

Fire Environment Committee

Conference Call Notes

May 22, 2024

On the call:

Nick Nauslar, Cheryl Bright, Christopher Moore, Charles Maxwell, Chris Moore, Darren Claybo, M Fitch, Travis Verdegan, Wes Hall. Jim Wallman, Robyn Heffernan, Billy Guardino, Cole Belongie, Jon Fox (Note taker)

Meeting kicks off at 12:00 PM PDT

90-series updates: Chris Moore

- Test course in June in Klamath Falls. Hopefully few revisions are needed.
- S390 working with NWCG has a large contract with ICF for 390 and 490.
- Kickoff meeting in the middle of June. SMEs from U of Idaho working on 390.
- 490 also discussed and had a steering committee meeting a few days ago. Committee would love to hear from the SMEs from the U of Idaho. Meeting in October to go over the rewrites.
- GACCs can't get instructors or students for sufficient class sizes. (for S490). Last class only had 5 people. **Part of the problem is no instructions to teach the rewrite.**
- To help have Northern Rockies, NWCC, and California GACCs coordinate for students/teachers in other GACCs using some sort of rotation on a yearly basis.
- Will there be another test course (S-290) if this current version isn't sufficient? Perhaps, but there is some friction between groups.
- 390 and 490 conversation: There are usually students, however the teaching portion is very difficult and with upcoming retirements finding instructors is going to be very difficult. .

FEMS weather data:

- Version 1.2 coming out. Need to define a new data set. There's weather data that needs to feed the trends. There's better weather data that's needed for research. FEMS will differentiate between the data type.
- Cheryl: Wanted to see the slide showing the different data sets (see bottom of notes). Is there a manual snow flag in it? Need to replace the FW13. Fire Danger subcommittee wanted to make sure that the changes to the data set are going to be advertised. Charles said he wants the new datasets used (not FW13) instead of the old ones.
- Robyn: Has this been discussed with the fire weather subcommittee? Darren says it has. What does the end user: fire danger, really need.
- Travis: Risk that we run is getting our data sources mixed up. Some use FW21 data while others use other datasets. The issue is the snowflake data is vastly different. Is anybody

still using the FW13 data and if so is there a solution? Do we need to state “Don’t mix the data sets”. **Nick will work with fire danger and fire weather and draft a briefing paper. There were no objections to this proposal.** It would generally state This is our plan and this is what we recommend. We’d like to see the FW13 go away this fall.

- Nick wants to know should we make the change this fall?
 - Cheryl says people are reliant on it now however it should be downloaded already. The data will be accessible through DRI so they can still get it if necessary.

RFC to require S-491 for FBAN & IPTM/Training:

- Met within the last month and the proposal was going to be worked on.
- Will S491 be required and will this keep FBANs (and perhaps LTANs) from attending S590 training?
- Cheryl: The discussion in 491 is they aren't really teaching what needs to be taught. Too much quantity but not what really needs to be taught. It's a broad audience. Dispatchers to analysts. Based on this there are struggles. It will be taught next in Fall '25 (rather than Spring 25) so they can get a grasp on the class. 590 will be taught next in Spring 26. This course could become obsolete. What the LTANs and FBANs need is generally covered in the prework. The need to know how to create charts and analyze weather.
- Chris: 495 is going to be taught next spring and 491 is a prerequisite for it. So we can't get rid of it.
- Nick wanted to know who would tackle the modularization of 491. Cheryl says changes could occur in early 2025. If 495 is in the spring, the 491 might not occur before that anyway. 495 is April 2025. 491 might be taught in the fall 2025. So there's a gap. Should 491 be taught earlier then?
- Wes says it will be taught 495 to 590 to 495 again. It switches every year.
- Nick would like to see a 491 be taught in the fall or be taught early in the Spring.
- Chris said folks were allowed into 590 without the prerequisites based on the few applicants. So the group allows this as long as the prework was done.

Haines LAL:

- June 1-Aug1 NWS surveys folks about the elimination of these ingredients.
- Fire weather is seeking what to replace this data with.
- Something needs to be placed in the IRPG. Thunder probabilities and mixing heights need to be input somehow.

Round robin report outs:

- Wes: Working on getting the sub-committee meeting. Getting the calls going again. Speaking with a lot of the sub-committee members. Coordinating the presentations to

make sure there is a better awareness of what's going on. National fire support center linking up with the risk teams. WFDNRA helping with standups. Make sure there is consistency within the groups.

- Darren: Zach Tolby/NOAA fire weather testbed updates. ProbSevere Lightning forecasts coming out eventually. Haines and LAL will be presented to the executive board in July. So needs to vet this to the group in June before presenting. June 17th is the deadline. Lightning contracting needs to be worked on.
- Chris Moore: Finishing up Mann Gulch staff ride. Been working on videos for those that cannot hike.
- Cheryl: Talked about changes that FEMs is going to have over management of stations. Need to get information out to the field over what is coming. Is it more powerful if it comes from FENC rather than from a sub-committee?
- Billy: Nothing to report from PSOG.
- Robyn: Nothing to add.
- Mark Fitch: Nothing to add. Video coming out focusing on fire fighter health. NWCG should roll out a notice coming soon.
- Chuck: Didn't talk about the fire environment sub-committee yet. Will provide a draft before the June meeting. Share it with Nick or the group.
- Travis:

RAWS QC Versions - Application/Utility Perspective

First phase - FW13	Access via DR	Archival?
RAWS QAQC		
Version 1.0 (January 2024) 2000-2022	Access via FEMS now, Future TBD	Versioning model (good thing!)
Version 1.1 1,914 stations fixed coastal over-correction	SME Access (DR?)	SME data, set for research, analysis, and comparison.
Version 1.2 (May 2024 estimated) 100 additional stations added Fixed snow flag 2000-2022	SME Access DR?	SME = Uses the QAQC datasets within the context of the provided documentation. Future access via JOME in SME zone
Version 2.0 (2025) Addressing precipitation, wind speed, detailed validation, algorithm tuning, 2000 - 2024	SME Access DR11	
NFDRS POR v1 2005 - 2022 (Periodic NFDRS POR version updates In discussion)	(Operational in FEMS TB:)-)	Operational standard for NFDRSv4 {data alignment with RAWS e, i/mnc11 is key) <u>No RAWS data before the RAWS was there</u>