



## NWCG Meeting Notes

January 20, 2021

**Executive Board:** Garth Fisher (BIA), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Dan Smith (NASF), Shane McDonald (FWS), Mark Koontz (NPS), Tim Sexton (RD&A), Jim Durglo (ITC), Will May (IAFC), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Frank Guzman - Chair (USFS)

**NWCG Staff:** Deb Fleming (NWCG Program Manager/Coordinator), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Annie Benoit (Coordinator) Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Nancie Turner (Webmaster), Jeff Hughes (Training Program Manager)

**Guests:** Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Robin Brooks (BLM), Heath Cota (TDC), Joel Kerley (NIAC), John Buehler (NIAC), Michael Minton (ICAC), Joe Stutler (ICAC)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p><b>NWCG Project Priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed and validated Project Pories <a href="https://www.nwcg.gov/priorities">https://www.nwcg.gov/priorities</a></li> </ul>	N/A
<p><b>TM-20-003, Alternative Course Delivery Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority students defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals having the ability to complete related position task book (PTB) and qualification certification withing next 12-18 months.</li> <li>Individuals for whom the course is directly related to skills required to function in their current position or those whose career advancement within the next year will be impacted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>NWCG has provided guidance for virtual delivery of NWCG training courses that is consistent with the Training Development Committee (TDC) tasking and FMB guidance.</li> <li>Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In person training (leadership courses, aviation, S-520, Prescribed Fire Training Center).</li> <li>Instructor Lead Training (ILT) Cadre/Instructor knowledge skills abilities shifting to Virtual Instructor Lead Training (VLT).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Drafting communication plan to the workforce, available next week.</li> <li>Established NWCG library in the learning portal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allowing GACCs to copy courses and use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>M-581, Close coordination with GACCS. 8 courses to 5.</li> <li>National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI); has 20 courses and 17 are now virtual.</li> <li>Bi-weekly trainer workshops.</li> <li>TDC has posted FAQ on webpage, Mailchimp and social media. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will be continually updated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	N/A

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (e.g., handouts, presentations) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via email [blm\\_fa\\_foia@blm.gov](mailto:blm_fa_foia@blm.gov).



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<p><b>Annual Meeting – Agenda Approval/Discussion on EB Proposed Topic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NWCG Staff draft list of accomplishments and priorities.</li> <li>EB Board will discuss vision for NWCG.</li> <li>Annual Meeting Agenda approved.</li> </ul>	<p>APPROVED: Annual Meeting Agenda.</p> <p>APPROVED: EB Topic- NWCG Accomplishments, EB Vision.</p>
<p><b>Interagency Airtanker Board (IAB) – NWCG or Agency Function:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently IAB is governed by National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) and NWCG EB. Need clarity on discussion space and who communicates.</li> <li>EB uncomfortable with giving direction to FS contracting. What is reasonable and who is liable? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More specifics need to be written in contracts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Concern – Without governance from NIAC and NWCG there could be major differences between agencies.</li> <li>All agencies have representation on IAB.</li> <li>When an impasse arises NIAC gets involved. Generally, when interim approvals are given.</li> <li>Relationship between NIAC, EB and IAB allows for an opportunity to tackle issues and get decision makers together. Then each agency/state can write specifics into contracts.</li> <li>IAB will clarify mission statement and ensure that it aligns with the 2013 Procedures and Criteria document. Define roles. What can IAB approve?</li> </ul>	<p>IAB will clarify mission and define roles.</p> <p>Need more discussion.</p>
<p><b>Cancellation of National Aerial Supervision Training Academy (NASTA) Training:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cancelled due to furlough and COVID.</li> <li>Many ramifications of cancelling. Accidents could be indirectly tied to cancelled training.</li> <li>NIAC will organize official relationship between NIAC, NASTA and EB. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify governance, decision space and map out communication lines.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NIAC organize official relationship between NIAC, NASTA and EB.</p>

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