



# Notes

## May 6, 2026, MNICS Task Force Meeting

**Task Force:** Cory Berg (Chair), Taylor Schenk (acting), Darrin Franco, Jennifer Olson, Nick Petrack, Greg Carlson  
**Non-Task Force Attendees:** RJ Johnson (MNCC), Leanne Langeberg (Notes), Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Greniger

DISCUSSION TOPIC	NOTES
<b>MNCC Logistics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Berg introduced Mayberry, a detailer from the Arkansas Coordination Center, and Weston, an MNCC dispatcher, who will oversee logistics dispatching for the next couple of months while MNICS partners work on filling vacancies in MNCC logistics.</li> </ul>
<b>MNICS Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Task Force reviewed the monthly expenses and remaining funds.</li> <li>- BIA and DNR will determine the funding string for C. Maxwell, keeping the funds encumbered but available for other projects.</li> <li>- The MNICS WordPress contractor costs will shift to a recurring \$500 monthly billed item.</li> <li>- The St. Luke’s medical contract ended and DNR is securing a new non-cost vendor.</li> <li>- With the establishment of the Wildland Fire Service, DOI agencies anticipate the organization will likely consolidate into a single MNICS cooperative financial plan payment. Greniger is prepared to restructure contributions into two state and two federal partners.</li> <li>- The financial plan outlines the MNCC center manager payment structure and an amendment will be added to detail how the Center Manager position is tracked. Johnson will share the agreement with Greniger and work with O’Brien to review the historical split-payment process.</li> </ul>
<b>MIFC Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The elevator project requires a few additional upgrades (windows and instructions) and is expected to cost an estimated \$12,000.</li> <li>- Petrack will send Carlisle and Kingsley the USFS engineer’s proposal.</li> <li>- The NEK cache router cables are installed; however, the signal is weak. The project has yet to be billed to the MNICS coop funds.</li> <li>- The new all-in-one copier was purchased and expected to arrive soon.</li> <li>- The state soft-phone system was installed throughout the MIFC facility.</li> <li>- The HVAC and sprinkler maintenance project were completed.</li> <li>- The upper-level lactation and hotel office space was updated with a privacy shade, and the door lock was replaced.</li> <li>- Electrical improvements to the training room upgrade will be completed in the second phase. Phase three will involve carpet replacement.</li> <li>- Carlisle is writing up a contract proposal for the intel room remodel.</li> <li>- The NEK cache UPS distribution issue was temporarily resolved. A permanent solution will be in place by May 11. The state will use its own UPS account and will be billed directly.</li> <li>- Kingsley will meet with Washington Office to discuss potential national-level funding for the pump and radio shop expansions.</li> <li>- Minnesota Wildfire Academy cache orders will be routed directly to the cache.</li> <li>- The Kevlar pants transition is on hold.</li> </ul>



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<b>MNICS Annual Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task Force agreed to end the general session meeting by 2 p.m.</li> <li>- The MNICS meeting planning team is working on securing Bre Orcasistas as the keynote speaker and received an estimated proposal of \$2,639.40 including travel.</li> </ul>
<b>MNICS IMT SOG's</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Task Force approved the decision to remove the fire department language from the MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Team's standard operating guide and will approve and sign the current final draft version.</li> </ul>
<b>WT Report Out Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Task Force is considering assigning the Operations Working Team with the task of developing succession plans for the division supervisor, task force, and incident commander qualifications. They are considering tasking the working team with developing an Incident-Within-an-Incident training curriculum for use in Minnesota by 2027 that will include a recommended budget, aviation safety plan, aviation life support, and rapid extraction component.</li> <li>- The Task Force agrees that if Working Teams are tasked with any action items, the expectations must be clearly defined, including specific deliverables (e.g., white papers, required skill sets, etc.).</li> <li>- The fire danger and preparedness level adjustments are appropriate in the Fire Danger Operating Plan, and the staffing language will be updated to align with the existing burning restrictions memo.</li> </ul>
<b>June Task Force Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Task Force plans to discuss the Minnesota Interagency Fire Danger Operating plan in June and will invite Verdegan and Durkin to join the discussion.</li> </ul>
<b>July TF Mtg Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The July Task Force meeting will be delayed to August 5 and 6 and will be a two-day meeting.</li> <li>- The discussions will focus on future planning for MNICS and the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center facility and future development of the property, including a new facility that can then be summarized into a white paper with proposals for the MNICS Board of Directors.</li> <li>- The Task Force will invite the MNICS board of directors, the MIFC building committee, and a Forest Service engineer, and possibly some of the Minnesota DNR facilities staff as subject matter experts for items to consider in developing a new facility.</li> </ul>
<b>RSS Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An ad-hoc MNICS team, 12–14 MNICS team members, is planning to attend the national Strategic Stockpile RSS training, along with Lundgren and Tranby from the DNR.</li> <li>- The training will have a strong logistics focus and be conducted as a live real-time exercise hosted at the Humphrey air terminal.</li> </ul>
<b>MNCC MnDOT Request VNP Update Logistics Staffing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minnesota DOT (MnDOT) has a draft copy of the MNICS radio infrastructure. Theisen is consolidating the final list that will include the Voyageurs National Park communications infrastructure. Once compiled, the inventory will be included in DNR's final letter.</li> <li>- Voyageurs National Park has three potential options to make onboarding their system into MNCC functional and Theisen has outlined these options. Theisen has scheduled a meeting with D. Kinds, NPS radio communications manager, with the park next week.</li> <li>- The Deer River DNR station's transition into MNCC operations is running smoothly.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Agency Updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>BIA</b> – The Wildland Fire Service (WFS) has offered another deferred resignation program (DRP) option, which is contributing to continued leadership changes under the WFS transition plan. Locally, some prescribed burns were completed after the recent rain event. Grand Portage plans to conduct burning early next week.</li> <li>- <b>DNR</b> – The Integrations and Communications Systems coordinator position offer was declined and will be readvertised. A logistics dispatcher was hired; however, the aviation position offer was declined. DNR has approval to pursue a work-out-of-class assignment for the intel position. The wildland fire standard operations guide is in final draft, modeled after the Red Book. The staffing tool shows the National Weather Service relative humidity values are trending high and staff are asked to document discrepancies.</li> <li>- <b>FWS</b> – Leadership changes continue with recent DRP activity. The Sherburne NWR fire management officer position is in classification, and the GS-08/09 position for Fergus Falls was advertised. Hiring successes continue for the GS-04/05 positions (18/8). Prescribed burning is ongoing, though Minnesota Valley NWR is winding down as green-up advances.</li> <li>- <b>HSEM</b> – A new School Safety Center director was hired, along with a statewide operations, recovery, and preparedness director. The regional director position will be re-advertised. The funeral for former MNICS Task Force member Roy Holmes was held yesterday. The end of the partial federal government shutdown has allowed stalled trainings to move forward. The Under One Roof conference is May 19–20, 2026, at the DECC in Duluth.</li> <li>- <b>NPS</b> – The Border Park Zone will dissolve on May 17; new assignment details are pending. The seasonal engine crew is staffed and supporting prescribed burning at Indiana Dunes. Lakes are mostly ice-free, with fire-boats expected to be operational next week. A fire program review is scheduled for May 21, along with pack tests and refresher training.</li> <li>- <b>USFS</b> – The type 1 helicopter is now positioned in Bemidji, and the type 3 helicopter is back in service with torch certification. The floats for the beaver aircraft are expected to be attached today. There is heavy competition for national resources and locally there is a strong reliance on interagency agreements to fill needs. The Job Corps, Leech Lake and the National Park Service are helping out the Chippewa with prescribed burning projects. There is still ice on the Gun Flint Trail. The Superior has three 3 type 1 burns planned. The Forest Service is seeking permission to hire a fuels assistant fire management officer and fuels technician for the east zone of the Superior.</li> </ul>

*Next MNICS Task Force Meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2026, at MIFC.*