vehicles
 9. Superintendent vehicles
- We will become more restrictive on our GVWR capacities reducing the water capacity on several units.
- Unimog U500 has been in service this year; it has some things that need to be changed to make it more user friendly.
- Still working on ATV drip torch, have some proto-type models in the field. A couple are going through revisions and then we will look at production models
- ATV course is available on line.
- 2007 emission standards are going to have a large affect on engine cost in coming year.
- We are close to totally swapped out to the new fire shelter.

Roger Spaulding/FWS:

We are purchasing and testing the burning box.

Used some SEATs this season and they proved successful, now staying in the business.

We are researching into a Working Capital Fund (WCF) process to manage replacement of vehicles and equipment.

The FWS accomplished about 105 percent of fuel reduction plans for this past season.

Had an active fire season in NW, worked with Canada that may offer some future opportunities. Lack of resources resulted in monitoring some of the large fires instead of staffing.

95 percent swapped out on new generation fire shelters.

Dale Miracle/NPS:

We are replacing conversion engines early.

Need to factor in use rates, not just replacement cost for WCF vehicles.

Hope to be about 90 percent swapped out on fire shelters by this upcoming fire season.

Bill Hicks/GSA:

GSA had 56.3 million of business in the fire program for 2006:

GSA received some of the new shirts sizes in, sold some

The new pants sizes are due in by May

GSA is updating the mailing list database. To update go to the www.gsa.gov/cmls website or call 817-334-5215.

Steve Counts/Eastern States:

Virginia is moving forward on a physical test for all full time employees
All full time and majority of part time employee's will have new shelters for next season.
Going to the standard T6 engine.

Dan Lang/Western States

The State of California provided significant personnel for MAFFs support
17.1 million now for annual replacement budget, increase of 10+ million mainly to get caught up with backlog. Need to plan on how to fund helicopter replacement.
CDF should be completely converted to new shelters for next season.
CDF is procuring some new engines to be set up to work with gel type products.

Kirk Bradley/REC:

Results of the test of a compressed air/leaf blower: expensive, bulky and not much improvement in performance
The next Roscommon workshop is the 2nd full week of October
Most States still struggling to obtain adequate funding for fire programs
Looking at vehicle safety information gathering and storage/dissemination

J.P. Greene/Dispatch:

Shortage of equipment was the norm for 2006
Southern Area COMPACs were heavily used.
Engine typing disparity issue occurred and is being addressed. The description of item and the equipment typing needs to be consistent.

Kim Christensen/NFES:

NFES product introduction analysis process is being considered and implemented.
The Type I to Type II hose strategy was modified.
Looking at the hot food cans being vendor provided instead of cache provided and other options such as collapsible containers to conserve storage and shipping space.

Tory Henderson/Forest Service: Spent 1.5 billion and don't want to repeat that type of expenditure for fire suppression again and looking at other cost containment strategies.
Unfortunately several deployments and/or fatalities occurred this season
Investigative process may offer different options (formal, peer review)
The FS is interested in implementing line officer support for Incident Management.
The Forest Service Assistant Director for Risk Management Position filled last week (Bill Waterbury)

Wes Throop/MTDC: Ground Ignition guide, questions on term limits of chairman were discussed and deemed not necessary at this time.

Dave Haston/SDTDC: Engine sub-committee is changing their name to Mobile Fire Equipment Task Group...would require a little different membership and they do need a co-chair as well.

Matt Cnudde/Logistics- Talked about Logistics bin items provided by Rich Rusk. Matt presented other items like National Cache web site which has a standardized kit change request process, product deficiency process and other information. A standardized sign kit for consideration was presented to the group.

Dave Haston/Mobile Fire Equipment Charter:

Membership was discussed; Kirk was nominated to be co-chair,

2i classification was discussed as well as qualifications and staffing levels.

Water Tender Type (Water Tender Support will be 1,2 & 3, tactical 4 & 5)

2010 was the agreed upon timeline for the around the pump foam proportioner to be acceptable.

There was discussion on NUS (Normal Unit Strength) for Engines, especially hard line suction hose.

Action Items:

Dave will update the proposed typing document and send to Tory.

Tory will draft letter on 2i classification to get comments

Leslie Anderson/MTDC:

MTDC Power-point presentation on projects and project status

Fire Shelter test video presentation.

Wes Throop: The Heli-torch testing has been a problem and looking at tapping the fuels group for opportunities.

Ralph Gonzolas/SDTDC:

SDTDC Power-Point presentation on projects and project status

Strategic Planning - Tory:

Looking at having the Strategic Planning information/process we developed and having a specialist put it in a professional format.

General consensus was that work accomplished on the plan looked good.

Life Cycle Planning - Ralph:

A PowerPoint presentation was made, looking at product/project step by step, cradle to grave process.

Innovative Thinkers – New Technology:

Ralph: Standardized method of managing new idea's from the field including a form that asks specific questions and information that can be evaluated in a systematic way.

Standardized evaluation form was presented as well.

Wes talked about this process as it would apply to heli-torch's and some of the items and it led to QPL vs First Article discussion. Need to educate the field on what and what does not need to be blessed by T&D Centers. If it does need to be blessed then it needs to go into the formal process of specification development (design, performance or blend), testing procedures document. Wes will work on specifications and send to Tory
Wes also showed the Charter for ground ignition and the group approved Wes as the Task Group Chair.

EaTis - Tory:

EaTis was pilot tested and identified some issues; full implementation is now expected to be in 2009. It will be tested again next year.

PMS - Tory:

Action Item: Look at the publications list and send comments to Tory before next meeting.

ICBS - Matt:

Update on the status of the Interagency Cache Business System Re-engineering project.

Action Item: Matt will ask Andy for an ICBS document in terms of functionality and capabilities for smaller caches and get that info to the States to see if there is more interest.

RCTG - Matt:

A Power-point on Radio Communications interoperability was presented. Different Narrowband mandates for States and Feds a problem. Significant infrastructure maintenance backlogs for all agencies a major issue. States seeing a rapid movement to trucked radio systems through DHS funding, these closed systems work well for large cities but don't meet the requirements of an open communication program that wild-land fire needs.

Cache Strategic Plan - Tory:

Update on looking at the National Interagency Support Caches (NISC) and consider a more efficient organization, centralized procurement and refurbishment, and a more mobile operation.

Medical Standards - Kim:

Discussion of the AED's, are they needed or not for incidents...

Tory: We need to check to see if there is policy for our federal workplaces to require AED's and if a temp fire camp is included. FEWT members were having a difficult time with adding this to the medical kit because of training, maintenance of equipment. Also EMT/ambulance services usually cover this need and/or they may be leased rather than putting this item in the 1835 500 person kit. It is an expensive item whose funding has not been planned for and the AED's were not considered a essential item for being included in the standard NFES 1835 kit at this time.

Action Item: Kim will reformat medical matrix document and resend to FEWT members since there were some questions concerning the matrix

New Technologies - Tory:

The small crawler tractor is at phase two in the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) development process for a piece of equipment. The demonstration video shows this remote controlled tracked vehicle that can create fireline and has numerous attachments that can be added. Has water tank/pump, other attachments could be made.

Action Item: J.P. will send Tory some information on potential manufacturing vendors, as well as on fire plows, there are applications for non-fire.

Fire Shelter Task Group - Tory:

Life Cycle Plan for the shelter was reviewed, talked about different disposal strategies for the old shelters.

Website review and action items - Tory:

- A) Put task group information on website under team info
- B) Update membership, task-group chairs, charters, minutes and meetings:
- C) Add button on vendor stuff
- D) A protected (password) section
- E) Add a counter to the website if possible
- F) Contact webmaster on archive stuff, 2 years of meeting notes okay.
- G) Update brochure information
- H) Add Fall MTDC and SDTDC powerpoint presentations, add link to both websites.
- I) Add sentence and Link to HACCP: "A planning tool called Hazard Analysis & Critical Control-point Planning (HACCP) is available at <http://haccp-nrm.org>. This tool is designed in developing mitigation plans on environmental impacts that can result from management actions."
- J) Projects section changes: remove or update existing project, consideration was to include steering committee stuff and adding links to new kit change request and product deficiency process's?

Action Item: Members will review FAQ section of webpage for needed changes and review for other additional links by March 1st.

NWCG - Tory:

Share success stories as well as whoopsee's in lessons learn.

They are considering revision of the MOUs between agencies for NWCG.

4H report suggested NWCG needed more structure and should be more focused on standards and guidelines.

Proposed wild-land fire governance structure was presented (blended into NWCG).

Bin Item: environmental cab requirement...not practical to come out with a mandate, better to come out with options, recommendations and advantages/disadvantages information. SDTDC is doing an evaluation next summer.

Next meeting is planned for April 16th, hosted by Steve Counts in Virginia.

MTDC shelter history presentation is planned.