



Notes

November 3, 2021 MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance:

Task Force: Paul Lundgren, Kurt Fogelberg, Cory Berg, Seth Grimm, Roy Holmes, Chase Marshall

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey (MNCC), Leanne Langeberg (Notes), Brian Wise, Shelly Greniger, Mike Rice (USFS)

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The October building report was distributed to the Task Force. The most notable project completed was the installation of the two large fans that will help circulate air throughout the cache. <p>Budget Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The October expense report was distributed to the Task Force. - Funds have been set aside for pending projects. - No new expenses were incurred beyond the monthly expenses.
<p>2022 Eastern Area IC Recruitment Form</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cory Berg emailed the Eastern Area IC Recruitment form for IC Deputy or IC trainee out to all Task Force members. He requested the recruitment be passed along each Task Force members' agency contacts. - Brian Pisarek and Steve Goldman have both announced they are stepping down from their Incident Commander roles with the Eastern Area Teams and will remain with the teams through the 2022 Team selection process.
<p>MNICS Annual Report Review and Annual Meeting Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The annual report is moving along. The request to print hard color copies was not approved. The Task Force supports electronic only distribution. - During review of the Board of Directors and Task Force membership and titles, Paul Lundgren advised there has been interest expressed from the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, which is part of MNICS Board of Directors (BOD) as a non-voting member, to have a State Fire Chief's BOD member attend the MNICS BOD meetings. - Most of the requests for agency and working team reports have been received, those who have not submitted have been contacted and notified of the final cutoff date 11/5/2021. - The Task Force reviewed the planned agenda events. - The Task Force will plan to meet with the Incident Commanders from 10:00 – 12:00. A separate WebEx BOD meeting will be set up for the morning meeting, and the group will meet on the established Task Force WebEx meeting link for the afternoon session. - It was identified that the plan for the BOD meet and greet was not shared to the BOD members. Cory Berg will reach out to Tom Remus to extend the invitation. - Award Selections – An email was distributed to all Task Force members with the nominations. The Task Force selected the award recipients, and the MNICS Meeting planning committee will proceed with coordinating the notifications and producing the awards.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
MNICS Prevention Working Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allissa Reynolds, Minnesota DNR, sent a letter of support on October 27 to re-establish the MNICS Prevention Working Team. The Prevention Working Team hasn't organized as a functioning team since 2018. - In addition to public relations work focused on fire prevention messaging, there is room to collaborate on components needed for the Fire Danger Operating plan and more that will require valuable input and support from all MNICS prevention folks. - DNR is open to having a more formal conversation with Allissa about moving forward with the team and extending the invitation to lead and serve as the chair but wants to assure that there is a team to lead comprised of other MNICS agencies members. - Each Task Force member will identify candidates from their agency by the December Task Force Meeting.
MNICS Type 3 IMT AAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) Incident Commanders (IC) compiled their after-action reviews for the 2021 season, which were distributed in an email to all Task Force members. - The Task Force will review all AARs prior to the December meeting with the ICs. - Considerations will be made for national availability of a MNICS Type 3 IMT and how that change will impact the current operating plan along with considerations for local support during high fire danger levels. - The MNICS Type 3 IMT evaluations have been posted to the MNICS Teams FireNet Teams channel.
MNICS Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of agreements that are in place that cover coordination between all agencies have become a challenging task to maintain as the number of agreements that are near expiration or have expired is growing. - Considerations to attach the agreements to the Master Agreement must be made. - The coordinator of the agreements in the past has changed many times. The Task Force recognizes that placing the coordination of the agreements on to the Center Manager in addition to their regular responsibilities is not a feasible solution. - Task Force recommends looking into establishing a MNICS agreements specialist – funded by all agencies – that can keep a close watch on all the agreements and become the agreements SME. - The Task Force will settle on an agreement to proceed and then propose to the Board of Directors. Cory Berg will reach out to William Glesener to develop talking points in support of moving forward with recommendations for a MNICS agreement specialist. - The BOD will have input and authority over which agency can host and fund the position.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Shared protection operating plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chippewa and Superior National Forest fireteam is working with Steve Goldman and his Region 9 Eastern Area team to update the existing shared protection operating plan between DNR and the two national forests, which dates back to 2012. - The National Forests and DNR can no longer have a separately signed document outside the statewide operating plan. - The shared protection plan needs to be embedded as an appendix into the statewide operating plan, which will require working with the Forest Service Regional Office. - While the modification is specific to the Forest Service and the DNR, it has the potential to impact all MNICS agencies on future agreements. - Paul Lundgren and Steve Goldman have connected on the topic. - The Task Force most likely will not be tasked with taking on the full responsibility to move the process along, but their input will be valuable. - The target to complete the shared protection operation plan is next spring, and Steve Goldman will reach out to the Forest Service contacts for the initial briefing on the plan sometime before the end of the month. - Task Force will add this as a topic to discuss with the Board of Directors at the joint meeting in December.
<p>Intel Officer position</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DNR will be conducting interviews for the MNCC Intel Officer positions next week and would seeks a diverse interview panel including members from the MNICS Task Force. - The invitation is open to all Task Force Members. - Mike Rice will represent the Forest Service. - Seth is available to as a back-up if Mike is not available.
<p>MNCC Updates</p>	<p>MNCC – 310 – requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cory sent information out to the Task Force concerning changes the Forest Service plans to make to the 310 requirements. - The change impacts who will be eligible to serve in the lead dispatcher roles. It was recognized that only the Forest Service is implementing the required change. William Glesener and Cory Berg are working on a white paper to present to the Board of Directors that will focus on the impacts the changes will have on MNICS. <p>MNCC Holiday Office Closures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veteran’s Day Holiday November 11/11 – 11/12 - Thanksgiving 11/22 – 11/26 - End of year closure 12/20 – 1/ 3 <p>Team Evaluations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNICs Team evaluations are being complied. <p>MNCC Logo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC received Task Force approval to distribute the request for a new MNCC logo design.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>MNCC Updates</p>	<p>Org Chart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike shared the changes made to the MNCC org chart based on recommendations from the Task Force. Mike is seeking Task Force approval to move forward on filing the vacant positions. - Discussions are ongoing about flexibility to swap the traditional agency that fills the vacant position to be more truly interagency, recognizing flexibility hire dispatchers to fill any need and not stove pipe to specific agency hire would be ideal. - Paul Lundgren recommended the topic be brought up with the Board of Directors. <p>MNCC AAR & Team Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike is continuing to develop the plan for the MNCC AAR and is seeking recommendations on AAR facilitators. - National Coordination Facilitative challenge course is being considered. - Joanna Marrow, BIA New Mexico, was recommended by Cory Berg. She can support remote or in person facilitation. Cory will share her website and contact information with Mike. - Chase will follow up on contacting Ann Niesen with the Forest Service.
<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>BIA - The fire business analyst vacancy in Bloomington has been accepted by Desire Red Day. The new Fire HR shop has started. Prescribed burning is happening in Shakopee and Prairie Island. Seasonal furloughs will start next week.</p> <p>DNR - The Intel position interviews will be conducted 11/10, and hopefully filled in advance of Diane’s retirement. The fire program is working statewide on several invoices that are coming in for out-of-state resources. The legislature report is in process and close to being wrapped up for FY 2021. The Governor made a stop at the Brainerd Tanker Base as part of the bonding package that was submitted last year that would include at new tarmac at Hibbing and Brainerd. There are many moving parts and no determination has been made.</p> <p>Forest Service - Washington Office review of the Greenwood Fire, a result of the fire reaching a specific dollar limit, has been completed and sent to the Washington Office. The Continuous Improvement assessment is due 11/5. Agency personnel have until 11/8 to complete their COVID vaccination survey. The agency’s tentative plan is 3/14 for agency staff to return to the office, pending union negotiations. There is no agency budget, and the continuing resolution runs out 12/2. All Region 9 fire dollars will now be managed out of the Regional Office. Fire hire is ongoing.</p> <p>Fish and Wildlife Service – Also under a continuing resolution. Agency protocols for vaccination status will be handled higher in the organization. Still holding to post the three GS-6/7s as HR works through the batch hires. An apprenticeship position has been set up at Minnesota Valley NWR. Continuing to introduce Mike to MNICS. The long-term plan is to have Mike more involved with the MNICS meeting planning needs. Prescribed fires are being conducted as weather permits.</p> <p>HSEM – Projects are slowing down, no new updates to report.</p>



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
Agency Updates cont.	<p>NPS – Working through the usual end-of-the-year projects. The Voyageurs RX fire fuels specialist position was filled by Greg Carlson, who will start in late December. Eventually, he will take over Kurt’s role, and Kurt will step down.</p> <p>MNCC Coordinator – Deep into hiring. Matt’s detail has ended, and Amanda is returning 12/5 then on annual leave for the remainder of the year. The Lead Level GS-4/5/6/7 is in the hiring queue. The cert is expected to be pulled 11/4. The goal is to fill the DNR vacancies in Aviation. A temporary offer has been sent out on a short-term detail on the lead operations position. Diane is leaving her Intel position in December. Two seasonal Forest Service dispatcher positions are also in the queue.</p> <p>MIFC PIO – Continuing work on Annual Report and MNICS meeting coordination. The MNICS Type 3 Team AAR for public information has been written and will be submitted soon. In addition, coordination work is underway for the MNICS Information Management Team Meeting in December.</p>

Next Task Force Meeting will be December 6, 2021 hosted on WebEx