

Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

CEPC Conference Call Agenda

Logistics

Date: August 13, 2020

Time: 15:00 Eastern, 1400 Central, 1300 Mountain, 1200 Pacific

CEPC Members: Gwen Beavans (USFS), Faith Berry (USFA – Alternate), Carrie Bilbao (NIFC EA), Tina Boehle (NPS), Brian Harrison (Training Liaison), Jerry Hepler (Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee Chair), Kenny Jaramillo (BIA), Terri Jenkins (FWS – on leave), Angie Lane (NASF-West), Brian Lopez (USFS Liaison), Teresa Neal (USFA), Jon Skinner (BLM), Candy Stevenson (PIO Subcommittee Chair), Fred Turck (NASF-East), Bruce Woods (IAFC - on leave)

NWCG Coordinator: Deb Fleming

CEPC Members in Attendance this August Call: Deb Fleming, Gwen Beavans, Tina Boehle, Brian Harrison, Kenny Jaramillo, Angie Lane, Brian Lopez, Teresa Neal, Candy Stevenson, Fred Turck, and Bruce Woods

Agenda Topics:

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- Chair's update –Tina Boehle has taken on chair role. Terri is still recovering. She sends everyone her best.
- NWCG Coordinator remarks and news and update – Deb stated that Jeremy Sullens starts next Monday as NWCG Program Manager. Also, NWCG is standing up a Training Delivery Committee to address virtual needs for training. A memo will come out after Executive Board Meeting.
- Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee Report – Jerry and Carrie were not on the call.
- PIO Subcommittee update – Candy said the committee talked with Mike Ellsworth at IPD and went through changes regarding new positions. They still need to have all position descriptions finalized, and by next August, have to have everything ready to go into PMS 310-1. Deb has been the conduit between subcommittee and IPD. Training requirements for the PIO positions will need reviewed, including addition of All Hazard Training.
- Nominations – Currently, Tina is Acting Chair, and Gwen has stepped in as Acting Vice Chair. However, the floor should be open for nominations. Fred nominated Tina as Chair and Gwen as

Promoting a better understanding of wildland fire through communication, education, prevention and outreach.

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Vice Chair. No other nominations were presented. Tina asked for any additional nominations be sent to her via email and we would vote in September.

- Virtual Meeting Schedule for Annual Meeting – Tina presented the responses received for the Annual Meeting. The dates that lined up for the most participants were September 29, 30, and October 1. Committee members verified those dates would work; Candy did say she may be able to join off and on. Tina will send out a “hold” on calendars for those dates. The format will be several hours a day, rather than full days. The media platform to host the meeting has not been selected yet. Prior to the meeting, send agenda ideas to Tina.
- Administrative Support for the Committee – Tina did not have any luck finding administrative support. Angie will take notes today and continue to do so until administrative support can be found. Angie may have a line on her supervisor’s assistant. She will check to see if she is available and willing to assist us.
- CEPC on Teams: We can add guests to our Teams account. Fred, Angie, and Bruce said they have been successful using Teams as guests. Shouldn’t be an issue. Tina will move our meetings over to Teams.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

National Prevention Conference – Fred indicated NASF will be the financial backer for the event. We can tag on to NASF meeting, in Pittsburgh, PA in 2021, 1st full week of September. National Prevention Conference will take place prior to the NASF conference (last week of August/first part of September), then we can get on the program of the NASF conference to do a prevention presentation. Atlantic group will do the planning. NASF will set up lodging and other logistics. Gwen and Deb will develop content. The eastern Compacts have been invited to help as well.

Gwen said this has been one of her goals to have a National Wildfire Prevention Conference. She needs to work on the ability for Forest Service personnel to attend. They have to put in 6 months ahead of time for approval and need a justification to attend. She is working with Deb to help with a solid program that will allow them to attend. Smokey Bear awards and training would be key program items that would help clarify need to attend.

IPD Workgroup progress – Bruce will be ready with a final draft for the group to review by the next call.

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Fire Prevention Education Team Task Group – Fred was able to put together a sample Delegation of Authority, which includes COVID-19 mitigation language that Administrators can use when bringing on FPETs. It is posted at <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/communication-education-and-prevention-committee>.

Zach Ellinger is detailed in to help with leading the NFPET. He has been tasked with looking at the operational aspects of FPET. Gwen's boss brought in a team to work with Zach on this issue. They will propose solutions, like a webinar on how to order teams, all the way to changing how the schedule works, maybe a database of people to order from. Currently, several teams have been brought in by the USFS and have been placed mainly in northern California.

Digital Library – This has been merged into the NFPET Working group. Fred suggested we take advantage of the information gathering we could get from the teams that are out now. Fred and Tina will talk with Zach about a tasking, in writing, describing what needs done related to the digital library. Nancy needs to stay a part of the group.

Fire Cause Work Group update – Kenny and Fred. They said 200 comments came back from the first round of categories. The work group made edits and sent out for 2nd review, and got 70 more comments. The group has one more call, and three more categories to look at. They are weeks away from having a final product. We could see something by the September meeting.

The Fire Reporting sub-committee was interested in how NSTAT fires are tracked? Some treat campfires left unattended as a false alarm so you don't have to deal with the workload of doing reporting. Fred and Kenny will bring this up at the next Fire Cause Work Group meeting and see what they have to say about that topic.

WPSAPS update – Kenny said they are still in the training environment. Waiting on updates, and there are major changes that will delay the project 45 days. Looking at mid-September for release date. There will be a spatial component to the system for tracking locational information, like where prevention signs are posted. They also need to put training materials together for student workbook. They are going to release an informational video as well. If any of the committee would like to test it, let Kenny know and he will send you the information.

P-310 update – Brian said the Powerpoint is being updated, and a social media video will be included (the video has been captioned as well). The finished product will be ready in the next few weeks.

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Other news and/or updates: Fred mentioned that a virtual S-203 is being conducted in his area, and he is helping out. If it is successful, then they will share the materials with others. Tina suggested a “lessons learned” session be documented and included with the materials.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

USFA (Teresa): Teresa said Faith is working hard to update the WUI pages on their site.

USDA FS (Gwen):

- Macy’s is planning on still having their parade. 60% of normal capacity will be allowed in the stands to allow for social distancing. The Smokey Bear balloon will be in the parade, but the USFS won’t be participating.
- Whitney-Forman Cook, NASF, will be sending out notification of the 2020 Smokey Bear Nomination period and Gwen will share with this group.
- The USFS is establishing goals and objectives for their National Plan. It has been distributed agency-wide for review.
- 2019 Smokey Bear Awards: Letters are going to be signed electronically this year; however, the pins are in the building and the staff can’t inside to get them. Smokey Bear pins are in the WO Forest Service building, so there may be a delay in distributing the pins.

NASF – Western (Angie):

- Angie and Fred had their meeting last month so he could provide information on the history of the committee and presented ideas on how to reach out to western counterparts, including contacting Dan Smith.
- Angie met with the Western States Fire Managers (WSFM) to ask for their input on how best they wanted her communicating committee business. They indicated it would be best if she went through them, and they would disseminate information to their staff.
- Angie described some of the COVID-19 mitigation issues teams have been faced with, and noted that some states have really beefed up their aviation assets to respond to fires more quickly, with the idea that they can keep fires from becoming campaign fires.

NASF – Eastern (Fred):

- Fred reached out to Dan Smith, NASF Director, to ask him how best Angie and Fred could reach out and ensure that all states were covered. He provided Fred names of the Regional Chairs for the states. Fred suggested that he and Angie make sure they coordinate on

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information release or requests for information so that the regional groups are getting that information at the same time.

- Fred: Anything more after I left the call?

IAFC (Bruce) – COVID-19 continues to take a heavy toll on fire departments and combined with increase wildfire activity across the county is impacting local fire department resources. IAFC has a Red Flag Warning Booklet available for download. The booklet is found at <https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/pdf/red-flag-resource-long-.pdf> The four page booklet providing information about Red Flag Warnings, safety tips for residents, recommended actions to take during a warning and a Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan. Fire Departments are keenly interested in the new proposed NWCG Public Information Officer Positions that the PIOSC is working on.

NIFC – External Affairs (Carrie)

BLM –

NPS (Tina) – Tina did a Zoom media interview last week that included a prevention component. Candy talked about her previous experience as a USFWS refuge manager and how important tracking of statistics, such as unattended campfires, were to her at that time to have an understanding of what was happening on the land.

BIA (Kenny) –

USFWS –