



Notes

September 1, 2022, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Task Force Attendance: William Glesener, Greg Carlson, Chase Marshall, Carl Crawford, Tom Remus, Jacob Beauregard, Seth Grimm

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey - MNCC, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Greniger, Todd Manley

Notes prepared by: Leanne Langeberg

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building Update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the August MIFC Building Report. - The fire sprinkler system installation is on hold, awaiting the panel. Installation is expected to happen by the end of September, pending no further delay in parts. - The copier that was back ordered was shipped. - MIFC building committee plans to make a few adjustments to the outdoor electric posts and reduce the number of panels to one for the wash stations. The request for bids is expected to be sent out next week. - Preparing for the Active shooter simulation. <p>Budget Update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force reviewed the monthly expense report and uncommitted funds, and no notable changes occurred over the last month.
<p>Northern Rockies Coordination Center Incident</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A potential active shooter incident occurred at the Northern Rockies Coordination Center on August 28. The incident was deescalated, and the five staff members working in the building were safely evacuated. - Preparing for similar events at MIFC is a top priority. An Authorized Personnel Only sign will be added to the gate and considerations are being made to add window films that reduce the view from the outside into the building.
<p>MNICS Financial Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The line items in the draft financial plan that was initially emailed out to Task Force members for review, was reviewed again as a group. - William Glesener will update the receptionist position language. - Mike Mackey will submit his changes to William Glesener. - William Glesener will complete the final draft changes by the end of next week and email the final document out for approval and signatures.
<p>MNICS Annual Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kit Welchlin is available to guest speak at the MNICS Meeting. His fee is \$3500 to present and an additional \$500 for travel. Task Force approved proceeding with setting up the contract. - Task Force will make a final decision by September 30 on hosting in-person or virtual. Kevin is in the process of seeking bids for the meeting venue. - In-person COVID mitigations - Task Force will decide whether or not to limit in-person meeting participants to active working team members, Task Force and Board of Directors before September 30. - Task Force will request FirstNet to present to the Communications, Logistics and ITSS Working Teams during the MNICS meeting, with the intention they will represent the topic during the spring IMT meeting. Mike Mackey will prepare the working team assignment form and share it with William Glesener.



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<p>FirstNet Deployable Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shane Olson, with the State of Minnesota Governor’s Office, spoke with the Task Force about FirstNet Communication for emergency response capability. He is the lead technical consultant on a small FirstNet team that works with state agency teams to ensure equipment is deployed to emergency events when needed. He works with all state agencies, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties and their partners. - FirstNet is a nationwide public safety broadband network, and AT&T is the contractor that helps maintain the network. - Government agencies can request deployable assets (cellphone satellite towers) for planned and unplanned events like wildfires, even presidential visits. - The deployable assets for Minnesota are located in the Twin Cities and take approximately four hours to roll out to the requesting agency. By law, once requested, the equipment must be delivered and up and running within 14 hours from the initial request. - Requests can be made through FirstNet by a FirstNet customer that is on scene and will be accountable throughout the deployment of equipment. The customer must be an ATT subscriber. - Access to FirstNet Central can be completed through an online dashboard or by calling Customer Care. - HSEM is a FirstNet customer. For MNICS partners not on the FirstNet System, Shane recommends having a cache of devices and sim cards. The devices are not included with the deployable assets. The current rate plan is \$5.00 per device per month, and once activated and used, the device fee will not exceed the \$39.99 monthly fee. There are roughly 350 – 500 devices that are FirstNet ready to go. The plan sim card is needed to connect to the network. - Task Force is open to registering pre-identified MNICS ITSS specialists as qualified users and communications leaders. - Task Force agreed to procure a cache of phones and sim cards and will investigate which federal partners have access to the FirstNet program. - To maintain MNCC’s operability, Task Force sees the benefit in having a kit with devices and a cradle point to maintain internet access. - Task Force will arrange another presentation with Shane to present this topic to the MNICS Logistics and ITSS Working Teams at the MNICS Annual meeting.
<p>MNICS Vision for MNCC and centralized dispatching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC centralized dispatching will be a MNICS Board of Directors meeting topic. - Transition uncertainties exist. The Task Force and Mackey agree the conversations on the topic must remain a top priority for MNICS Leadership. - Until Minnesota DNR is fully operational with the WildCAD-e software, many decisions on how to proceed will remain unclear. - The Task Force discussed multiple directions centralization could lead but ultimately recognized the original vision of two dispatching centers (Northeast and Northwest) is likely the direction to explore further. - Involving the Dispatch Working Team in laying out a strategic plan and vision of what an ideal interagency dispatch design should involve will be beneficial. - Task Force will also consider ways to receive and incorporate feedback and recommendations from those who utilize the dispatching system in the field.



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Minnesota Wildfire Academy Review and Training Update

- Todd Manley reviewed the 2022 Minnesota Wildfire Academy and shared updates on funding sources to deliver fire leadership training next year.
- Minnesota Wildfire Academy –**
- 521 participants attended the 23-course offerings this year. A few of the advertised courses were canceled due to a lack of interest.
 - The week-long academy was coordinated by a smaller Type-3 Incident Management Team this year, led by Mike Aultman.
 - There were several notable challenges after a two-year postponement.
 - COVID continued playing a role in lower attendance numbers.
 - Hotel rooms were a challenge again. A new hotel opening this fall and another slated to begin construction within the year will improve lodging constraints.
 - The Delegation of Authority for most academy components will move to the Minnesota North Itasca Campus provost. Task Force agrees a separate Delegation of Authority for training components involving aircraft will need to remain with one of the MNICS host agencies. Task Force discussed removing aircraft from the academy and will consider agency-sponsored aircraft training that could coincide with the academy.
 - It was challenging to find lead instructors this year, and the Training Working Team will focus their MNICS Annual meeting attention on identifying solutions to the growing concern.
 - The academy relied on ADs for the incident management team and as lead instructors this year. The Delegation of Authority must clarify that all ADs will adhere to their cap on the number of hours they can commit to supporting the academy. An alternative will be to sign up as smokechaser.
 - The Delegation of Authority must also clarify the role of the MNICS Training Coordinators and their ability to communicate directly with lead instructors on matters concerning course delivery and kits.
 - William Glesener proposed incorporating the academy IMT as a course offering with no fee, resulting in training and official experience for those working on their task books. In addition, offering as a registered course could increase the likelihood of earlier team member commitment to the team.
 - Task Force is still open to offering mini-academies during non-response times of the year, like in the winter months or September.
- MBFTE Grant Funding –**
- Todd Manley presented a grant proposal for more than \$280,000 to offer fire leadership training courses (L-380, L-381, L-580) throughout Minnesota to the MBFTE Executive Board. The funds would offer 50% of the seats to Minnesota Fire Departments, with the remaining seats available for DNR and MNICS partners. Todd feels optimistic about the grant funding; however, he will not receive final notification on approval until the end of September.
 - The 2023 Minnesota Wildfire Academy \$10,000 grant proposal was approved.
- MNICS Training Needs Assessments –**
- The training needs assessments are due mid-September and, when compiled, will be distributed to the Task Force.



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Agency Updates

BIA – All Minnesota Agency folks, except for one, have returned from out-of-state assignments. The new acting superintendent has started.

DNR – Awaiting approval to move the Natural Resources Tech for the MNCC support dispatcher position through the system. The fire program is working on another position description for an advanced training specialist. The position will be more involved with ICS, prescribed fire and fire behavior courses and support our internal DNR partners like parks and trails, fish and wildlife and eco waters. A few nuisance fires have been reported. The Governor’s fire prevention day at the State Fair was August 26. We appreciate the help from Red Lake fire prevention. The aviation group has been supporting Wyoming, and the group on rotation now will be the final group. The program went well. We are continuing to work on training crosswalks and agreements with local fire departments. The Great Lake Forest Fire Compact meeting will be held in Michigan in the third week of September.

FWS – Infrastructure Bill planning is well underway, with currently \$3.3 million in projects for the West Zone. The agency is also working on year-end budgets. A request to fill a GS – 8/9 fire operations technician position at Minnesota Valley NWR is on deck to be sent to HR. Eric Erhardt, Windom’s prescribed fire specialist and fire management specialist, accepted a non-fire position. The agency plans to post the five vacant career seasonal positions sometime in September. Broadcast burning has been re-engaged during lower planning levels.

FS – The Forests continue to support the national needs by sending resources out of Minnesota. Another round of fire-hire has begun. The Superior National Forest has selected Tom Hall as the Forest Supervisor, and he will start his new position on September 12. The Regional Forester is planning to tour the Superior National Forest on September 19. The Chief of the Forest Service is working on a prescribed burning communication plan while the pause remains in effect. The communications plan is expected to be implemented sometime end of September.

HSEM – The communications position posting closed and is moving on to the interview stage. The position for the deputy operations section chief will be posted sometime in September. The Association of Emergency Managers’ annual meeting will be held the week of September 18. A state closer to Kentucky filled the PIO EMAC request. The Mississippi flooding is likely to draw more requests for representatives, mechanics and operators to get the water treatment system back up and running; however, it isn’t likely that the outreach will reach Minnesota. There are now three federal disaster declarations for public assistance in Minnesota, and it’s expected FEMA will set up in Bloomington to manage those three disasters. There are four more state declarations pending.

MNCC – Hiring is ongoing. Three positions for the federal side will be posted soon. Mike is looking for assistance to help with applicant reviews as he will be attending 510 the same week the review is scheduled to take place.

Next Task Force Meeting will be October 6, 2022, hosted in-person at MIFC.