



Notes

April 2021 MNICS Task Force Meeting

4/1/2021 - (0930 – 13:30)

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

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey - MNCC, Brian Wise, Shelly Serich, Ernest Schmitt, Travis Verdegan, Alan Hepworth

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building / Budget Update</p>	<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new changes to the budget. <p>Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HVAC system will require a separate computer system, not tied to either federal or state network, to adjust pre-programmed heating and cooling hours. - Software is in place to adjust programming; however, it is assigned to a previous Forest Service engineer's computer that will need to be loaded to a new computer system. The new computer system will be permanently located at the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC). - The State of Minnesota has a computer available for the HVAC system. The use of the computer will include a monthly MNIT service fee for maintenance of the computer system. The MNICS co-op funds will cover the service fee, estimated to be \$20.00 - \$60.00 per month. - A number of interagency MIFC staff (3-4) will be assigned rights to access the computer system. Assigning more than one person will assure someone is available when the system requires an update or change. - MNICS Task Force approves the computer and monthly service fee.
<p>Active911 Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC Logistics is no longer subscribing to the One-Call Now service. - A recommendation was made to replace One-Call Now with the Active 911 service. DNR currently uses Active 911 to follow county 911 dispatch pages for wildfires. - The service is accessible as a smartphone app. Emails can also be delivered through the service. - The service is approximately \$11.18 annually per person. - MNCC sees a benefit of having access to Active 911 as dispatchers are receiving alerts at the same time as the field. They have found it has improved their time in sending out resource orders. - Federal partners have requested to be added to the Active 911 list. - Task Force approves adding federal partners and the Incident Management Team members to the Active 911 service. - The service will be billed to the MNICS co-op fund and each agency will reimburse the co-op for their agency's use.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
2021 MNICS Annual Meeting Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leanne Langeberg has mobilized with MNICS Team A. Task Force will revisit the topic at the May Task Force meeting. - Task Force members will continue reaching out to working team (WT) chairs for volunteers to support the MNICS annual meeting planning efforts. - Volunteers must have supervisor approval. - The Finance WT has identified one team member. - Task Force members will invite their working team volunteers to the May meeting.
MNCC Center Manager Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICS - 209 reminders - MNCC Calling Tree - C-Soft - Center Manager Delegation of Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Mackey will send a reminder message to submit timely 209s to all MNICS partners. - Eastern Area Coordination Center prefers ongoing incident 209s for be updated daily. - The MNICS calling tree request has been signed. The request has been submitted to MNIT for implementation. - C-Soft upgrades are in process, no further action is required. - Chase Marshall will resend the Center Manager Delegation of Authority to HSEM and will cc Paul Lundgren. - MNICS Working Team Reports will be scheduled in June, 2021. Mike Mackey will coordinate with the Working Team Chairs.
Ox Cart Fire Transition with MNICS Team A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNICS Team A and the agency administrator will decide at noon 4/1/2021 when to transfer the fire back to the local agency. Tentatively, the team could be released as early as the end of shift 4/1/2021. - Seth Grimm discussed staging the MNICS Team A on site with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) leadership. Before releasing the entire team, the agency would like to ensure the document box is complete, including all financial documents. - MNICS Team A Incident Commander Ernest Schmitt provide an update on the Oxcart Fire. The fire is stable, but a few areas of concern remain within the fire's perimeter. Due to below freezing temperatures, there has been little water used for suppression and mop up efforts. - The fire has not had any growth since Late Monday night into early Tuesday morning. - Schmitt feels the Oxcart fire and the team are in a good position for the red flag warning that was issued for 4/1/2021. The team anticipates transferring the fire back to the local agency on 4/2/20021. - The team is ready to become available after the transition, and request MNICS Team A be considered for re-assignment before mobilizing MNICS Team B. - The Task Force supports MNICS Team A and their three additional support positions (equipment manager, time keeper and liaison) staging in place through 10:00 am on 4/3/2021.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Communications Systems Analyst</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Mackey presented a draft Communications Working Team assignment to the Task Force. The assignment focuses on developing a scope of work and project goals for the MNICS radio communications infrastructure review. - MNICS seeks to contract with a local radio communications specialist. The vendor’s website is viewable at https://fccradio.com/services. - Mike Mackey will work with the MNICS Task Force Representatives Cory Berg and William Glesener to further define the Communications Working Team assignment. - He will present the final assignment to the Task Force in May for final approval.
<p>EA Decision Support Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alan Hepworth – regional fire planner with U.S. Forest Service Region 8 presented to the Task Force the on the development of the Eastern Area Decision Support Group. - The Eastern area is a large enough area with diverse fuel systems and developing a team of local subject matter experts who can monitor, analyze, and evaluate long term risk assessment will help the Geographic Area Coordination Center with planning and decision making to support Eastern Area needs. - The analytical support will help a wide range of decision makers from the general public, wildland firefighters, and agency administrators. - The process this year will be beneficial, as we transition through a La Nina, in helping decision makers to make informed decisions. - Travis Verdegan, Predictive Services with the DNR, has been selected as Minnesota’s representative. - MNICS Task Force Members will identify agency representatives who will work with Travis to collect and share data.
<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>BIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued dry conditions in the northwest portion of the state. All Tribal programs are staffing except Grand Portage. The long term severity request has been approved. Moving resources around within the Minnesota Agency, as well as out-of-state. The typical go-to partners are tapped out as drought in the Dakotas are pulling resources in from the Rocky Mountain Region. Ordering is taking longer than normal. - BIA has boosted aviation, and exclusive use contracts are starting early. Several cost-share agreements are in place with the DNR. The on-call Fire Boss will start on 4/2/2021. Conditions throughout the state have reach a point where we will need four air attack aircraft. Aviation is conducting two calls per day. The Large Air Tanker (LAT) order was unable to be filled. Nationally, it has been recognized that there is a need to contract more LATs. The aviation group working to right size for the needs. - Sean Kelly from the local BIA region is here on a severity assignment to help with Duty Officer for BIA.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
Agency Updates	<p>DNR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost-sharing on aviation resources. Fire staff reporting they are doing well and getting rest in between busy days. The wildfire section is reinforcing ordering early. - All areas are finishing their RT-130 and requirements for fitness testing, and resources who have completed these requirements will then be able to move across states and borders. - More requests are coming in, and we are moving folks around the state. We are waiting on requests to order air resources. - DNR aircraft is now at a full complement, plus call-when-needed. However, we still need to staff Orr and Grand Marias. Emphasis will continue to be placed on bringing in and right sizing as needs expand. - DNR is still following prescribed burning restrictions, awaiting the Commissioner’s Office approval for prescribed burning and aerial suppression. <p>Forest Service (FS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Superior National Forest has been chosen as one of the site for the national quadrennial wildland fire risk analysis, which a national Forest Service enterprise team will complete. Brian Jenkins is the contact for the Superior National Forest. - Prescribed fire is getting geared up as both the Superior and Chippewa National Forests are completing prescribed burns. Multiple burns occurring today on some of the smaller units. Minnesota Forests need to complete 17,000 acres of fuels treatments this year. - We are competing for resources with the southern tier of the region. Type 1 aviation assets and the Mesa Shot crew are in state. - The budget modernization has limited ability to move people around. The two forests are limited with base 8. Responding resources will need to operate on support code or p-code. The hiring process has been challenging. - A third Beaver pilot has been hired, and the Forest Service is fully staffed with pilots. <p>Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildfire season started a little earlier than the previous years. The Oxcart Fire will require some of the local resources to remain on the fire. FWS has been moving people south to north to help cover the need. - Broadcast burning in the southern two thirds of Minnesota will start to pick up in April. Detailers are expected to come in Monday through April 9, 2021. FWS is a few weeks out on long term severity planning, currently on short term. - FWS is working on five zone-wide positions, budgets and equipment allocations. Starting 4/3/2021, Russ Langford will be covering as the duty officer. <p>Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing on C19 vaccines, Line 3 and the Chauvin Trial work. Trial is ongoing. <p>National Park Service (NPS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All is quiet, but it has been cold, dry, and windy. Voyageurs National Park is waiting for the ice to go out on the lake. There are no reports of human caused fire concerns. NPS did complete some pile burning.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
	<p>MNCC Coordinator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thanks to the Task Force and partnering agencies for their support to MNCC, and bringing in dispatchers and detailers. All dispatchers are now working on MNCC the floor. No COVID-19 changes on vaccinations. MNCC will continue following current state guidance for any potential exposure. The U.S. Forest Service has some language that vaccinated individuals may not need to quarantine, but masks are required even in a closed office setting.- MNICS Team A did not request a trailer, so both trailers are available for different locations.- Operations – Amanda Jones has accepted a 120-day promotion detail. No date set for her to start, but MNCC will need to back-fill during her detail.- Aviation had a good after action review on the northeast Hayes Lake fire.- The lead aviation position posting did not result in any qualified candidates. Potential a new outreach will be distributed this fall.- Logistics is processing many orders.- Intel is working on products and 209's.- Information is getting posted on websites. Will be meeting next week on aviation messaging that has been historically distributed by the public information officer.- MNCC coordinator will be a participating in the T3 Team closeout process.- All of the MNCC functional areas have phones forwarding to their own DO's during after hours. <p>MIFC PIO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mary Nordeen, US Forest Service has filled in as back-up PIO support at MIFC. Leanne is expected to be available Saturday.

Next Meeting: 5/6/2021 Hosted on Webex beginning at 09:30 am