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April 7, 2022, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance:

Task Force: William Glesener, Mike Hill, Roy Holmes, Jacob Beauregard, Cory Berg, Chase Marshall, Kurt Fogelberg, Greg Carlson

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

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The awarded roof repair contract is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2022. - Bids for the fire alarm monitoring panel will open April 15. - The Forest Service will conduct the MIFC building annual safety inspection April 13. <p>Budget Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the monthly expense report and uncommitted funds. The roof repair, fire alarm and scanner copier aren't included in the uncommitted funds.
<p>MNICS Mobilization Guide Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2022 MNICS Mobilization Guide is ready for release. - MNCC completed their review of recent changes to the national and regional level mobilization guides. They determined the revisions to reflect these changes in the MNICS Mobilization Guide would be too extensive to complete this year. - The MNCC center manager, assistant center manager for logistics, and public information officer will coordinate the revision project beginning in June and will involve chapter SMEs throughout the revision process. - The Task Force will be consulted on any changes involving policy, and when considering removing any section from the MNICS Mobilization Guide. - The Task Force recommends incorporating a change list at the beginning of each chapter, and an appendix with links to corresponding guides. - Task Force approves moving forward with the revision project.
<p>L-380 Interagency Funding Request</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrollment for the L-380 Fireline Leadership course scheduled for the 2022 academy has not met the student threshold and may result in cancelation. The course is designed for 24 students. - Traditionally, the L-380 course was supplemented through DNR with grant funds from the Minnesota Board of Fire Training. The grant wasn't funded this year. - The Task Force recognizes this is a valuable and necessary training session for all MNICS partners and want to offer the course outside of the academy. They propose setting up a special project fund with dedicated MNICS Coop funds to cover the cost of hosting the L-380 course for MNICS partners starting in 2022. - The Task Force will request their agency training coordinators to complete a needs assessment for the L-380 training for the calendar year 2022. The training coordinators will be asked to report the needs assessment findings to the Task Force on May 5. - Based on the needs assessment results, the Task Force will finalize a budget to cover the actual costs per agency to host the L-380, and each agency will incorporate their cost into their MNICS coop budgets.



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Single Resource Boss Refresher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Operations Working Team inquired with the Task Force the need to host an interagency Single Resource Boss refresher course in 2022. - In the past, MNICS offered an interagency Single Resource Boss refresher course to assure crew members were aware of contracts and agreements in place and had completed the required paperwork necessary to meet national standards to mobilize. - The Task Force agreed that individual agencies will be responsible for their Single Resource Boss refreshers, and an Interagency session would not be required unless requested by the Operations Working Team.
MNICS Type 2 IA Crew Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Operations Working Team requested the Task Force help establish who will serve as the single point of contact for the MNICS Type 2 IA Crews. - The Task Force agrees the Operations Working Team will be responsible for the coordination, including recruitment, selection, and organization of teams and should begin focusing their efforts on preparing for the MNICS Type 2 IA Crews crew cohesion. - The Task Force and MNCC Center Manager Mike Mackey discussed MNCC's role in coordinating the MNICS Type 2 IA crews. MNCC Logistics dispatchers and the Center Manager have assumed larger coordination roles in the past, and Mike will need more training to better understand the role MNCC should be supporting moving forward. - The Task Force agrees that the Operations Working Team will lead the coordination efforts. MNCC will continue to provide support within their capacity when necessary but will not serve as the lead coordinators for the MNICS Type 2 IA Crews.
Working Team Chair Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MNICS Working Team chairs will be invited to share updates with the Task Force on May 4. The chair updates will be followed by the Task Force's monthly meeting on May 5. - The Working Team chairs will report virtually through a WebEx invitation. - Mike Mackey will coordinate the meeting schedule. - Leanne Langeberg sent Mike Mackey the schedule template used in the past.
Update on Working Team Folders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FireNet channels for the MNICS Working Teams have been set up, and the Task Force members will have access to all of the channels. - An established FireNet account is not needed to join the channel. - The channels are locked, so voting members will need to decide who from their team will be the administrator for their channel and can grant access to the Working Team's channel and folders. - The same folder structure – charter, archive, meeting notes, report articles, assignments – will be set up for each working team. - Mike Mackey will explain the FireNet Channels to the Working Team Chairs during their report.



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<p>Fire Department Agreements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The State of Minnesota DNR and HSEM are exploring opportunities to streamline rural fire department agreements and reimbursables for initial and extended attack support to be more efficient with the MNICS interagency agreements. - Considerations for a new pathway are paramount, especially as the Forest Service initial attack agreements with Rural Fire departments are set to expire in 2022. - A master agreement with the State of Minnesota or annual cooperators agreements that would allow Rural Fire Departments to be reimbursed for emergency services through the Department of Public Safety (DPS/HSEM) or DNR are being considered. - DNR follows a Rural Fire Department agreement template with established rates and requirements. William Glesener will share the DNR's template and reimbursable rates, and Jacob Beauregard will share a copy of the DPS/HSEM intergovernmental contracts with the Task Force. In addition, Chase Marshall will share a copy of the current agreements the Forest Service has in place with Rural Fire Departments with the DNR and HSEM. - The Task Force discussed a potential flow chart for the rural fire department to be reimbursed under cooperative agreements for initial or extended attack with the State of Minnesota. - Scenario - The requesting agency places a resource order for the extended attack need that the State would fill. The resource order would be placed through MNCC and sent to the fire department's county emergency operation centers to fill. Under the Master Cooperative Agreement, the State would pay the rural fire departments for the time they are on a resource order. The State would seek reimbursement from the requesting agency through either agreements or cost-share. - DNR and HSEM will need to discuss further with their agency administrators to determine if a cooperative agreement is an option. - The Task Force members will notify their MNICS Board of Director representative about the discussions involving rural fire department agreements and possible solution development.
<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>BIA – The agency will readvertise the fire operations specialist as a nationwide announcement. Approval was granted to include a GS-11 Aviation Manager at Bemidji on the organization chart, and a new position description will be written for the position. The regional fire business position will close soon, and the agency hopes to fill the position with a reporting location in Bemidji. BIA is starting to move aviation resources into its Minnesota bases. The exclusive use helicopter is scheduled to start on April 10, and the SEAT and Fire Boss will follow. All of the engines have returned from Oklahoma and Texas. Some prescribed burning has been completed at Red Lake. The BIA and Forest Service have signed a two year interagency agreement for fire protection services on Leech Lake Tribal land. The agency is looking at May 28 as a target return to office date.</p>



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<p>Agency Updates Cont.</p>	<p>DNR – The Princeton, Brainerd and Hinckley tanker bases are staffed and ready. The return to office tentative date is set for April 22. Preparedness and response guides have been updated, and a plan for how DNR will manage on-call personnel is expected to be released soon. Interviews for the Radio Technician 2 position, which will support the primary radio shop team, have been conducted. DNR is considering options to incorporate WildCAD and C-Soft enterprise-wide to improve dispatching across the board. A couple engines are supporting Texas and Illinois fire needs. The entry level forester crew started this week. The Manitoba burn module, coordinated by Mike Lichter, is helping with the Provence’s effort to establish and grow their new prescribed burn program. The TREX program is scheduled to run in early May. As the TREX program grows, the agency would like to see the Prescribed Fire and Fuels Working Team be more involved in planning the events.</p> <p>NPS – The agency attempted some prescribed burning of cattails last week, but the snowpack hampered the success of the burn, and the agency will try again on a later date. The agency is working on wrapping up seasonal hiring.</p> <p>FS – The support service specialist GS-07 has been advertised and will close on April 20. Welcome to Patrick Johnson who filled the east zone fire management officer position. The agency is working through seasonal fire hire. One of the temporary GS-07 initial attack dispatcher positions was converted to a fulltime position. The Greenwood fire Washington Office continuous improvement assessment has been completed. The budget passed and the agency is waiting on funding breakdowns. Region 9 was approved for 112 new firefighting positions. The agency is working on a transition back to the office working environment with June 6 set to start the hybrid model.</p> <p>FWS – The region brought in resources from out of area to support prescribed burns and is prepared to conduct prescribed burning when conditions improve. The budget will include normal allocations, disaster relief (using wildland urban interface areas), and bipartisan infrastructure funding. Offers are being made for the open engine captain positions. The apprenticeship program is growing, and the agency anticipates there will be more opportunity to bring on additional apprentices.</p> <p>HSEM – The results from the after action reviews for civil unrest were released, and some of the changes will involve improving interagency coordination. The avian influenza strain is present in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Board of Animal Health have formed an incident management team and are working with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) incident management team to support affected counties.</p>



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<p>Agency Updates Cont.</p>	<p>MNCC Coordinator – Mike is working with Minnesota counties to coordinate initial attack dispatching. The aviation desk is staffing seven days a week, and additional aircraft are expected to arrive on April 8 and 11. MNCC operations will begin seven-day coverage starting April 10. MNCC will attempt to fill the vacant aviation and operations dispatcher roles with resource orders. Mike will reach out to Dan Paulson to inquire about an aviation component for the FWS apprenticeship program. MNCC is preparing for a larger-scale aviation mishap simulation on April 19 that will involve response plans at the regional and GACC levels. The simulation needs an additional five to eight role players to help support the simulation activities.</p> <p>BIA will sponsor the Eastern Area Coordination Center's fire behavior analyst; however, the intel position remains vacant. The offers made for the assistant center manager for operations position were declined. The center manager will back-fill in that position until additional support can be brought in to help. The next round of Forest Service fire hire is scheduled for August 2022, and despite the position being open continuous, it cannot be filled until an official hiring event.</p> <p>MIFC PIO – Leanne has been asked to support public information planning efforts for two prescribed burn projects – Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge and DNR prescribed burn, and the TREX program – this spring. She has also been asked to fill in as the PIO for the newly formed ad hoc incident management team that will support the 2022 Wildfire Academy.</p> <p>Reminder! Please send agenda items to Kurt Fogelberg in advance of the next MNICS Task Force Meeting.</p>
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Next Task Force meeting will include the MNICS Working Team chair updates. The meeting will be held May 4 & 5, 2022. The Task Force will meet in person at MIFC, Working Team chairs will present virtually.