



Notes

February 3, 2022, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance:

Task Force: William Glesener, Chase Marshall, Carl Crawford, Seth Grimm, Kurt Fogelberg, Greg Carlson, Jacob Beauregard

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey - MNCC, Leanne Langeberg – Notes, Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Greniger, Jolene Soltis, Travis Verdegan

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The doorbell project was completed last month. - Bids for the roof repair project have been requested. - The MIFC elevator motor requires repair. Due to difficulty obtaining the necessary parts for the repair, the contractor projects the project will be \$5,400 and require a minimum of four to five weeks to complete. Therefore, they recommend replacing the entire elevator system. Kevin Carlisle will obtain the motor specifications and reach out to the local motor repair shop to inquire if they would be able to complete the repairs sooner. - DNR is in process of adding an addition radio technician to the MIFC radio shop. - The local Ham radio group requested access into MIFC to set up an antenna. Due to COVID building restrictions the past two year, the group has not been allowed access. The Task Force approved granting access. Kevin Carlisle will coordinate the date and will notify the MNCC coordinator once the date and time are set. <p>Budget Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed uncommitted funds. The coop funds committed for the HVAC system were returned to uncommitted funds. - The MIFC logistics coordinator is working on quotes for fire extinguishers and the elevator motor repair project. - Task Force chair proposed allocating \$1,500 from the MNICS coop funds to purchase mobile 360-degree pedestal cameras. The cameras would be available for use in the MIFC training and conference rooms and for external interagency events like the MNICS meeting. Task Force approved the \$1,500 request.
<p>2022 Wildfire Academy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Training Working Team met with Itasca Community College (ICC) and Itasca County Community Education program. They propose to proceed with the 2022 Wildfire Academy and have identified 22 courses to offer. - The Training Working Team recommends following ICCs current mask and no social distancing policy the follows CDC guidelines, which will help to keep costs per student lower. - Most MNICS agencies are awaiting their return-to-work notifications and recognize by June the pandemic concerns and policies will likely change. - The Task Force supports hosting the 2022 Wildfire Academy in June and following the ICC requirements for masks an no social distancing.



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Task Force briefing form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Mackey proposed to the Task Force a meeting briefing form format (similar to the Chippewa and Superior National Forest briefing forms) to help track discussions and any assigned tasks that result from the Task Force meetings. - William Glesener and Mike Mackey will work on adjusting the briefing form and convert it into a fillable pdf. The form will be used among task force members and working team chairs.
MNCC Intelligence interagency fire reporting and maintenance	<p>Inform Wildfire Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many of the MNICS agencies are now reporting wildfires through the online InFORM data management tool. - Predictive Service and MNCC Intelligence staff are working to improve accuracy and timeliness of fire reporting, with the ideal end state that all MNICS agencies will eventually have the capability to report to one system of record. - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledged that on a national scale the Service has not made a final decision to move forward with reporting wildfires in InFORM, and the regions do not have the authority to move forward despite support of the tool from local field stations. - Some mutual aid fires last season were entered into Inform with a fire code, resulting in records that cannot be closed out. As these occurrences are identified, the intelligence officer will reach out to the InFORM Helpdesk for support to complete the close out. - DNR will work with FWS to identify training opportunities on how both agencies can best proceed with reporting mutual aid fires that require a fire code. A consideration to use the out of area response option in place of wildfire for any non-jurisdictional agency when requesting a fire code was posed to the group. <p>209 and situation reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2021 season allowed for many opportunities and exposure for agencies to create and submit 209s. While timeliness in submitting the 209s has improved, MNCC is still seeing inconsistencies in what constitutes a 209 and would like all agencies to start using a standard reporting form. - MNCC Intelligence Officer will develop a one-page standard format for 209 reporting and share out to all MNICS agencies. - MNCC Intelligence Officer will set up a meeting with DNR to review the agency's legacy 209 reporting policy.
MNCC Logos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force approved the two MNCC logos selected by the MNCC members. - Before use of the logos, MNCC will vet each logo to assure there are no copyright violations.



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MNCC Teambuilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC is considering High Ridge Leadership group, based out of Duluth MN, for a DISC assessment and follow-up in-person teambuilding meeting. - The estimate from High Ridge Leadership ranges between \$4,200 to \$5,700. - Task Force supports moving forward and using MNICS coop fund as long as High Ridge Leadership and their associated costs meet DNR purchasing requirements. They also recommend waiting until June 2022 in order to involve the new MNCC dispatch hires.
MNCC Delegation of Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The annual Delegation of Authority for the MNCC Coordinator will be forwarded to the MNICS Board of Directors in the next two weeks. - The Task Force and the MNCC Coordinator will begin the process during the MNICS Meeting in order to have the Delegation of Authority ready for Board approval and signatures before the start of the new year.
MNCC Organization Chart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC Coordinator reviewed the revised MNCC organizational chart with the Board of Directors, and they agree with the changes. - MNCC Coordinator will convert the chart to a PDF and route to the Task Force. - The Task Force will forward the PDF to the Board of Directors for final signatures.
Shared Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The last shared protection agreement between the Forest Service and DNR was completed in 2012 and has expired. - An updated shared protection agreement was sent to the Forest Service Northeast State and Private, who expressed concerns about acres and aviation needs. - The Forest Supervisors from the Chippewa and Superior National Forests are engaged with the process and have plans to go direct to the Regional Forester and Fire director to assure long range plans will be finalized. - Mutual aid requests will be supported following the Master agreement. Staff from both agencies must be informed and prepared to staff accordingly. - The change has implications for MNCC and dispatching. MNCC has requested support from Joel Perrington to develop a GIS tool that will help MNCC dispatchers identify private land vs. federal public land timelier. - The MOUs between the DNR and BIA have been sent on to DNR St. Paul for comment.
MNICS Type 3 IMT Meeting – Agency Administrator line officer participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Incident Management Working Team has announced the MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Team meeting will be held March 16 – 18. - The Team is working on the agenda topics, and have requested agency administrator line officers from USDA, DOI and the State to participate in a question-and-answer segment. If a line officer is not available, Task Force members will fill in. - The Task Force will identify line officer members by February 18, 2022.
NWCG Type 1 and 2 IMT complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NWCG is proposing changes to Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs staffing and national utilization. More information is available at https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9d3aea07bbdb4e23a734ba3fcacc6217 - Task Force Chair highlighted the new Northeast Midwest Wildfire Risk Explorer. Allissa Reynolds, DNR, is the local representative for the product. - The topic is being considered for a 2022 MNICS Meeting presentation.



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<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>BIA – All resources assigned to Oklahoma wildfire support have returned due to the recent storm. The expectation is that fire occurrence will pick up in two to three weeks and they will likely return.</p> <p>DNR – The Wildfire section is highly focused on offering fire training at the local level when possible. The agency continues to work on the dynamic COVID processes. The area fire team leaders meeting will be hosted in two weeks as an in-person meeting with a virtual option. An offer was made for the air desk position. Considerations are being made to reallocate the position to fulltime.</p> <p>NPS – Seasonal hiring continues, though the GS-05/06 certs have been exhausted for potential hires.</p> <p>FS – Fire hire continues as a centralized event and has been extended to May. The infrastructure funding surge at the national level continues to be discussed, though the agency remains under a continuing resolution. The agency is starting to experience mass retirements and is working to counterbalance with hiring and relocation incentives. USDA has not issued its return-to-work letter, though it is expected anytime.</p> <p>FWS – The agency expects to return to normal working conditions by May, though some will start returning in March. A national fire academy for the agency – similar to 581 – will be held in-person in April at NCTC. Seth Grimm has been a part of the planning committee and will be a presenter. The region is preparing for a meeting with congress person Fischbach in early March. Hiring for the GS-07 positions is on hold. The apprentice at Minnesota Valley NWR has started.</p> <p>HSEM - HSEM provide their update to the Task Force via a separate for official use only report.</p> <p>MNCC Coordinator – Shared an update on MNCC vacancies. Mike will submit a working team assignment to the GISS/ITSS working team to help support the GISS tool for WildCad. 2022 Mobilization Guide edits are mostly complete, but the plan is to hold off on release until the National and Eastern Area Mobilization Guides are released in early March. MNCC coordinator requested to review agreements during a future Task Force meeting and plans to discuss FireNet folders during the next Task Force meeting.</p>

Next Task Force Meeting will be March 3, 2022, hosted in-person at MIFC.