



Notes

October 7, 2021 MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance:

Task Force: William Glesener, Kurt Fogelberg, Cory Berg, Seth Grimm, Roy Holmes, Chase Marshall

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey - MNCC, Leanne Langeberg – Notes, Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Greniger, Mike Hill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
Building and Budget Update	<p>Building Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The building committee had no new significant updates for the October Task Force Meeting. - The cache completed the installation of large size fans. - The purchase order is still in process for the roof repair project. - No new updates are available on the status of the elevator repair project, nor on the status of the carpet cleaning project. <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force reviewed the current budget spreadsheet and current non-committed funds available.
MNCC - MNICS Teams AAR - Intelligence Staffing - Detailer awards - MNCC and COVID policy	<p>MNICS Teams AAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force inquired about the MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Teams after action review of the season. The Teams are in process of completing AARs by section, and a final summary will be presented to the Task Force. - Task Force request that summary and Team evaluations be distributed to the Task Force before the meeting with the Team Incident Commanders at the Annual meeting in December. <p>MNCC Intelligence staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the MNICS mobilization guide indicates at preparedness level 2 or lower, weekend coverage for Intelligence (Intel) is not required. - Task Force agreed that due to fire activity and a team mobilization to staff Intel on weekends while the Team is assigned to the incident. <p>Special request for MNCC detailer recognition awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC center manager would like to recognize the contributions of the MNCC dispatcher for the hard work and commitment through this season with a non-monetary award – challenge coin or a Nalgene bottle with MNCC designed logo. - Task Force will consider proposals that meet the most liberal agency guidance on non-monetary awards. - William Glesener has completed some research on Challenge coin costs, and will share the information with Mike Mackey. <p>MNCC Staffing COVID policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employees will follow their agency’s COVID policy and report to their direct supervisor for guidance on how to follow through on agency requirements to report to work.



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<p>MNCC - MNCC Org Chart and Vacancies - MNCC AAR</p>	<p>MNCC Organization Chart and Vacancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the current Organization chart. The Public information officer reports to the Task Force and indirectly to the MNCC Coordinator. Mike will revise the solid line to a dotted line to reflect the indirect connection. - Identify the roles below the Assistant Center Managers as interagency support to show flexibility in who may fill these roles. - The workload for the seasonal Natural Resource Technician air desk positions are at a level that supports permanent full-time. Mike Mackey will continue working with the DNR Aviation program manager Darren Neuman and Anna Hines on the steps to pursue additional funding and upgrading the positions from 10-month to year-round. Setting up the air desk positions this way would parody the operations and logistics who have full-time support dispatchers. - Task Force will present this topic to the Board of Directors. William Glesener and Mike Mackey will work together to develop a presentation. Glesener will talk with DNR Board Member Paul Lungren to ask if the Board would prefer being briefed sooner than the December meeting. <p>MNCC AAR</p> <p>MNCC After Action Review with Eastern Area Coordination Center Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC Coordinator Mike Mackey is working on setting up an MNCC AAR with the Eastern Area Coordination Center Manager Laura McIntyre-Kelly. - Mackey is open to recommendations on how best to facilitate the AAR to promote team building and improving the integration of MNCC staff. - Laura provided a couple of names for facilitators, including Stephanie who is out of the Forest Service Region 9 regional office. <p>William Glesener shared a form he established for a DNR Fireteam leader's AAR to help identify the topics to focus on.</p>
<p>Annual Agency Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Park Service will present an agency overview of history and connection to MNICS during the 2021 MNICS Meeting General session. - Kurt Fogelberg and Leanne Langeberg will work together to pull together presentation talking points. - One agency from MNICS will present each year to share their agency's overview.
<p>Proposed National Aviation Dispatch Qualification Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed changes to the Forest Service Handbook will impact interagency dispatch centers nationwide with the requirement that qualified aircraft dispatchers must be on scene when aircraft is dispatched. - Task Force recognizes the challenge this represents with recruiting candidates that hold these qualifications, especially when positions at the GS-07 pay scale don't match these new requirements along with the demands of the position. - Task Force members Cory Berg and William Glesener will develop a letter to the Board of Directors to bring the concern to their attention. The Board of Directors is able to relay the concern up to the National Wildland Coordinating Group.



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MNICS Annual Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leanne Langeberg shared updates on MNICS Meeting coordination. - Notification has been sent out to the list we used last year. A request to register was incorporated this year to assure we are reaching those that want to participate and that they have access to attend Working Team meetings they are interested in. - Decision was made to table the Generations Guest speaker until we can meet in person. - Wildfire Lessons Learned group has made a connection with Leanne Langeberg, but no official topic or speaker has been identified. - Request for MNICS awards has been distributed and can be completed through and online form this year.
2022 MNICS T3 Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notification was sent out MNICS-wide announcing the MNICS Type 3 Team applications are being accepted through November 15. - Task Force is supportive of sending teams to out-of-state assignments to provide more opportunities in developing teams. - Task Force will send a request to the Type 3 Team Working Team as an assignment to investigate possibilities and interests. <p>Collateral duty positions and agency support for MNICS Teams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leanne Langeberg inquired on behalf of the Information Working Team how to handle requests to support collateral duty positions that want to support teams but face challenges with agency supervisor understanding of team availability requirements. - Task Force agreed that employees with these concerns should reach out directly to their MNICS Task Force agency representative.
2022 MNICS/MIFC Financial/Operating Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Financial Plan for MNICS partners is out for signatures. Chase Marshall will contact Mike Stansbury for an update on the signature status. - Task Force will work to incorporate an org chart with the Financial plan moving forward.
Greenwood Emergency Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William Glesener had shared with the Task Force a copy of the emergency closure order in place for Greenwood and DNR prior to the meeting. - The closure will remain in place until ongoing fire needs support reopening, at which point both agencies will move forward with rescinding the order.



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	<p>BIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal fire activity. The Minnesota agency suppression module is supporting fire needs in Montana. The modules have been a great opportunity to work on task book items. There is no longer a need to have aircraft on call, and we can always reassess if needs change. The BIA Fire business analyst position out of Twin Cities is currently open for applications. BIA’s departure from the Fish and Wildlife Human Resources has resulted in hiring challenges. Hopefully the Fire Operations Specialist position will be advertised this fall. <p>DNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beaches Lake fire is 1936 acres. It is only a few miles from Canada. It’s estimated there are approximately 200 acres of shallow peat. The MNICS Team is in place and is experienced with peat fires. Hopefully, the fire doesn’t go more than mid-week next week. Another fire is burning in Itasca State Park. Due to sensitivities around the old-growth, the suppression and mop up efforts will focus on light on the land tactics. Requests to fill several positions have been submitted. Hopeful to fill the Intelligence position while Diane, who plans to retire Dec 2, is available. The State is holding steady at PL-2. <p>Forest Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The decision was made not to pursue any broadcast burning on either forest this fall but focusing on pile burning and completing about 1000 piles each day. There are 30,000 piles identified to be burned. An engine has been sent out to support fire needs in Montana. Currently operating under a continuing resolution. Forest Service has issued a vaccination mandate that includes Ads with a Nov 8 cutoff. Fire hire is now in full swing and will wrap up in Dec. Discussion to fill vice Debby Hahn’s role fill as an incident business advisor. Lots of after-action reviews are being conducted. A Washing Office audit for a continuous improvement review for the Greenwood has been initiated. <p>Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduced Mike Hill AFMO, who will sit in on the next couple of Task Force meetings and serve as a back-up for Seth for Task Force meetings. The 1039 season positions for next spring have been posted. Putting the final touches on the Oxcart Fire documents to present to the solicitor. Seth will meet with BJ to review cost share agreements. <p>Homeland Security and Emergency Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to a reduction in public safety needs, the Regional EOC is no longer staffing but remains available when needed. Roy Holmes announced his plans to retire before year’s end. Congratulations Roy! <p>National Park Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All is quiet in the park. Working under the continuing resolution similar to the other federal partners. It remains dry. One fire was reported last week. Greg Carlson Fire Specialist will officially start next week but will not arrives until mid-November.
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Next Task Force Meeting will be November 4, 2021 hosted on WebEx