

Notes

March 2020 Task Force Meeting

3/19/2020

0930 – 11:00, Webex Meeting

Attendees: Seth Grimm, Cory Berg, William Glesener, Kurt Fogelberg, Chase Marshall, Roy Holmes, Leanne Langeberg

Invited Guests: Brian Wise, USFS, Shelly Serich, MN DNR, Kevin Carlisle, MN DNR

AGENDA ITEM

NOTES

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Building / Budget Update	<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sprinkler system has one more pending project, and the other pending projects are now finished.• Quotes on the front desk security project have been received.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Per Mar Security Services quoted \$5425 – this company services our current maintenance requests.○ PRO-TECH Design quote closer to \$5000 – this company was the original installers of the MIFC security system. <p>Building report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects completed<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Building and grounds safety inspection – report recommended replacing flow switch on the sprinkler system (completed), and fixing a pressure check valve leak (to be completed within two weeks).○ The cache door latch and the latch by the short elevator door into dispatch/aviation have been replaced.• Projects to be complete<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Need to add tin to the dispatch wall. There is a possibility the cache employees can complete the installation.○ Roof and back parking lot improvement – funding is allocated through the Superior NF. There is concern with the back parking area drainage, the \$25,000 allocated may not be enough to correct the issue, and may need to seek alternative funding.○ Cache breakroom has a defective light ballast that will be replaced with an LED, est. \$400.• Investigating cause of why dispatch employees are getting shocked and computers shutting down, called in Gene electric to determine if this is a ground issue.

**Agency COVID-19
Response Updates**

HSEM

- Supporting MDH operational needs and local requests.

DNR

- Team C, led by Jim Edgar, is on rotation.
- The St Paul Central Office has established an Incident Management Team (IMT), and a limited number of command and general staff from Brian Pisarek's IMT will go down to help set up and guide the IMT through Tuesday.
- The DNR staffing adjustments document was sent to the Task Force.
- DNR is discussing how to handle open burning and burning permits during this exceptional time. Casey McCoy is working on a pre-fire season news release.
- We are focusing on essential staffing during COVID-19 response.

Forest Service

- Nationally the FS has paused prescribed fire efforts until further notice.
- All USDA facilities are closed, only essential visitation – this includes the Fire Center.
- Forest Service will approach fires with aggressive initial attack this year.
- Nationally there is a NIMO team, and regional teams have activated.
- The FEMA Emergency Support Function #4 (ESF4) has been established, any resource requests will go through this person.

NPS

- No further updates from the Regional and National Offices.
- The visitor center and building are closed to the public.

BIA

- All tribes have individual responses, most have travel restrictions in place.
- Some tribes have sent employees home.
- Leech Lake Tribe has established a type 3 team.
- Encouraging all tribal resources to separate initial attack resources.
- Still supporting prescribed burns – will prioritize areas where we have known concerns for wildfire. This is supported nationally.
- Tom Remus and Cory Berg will be on a call with the tanker bases on 3/20/20 to discuss response action. There is now concern about access to restaurants and accommodations. The BIA wants to make sure anyone from the BIA or tribes staffing the bases have a purpose to be there.

FWS

- Direction is still limited to all agency bureaus from the national level.
- Regional Director is not shutting down the offices, but advising anyone with a telework agreement to telework.
- All prescribed fire projects have been suspended for the region.
- FWS will reassess wildfire response in both April and May.

General Discussion

Type 3 Teams

- DNR - all areas will start reporting normal, reduced, critical status of employee availability during fire season as COVID-19 pandemic continues.
- Suggestion made to advise health monitoring of IMT members – daily am and pm temperature monitoring.
- Prioritizing Type 3 IMT requests – we need to establish a COOP for these requests.
- At the moment FS and DNR support sending IMT team members for COVID-19 response.
- The Task Force will send out guidance to the teams and alternates about the ability to roster, and include information from the MDH on how to monitor health and how long to quarantine if affected by COVID-19.

Notes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the State stands up a Type 3 team for COVID-19 response there is concern about the difficulty to roster a full team for fire response. As the SNS-RSS becomes more complex it is likely a Type 2 team would be called. MNICS will focus on the priority mission for wildland fire response, and work to not over extend our resources, but recognize that some agency decision are above the local level.
Reschedule MNICS WT Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision to postpone working team reports to June, 2020, and will reserve the option host remotely if necessary. Any chairs that have issues or concerns should contact their Task Force chair representative and the Task Force will discuss the concern.
Revisit February Agenda Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center Manager Update FDOP – Task Force Assignments SNS-RSS 	<p>Center Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNR has advertised the Center Managers position through 3/31/2020. DNR will continue to extend the application period to have the same close date as the Federal Service. Forest Service should be advertised any time. Mike Macke is in place until his 120 day detail runs out. <p>FDOP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travis Verdegan will go through all the Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) template documents and bring them up to a first operation draft status. FDOP must be in place by 2021. DNR is plans to have the final draft review in August and sign in September. <p>SNS-RSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNICS IMT supporting MDH operational needs.
Wildfire Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Update Course Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Academy is postponed for 2020. <p>Course Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a significant increase in tuition for several courses. The increase does not include travel and lodging. William will request a cost break down direct from ICC. If it is related to staff wages going up, snacks and meals will be looked at. He will follow-up with the Task Force Topic to be revisited during the April Task Force meeting.
RT-130 & WCT during COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion nationally is focused on moving training to a virtual platform. CCM – directed to take the on-line course, and then a robust field day of 10 to 16 hours overnight. State - William and Todd Manley are going through certification for the national learning portal to determine how to pull in self-study courses. The national learning portal may be a good opportunity for MNICS organizations to consider looking into how we can get more people qualified to use the system.
2020 MNICS Meeting Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start thinking about who we want for guest speakers . Send guest speaker ideas to Leanne Langeberg. Topic to be revisited during the April Task Force Meeting.

<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>DNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatcher workshop via Webex is being hosted today. <p>FWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting folks qualified – fire season will start Mach 30th. A lot of questions about how we will operate this year during the pandemic. • Finishing up RX plans <p>BIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on getting RX burn plan ready to go. • Tribes are getting the RT130 complete. • Prep is getting done on RX burn units • BIA has not awarded the helicopter contract, possibly next week. • SEAT and Fire Boss vendors are ready to go. • Mille Lacs Tribe is close to full snow melt. • Cory is teleworking tomorrow and most of next week, and Tom Remus is teleworking full time. <p>NPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No budget, Brenda is teleworking, rod is teleworking. • Trying to hire positions. <p>HSEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the foreseeable future COVID-19 is the priority, along with flooding and pipeline response. <p>Forest Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for 30seasonals to start on mid-April • Aviation is working on getting the tankers and type 1 helicopter in. • Working on keeping our initial attack resources healthy. • Chase will be teleworking and will not be in the office much. <p>PIO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020 Mobilization Guide is now posted on mnics.org, hardcopies are at the printer. <p>Center Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested to add the Task Force Work Plan delegations for Center Manager to the April agenda. • Working on COOP plan • DNR – previous delegation of authority – all aviation operations and staffing decisions will be working through Center Manager • Two people from dispatch can telework one must be in the center. • The Center Manager has not received the delegation of authority – this will be a priority for the April Task Force Meeting.
<p>Task Force Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force agreed to weekly Task Force meetings on Tuesdays 9:30 am, beginning 3/24/2020. • Task Force – send out any agenda items you have to Leanne Langeberg.

Next meeting: April 2nd, Webex