

NWCG CONNECTIONS MINUTES

Date: 22 January 2020

In Attendance:

Terri Jenkins, CEPC | Cole Belongie, DMC | Robyn Heffernan, FENC | Angie Simpson, FMC | Mike VanHemelryck, FMC | Ben McGrane, IBC | Kristy Swartz, IFPC | John Wood, LC | Steve Griffin, NIMSIC | Mark Goeller, RMC | Jolene Ackerman, WUIMC |

Jesse Bender, Publications Manager | Tim Blake, Coordinator | Sean Cross, Program Manager | Deb Fleming, Coordinator | Jeff Hughes, Training Pgm Mgr | Nancie Turner, Webmaster |

Not Present:

ETC | NCSC | IPSC | NIAC | SMOC

Topic

Committee Reports:

- CEPC: Working with the DMC on the *Fire Cause Data Tasking*. Original solicitation of comments netted many responses. The committee is working to refine the data and will post again for a second comment period. Additional work includes a reboot of the RAMS program, refreshing P-310 – Fire Prevention Education Team Member, and a revision of the *Wildfire Prevention Strategies*, PMS 455 publication.
 - DMC: Recently hosted a meeting highlighting the Standards Management Workflow System and they are moving forward with a pilot test. Roshelle will be in touch with NWCG on next steps. In Feb, DMC is hosting a Database Ontology workshop in Boise where they will discuss the relationships of data and its interaction across multiple platforms. Finally, should get the data elements contract in place by April for the Data Cache.
 - FENC: Certified S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior. Currently working to reorganize existing groups, and working with WFIT on the next generation of the Weather Information Management System (WIMS) that known as the Fire Environment Mapping System (FEMS).
 - FMC: Met at National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute (NAFRI) to review M-580, Fire in Ecosystem Management. Prescribed Fire Burn Boss T1 & T2 (RXB1 & RXB2) IPDs are complete, currently working on Firing Boss, Single Resource (FIRB) and Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL). Course revisions underway include RX-301, Prescribed Fire Implementation and RX-341, Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation.
 - IBC: Working to renew the AD Pay Plan for 2020, maintain status quo for Forest Service Cooperative agreements for 2020, working to improve upon the process for the rental vehicle program, and are incorporating “how to” modules into IBC courses.
 - IFPC: Looking to stand up a Resource Advisor Subcommittee and will begin working through the process to bring the READ & REAF positions under NWCG instead of being Fed Only.
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- LC: In the process of finalizing the Curriculum Management Guide and will then refocus committee work going into the future.
- NIMSIC: Engaged in work coordinating with FEMA on NQS position updates and working on an SME review of the All-Hazard Type 3 IMT Tiered System Concept.
- RMC: Currently working to complete a review of the Safety Officer (SOFR) IPD, the Firefighter Health Safety Study is entering into its third year of data collection, Hazard Tress Subcommittee (HTSC) working on video modules in response to the Captain Brian Hughes Fatality Report, and will be having a combined meeting with the Equipment Technology Committee (ETC) in April.
- WUIMC: Have experienced a lot of turnover in membership recently and currently have one vacancy left to fill. Will be hosting a training on the best mitigation practices in Boise in February.

Training Update:

- IPD Status: 44 currently posted (35%), projected 77 by April (61%).
- S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior was certified at the January Executive Board meeting.
- Working with the IBC and FMC on training modules.

NWCG Annual Meeting:

- Task team is underway developing the agenda with an emphasis on interpersonal communications. Two trainers will be facilitating the meeting and addressing the concepts of wildland fire as it relates to neuroscience, adaptation, and resilience.
- Final agenda will be sent the first week of February.

Website Additions

- Have been working on updating the homepage web presence of each committee. Nancie will be in contact with those committees who are left.
- Working to move committee information currently hosted on a Google Site to the NWCG website (e.g. NFDERS).
- The National Training website has been taken down; there is a redirect in place that takes people to the Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP).

Subgroup Assessment Tasking

- Working with FENC and SMOC on a framework that organizes course management subgroups into: a) course steering committees, and b) curriculum management subgroups. Have come to agreement on a revised FENC framework (they have 7 out of 20 course groups mentioned in the tasking.) Will use this as a template for how we structure other training related subgroups.
- Will present initial recommendations to the Executive Board in February.

Executive Board (EB) Interest in Connections Calls

- At their December meeting, the EB expressed interest in participating in the Connection Calls.
- After a brief discussion on the topic, Committee Chairs support this interest. EB will receive information on these meetings going forward.

Recap of January Executive Board Meeting

- Frank Guzman (USFS) will assume Chair responsibilities with Shane McDonald (FWS) as Vice-Chair.
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- Brad Koeckeritz (DOI UAS) reported on the moratorium of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). The entire fleet of DOI UAS (810 aircraft modules) is grounded due to Department of Defense (DOD) concerns over Chinese made parts and procurement of additional UAS is prohibited.
- IPSC Response to TM-19-005 Evaluation of the Span of Control for Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource (HEQB), and Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ). IPSC Findings: (1) No specified number regarding span of control for HEQB or STEQ exists; although it is inferred that single means one and (2) Several lessons learned have occurred relating to heavy equipment and inadequate supervision. IPSC does not support the request to increase the span of control for the HEQB.
- Executive Board will task the IPSC to address the need for creating a standardized Recognition of Prior (RPL) process.
- Executive Board will steward the *Draft Publication A Preparedness Guide for Firefighters and Their Families*.
- Approved Wildland Fire Governance Learning Portal (WFLP) Governance Board Charter.
- Recommendation to Charter the Geographic Area Training Representative (GATRs).
- National Weather Services (NWS) has proposed to become NWCG members. Executive Board to discuss in February.
- Discussion on the Proposal for the Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee (IEMS) to become the Emergency Medical Committee (EMC). Further discussion at their February meeting.

NWCG Staff Updates:

- Received approx. 25 budget requests and will be beginning the process of going through each for prioritization.
- A web-based generic NWCG Publication Feedback form is available for committee use as desired. Reach out to Jesse and Nancie for more information.

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 1, 2020 at 10:00am Mountain Time.