

## MNICS Task Force Meeting

6/19/2019

0930-1530

MIFC 3

**Attendees:** Seth Grimm, Cory Berg, BJ Glesener, Kurt Fogelberg, Chase Marshall, Rebekah Luedtke, Leanne Langeberg

**Absent:** Ron Stoffel, Roy Holmes

### AGENDA ITEM (NOTE: These are in no particular order)

### NOTES

<p><b>MIFC Building &amp; Budget</b></p>	<p><b>Building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lights have been replaced on front and side of building.</li> <li>- Carpets cleaned in the Cache – out of Cache funds (\$486) – Brian feels that we should start to clean carpets throughout the building. Get on a schedule of having a section cleaned every year. Last time was when the HVAC was replaced. Training room carpet really needs a cleaning or to be replaced.</li> <li>- Generator controller parts have been ordered.</li> <li>- Replace control board on HVAC Roof unit – cost \$1867 – call in to check if it is still under warranty – we put in a little over 3 years ago.</li> <li>- Projects needed – stairs into cache – NEK will pay for it.</li> <li>- Repair to the roof – FS may have extra money after other projects have been funded, that could cover the roof cost - ~ \$50,000 potential. Will know more next week.</li> </ul> <p><b>Budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not committed \$9000 – light repair comes out of this – we may increase slightly as the invoices come through maybe a couple thousand.</li> <li>- This resets next month with new fiscal year for the State.</li> </ul>
<p><b>IMT rotation continuation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weather conditions have been normal to drier than predictions have indicated and the Forest Service reported a need.</li> <li>- Team rotations will end for spring season, but will request IC availability and build a team if necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Task Force meeting minutes distribution</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any non-Task Force member requests to view Task Force notes will be directed to the MNIC.org posting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MNICS Agreements w/ BOD @ 1000</b></p>	<p><b>Overview:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task Force and Board of directors reviewed the hierarchy of the Interagency Fire Agreements from the State Master Agreement level down through the Operations Plan to the Financial Plan and Protection Agreements.</li> <li>- Minnesota’s Master Cooperative agreement allows for grant funding. All MNICS agencies have signed, awaiting signature at the Forest Service Regional Office level.</li> <li>- The Operations Plan is the next plan to be completed. The current “MNICS Cooperative Agreement” can continue to exist until the new operations plan is complete because the Master Plan is in place. This allows for the movement of funds between agencies and serves in the capacity of the MNICS agreement. Operations Plan should be ready for signature by September 1, 2019.</li> <li>- The financial plan (appendix to the Operations Plan) serves as the instrument to detail the finances for MIFC and to support MNICS fire management activities. It will continue to be reviewed and signed annually. The FY2020 update is ready for review.</li> <li>- Shared protection agreements (appendix to the Operations Plan) – Task Force is considering one agreement that will include all the MNICS partnering agencies (Tribes will be represented by the BIA). Each agency will provide a representative to coordinate the agreements. Agreements will be completed for implementation in 2020.</li> </ul>

	<p>Operations Plan Coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operations Plan must be ready for signatures by September 1, 2019. Will go to BOD for review.</li> <li>- Task Force will designate one person to lead the coordination. Recommendation for Brenda Frenzel - FS agreement specialist. Chase Marshall will coordinate with Brenda Frenzel.</li> <li>- Committee for operations plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Grants and Agreements – Cristine Basina (BIA), Kim Muirhead (FWS), Brenda Frenzel (FS), Jodi Wagner (DNR), Katherine Bernard (NPS) (phone 303-468-2500).</li> <li>o A rep from each agency fire program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Forest Service designates Ben Roy and Mike Rice.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o All Task Force members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Coordination meeting: July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>- Open to any agency rep and BOD member interested in attending. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Emphasis areas: strictly focus on the operations plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Day 1 - fire management and contracting will meet separately.</li> <li>▪ Day 2 - meet as a joint group with the intention to complete the plan for signatures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Location of the meeting is to-be-determined. Seth Grimm proposes to meet in Detroit Lakes – he will verify availability of conference rooms. For overnight accommodations, recommendation to book rooms at the <a href="#">Fairfield Inn by Marriot</a>, Detroit Lake (218) 844-0001.</li> <li>o The back-up meeting location will be MIFC training room.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Pre-coordination meeting tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prior to the July Task Force meeting, all agencies work out protection details, identify anything in the MNICS agreement that relates to your agency (not covered in the Master Agreement) and transfer it into the operations plan. Track all changes.</li> <li>- Send tracked changes to Rebekah Luedtke who will keep the master copy. She will seek approval from all agencies before finalizing the changes to the master copy.</li> <li>- <b>ACTION ITEM for all Agencies:</b> gather all necessary data for the operations plan prior to the July meeting including fire occurrence, enforcement, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pre discussion – Wildfire Academy After Action Review</b></p>	<p>Task Force plans to review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cost of 2019 academy</li> <li>- How to improve organization, and awareness of the value in the IMT for the Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Potential to run the IMT as an Academy Course real training event</li> <li>o Organize the team earlier before team members are committed to a training session as a trainer or student.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Defining the role of the Task Force, Training Coordinators and the Training Working Team in the planning process. Develop more defined side boards for all.</li> <li>- When advertising Academy focus on inclusiveness and fair timeliness for registrations of all MNICS agencies.</li> <li>- Gain a better understanding of why and when course enrollment size for some courses is not followed (more students added than listed enrollment size).</li> <li>- How to incorporate the nomination form.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wildfire Academy After Action Review</b></p>	<p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A successful academy - 729 total course registration, approximately 590 students including 29 local fire departments and 14 States.</li> <li>- Student registration cancellations down 50% compared to last year.</li> <li>- Mike Aultman led IMT (his 4<sup>th</sup> academy as IC). Many returning academy IMT members improved efficiency and troubleshooting. Agency Admin was Paul Lundgren.</li> <li>- This was Meadow Koufeld’s second year running the academy, she took on a stronger coordination role. Lee Kessler worked with Meadow before the academy, and with Todd and the Team during the academy.</li> </ul>

- Guest speaker and dinner, nor polo shirts offered due to financial constraints. Publication costs were 8% higher this year. Food expenses approximately \$47,000,
- No financial summary was offered.

#### Take Away and Impacts

- Student evaluations: difficulty in finding lodging, outdated course material, but instructors are meeting and exceeding student needs.
- First time the Academy coincided with ICC summer courses, which resulted in a conflict for course room availability. ICC has assured MNICS the conflict will not happen in the future.
- Superior NF Rx Burns ran right up to the academy – no instructors nor students missed courses. Academy was a stress on all agencies due to still be in fire danger in several areas.
- There was an issue posting the course schedule to the national fire training calendar, but due to high interest related to the government shutdown’s impacts on other academy, may have worked in our favor with pressure for registrations.
- There continues to be great interest from our GLFFC and international partners to attend. The Region has been expressed to do more courses during the academy.
- Lodging isn’t sufficient for the number of students, trainers and IMT members. Several attendees had to stay in BJI, HIB or other cities. The Task Force, Training WT and coordinators will need to consider future lodging concerns and determine the appropriate number the academy can sustain. Also concerned that area hotels are price gouging Academy attendees.
- The current number of classes remains to be seen. Currently not enough lodging, instructors and team members to cover everything.
- 2 planned hotels for Grand Rapids fell through, continuing constraints on lodging. Sugar Lake Lodge has the potential to house, offer classroom space and feed students, and could be looked at like as a spike camp. All campus housing was utilized.
- Stay alert to the possibility for Line 3 construction, and potential impacts it can have on upcoming academy lodging.

#### Discussion:

- Expanded course enrollment concerns: student enrollees should only expand if instructors agreed they could take on more.
- Course Pre-work – it is recognized that some students who enrolled closer to the academy had difficulty in completing pre-coursework.
- Correspondence – supervisors who sign up multiple students receive all the correspondence, not the students. Need to consider ways to improve this communication.
- The academy is held the first week in June because in the past summer school was is not in session that week. It is possible to move the Academy back a week?
- ICC remains the best place to host the academy at the moment. Considerations for metro areas would increase the price and we would lose some of the aspects of the academy. Also, ICC is close in proximity to the Cache, and the campus as a whole has the FS and U of MN connection. The Provost is willing to give up space when possible.
- Menu items – Todd wants to have more input on food and snacks and feels we should be able to improve the menu and snacks items.

#### IMT and Complexity

- Incident complexity is something we continue to grapple with, it must fit the need of the academy. It is recognized that the model that we want to achieve is a type 3, but factors to focus on include lodging and carrying capacity.

#### IMT as a training opportunity

- Steve Goldman expressed interest in training for Type 2 trainees, the complexity is there when we offer IWI course. Aaron Mielke advised he had a good training experience, along with all command and general staff trainees.
- Task Force acknowledges and appreciates all the work from the IMT, and also recognizes there are carrying capacity consideration that can make it functional at a type 3.
- A recommendation was made to offer the IMT as a future Academy course.

	<p>This discussion was tabled for now, and will continue when Todd et al are able to provide more summary information. Expect the Task Force to be more involved in the planning of the 2020 Academy.</p>
<p><b>Other</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>MIFC/ MNCC staff positions</b></li> <li>- <b>S-491</b></li> </ul>	<p>S-491 – BJ Glesener</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will offer to host the S-491 in the winter/spring of 2020 - January-April timeframe. Course holds 25 – potential for 6 FS, 5 DNR, and 2-3 BIA. A lead instructor is provided. Location would be Grand Rapids MIFC, or Blandin’s conference room.</li> <li>- Task Force approves</li> </ul> <p>MIFC/MNCC staff positions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is concern about how MNCC will fill/ backfill positions. There is desire is advertise/ interview dual agency (state/federal), a request has been made to the Board figure out the process. We will not back fill the recently vacated logistic dispatcher position until direction is given.</li> <li>- It is ideal that the assistant center managers are filled by one BIA, one FS and one DNR.</li> <li>- Looking at potential for 120-day detail due to stability, as filling with other agency staff or smokechasers is variable and inconsistent.</li> <li>- Is it possible to use the general fund to cofund more positions?</li> <li>- There will be a challenge of hiring through federal government due to back log in hiring. Forest Service fire hire is only time in a year for all GS 9s and below.</li> <li>- 120 day detail – For the FS the position would have to be an empty position to fill with a 120-day detail. Opportunity to bring someone in to back fill behind the flood lead position and place them in logistics? That would leave IA short in the near term.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Individual Agency Updates</b></p>	<p><b>FWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waiting on FMO hiring for MN Valley.</li> <li>- YTD: 158 RX burns – 33,945 ac, 15 wildfires for 596 ac.</li> <li>- Russ Langford is currently action Regional coordinator while Riggins in on a special detail.</li> <li>- Dan Muaber in as Acting Deputy.</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Isle Royal refresher last week. Very quiet.</li> </ul> <p><b>FS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fuel reduction 13,500 ac – close meeting the 16,000 ac target assigned by the region. Will attempt to burn Kangas, east of Ely, with aerial ignition when conditions allow.</li> <li>- AD discussion – no resolution or changes yet.</li> </ul> <p><b>BIA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing in on the fuels specialist position and will be based out of Bemidji. The position has been on the org chart for a long time.</li> <li>- Next year looking at a new contract for an A star. Red Lake Helicopter would start season in Oklahoma, come to MN then move out to Billings.</li> </ul> <p><b>DNR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 560 fires this spring – normally we average 800 - 1,000.</li> <li>- Staffing updates: Anna Hines accepted Linda Bruss’s position. Linda retires 7/5. Interviewing Ron’s position, who’s retiring on 7/9. Kevin Carlisle has accepted the logistics ground support position (previously held by Tom Kaase) and will start in a couple weeks.</li> </ul> <p>See where we are at after the July meeting and plan for later Voyagers meeting this year.</p>

Next meeting: July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, potentially in Detroit Lakes. This meeting will be a work meeting to finalize the Operations plan.