

# NWCG CONNECTIONS MINUTES

**Date:** July 01, 2020

## **In Attendance:**

Tina Boehle, CEPC | Rochelle Pederson, DMC | Cole Belongie, DMC | Bill Yohn, ETC | X Robyn Heffernan, FENC | Angie Simpson, FMC | Ben McGrane, IBC | Justin Boeck, IFPC | John Wood, LC | Steve Griffin, NIMSIC | Mark Goeller, RMC | Pete Lahm, SmoC | Jeremy Taylor, WUIMC | Steve Shaw, Program Manager | Tim Blake, Coordinator | Deb Fleming, Coordinator | Marley Marshall, Coordinator | Jesse Bender, Publications Manager | Jeff Hughes, Training Program Manager | Nancie Turner, Webmaster | Will May, Executive Board | Shane McDonald, Executive Board |

---

## **Not Present:**

Kaili McCray, EMC | Tommy Hayes, IPSC | Jarrod Simontacchi, NCSC | Joel Kerley, NIAC |

---

## **NWCG Staff Update**

- Brain Harrison (Training Specialist detailer), Wendy Tresouthick (Training Specialist detailer), Randy Anderson (Publications detailer), Jody Wisner (Writer/Editor detailer), Steve Shaw (Program Manager detailer), Marley Marshall (Coordinator detailer). Jeremy Sullens selected for NWCG Program Manager, start date unknown at this time. Advertising a 120-day NWCG Executive Secretary (vice Schultz) detail, closes July 2nd.

## **Committee Reports**

- **Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee** – Scheduling P-301 and P-310 delivery for 2020/2021. Decision on PIO positions, partial conversion this fall with full conversion next year due to complexities.
  - **Data Management Committee** – Fire Cause Data Standard completed second round of comments, tasking team will begin review process. New Current Incident open data service stood up to replace the decommissioned GeoMAC. Working with IROC and IRWIN teams on a resources open data service for the display of resources currently committed to incident. Piloting a graphing database project with DOI, more information at fall meeting.
  - **Emergency Medical Committee** – Not present, no report.
  - **Equipment Technology Committee** – Last meeting Fall 2019. Spring 2020 meeting to be hosted jointly with RMC was cancelled. Cache systems busy with incident support.
  - **Fire Environment Committee** – Lightning data is not flowing as it should due to complications with contractor – if contractor cannot correct then there will be a transition to another source for data. Setting up Lighting Unit for long standing guidance. Beginning stages of the next version of WIMS. Satellite data task team present findings tomorrow, then 30-days for FENC member review/comment before being presented the Executive Board. LTAN IPD near finalization and FBAN IPD under review.
  - **Fuels Management Committee** – IPDs complete. Discovery sessions with IRWIN on fuels data. NWCG tasking for FMC substructures and curriculum management complete. RX-510 Course Steering Committee and RX- M-580 Course Steering Committee stood up. Fire Use Subcommittee chair change Casey Boespflug.
  - **Incident and Position Standards Committee** – Not present, no report.
-

- 
- **Incident Business Committee** – COVID-19 and impact to the incident business community is high and evolving. IBC is assessing alternative ways to support incidents. Effort to look at more electronic form submittals – work in progress with a desire to get beta tested. Process of adding a second vendor to the National Emergency Rental Vehicle (NERV) online program. Rental shortages are being seen as result of the impacts of COVID-19. Training modules are being developed and work being done to determine how to incorporate those are on larger scale.
  - **Interagency Fire Planning Committee** – In process of standing up resource advisory subcommittee with the purpose being to review and maintained the resource advisor IPDs. Received a request from the Executive Board to review the committee’s primary objectives.
  - **Leadership Committee** - Webpage transition is in progress. Thank you to Nancie and Pam for the heavy lift of moving everything over. Working on L-280 course updates, received request from an IHC for involvement. Thirty Mile video has hit roadblocks but LC continues to look for and are finding opportunities. Intent for the video and products to highlight and focused on important aspects of the staff ride.
  - **National Coordination System Committee** – Not present, no report.
  - **NIMS Integration Committee** – Committee calls have been minimal over past months due to COVID-19. Work on positions and documents for All-Hazard communities. Reviewing terms that need source.
  - **National Interagency Aviation Committee** – Not present, no report
  - **Risk Management Committee** – Lots of support of COVID-19 and risk management work. IPDs for SOF1 and SOF2 under review. Kelly Woods new Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center Manager. RMC and subcommittee working on Work Capacity Test: Administrator’s Guide, sawyers video, mental health WFSTAR video, Week of Remembrance, and a 6 Minutes for Safety message addressing smoke and COVID-19.
  - **Smoke Committee** – COVID-19 continues to be part dialog but not primary focus. Publications in progress: NWCG Guide to Smoke Management on Prescribed Fires, PMS 420-3, Smoke and Roadway Safety Guide, PMS 477 and NWCG Smoke Management Guide for Prescribed Fire. Team assembled, contract going out for bid and ready to begin work for SOF, MEDL, LOG video. Continue to coordinate and working with different agencies for COVID and smoke. International Smoke Symposium occurred virtually with great participation.
  - **Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee** – Working on a mitigation specialist position that will begin as an agency specific position in the Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement with long term plan to add to PMS 310-1. Working on the field guide (Green Book) for mitigation subject matter experts. Delivering mitigation best practices trainings.

---

#### **FireNet Update - Jesse**

- FireNet transitioned to Microsoft Office platform which allows for guest access. Those with FireNet accounts can invite individuals without accounts as guests. Guest accounts cannot access shared email inboxes. Use of guest access is highly encouraged due to backlog on account requests and limited licenses available. Prioritizing requests to IMTs and dispatch offices. Feedback can be provided to Jessie who can take to the business lead group.

---

#### **Feedback from NWCG Annual Meeting – Steve**

- NWCG staffed reviewed and are determining how to implement/address. Important not to lose sight of the feedback. Highlighted and addressed issues/themes that were raised multiple times - website, staff, priorities, social media.
-

---

### **Project Prioritization – Deb**

- Trainings, website, and publications projects specific to workload across the NWCG staff. Intent to be transparent (via webpage) of the projects, criteria, and the priority identified. NWCG staff and IPSC representative will meet monthly to review and update.

---

### **PMS 210 Memo – Jesse**

- Request from IPSC to all committees to review the content of Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide, PMS 210 and answer identified questions to assist in determining a future of this document and content. Questions and/or responses to Jesse by August 1st.

---

### **Training and IPD Updates – Jeff**

- 77 IPDs complete. S-110 analysis under way. S-130 out for field review. S-190 online version process starting based on previously certified instructor lead training. S-420 pending certification.

---

### **NWCG Branding Update – Jesse**

- Higher quality logo that is to be used going forward. A sharable webpage will identify how to use the brand and the expectations of its use. New branding included in templates, publications, training material, and videos.

---

### **Future Meeting and Information Sharing – Deb**

- Group supports continued quarterly meetings. Next meeting will be September 30th. Support for posting Connections Meeting information (documents, notes, etc.) on the NWCG website to refer to and share. Staff will work to develop website and share when complete.
-