

NWCG CONNECTIONS MINUTES

Date: April 01, 2020

In Attendance:

Terri Jenkins, CEPC | Cole Belongie & Roshelle Pederson, DMC | Kaili McCray, EMS | Dave Haston, ETC | Robyn Heffernan, FENC | Angie Simpson, FMC | Kristy Swartz, IFPC | Tommy Hayes, IPSC | John Wood & Eric Walker, LC | Steve Griffin, NIMSIC | Pete Lahm, SMOC | Jolene Ackerman, WUIMC | Tim Blake, Coordinator | Deb Fleming, Coordinator | Jeff Hughes, Training Pgrm Mgr | Nancie Turner, Webmaster | Jesse Bender, Publications Mgr, | Marie Bates, Admin Asst
Executive Board: Frank Guzman | Aitor Bidaburu | Will May

Not Present:

Ben McGrane, IBC | Jarrod Simontacchi, NCSC | Joel Kerley, NIAC | Mike Mattfield, NIMSIC | Mark Goeller, RMC | Sean Cross, NWCG Program Manager

Roll Call, Agenda Review, Annual Meeting Follow-up

- NWCG had an after-action review and collected notes from the annual meeting. Additional work will be done by the NWCG staff before discussing further with committees.

NWCG Actions regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- **Training Updates – Jeff**
Existing course materials are being posted online to provide immediate download access to students and instructors. Identified ten initial instructor-led courses that will be reviewed and posted at nwcg.gov (in addition to the six that are currently posted). Working to develop recommendations to help instructors successfully deliver instructor-led training courses with web-conferencing tools.
- **Committee efforts underway related to COVID-19 – All**
 - Leadership Committee** – Social media efforts increasing. Developing applicable content and tools.
 - Communication, Education, & Prevention Committee** – Prevention Team webinar in April focusing on how to utilize virtual Fire Prevention Education Teams (FPET) this summer.
 - Data Management Committee** – Working with FMB to get wildland fire resource information in relation to COVID-19 outbreaks. Information will be available to the public.
 - Smoke Committee** – Various members engaged in COVID-19 and related smoke issues. April Smoke Symposium will have a COVID-19/Smoke Panel.
 - Emergency Medical Committee** – Recently worked with the RMC to revise the infectious disease guidelines. Assembled a ‘think tank’ group to field the multitude of questions coming in.
 - Equipment Technology Committee** – National cache is getting hammered with supply orders and PPE requests. NMAC released a memo regarding holding inventory for fire support.
 - National Interagency Aviation Committee** – Stood up a task team to develop aviation refresher training direction for the field.

- Other ideas/thoughts on what we can do to help you – All
If there is anything the NWCG staff can do to assist the committees through these challenging times, please let your coordinator know. We will make sure the FMB memos are distributed to all chairs and the Exec Board.

Committee Reports:

Communication, Education, & Prevention Committee – Continued work on the Fire Cause Task Group with DMC; prepping for second round of comments. Working on reconfiguring and modernizing FPETs. PIO Subcommittee working on messaging for this fire season. Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee posted last set of revised glossary terms for comment.

Data Management Committee – Data Cache Technical Report was finalized last week; now starting to build things out and will know more as we move forward in the future.

Emergency Medical Committee – Next meeting scheduled April 22. Reviewing final draft of MEDL IPD. Working on final draft of Burn Procedures memo; will share with RMC before moving it forward.

Fire Environment Committee – Finished restructure of committee as a result of the Executive Board Training Subgroup Tasking. FENC conference call later today.

Fuels Management Committee – Members are busy providing agency direction. Meeting next week.

Interagency Fire Planning Committee – Working on needs for Next Gen to make sure state interests are represented. Engaged with INFORM. Continued work on Resource Advisor positions.

Incident and Position Standards Committee – Working on nine open action items related to several committees, publications, etc. Meeting next week.

Leadership Committee – Planning a virtual meeting to replace the face-to-face meeting next week.

Smoke Committee – Working on two new glossary definitions. Have final draft of the Smoke, Roadways & Safety Guide. Reviewing several IPDs and will provide input from a smoke perspective.

Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee – Working on the Mitigation and Best Practices Training; hoping to create a web-based version. Working on a WUI Mitigation Specialist position.

Publications Manager – Currently working on several publication revisions along with multiple course revisions; incoming products will be prioritized appropriately.

NWCG Coordinator (Tim) – Facilitating Fire Management Board calls. They are coordinating efforts as best they can and working on ways to share information.

NWCG Coordinator (Deb) – Krysta Shultz has taken a new job with OAS (as of today). She is going to continue her support with NIAC and FMB. Send questions/requests to your coordinator until we have a replacement.

Executive Board (Frank Guzman) – Good to hear about all the good work going on.

Executive Board (Aitor Bidaburu) – Jeff Soule (USFA) is working closely with Gordy Sachs (FS) on COVID-19 efforts.

Executive Board (Will May) – Hasn't seen FMB memos; please send to all.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 1 @ 1000