

MNICS Task Force Meeting

5/16/2019

0930-1200

MIFC 3 or Conference Call 1 available – 888.742.5095; code 856 204 8339

Attendees: Seth Grimm, Cory Berg, Ron Stoffel, Kurt Fogelberg, Chase Marshall, Roy Holmes, Rebekah Luedtke, Natasha Woodwick, Leanne Langeberg

Special attendance: Brian Wise FS

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

NOTES

<p>MIFC Building & Budget – Brian Wise</p>	<p><i>Building report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor fixtures require replacement, along with photocells. This increases the cost by \$333.00. TF approves replacement. - Roof leaks due to degrading scuppers and rubber edging. Estimate to replace rubber edging - \$45,000 with a 5 year warranty. - Roof was replaced in 1997. - Brian will contact Forest Service Facilities Manager to determine emergency funding for repairs. Otherwise TF will need to consider 2020 Coop funds. - Brian is working on an estimate for the Cache steps project. <p><i>Budget</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We're in the last 1.5 months of the 2019 FY budget - Rebekah will coordinate with Mike Rice to acquire financial plan signatures from Darla on 5/16/19.
<p>Wildfire Academy Update @ 1030 Todd & Tracy</p>	<p><i>Academy General</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 709 registrations - including MNICS agencies and local fire departments. - Student letters will be sent 5/16/2019. - Courses with availability: EVOC, S290, L-381, Food Unit Leader, S-203. The RT130 will fill up with students from courses like S130/190. - Concern raised about blood drive not presented to the Task Force (TF) for approval prior to booking and efforts to scale back event complexity. - Blood drive initiated with an outreach from Memorial Blood Centers to Paul Lundgren, citing donations are low in the NE and nationwide, viewed as a great opportunity. - Donations open to students, instructors, MNICS partners and Regional DNR staff, limited to 50 slots. Students must gain approval from instructor if they sign-up during a class time. - 2020 the Type 3 Team on rotation will coordinate the Academy. If an individual on the team is not a lead instructor, the team role will take priority over support-instructor role. <p><i>Vetting students</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training Working Team's (TWT) involvement with the Academy - identify the courses early and assign instructors. - TF focused on improving the vetting of student prerequisites - There is challenge vetting with First Come First Serve (FCFS) process, and not meeting the needs assessment requirement. - TF requests looking into incorporating the NWCG nomination form prior to registration, and a TWT member to verify the pre-requisites for the courses. - Tribal programs are challenged to make immediate payment in current registration process, and risk losing a necessary training spot to a FCFS trainee who is either not qualified or doesn't need the course. - Can Tribal Program nominations to be sent to a TWT rep who can register and pay for priority Tribal trainees?

	<p><i>Academy Planning Assignments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a 2019 Academy after action review of the coordination and vetting process to better prepare for the 2020 Academy. - Improve cohesiveness between Academy coordinator and the TWT by involving TWT Chair throughout the coordination process. The TWT chair will attend all Academy planning meetings with the coordinator, and vet student prerequisites. - TF requests course offerings be released earlier in the year, and allow a grace period for needs assessments before opening FCFS registrations. Request made to prioritize the 300-level and higher courses. - TF requests the percentage (number of seats) each agency receives for course prioritization be determined for the 2020 Academy.
<p>2019 MNICS T2 IA Crew Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two IA Crews have been formed, allowing for alternates and substitutes. - This year crew numbers have increased, more primaries applied. The alternate list was sent in an email. - Continue to see a shortage in DOI agencies, this is the trend. - Crew cohesion May 29th & 30th - speakers and exercises lined up. - FEPP program acquired coax container to be used as crew supply storage. <p><i>International Assignments to Canada</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the past has been viewed as helping out Canadian neighbors in their time of need with our people who are skilled. - The mobilization process of our IA Crews has been challenging with the NICC/EACC to coordinate between federal versus state resources. - The EACC wants to send 20 person crews, but will only send federal, and are not open to a dual mobilization process. - What Ontario needs is different than what we have in the states. They need 4 to 5 person crew along with helicopter experience. - At this time we will not proceed with IA crews to Canada, due to coordination challenges and NICC concerns.
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NIMO exercise - MNICS Apparel - Smokey 75th celebration and budget 	<p><i>NIMO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NIMO exercise will not happen in 2019, will try for 2020 <p><i>MNICS Apparel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land's end storefront open - 2 logo options: Type 3 Team, general MNICS. Orders can be placed online and purchased with a personal credit card. - Agency approval needed for employee to use of agency funds for orders. - Option to purchase promotional items (pens, mugs, etc) at a bulk rate available. 4 Imprint – is another promotional ordering option. <p><i>Smokey 75th Tall Timber Days Budget</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Event August 3 & 4, 2019 in Grand Rapids. Saturday 8 - 5 – interactive booth near Central School with games, 30ft inflatable Smokey, informational tables, frequent appearances by Smokey and fire engines. Sunday Parade. - Seeking funding for: giveaway stress ball birthday cupcakes, printing and possible historic posters. - Possible Smokey swag funding available from MIFC front desk prevention fund allocation, Chase will investigate. - We have 3000 “Buffs” from MN DNR to use as giveaways. - Leanne will ask Jeff Jackson MN DNR about Fire Wise handouts. - Leanne will ask Casey McCoy MN DNR about the use of the 1928 fire truck that we could put Smokey on during the parade. Alternative - fire engines from MNICS can be arranged for Saturday and Sunday. - Leanne will develop a budget request for the next task force meeting.

<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Herberg Photography - AD future planning Chase 	<p><i>Professional Photography</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal to purchase limited license agreement (anything not used for a profit) from Matt Herberg, local professional fire photographer. MNICS can use high resolution photos in publications, public information efforts, for use in special awards and to display in the MNICS hallways. - \$100 for one photo, or bulk purchase 5 photos for \$400. - TF approves request to purchase professional photos. - Suggestion to look into Kerry Greer photography work. <p><i>AD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USFS Deputy Director and Laura, EACC Center Manager, propose placing hiring of Forest Service AD on to the coordination centers, MNCC would be a hiring center. - The AD hiring viewed as an HR function, not a dispatch ordering process. Would this effort be supported by a Forest Service HR qualified staff member located at MNCC, or if responsibility would fall on to the MNCC Coordinator? - Next step - discussions will continue at the next sub-committee level. - Chase will brief Paul Lundgren on the conversation.
<p>Individual Agency Updates</p>	<p><i>Chase</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Fire directors have agreed to use 310-1 qualifications standards. - Rx burning – continuing as weather will allow. - Forest Service has resources available to share. - Rainbow gathering – last week in June. They are looking at Forests in the Northeast, and sent a scout to Cook, MN. Forest Service with have an IMT led by Law Enforcement, and will coordinate in Duluth, it will be mostly Forest Service but may be looking for IMT support. Chase will send out more information. <p><i>Tasha</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We continue to have issues with EA and NICC to push name requests and hard dollar orders through, they are shut down by NICC. - Collaborated with EACC in drafting language for placing orders. This is not affecting FWS grant grassland burning. <p><i>Roy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completing damage assessments for flooding, once complete will total up damages and send to FEMA. - Training on state EOC <p><i>Kurt</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported North Dakota - Theodor Roosevelt NP RX burns. - Progress moving toward focus on mechanical side of fire, will need to consider a GS 5/6 career seasonal for 2020 season. - Brenda is gone for next 2 weeks. - Regional FMOs will do an aviation review next week. FS/NPS Pilot agreement has stalled. <p><i>Seth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Career seasonal started Monday, Justin Doyle hired, and waiting on FMO at MN Valley. - Morris had an 80ac wildfire yesterday. - RX 26,000 acres for MN – taking advantage of windows. This is higher for our yearly average and current staffing levels, usually we reach 18 – 20 thousand mark each year. <p><i>Ron</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNIT Joel Perrington here for 6 months. He can do IT work for what agencies will allow and should be able to help with IT equipment in the building. - Tom Kaase’s position advertised, closing this week and interviews to follow. Positions office will be in Sarah’s old spot, to keep Tom’s office as IT location. - Ron retiring July 9th, position advertised. Next hire should be in position three weeks to one month prior to Ron’s retirement date. - Ron will not be attending the June meeting.

	<p><i>Leanne</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Press releases on Drone incursions sent out from MNICS with follow-up message from MN DNR had good response. A fire prevention and safety press release message sent along with follow up DNR message advising to call 911 when a fire escapes, this was in response to a recent public fatality during an escaped fire event. <p><i>Cory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Closing in on Rx burning. Short on acres due to weather conditions.- The fuels position is advertised. The Fire ops specialist GS 8/9 - Bemidji should be advertised next year. <p><i>Rebekah</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- June TF meeting travel up 6/19, overnight, 6/20 visit Kettles Falls.- Board of Directors - uncertain if they will meet or not. TBD.
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Next meeting: June 19-20 @ VOP