



Notes

August 4, 2022, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance

Task Force: William Glesener, Greg Carlson, Chase Marshall, Cory Berg, Jacob Beauregard, Seth Grimm

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

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building Update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estimates are being sought for the MIFC building electrical improvements that were identified as a concern during the building safety inspection. - Repairs to the roof continue to prevent any noticeable leaks - The radio shop steps were repaired. <p>Budget Update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the coop’s monthly expense report and uncommitted funds. The FY23 coop funds reported include the rollover and annual MNICS partners three percent increase. - The reduced rollover for FY23 compared to the previous two fiscal years reflects the increase in utilities as more telework staff return.
<p>Satellite Phones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual data plans to maintain operation of underutilized satellite phones draw approximately \$5,000 from MNICS coop funds. - The Satellite phones were originally purchased during the 1999 blowdown, and are paid in full, but require annual data plans to operate. - Recommendation posed that MNICS pare down to three activated satellite phones and move to the Iridium Go! Satellite Hotspot technology, which can tap cellphones into satellite coverage. - Before a final decision is made, Kevin Carlisle will discuss usage and need to maintain data access plans with the DNR pilots who currently carry the satellite phones. - Task Force also discussed the use of FirstNet and the value it may have in maintaining MNCC operations as a backup plan for network failure. HSEM has an account MNCC could request access to use for this type of event. - Jacob Beauregard will invite a representative to present on the FirstNet program at a future Task Force meeting.
<p>FY-22 Financial Operating Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force approved the three percent contribution for FY23 from all MNICS partners and will discuss the increase again next year. - The increase will be written into the financial operating plan. - Drafts of the finalized financial operating plan will be distributed for review soon and Task Force member will route the plan to agency officials for signature to be completed before October 1, 2022.



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Shared Response Plan Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force discussed key points derived from the Shared Response Plan meeting held on July 21, 2022. Additional discussion focused on the role of shared aviation assets and how the current dispatch design will adjust to work more smoothly for the responding initial attack incident commander. - In the next phase of the plan, DNR areas and adjoining Forest Service zones will meet to decide the response strategy that makes the most sense for shared protection on the ground. - Task Force will request zone fire management officers and area fire leads to inform the Task Force of their established shared response meeting dates so leadership and GIS support can be made available to attend the meetings. - Region GIS specialists and Joel Perrington will be asked to establish offsets. - Additional planning sessions will be determined upon completion of these meetings and development of the GIS offset layers.
Type 3 IMT Status Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the low wildfire occurrence throughout Minnesota, the Task Force supports not rostering the MNICS Type 3 IMT B for in-state availability during the August 16 – 22 rotation. The MNICS Type 3 IMT will have the option to roster the team for national availability during this rotation if they choose. - The Task Force will reassess local need for a MNICS Type 3 Team availability during the Tuesday Preparedness call.
MNICS T2IA program update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force discussed results from the initial MNICS Type 2 IA crew assignment after-action review. - Task Force recognizes reimagining the program is necessary to assure MNICS offers a quality interagency program that promotes inclusivity and cohesive training opportunities for all crew members, supports Crew boss leadership through times of crew personnel challenges, and continues to be an opportunity people want to voluntarily seek out for career development. - The Task Force’s Operations Working Team Representative will invite the Operations Working Team and MNICS Type 2 IA subcommittee to the morning session of the October 6, 2022, Task Force meeting with the intent to engage in a meaningful dialog focused on reimagining the mission, vision, and leaders intent for the program’s SOP.
Minnesota Wildfire Academy Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The topic will be moved to the September 2022 meeting topics and a presentation on Needs Assessment from the Training Working Team will be requested.
Annual MNICS Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leanne Langeberg shared updates to the current 2022 MNICS meeting agenda. - The keynote speakers are unconfirmed. Chase Marshall is working reaching out to request a Casualty Assistance Program guest speaker, and Kristi Henderson is reaching out to Kit Welchlin to present on the intergenerational workforce. - Confirmed is a presentation on the Meeker County Aviation Training Field Day. - The Eastern Area Gold Team will be asked to present on their season followed by an introduction to Complex Incident Management Teams. - MN DNR will be the highlighted agency this year.



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Agency Updates

BIA – Several personnel are supporting the BIA’s Oklahoma region. A couple of small fires reported at Red Lake. Minnesota Agency Superintendent resigned. Chris Redman, Deputy Region Director is the acting Superintend. Bob Lintelmann is filling some of the Superintendent roles when Chris is off-site. BIA submitted a proposal to extended the pay incentive benefits BIA employees are receiving to all tribally employed wildland firefighters. The Forest Service shared CWPP development updates and what will be available to the Tribes.

DNR – DNR areas are reporting a few small fires with no significant response required. DNR is working through line of duty death and vehicle operations training components that will likely be requirements for seasonal firefighters and refreshers for fulltime staff. DNR fire program will be sending folks to the GLFFC meeting in September. A few retirements are expected to within the next six to nine months, and the agency plans to restaff the positions. Bonding funds were not awarded for the Hibbing Tanker Base ramp replacement.

FS – Minimal fires reported on both National Forests amid wet conditions. Requests for fire support is picking up in Region 9 - Southwest Missouri. Connie Cummins officially retired, and Shannon Rische is the acting Forest Supervisor. Agency is ramping up COVID restrictions back to mission critical attendance for in-person meetings and travel. Approval granted for a tanker base module that will include five positions starting in 2023. The prescribed burn pause remains in effect. Starting next fiscal year, the forest budgets for both the Chippewa and Superior National Forest will be managed at the Regional Office level.

FWS – Many fire qualified personnel are supporting western mobilizations. Continue to work on budget projects and closing out the fiscal year. Local Fire Management Officers may be reaching out to partners for geospatial data.

HSEM – FEMA approved moving two federal public disaster declarations for Minnesota counties impacted by flooding forward to the president for a final approval decision. The Training and Communications positions are being reviewed by Human Resources. A request to extend the COVID test-to-treat sites was submitted. Radiological preparedness exercises were completed, and field teams were evaluated. No pending EMAC requests. The funding for the SEOC addition was not approved.

NPS – A couple of seasonals went out with the recent hand crew mobilization. Kurt Fogelberg has retired, and the plan is to fill his position as soon as possible as GS-08 if approved. There is a possibility the park will be approved to hire a GS-05 and GS-06 seasonal positions next spring. Flooding concerns have greatly improved.

MNCC – Continuous hiring effort underway and managing minimal staffing with cross training and weekly rotations. Thanks to DNR for supporting MNCC with trainees. Trying to get some people out on assignment, including the MNCC manager who is considering going available with either the Type 2 IMT or as a center manager shadowing assignment. Mike will be attending the MNICS board of director’s meeting next month. Mike requested the dispatch vision agenda item be added to September’s meeting agenda.

Next Task Force Meeting will be September 1, 2022, hosted in-person at MIFC.