



Notes

April 6, 2023, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Task Force: Greg Carlson, William Glesener, Cory Berg, Mike Hill, Jacob Beauregard, Ben Roy

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

Guest: Jim Strezishar – Forest Service engineer

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recently replaced generator fuel pump passed the latest monthly system test with no new issues found. - NEK Cache funds were used to install a new pump shop light and relocate the switch to an accessible location, and two new lights outside of the building. - The warehouse light replacement project is expected to be completed by June 26, 2023. Additional costs are expected as the price of materials has increased since the original quote. - Building security key card reader software upgrade requires an additional \$398 to finalize the upgrade. Task Force approved using coop funds to cover the additional expense. <p><i>MIFC security system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cost estimates shared by two companies to install a new security system range between \$53,000 and \$58,000. Both quotes include upgrades to security cameras, monitors and intercom capabilities to MNCC and NEK Cache. - The Task Force Chair will submit a proposal to the MNICS Board of Directors for \$60,000 to upgrade the MIFC facility security system and will also attach a cost break out by each MNICS agency. Shelly Greniger will assist with creating the cost estimate spreadsheet. <p><i>Elevator system update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the information shared from two separate on-site elevator inspections from Arrow Lift and Larson, the parts needed to repair the MIFC elevator system are no longer available. Both companies recommend installing a new elevator lift system with a design like the current MIFC elevator lift system. - Larson quoted \$58,000 to install one elevator lift requiring a building redesign with stops at all three floors. The estimate did not include the cost of engineering or architecture design plans and any associated building modification work. - Arrow Lift quoted \$94,000 to replace both lifts in the same locations. - Forest Service engineer, Jim Strezishar, advised that installing a hotel-type elevator will run closer to \$350,000. He acknowledged that the available fiscal year (FY) 2023 Forest Service building funds would not cover the project this year. A proposal could be submitted for the FY 2024 funding, but that funding covers multiple ranger stations and supervisor office and risks not being the highest priority for available funds. - The Task Force Chair will submit a proposal to the Board of Directors for \$165,000 to install a new elevator lift system and associated design and construction work. The request will include statements from Jim Strezishar and the MIFC Building Committee members Brian Wise and Kevin Carlisle, who will explain the critical work is necessary to correct ADA compliance concerns that risk a delay if a decision is made to hold for potential Forest Service funding



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<p>Building and Budget Update cont.</p>	<p><i>Protective window film</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kevin Carlisle emailed the Task Force a video and cost estimate from Rides LLC, which specializes in installing custom window film designed to strengthen shattered tempered glass windows struck by a direct impact like a bullet. - More information is needed on the film's effectiveness for double-paned windows. - The estimated cost to cover MIFC front office windows is \$3,107. - Task Force will consider the proposal if dual pane window coverage is confirmed. <p><i>Integrating the intercom system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MIFC building committee proposed integrating the phone intercom system into programable speakers in the cache and training room to allow people in these areas to hear critical security alerts in case of an active shooter incident or other security risks. - Estimated cost is \$1000 per speaker. - Task Force approved \$4000 of MNICS coop funds to install four speakers throughout the facility. <p><i>Roof replacement update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding for the roofing contract was sent to the Forest Service Region's contracting officers. <p><i>Tool Cat replacement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current Tool Cat is due for replacement and a newer Tool Cat is available through Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) at a program cost of \$4,500. - The cache staff regularly use the Tool Cat to clear snow in the winter. - It was initially purchased through FEPP for use at MIFC but was not included in a maintenance program. - If approved, the new Tool Cat will be entered into the DNR fleet maintenance program with a replacement schedule. - Task Force approves MNICS coop funds to cover the FEP program costs. <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force reviewed the current budget and available coop funds. - An inquiry was made about the funds set aside for the MNCC team-building session for FY 2023. The funding line item was approved by the Task Force, and they approve rolling the funds into FY 2024.
<p>Working Team Chair Report Coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force scheduled the mid-year Working Team Chair reports for May 31, 2023, and will request MNCC Coordinator, Ryan Kingsley, to arrange the schedule. - Task Force will plan for an in-person meeting, with a virtual option. - Cory Berg and Greg Carlson will send the invite and schedule to the chairs.
<p>T3 IMT Rotation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force will request MNICS Team B to roster an IMT starting next Tuesday, as many areas south of St. Cloud are expected to be snow-free by early next week. - The MNICS Planning call will start again on Tuesday, April 11.
<p>T2IA Crew Recruitment Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force will request an update on the MNICS Type 2 IA crew recruitment and application status and will coordinate to meet with Tasha Woodwick after the MNICS planning meeting call on Tuesday, April 11. - Task Force will request the MNICS Type 2 IA Crew subcommittee present an update on final application and rostering status during the May Task Force meeting.



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<p>Master Agreement Coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current MNICS Master Agreement will expire in April 2024. The Task Force has set a goal to finalize a draft ready for signatures by September 2023. - Mike Hill will check on availability to host a two-day meeting on July 11 and 12 at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. The BIA office in Bemidji is also available for an alternate location. - The goal for the meeting is to review and update the Master Cooperating Agreement and Operating Plan. - Greg Carlson will send an email to the MNICS board of directors to notify them of the Master Agreement planning meeting. - William Glesener requested all MNICS partners share their agency business experts names and contact information with DNR’s Craig Ferguson. Craig will be asked to coordinate the agenda.
<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>BIA – Completing medical standards for the season. The agency is lining up aircraft that will begin arriving on April 14. The SEAT is expected to arrive on April 21, and the Fire Boss on April 24. These dates can be delayed if needed. The agency is working on awarding the air attack platform contract. The Tribal programs are still working through purchase orders to send staff to the Minnesota Wildfire Academy. BIA is awaiting updates on the budget. The White Earth fire facility has entered the design stage.</p> <p>DNR – Taylor Schenck has accepted the Training Coordinator position and will start May 1, 2023. The budget outlook is good, and DNR is anticipating funding to help address the Hibbing Tankerbase ramp, though there is no official confirmation on funding approval. All aircraft contracts, except for the call-when-needed, are completed. Minnesota Department of Transportation now requires commercial tax payment for contracted wildfire aircraft. The requirement is part of State statute with no exemption. DNR plans to have all DNR dispatchers rotate through MNCC this year to train with the new WildCAD-e system.</p> <p>FS – The agency has sent resources out-of-state to support the Mark Twain National Forest with prescribed burning and the Huron-Manistee National Forest with some wildfire support. Amber Jackson accepted the support services position at MIFC and will begin her new role on April 10, 2023. The NEK Cache has two vacant positions. There are no plans to conduct large-scale meadow burning on the Chippewa National Forest this year. Temporary fire hires for both national forests will start next week.</p> <p>FWS – The fire program is working with Ecological Services to adjust prescribed fire plans to meet federally listed long-eared bat management requirements. Ecological Services is understanding and realistic to the prescribed fire management concerns, so it has not been as impactful as was initially thought. Russ Langford retired on April 6, 2023, and Jason Riggins will assume the MNICS board of director position for FWS. Seth Grim plans to fill the vacancy for a short-term 60-day detail. The Zone Fire Management Officer, Jamie Farmer, will fill the vacancy for a short-term detail from June through July, followed by Dan Lauder from Wisconsin who will cover through September. The UAS aerial ignition technology, based out of Seney NWR, is down and being serviced. A new marsh master was delivered to Fergus Falls last week. Prescribed fire efforts will begin in Windom next week, and a group from Texas will support those burns and then move to Minnesota Valley NWR to support prescribed burns.</p>



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Agency Updates cont.

HSEM – Applications for the deputy operations for SEOC and the training systems administrator positions have closed, with interviews to be scheduled. The legislative committee is asking for \$3 million to be distributed to jurisdictions in all counties. A request for an additional \$11 million for the SEOC building has been submitted. HSEM has funding for a full-time trainer position and two more school safety positions. The training portal is now live and learning tracks have been implemented. WebEOC updates now include an incident action plan, the sit rep board, and default to statewide flood incidents. Many different positions, including a MNICS position and DNR position, are available that the MNICS Task Force can log in under and look around. HSEM is working with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE). They have ample supply of sandbagging materials and pumps and are ramping up their response effort. ACE is available for direct assistance. HSEM has added Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as another state agency with drone potential for imaging, and the State Fire Marshal and State EOC will be the first points of contact. A meeting with the State Fire Marshal’s Office was held this week and focused on staging area fire response and funding support from a planning section. HSEM established an agreement with the USDA Forest Service and Minnesota DNR that will allow fire departments that complete fire suppression work on Forest Service land to bill directly to the DNR. DNR will then process invoices and bill back to the Forest Service. The current EMAC request include public assistance and volunteer liaison positions. The recent train derailment did not involve the all-hazard IMT but received a visit from the Governor and Commissioner. High Path Avian Influenza has returned to Minnesota with a positive case detected in Le Sueur County. The School Safety Center will host the annual conference in mid-June. No update on filling the HSEM director role. The State Fire Marshal has retired, and Amanda Swenson is filling in as interim Fire Marshal.

NPS – Voyageurs National Park has approximately 25 inches of high-moisture snowpack, and flooding is a growing concern for the park. The park is looking for a window to burn cattails where safe ice conditions allow travel to burn sites. The agency is working on completing medical standards. The park received approval to hire a 13/13 GS-05 fire technician. Planning work to complete burn plans is underway for fuels projects within the park and in the zone. The fire management plan for Voyageurs National Park is complete. The North Dakota dispatch center has closed, and dispatches for the West Zone parks in North Dakota will now be coordinated from Miles City Dispatch.

MNICS PIO – The MNICS meeting planning group met in Mid-March with plans to meet again in early May, where we will divide out responsibilities. Annual drone messaging from MNICS will be distributed to media contacts next week. MNICS PIO will fill in on the MNICS Team B’s rotation starting next week.

Next Task Force Meeting will be May 4, 2023, in-person at MIFC.