



# NWCG Meeting Notes

April 16, 2024

**Executive Board (EB):** Heath Cota (Acting - USFS), Greg Smith (NASF), Jon Wallace (FWS), Russel Babiak (Acting - NPS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Kat Navarro (Acting - OWF), Steve Shaw (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Anne Jewll (DoD), Mike Falkowski (NASA – Acting), and Aitor Bidaburu – Chair (USFA)

**NWCG Staff:** Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Carmen Thomason (Coordinator), Dave Schultz (Coordinator), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Toni Suminski (IPTM Project Manager), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Eric Coulter (Communications Lead), and Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

**Guests:** Tyler McCowan (EMC), Mack McFarland (RMC), Steve Weidner (NASA)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p><b>Emergency Medical Committee (EMC) – 2024 Emergency Medical Personnel (EMS) Awards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recipients were vetted through their agencies and with their supervisors to ensure they are in good standing.</li> <li>EMC has streamlined the awards process by creating a task group.</li> <li>Awards will be presented during EMS appreciation week in May.</li> <li>EMC received eight nominees for 2023.</li> </ul>	N/A
<p><b>Risk Management Committee (RMC) – Safety Bulletin – Respirators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The intent for this bulletin is to highlight the lack of commercially available and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) approved respirators for wildland firefighters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bulletin can be used as a tool for the field to understand regulations of respirator use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>OSHA requires that employees be enrolled in an OSHA approved respiratory protection program (RPP) when using a respirator. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agencies would need to develop RPPs before respirators could be used by employees.</li> </ul> </li> <li>There are many products on the market which creates confusion as none are approved by OSHA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The voluntary use clause does not apply due to use in the hazardous wildland fire environment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Heat-related illness and dehydration risks can result from respirator use in the wildland fire environment.</li> <li>Currently developing an outline of a monitoring plan, will share once complete.</li> </ul>	RMC will make edits to the bulletin and send out for EB approval prior to May EB meeting.
<p><b>2024 EB Off-Site Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting logistics email has been sent out.</li> <li>Hotel block is reserved through April 26.</li> </ul>	EB members are asked to RSVP for the Off-Site meeting by April 26.

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e., handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transportation will be provided for the tours.</li></ul>	
<p><b>FY2025 NWCG Budget Project Approval and Prioritization:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committees request project funding which is approved and presented to the EB.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ NWCG Staff reviews the requests according to the budget guidance which is updated yearly.</li></ul></li><li>• Budget line items discussed:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Increase in Incident Workforce Development Group funding for Complex Incident Management projects.</li><li>○ The Mental Health Subcommittee requested funds for products for wildland committee leveraging the NWCG media blanket purchase agreement.</li><li>○ GeoLCES:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Requesting development of a geospatial framework to evaluate and inform the implementation of LCES.</li><li>▪ Would utilize a Forest Service agreement with the University of Utah.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	<p>APPROVAL of the budget except for line 16- GeoLCES project. The committee request will be sent out via email to the EB for discussion and then a final decision made.</p>