



Notes

March 11, 2022, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance:

Task Force: Paul Lundgren, Chase Marshall, Carl Crawford, Cory Berg, Kurt Fogelberg, Greg Carlson

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

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Forest Service has not announced a decision to replace the MIFC building roof. The local plan is to move forward with repairing the seal, and MIFC coop funds will cover the cost. The awarded bid, including a five-year guarantee, came in under budget. The repair is scheduled to be completed by June 30. - The MIFC elevator capacitor was replaced and has resolved the lifting problems that prevented use. - The sprinkler system inspection is in progress, an inspection date hasn't been identified. - Request for fire alarm monitoring bids will be sought soon. <p>Budget Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the monthly expense report. The conference room cameras came in under budget, and the expense was removed from the current expense report. The roof repair, fire alarm, and scanner and copier for the MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Teams remain pending expenses. - The BIA reported their invoices for aircraft expenses have been submitted to the regional grant specialist and will be submitted to MIFC soon.
<p>MNICS Prevention WT Charter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Prevention Working Team held a meeting last month and established a working team charter. - The charter was presented to the Task Force. The Task Force will review the charter and send any proposed changes to the Prevention Working Team Task Force rep, Kurt Fogelberg, by March 21. - A final copy of the charter with signatures will be posted to the Prevention Working Team page on the MNICS website.
<p>MN Wildfire Academy Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Training Working Team continues efforts to fill a few remaining lead instructor roles before registration opens. - The Task Force reviewed the current course listings. - BIA has identified an instructor for the S-270 course and may also have a Great Lakes Agency representative for the S-230 course. - There is a deliberate effort with MNCC to coordinate dispatch training needs in collaboration with the Eastern Area. The MNCC center manager does not feel there is any concern that MNICS needs to be adding more courses to fill any current training voids.



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Center Manager Delegation of Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DNR has signed the agreement. HSEM is next in line to sign. Paul Lundgren will coordinate with William Glesener to inquire about the status.
MNICS Mobilization Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MNCC center manager shared a MNICS Mobilization Guide status update. - The National and Eastern Area Mobilization Guides have been released. MNCC plans to ask chapter leads to complete a final review of both Mobilization Guides and note any changes necessary for the MNICS Mobilization Guide. - The goal is to publish and release the MNICS Mobilization Guide by March 18, 2022.
MNCC Wild CAD ITSS/GISS Project Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC and the Task Force Chair are working with the MNICS ITSS/GISS Working Team to coordinate GIS data compatible with e-dispatch and WildCAD. - Meetings have been held with Joel Perrington, ITSS/GISS Working Team chair, and additional meetings will be scheduled as the project develops. - MNCC expects the new WildCAD to be released this fall. It's uncertain if the release will be part of the beta testing or an official release. - BIA requested Shawn Kelly represent BIA for the assignment. Cory Berg will reach out to Joel Perrington to coordinate the request.
FS Authorization to Convert Dispatch Position to Full-time Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC has three vacant positions to fill. The Forest Service has authorized converting the positions to full-time status. - Forest Service certs to fill two of the three roles will be available by the end of March. - The MNCC Coordinator will share an updated organization chart with the proposed hiring agency changes to the Board of Directors for approval. - Paul Lundgren will coordinate a Board of Directors Meeting to discuss the changes with the MNCC Coordinator.
MIFC Front Desk Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions are underway to fill the MIFC front desk vacancy. - The position is dually funded by DNR and Forest Service. DNR is the hiring agency. - DNR is proposing to reclassify the position to a higher wage scale and will include supporting the DNR's Northeast Regional Office 25 percent of the time.
MNICS Agency COVID Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DNR transition it's COVID response guidance to less restrictive measures. Health screening and proof of vaccination or daily testing remain in effect to report to a DNR office location. The agency has identified April 22 as the return to office date. Telework opportunities will scale back to a few days a week unless fire needs require more frequent reporting to the office. DNR office cleaning requirements for reported exposures have been rescinded. - National Park Service has lifted its mask mandate. - BIA is following a flexible return to office determined at the regional level. - Forest Service hasn't sent employees the return to office letter. They are required to provide a 45-day notice to employees. Agency COVID travel guidelines haven't changed. - Task Force will add this topic as a discussion item for a future MNICS Task Force Meeting, focusing on what telework capacity should look like for MNICS.



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NOTES

Agency Updates

BIA – The agency continues sending resources to support the southern region, mainly to Oklahoma. Aircraft start date decisions are planned to be made next week, it’s anticipated April 10 will be the start date, then the SEAT will follow a week later. The Fire Boss is tentatively planned to start April 26. The agency is in the process of updating agreements between BIA and the State and direct agreements with the Tribes. Pre-season training and meetings are ongoing.

DNR – DNR is working through the recently updated federal Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirements that require proof of driving school certification. While there are many driving school locations throughout the state, out-of-pocket expenses range from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per student driver. Because lead firefighter positions include the CDL requirement, and the agency doesn't offer a training school course, it's working on developing a course that will meet the requirements.

NPS – Voyageurs National Park is in the process of hiring a summer fuels group but is experiencing hiring constraints with a lower pool of qualified applicants. NPS is lining up fuels reduction projects for the upcoming season, including broadcast burning on several locations planned throughout the park. Zone agency employees are being sent to support fire needs in the south. Kurt Fogelberg may be requested to backfill in North Dakota as support needs in the south continue.

FS – The East Zone fire management officer (FMO) position has been filled. The fire training specialist accepted a 120-day detail, and the agency is working to fill that temporary void. Forest Service is considering filling the GS-07 fire admin and a GS-11 incident business advisor positions at MIFC. Both national forests are working with the new AD hub and balancing the challenges associated with the change. The continuing resolution remains in place. Many resources are supporting needs in the south.

FWS – No update.

HSEM - No update.

MNCC Coordinator – A few MNCC dispatchers participated in out-of-state training assignments last month and made progress toward completing task books. A lead for one of the aviation desk vacancies was filled. MNCC distributed a 120-day detail outreach for the assistant center manager for operations position.

Reminder! Please send agenda items to Kurt Fogelberg in advance of the next MNICS Task Force Meeting.

Next Task Force Meeting will be April 7, 2022, hosted in-person at MIFC.