



NWCG Meeting Notes

July 16, 2024

Executive Board (EB): Jim Durglo (ITC), Garth Fisher (BIA), Steve Shaw (BLM), Greg Smith (NASF), Heath Cota (USFS), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC) – Vice Chair, Erin Horsburgh (NPS), Kim Van Hemelryck (OWF Liaison), Parimal Kopardekar (NASA), Steve Weidner (NASA), David Edwards (DoD-Acting), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA) – Chair

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Sarah Lee (NWCG Deputy Program Manager), Katy O'Hara (Coordinator), Carmen Thomason (Coordinator), David Schultz (Coordinator), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Eric Coulter (Communications Lead), Johanna Ostling (Executive Secretary, detailed)

Guests: Nick Nauslar (FEC), Darren Clabo (FWSC), Patrick Morgan (LC), Mike Ellsworth (LC), Mack McFarland (RMC), Tim Blake (RMC), Jon Wallace (ISAP Task Group), Jesse Bender (IWDG), Aaron Thompson (IWDG), Rick Gividen (WFLP)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Update on Discontinuing the Use of Haines Index (HI) and Lightning Activity Level (LAL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed timeframe is to remove and discontinue the use of HI and LAL in NWCG and National Weather Service (NWS) products by January 2025. • NWS public feedback solicitation period is open until August 1. • Update to the IRPG will be submitted to publications in the next few weeks. • Creating a repository of information on the NWCG Fire Weather Subcommittee webpage to support the “why” for the change, illustrate background information, and show the supporting science. • Communication is needed during fire season and throughout the fall and winter with consistent messaging from NWS and NWCG to reinforce the change and the underlying rationale. • Generally, the feedback on the proposed discontinuation of HI and LAL has been positive. • NWS plans to use clear-text descriptions of the atmospheric stability and the potential for lightning as “replacements” for HI and LAL. 	N/A
<p>ISAP Quarterly Update and Draft Recommendations Memo Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created as a standalone task team to separate workload from existing NWCG committees. • Erica Lamb is serving as the NWCG Coordinator due to heavy implications for changes to publications, while Jon Wallace is the Executive Board Representative. • Task to develop and update a national standard template for the strategic operations map with the Geospatial Subcommittee is complete. • Draft memo in response to remaining May 2024 goals is in process. • Key challenges will be refining ideas to what the system needs now and finding which ideas can be integrated at which levels. 	N/A

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
<p>IMT Course Steering Committee: Monthly Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S-320: <i>Introduction to IMTs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alpha test course was in Sacramento, CA in June, hosted by CalFire. Greg Smith and Sarah Lee observed the course with CalOES representatives. Broad range of agency representation by participants. ○ Beta test course will be in Madison, WI in September. Course will incorporate lessons learned from the alpha test course. • Committee fall meeting will be in Golden, CO. 	N/A
<p>Leadership Committee – General Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinate with other committees and publications for consistency and continuity. ○ Evaluate course offerings to see if/how they align with Complex Incident Management. ○ Develop courses with intent for benefit to learners, not solely as a requirement. ○ Self-study courses on portal intended to provide microlearning opportunities between courses. • Professional Reading Program includes discussion guides for the five books chosen for 2024’s list. • Experiential Learning Subcommittee Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Created to focus on staff rides: development of new, support for existing, and presentation. ○ Successful in creating an energetic group with passion and engagement. ○ Challenged by members’ need to balance day job and collateral duties and find ways to reach the field effectively and relevantly. 	N/A
<p>TM 2024-002: <i>Big Swamp Serious Accident Corrective Actions Response</i> from RMC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasking was to evaluate the need for a tool for Agency Administrators (AAs) on understanding risk acceptance and mitigation, including the employment of rapid extraction resources. • After consulting with Agency Administrator, Safety, Operations, Medical, and Aviation SMEs, consensus is AAs already have the tools needed to understand risk mitigation and acceptance. • Recommendation: Mark tasking complete. 	Decision: Accept the memo and close out Tasking 2024-002.