



Notes

May 6, 2021 MNICS Task Force Meeting

5/6/2021 - (1100 – 14:00)

Attendees:

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

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey - MNCC, Leanne Langeberg – Notes, Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Serich, Kristi Henderson

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Updates</p>	<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MIFC elevator repair expense has been approved. - MNCC Coordinator requested approval for MNICS Coop funds to finalize purchasing brackets for computer monitors in the Minnesota Interagency Coordination Center (MNCC). Task Force approved. <p>Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Pro-Tech to resolve the faulty entrance keypad that is under warranty. - All NEK Cache warehouse lights are in the process of being converted to LED.
<p>MNCC Updates</p>	<p>Phone Tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A phone tree has been set up for MNCC to help direct callers to the appropriate functional areas. It is scheduled to be activated May 13, 2021. - A new direct line phone number has been assigned for Logistics that can be managed virtually. - The project required less involvement than initially planned and may result in a reduction of fees. - The phone tree changes will be announced in MNCC’s May newsletter. <p>MNCC Coop Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC Coordinator proposed establishing an annual \$5000 line item to the annual MNICS Coop funds for miscellaneous office equipment and supplies the coordinator can use for office supplies and equipment that wouldn’t require Task Force pre-approval. Task Force will make a decision on how to proceed. <p>Vacancy Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC continues outreach efforts to fill MNCC vacancies through 14-day resource orders. - The outreach for a 120-day detail assignment to fill in for Amanda Jones received no additional interest. - MNCC will work with current fulltime staff and 14-day resource orders to fill operational needs. - Task Force supports the Operations Lead Dispatcher’s training assignment to the Great Plains to complete FQRC task book. <p>2017 MNCC Dispatch Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC Coordinator will reach out to those who conducted the 2017 review of MNCC to review progress and identify the best approach to proceed.



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2021 MNICS Annual Meeting Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kristi Henderson, MN DNR, has volunteered to support the 2021 MNICS annual meeting's committee planning efforts. - The planning committee will develop a survey to distribute MNICS-wide to identify interest areas for the 2021 meeting presentations. - MNICS Task Force supports planning for an in-person meeting, with alternate online meetings plans in place. - MNICS Annual Meeting Committee will seek out conference center locations that can support the live streaming of presentations.
2021 MNICS Fire Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DNR has applied for State Fire Assistance (SFA) grant funding to support the 2022 Minnesota Fire Academy and training needs. - A review fire academy organizations in other geographic areas found that some are operating as non-profit 501(c)(3) or through Compacts. - Task Force recognizes benefits for MNICS and Minnesota State Colleges and University to explore similar alternative organizational options for the Minnesota Fire Academy. - Task Force would like to see future academy planning to focus: on alternate dates outside of the spring prescribed burning window, maintaining costs, and prioritizing participants based on training needs assessments.
Training Working Team Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNICS Training Working Team started their training needs assessment process earlier this year. - MNICS agencies agree it is acceptable for individual MNICS agencies to host ad-hoc, in-house training sessions to meet standards and address the backlog of the individual agency's training needs.
MNICS 2021 Wildfire Season Safety Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William Glesener informed the Task Force that Minnesota DNR would soon issue a safety report on their investigation of a DNR tracked vehicle safety incident during the Oxcart fire. - The report will share findings of safety protocol lessons learned. - Glesener requested the Task Force share the lessons learned interagency-wide to reiterate appropriate safety protocols for similar safety incidents.
BOD Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force Chair William Glesener will reach out to the MNICS Board of Directors (BOD) Chair Tom Remus to request a schedule of the remaining 2021 BOD meetings.



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Agency Updates

BIA

- The Goods Fire will return to the agency's authority at 21:00 on May 6, 2021. Based on the infrared flight, there are some remaining areas of heat within 200 feet of the containment line that fire crews will continue to work on cooling. A UAS module for Red Lake is being considered to continue monitoring for heat in peatland.
- The Type 2 helicopter will move to Orr, Minn., and the Type 1 helicopter will return to the GACC May 7, 2021. The large air tanker (LAT), brought in to support the Goods Fire, was released back to the GACC May 5, 2021.
- Areas in the northwest continue to be dry, and initial attack activity has been busy for several tribes. Minnesota Agency is moving resources around to meet expected fire needs. Out-of-state resources are stretched and orders are taking longer to fill.
- Some prescribed burns are scheduled for the far northeast.
- Sean Kelly will fill in as Duty Officer for BIA.

DNR

- Division of forestry wildfire section has received a couple of accident reports.
- Most of the DNR areas are busy with initial attack fire response.
- The DNR budget cycle ends June 30, 2021, and the agency is in the process of working on the budget for the next fiscal year.

Forest Service

- Recent rains have alleviated drought concerns across both forests, and it appears the forests will have a more normal fire season this year.
- Several resources have been brought in, including two interagency Hotshot Crews, to support prescribed burning efforts – 17,000 planned acres remain.
- The Forest Service has lifted restrictions on using AD's for prescribed burning.
- The west zone Fire Management Officer (FMO) position has been advertised, and a hiring panel has been formed. The east zone FMO position is currently vacant, and an outreach notice will be issued soon.
- COVID-19 mitigations remain the same for the agency.

Fish and Wildlife Service

- Fully engaged with prescribed burning and wildfire suppression workload. Resources are being moved around to meeting the needs. It is expected that the southern tier prescribed burning efforts may ramp down as early as next week.
- Continue to manage pockets of heat on the Oxcart Fire.
- Working to fill five zone-wide positions.

HSEM

- Continue to monitor the COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Line 3 has been slower with road restrictions in place.

NPS

- The recent rains have helped the green-up process and minimal fire risk pre-fishing season opener.

MNCC Coordinator

- Continues to focus on filling voids in MNCC staffing, and all side projects are on hold.
- The second Lead Operations Dispatcher position is in process to fill.
- Will be conducting an after action review for the large air tanker (LAT) with the Eastern Area Coordination Center and MNICS aviation.

Next meeting June 3, 2021 beginning at 09:30 am