

## MNICS Task Force Meeting

8/15/2019

0830-1445

MIFC 3

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

### AGENDA ITEM

### NOTES

<p><b>MIFC Building &amp; Budget</b></p>	<p><b>Building update</b>            Projects completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security system control board replaced</li> <li>• Generator controller replaced</li> </ul> <p>Projects to be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stairs outside Cache will be replaced week of 8/19</li> </ul> <p>Recommended projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install motion sensor in dispatch to control thermostat in the occupancy system – est cost \$2000 to install and train MIFC staff (Joel, Kevin &amp; Brian) how to use. Task Force agreed to table discussion through this summer season.</li> <li>• Roof funding from Forest Service fell through. Brian will talk with Blake Fleking (FS) to put this project on the facilities maintenance schedule next year. Roof is leaking and needs repair. Estimated cost to fix the entire roof is \$200,000. Chase will present the roof repair concern at the next leadership meeting.</li> <li>• Proposal to install streamers to address Woodpecker holes on the outside of the building, difficulty will be where to attach the streamers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Budget update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rollover \$10,800 – generator repair has been receipted but not posted.</li> <li>• Non committed \$33,800, last year we were at \$49,900.</li> <li>• Minimum carryover is \$20,000. If no unexpected expenses we can gain \$2000 monthly.</li> <li>• Last year the coop covered the Radio repair and the dispatch remodel.</li> <li>• Can we do the roof patch work with the State DNR covering to buy us time?</li> <li>• Anna’s logistics position has not been filled, that money is not being drawn from the COOP funds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MNICS Annual Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda</li> <li>• Awards</li> <li>• WT assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The event proposal for the MNICS meeting in Duluth has been submitted and signed by Forrest Boe, MN DNR. One bid has been received from the Duluth Holiday Inn.</li> <li>• Award nominations – The PIO (Leanne) will handle the printing and framing of awards, and will send out nomination requests in September.</li> <li>• Last year Mike McLoughlin handled the purchasing of award gifts.</li> <li>• Task Force must decide on schedule of events and speaker – Leadership, Climate Change, and Work Life Balance are the suggested themes.</li> <li>• Speaker Ideas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mark Seely has been on the list for the past two years – <b>Seth will contact Mark</b></li> <li>○ Recommendation was made to consider the State Climatologist experts. Kenny Bloomingfield – State Climatologist, focuses on people working on longer-term studies – <b>BJ will contact Kenny</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**MNICS Annual Meeting  
cont.**

- Travis Doddson, Forest Service – Risk Analysis – NAFREE – **BJ will contact Travis**
- Matt Carroll – McColl – is involved with FLS and focuses on how to improve the process of working with Agency Administrators.
- Patty Olby – Was on the list last year to attend – **Cory will contact Patty**
- Other ideas? Please email the Task Force, then contact the person about availability and cost.
- Task Force and Board of Directors (BOD) Joint Meeting – Task Force agreed to change their meeting to Monday. The Task Force will meet at 9:00 am, then meet with the BOD in the afternoon. This will allow the Task Force reps to meet with their respective working teams.
- Working Teams will decide their start times – they’ll be encouraged to meet all the allocated time as possible.
- Current Work Team Reps:
  - Air Ops – Cory Berg
  - Dispatch – Tasha
  - Fire Prevention – Kurt
  - Communications – Kurt
  - Information Management – Leanne
  - Training – BJ
  - Finance – Roy
  - Operations – Chase
  - IT – BJ
  - Prescribed Fire – Seth
  - Fuels – Seth
  - Logistics - Roy
- Retirement awards - Fish and Wildlife may have one. Possible Forest Service - Ellen Bogardus-Szymaniak. DNR – Linda Bruss
- Working Team Assignments:
  - Training – Plan 12 to 20 fire trainings held at MIFC in 2020.
  - Prescribed Fire – Use grant money to host more trainings.
  - Will keep developing Working Team assignments for the next couple of months.
- Working Team Charters – Working teams will report the status of the Working Team Charters to the Task Force at the September Task Force meeting. Post completed working team charters to the MNICS website.
- Retiree attendance at the Working Team meetings and annual meeting
  - To attend a working team meeting a retiree must be invited to participate, otherwise may attend the general meeting beginning Wednesday afternoon.

**Annual Report**

- Leanne will be sending out an email request for annual report submissions in September.
- All submissions must be received by first week in November
- Finalized report will be sent to the printer in mid-November.
- Start gathering your report topics, statistics and photos, and start sending to Leanne at [leanne.langeberg@state.mn.us](mailto:leanne.langeberg@state.mn.us)

<p><b>Wildfire Academy Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Survey summary</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leanne provided a summary report of the Academy questionnaire, noting that overall the survey participants felt the academy was successful.</li> <li>• The stand out item from survey results focused on the coordination of the instructor’s needs and the bins. Many instructors felt this process must be improved.</li> <li>• IMT mission creep – the focus needs to remain that the team is there to support the event, offer training opportunity, and not to coordinate the week.</li> <li>• There continues to be concern that students are added to courses without instructor consent. Recommendation that a hard cutoff to registration be instituted.</li> <li>• How did the Task Force become involved with the Academy? As the Academy evolved it moved from a DNR only sponsored event to a MNICS event, and that requires the training Working Team and the Task Force to be involved in the coordination and future planning.</li> <li>• A pre-academy checklist may help to alleviate some of the stress on lead instructors. This is the responsibility of the training coordinators to assure the instructors have timely access to the checklists.</li> <li>• Bins – Itasca Community College (ICC) is responsible for ordering from Boise, as Advanced Wildland Training Bins were purchased and bought for the ICC.</li> <li>• Task Force would like to see the following information from Todd ( BJ will coordinate request): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A copy of the memorandum of agreement with ICC and the established roles and responsibilities of ICC for the Academy.</li> <li>○ Financial breakdown – instructor costs, and travel costs</li> <li>○ Instructors by agency</li> <li>○ Timelines, roles and responsibilities</li> <li>○ Can the academy dates be pushed back? What would prevent this from happening?</li> <li>○ Current capacity for Grand Rapids lodging.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A recommendation was made to recognize instructor appreciation, possibly at the annual meeting.</li> <li>• Chase and BJ will approach the Board of Directors to request a letter of concern be submitted to the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce regarding the limited lodging available for the academy. They will approach with the safety implications for the Academy and attendees.</li> <li>• Recommendation for the Training Working Team to approve and set the Academy Calendar by January.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FMB Memo on Water Enhancers</b> (D. Neuman @ 1300)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Remus and Darren Neuman provided an update and discussion points regarding the Fire Management Board’s Memo about water enhancers that was received via the State of Washington.</li> <li>• Concern is that the memo did not follow the proper chain of command. None of the agencies has seen it officially.</li> <li>• BIA has been told not to use the on-board injection systems.</li> <li>• The memo is vague and Tom is requesting clarification.</li> <li>• Of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blaze Tamer – there is no way to prove what is coming out of a fire boss. Is this in violation of the Accountability Act?</li> <li>○ Memo references the Water Ways Act – Is this referencing the Clean Water Act or something different?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is no consensus if calibration works or not. Some residual is bound to make it into a waterway. Physics alone can’t prove it has a negative effect.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern that foam has approval when the same tanks and equipment are used. Agriculture uses the same equipment and amounts, is there a difference?</li> <li>• The Fire Management Board does not have state representation.</li> <li>• Questions that MNICS needs to ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do we interpret this memo in regards to operations use?</li> <li>○ What is the bar that we have to meet? – If set at zero, it can never be met.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There will be a State Fire Supervisors group conference call on 8/16 regarding the memo. Paul Lundgren will attend the call. Will wait to hear direction based on this call.</li> <li>• Until more information can be gathered, MNICS will maintain status quo.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TNC Training Opportunity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a proposal with grant funding put forth by the TNC for a prescribed fire training opportunity that will focus on prescribed burning near culturally sensitive areas. Cloquet Forestry is involved with the planning process.</li> <li>• It was presented as a prescribed fire exchange.</li> <li>• TREX will organize the training, which is proposed to happen next spring. The training will focus on sites in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests and burning with Tribal Lands.</li> <li>• Training will involve 40 people, possible international participants.</li> <li>• Event will require a lot of training coordination and meals. They would need MNICS to provide a Type 3 team to coordinate.</li> <li>• Potential training dates the last two weeks of May. Concern is most Tribes are wrapped up with prescribed burns by this time. Would it be more appropriate for MN DNR Parks and Trails and Wildlife divisions to host? Is there potential with the USFWS and cultural sites?</li> <li>• MNICS needs to ask if they have approached the Prescribed Fire &amp; Fuels Working Team yet.</li> <li>• TNC will need to reach out to each individual Tribe to gain permission.</li> <li>• TNC has reached out the MN DNR about work on state land.</li> <li>• Cory Berg and Mike Rice would require 50% of training slots be dedicated to MNICS personnel.</li> <li>• Line officers need to be involved. This may require MOU's or Agreements.</li> <li>• Concern about committing a Type 3 team during our active fire season.</li> <li>• More follow-up will happen with this.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>2020 T3 IMT recruitment</b></li> <li>- <b>2020 T3 IMT meeting</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The grandfathering for Type 3 positions ends September 30th. Agencies strongly encouraged to look at where their staff fall in their training status. The 400 level course was offered this year.</li> <li>• After September 30, a completed task book will be required for any out-of-state national assignments.</li> <li>• Rebekah inquired with Jacob Beauregard (HSEM) and they are not offering the 400 course anytime soon.</li> </ul> <p><b>Type 2 recruitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment begins 9/1/19, and will open 9/15/19 in ICAP – recruitment runs through end of October.</li> <li>• Same positions as last year.</li> <li>• Notifications could go out by mid-December.</li> <li>• Eastern Area coordination meeting the week of February 17, 2020 in Madison WI. Will include the IMT and EACG.</li> <li>• Team availability will run April 1 through Nov 15.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Type 3 Teams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMT rotations will run March 1 through June 15<sup>th</sup>, extending two weeks past the academy.</li> <li>• Report any changes to the draft Recruitment letter to Tasha.</li> <li>• Recruitment letter need Chase’s signature before distribution.</li> <li>• Applicants will be required to load their current records, and qualifications must be on their master record/red card.</li> <li>• A 2-day Team meeting will be scheduled the week of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Recommendation to host February 12 &amp; 13.</li> <li>• Rebekah will check with Kevin to verify he has access to the old documents (agendas).</li> </ul> <p><b>ICAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous manager of ICAP left the agency and holds all the usernames, passwords and data, and will not be released by previous manager.</li> <li>• The Servers were all taken to the Great Basin.</li> <li>• Currently, the Forest Service has the data but cannot access the data.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Individual Agency Updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leanne – Smokey 75<sup>th</sup> at Tall Timber days a success. Over 650 individual contacts. The weather was very hot. Thanks to all offered their help Saturday and Sunday.</li> <li>• Seth – will look into DL or Tamarac for the September meeting space.</li> <li>• Cory – Carl Crawford will start 9/3/19. Work on the new MN Agency building started last month, and is located near the airport. It will offer a great training room area.</li> <li>• BJ – Still learning the ropes.</li> <li>• Kurt – NPS had a tornado in the middle of July, about a two mile path. It went through the peninsula in an area of aspen and black spruce. Not one, nor any damage.</li> <li>• Chase – Forest Service is still trying to complete prescribed burns. Kangas units are next, and looking for a 3-4 day drying period. May need help from partners. Plans to complete wilderness burns this fall. Fall fire hire in progress.</li> </ul>

*Next meeting: September 19<sup>th</sup> (TBD)*