



Notes

December 5, 2023, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Task Force: Greg Carlson, BJ Glesener, Cory Berg, Darrin Franco, Mike Rice, Jacob Beauregard, Nick Petrack

Non-Task Force Attendees: Ryan Kingsley - MNCC, Leanne Langeberg – Notes, Brian Wise and Kevin Carlisle, Kelvin McCuskey Kara Behr, Jory Danielson – State Fire Chiefs Representative and Cross Lake Fire Department MNICS Type 3 Team representatives – Ben Roy, Jeb Backe, Mike Hill, Aaron Mielke and Brian Leitinger

DISCUSSION TOPIC	NOTES
Budget Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the MNICS cooperative funding spreadsheet and the available rollover funds for fiscal year 2024. - The uncommitted pending projects with allocated funding included the MNCC team building session, installation of paging horns throughout the MIFC building, and the in-person MNICS Type 3 Team winter meeting. - The Task Force approved funding to repair the MIFC building generator’s voltage regulator. The repair work is estimated to cost \$4,700.00.
Building Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Forest Service has completed bidding for the MIFC building roof repair project and awarded the contract to RB Construction Company. The repair work is expected to begin in May or June 2024. Brian Wise will verify if the project work includes the repair of the downspouts. - The Forest Service expects to solicit bids for the vertical lift elevator system for the MIFC building in January. If the bidding process stays on target and the bid is awarded at the end of the bidding process, the project could be completed by fall 2024.
MNICS Incident Management Team Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MNICS Task Force met with the Incident Commanders (IC) from the MNICS Type 3 Teams and the Type 3 Incident Management Working Team to discuss the status of the 2024 applications and successional planning. - Notable voids from the 2024 MNICS Team application period include plans, logistics and the public information sections. The low interest follows a strong season for the teams, with all three having filled at least one assignment. The group agreed that targeted recruitment is necessary to sustain all three teams. - MNICS can currently roster one team at 95%, but more applicants are needed to fill a full second or third team. The ICs feel rostering three teams is achievable because there are three primary ICs this year. Overall, the consensus is that three teams allow MNICS to manage extended attack workloads better. - The ICs are considering all options to improve recruitment and will explore incentive programs to encourage employees from MNICS agencies to sign up. - Many applicants applied for alternate positions, and the ICs are concerned about the need for primary applicants. They have attempted to convince alternate applicants to take the primary lead roles but have yet to be met with agreement to take on lead roles. The ICs realize it will take more than simply recruitment and that supervisors need to reinforce team support. - The ICs are concerned that if they cannot fill three teams moving forward, they will be faced with eliminating a team and recognize the immense challenge of reforming a team once it dissolves. - The Task Force is open to exploring all options and discussing opportunities to partner with the State's all-risk hazard team. However, they are experiencing similar recruitment challenges and are extending available team slots to interested GLFFC partners. However, that would likely result in widening the response to include the



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	<p>entire compact area, and agreements would need to be established to ensure the swift movement of resources and reimbursements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force sees value in maintaining a primary trainee list and will work closer with training certifiers to identify and prioritize trainees for the MNICS teams.
WildCAD location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MNCC Center Manager requested a final decision on standardizing the location used by all MNICS partners as agencies moved to a single unified CAD dispatch system. - The original location proposal was to use township and range to reduce conflicts with resources being assigned to the wrong location based on using standard features like lake names. - The Task Force approved standardizing the entry of a fire location in WildCAD-e that will include the Township and Range.

Next Task Force Meeting will be held during the MNICS Meeting January 4, 2024, at MIFC

December 5, 2023, MNICS Joint Board of Directors and Task Force Meeting

Board of Directors: Tom Remus, Paul Lundgren, Joe Neuberger, Jason Riggins, Mike Hanse, State Fire Marshal's Office Representative from Duluth Fire, Bob DeGross

Task Force: Greg Carlson, BJ Glesener, Cory Berg, Darrin Franco, Mike Rice, Jacob Beauregard, Nick Petrack

Non-Task Force Attendees: Ryan Kingsley - MNCC, Leanne Langeberg – Notes, Brian Wise and Kevin Carlisle, Mike Rice, Kelvin McCuskey Kara Behr, Jory Danielson – State Fire Chiefs Representative and Cross Lake Fire Department

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Budget Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The funding for the security system upgrade for the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC) facility is nearly complete, with all agencies splitting the cost equally. The final contribution from the National Park Service is in progress and should be issued soon. - The Board of Directors was briefed on the Task Force funding approval to repair the generator voltage regulator and the new project request of \$4,000 to install a breaker split to the MIFC upstairs breakroom.
Building Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brian Wise and Kevin Carlisle reviewed the MIFC building projects completed and pending report with the Board of Directors. - The board was briefed on the USDA Forest Service's progress with awarding the roof replacement bid and the anticipated project completion timeframe of May or June 2024, and on the status of the vertical lift system bidding process.
MNCC Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ryan Kingsley, MNCC center manager, shared updates on staffing. He noted one position in operations remains vacant and is currently advertised as a DNR-funded position that will close on December 6. - The Board was briefed on the MNCC Standard Operating Guide, which provides daily operational guidance. The Board approved the Task Force as the signatory authority for the guide. - Kingsley shared an update on the progress of the WildCAD-e unified dispatching system deployment to all MNICS agencies.



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2024 MNICS Financial Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board was briefed on some of the challenges the Forest Service is working through to adjust pay codes and travel for the MNCC center manager’s position, the status of the MNICS 2024 Financial Plan, and the Task Force operating calendar that tracks when annual tasks must be completed including the components of the MNICS cooperative agreement and financial plan.
Cooperative Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force provided an update on the progress of the MNICS Master Cooperative agreement, and the work completed with the guidance and support of Caleb Schreiber with the USDA Forest Service Region 9. - The Border Agreement meeting has yet to be scheduled. Blair Olson with Minnesota DNR will be requested to initiate meeting coordination with Brian Tarini, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
Updates on Shared Protection Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The three-way agreements between the BIA, the tribal agencies and Minnesota DNR are in progress. The agreement with Red Lake Agency has been approved and signed, and work is underway with the Minnesota Mille Lacs Agency. How best to proceed with the Sioux Tribal agencies is being discussed, and workload and approval will be considered - The DNR is working with the USDA Forest Service and has completed agreements with Chippewa National Forest. The DNR has a better sense of firefighter numbers for the Northeast and has briefed the Commissioner’s office on the changes.
MNICS Type 3 Team Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force reported on their earlier discussion with the MNICS Type 3 Team ICs and Type 3 Incident Management Working Team, highlighting the concern for low applications in critical areas of plans, safety, logistics and public information - The group discussed the importance of focusing more on recruitment actions and long-term planning to help set personnel up for leadership team roles. They also recognized that past overtime incentives and relying on a volunteer model are no longer sufficient in today’s work-life balance model - The group recognizes that having proper agreements in place will help in expanding recruitment to a larger candidate pool. They also recognize the value of exploring alternatives to the 14-day assignment model.