



# Notes

## June 6, 2024, MNICS Task Force Meeting

**Task Force:** Greg Carlson, Cory Berg, William Glesener, Darrin Franco, Jacob Beauregard, Nick Petrack

**Non-Task Force Attendees:** Ryan Kingsley, Leanne Langeberg (Notes), Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle

DISCUSSION TOPIC	NOTES
<p><b>Budget Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Task Force reviewed the monthly budget expenses.</li> <li>- The security system upgrades have been completed and invoiced.</li> <li>- The bids for the electrical upgrade project and the MNCC chairs have been awarded.</li> <li>- The Task Force approved increasing the MNICS meeting line item to \$6,500 to cover guest speaking fees and the Wednesday evening social hour events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fiscal Year Closeout</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Minnesota DNR’s fiscal year closeout is in progress.</li> <li>- Some of the MNICS purchase orders that Shelly Greniger coordinated in her previous role were reassigned to Kevin Carlisle.</li> <li>- Items purchased in the current fiscal year must be received by June 30, 2024, and invoiced within 30 days.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The sprinkler system and generator were inspected.</li> <li>- The NEK Cache warehouse overhead door was replaced.</li> <li>- The MIFC building roof replacement project began on May 29. During an initial inspection by MIFC facility staff, it was determined that the insulation depth did not meet the six-inch code requirement. The USDA Forest Service engineer in charge of the contract was informed. The contractor will be required to add insulation to meet the current contract. The additional insulation and rain have likely delayed the project by two weeks.</li> <li>- MIFC facility staff met with the elevator project contractor. The contractor recommends moving the elevator further into the MNCC floor hallway area and installing a catwalk in the cache area, resulting in a loss of up to 14 pallet spaces. MIFC facilities proposed an alternative elevator location that would convert the BIA office space into elevator lift space. MIFC facilities discussed the proposal with BIA, and BIA is open to relocating to a new MIFC office location. If the new location meets engineering requirements, it will allow the lift to stop at all three floors and eliminate the catwalk and free up additional pallet space.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Academy Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Minnesota Wildfire Academy is running smoothly.</li> <li>- Several federal ADs were denied approval to support academy instructor or incident management team (IMT) roles this year. The USDA Forest Service plans to include a budget line-item next year that should help support local ADs available to instruct or serve an IMT role. Minnesota DNR has the Smokechaser path; however, AD agencies must identify instructors or IMT members by the end of January next year to allow ADs enough time to get set up as a Smokechaser if their AD request is denied.</li> <li>- The one-day media day worked well, and it was a positive change to bring in additional PIO support for the one-day event.</li> <li>- The Academy and IMT close-out meeting will be June 7.</li> <li>- The Task Force plans to conduct an academy after-action review to discuss finances.</li> </ul>



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<b>MNICS Meeting Planning Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The general session keynote speakers have confirmed availability.</li> <li>- NWCG will attend the general session and discuss national changes to the training process and position task books.</li> <li>- MNCC and HSEM confirmed availability to present during the general session.</li> </ul>
<b>July 2024 Task Force Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The July Task Force meeting will be hosted at Voyageurs National Park July 10 – 11.</li> <li>- The Task Force will discuss strategic planning for MNICS interagency coordination and the requirements to implement one of three alternative models – current MNCC operations, statewide hub, or a Tier 3 multi-location coordination model.</li> <li>- The Task Force invited Jen Parrish, deputy center manager for the Eastern Area Coordination Center, the three MNCC assistant center managers, and the three DNR regional specialists for fire and enforcement to participate in the planning session.</li> <li>- The Task Force’s aims to establish a white paper identifying a statement of need, objectives, and a list of the facilities, infrastructure, and organization chart necessary to implement a model that best meets the needs for fire and all-hazard response coordination in Minnesota.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>BIA</b> – The BIA reported wet conditions. They plan to release helitack staff for availability to western needs. The regional fire meeting will be hosted in Menominee, Wisconsin. The radio communication infrastructure funding has started to transition from BIA to the Tribes and will help to implement important communications upgrades and relocate repeater site locations.</li> <li>- <b>DNR</b> – The natural resources technician – operations dispatcher – position posted and will remain open through June 24. Glesener will attend the Northeast Supervisors meeting next week with Paul Lundgren. He will be on annual leave June 19 - July 8. Mike Warnke, with Wisconsin DNR, has accepted the MN DNR Forestry Wildfire Administration Supervisor position (vice Himanga), and bring a lot of grants and agreements experience. Warnke starts June 17. DNR Fire is working through emergency management leadership changes, and selected Cindy Tranby is the new emergency manager. DNR is participating in a state-wide communication infrastructure analysis. Fire season has tapered off throughout the state. The fire program plans to send a few staff to participate in the prescribed fire workshop in Atlantic City.</li> <li>- <b>FWS</b> – Fire funding allocations were issued, and the funding pools were less than expected, especially in the fuels program. The GS-0456 position roll out is in progress, and the agency is seeing a high rate of enrollment. There are a couple of fire vacancies opening soon – a seasonal 18/8 and a GS-11 position.</li> <li>- <b>HSEM</b> – The Region 3 program coordinator will start next week. The school resource officer positions are in the final phase of interviews. The agency is tracking a 10% cut to EMPG funding, which may impact filling HSEM vacancies. The BCA briefings will now be issued quarterly. The ComX training will be held in August. The EMAC IMT mobilized to Greenfield Iowa and expected to demobilize from the incident on June 6. The deployment was mostly recovery and the team’s help was appreciated.</li> </ul>



# Notes

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

## NOTES

**Agency Updates cont.**

- **NPS** – The park’s seasonal fire hires have started. The fire program is working on completing seasonal boat training. Carlson will be attending the regional meeting in Omaha. Brink will conduct the pack tests on Isle Royal. Voyageurs expects to hire an additional fire staff member.
- **USFS** – Greg Gulan, assistant fire management officer for Chippewa National Forest, is in the process of transitioning to the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center. The Superior National Forest has advertised four positions in the latest fire hire cert released on June 6. The four NEK cache and National Symbols positions close on June 11. The search and rescue efforts at curtain falls have concluded. The Superior is seeking \$25 million in CWRP collaborative wildfire risk reduction grants. The moose collaboration group identified blocks of land in Lake, Cook, and St Louis counties, and will narrow the project areas down to 10,000 – 15,000-acre blocks. Prescribed fire efforts will continue as weather conditions permit. A wildfire escape review team will review the Fry incident. The Forest Service has formed a Type 2 crew with 15 Forest Service staff and plan to invite MNICS partners to fill the five remaining slots.
- **MNCC** – MNCC is now staffing to support national mobilization and summer fire needs. During the roofing project, aviation is reporting to the DNR regional office in Grand Rapids, and operations will move to the MIFC first floor as noise levels become intolerable. MNCC distributed a 20-question survey to offices that rolled out the WildCAD-e program this spring and has received helpful responses. The assistant center managers for operations and aviation participated in a mini-ASAT review. The Forest Service website modernization will likely not roll out until December 2025.

*Next Task Force Meeting will be July 10-11, 2024, at the Voyageurs National Park.*