

FENC June Meeting Notes (June 26, 2024)

Attendance: Nick Nauslar, Robyn Heffernan, Dave Schultz, Tim Brown, Darren Clabo, Travis Verdegan, Mike Falkowski, Kevin Hiers, Chris Moore, Robert Clark, Wes Hall

- RFC to IPSC for requiring S-491/equivalent for FBAN (Nick Nauslar, Chris Moore)
 - Safety zone updated table now in form(s) and on websites soon
 - Still beta testing and still giving lots of presentations. Evolving and getting good feedback
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- R2O/O2R NWCG Guidelines (Nick Nauslar)
 - Formally adopted and on NWCG website with EB SOPs
 - Will include link in notes and email
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- Haines/LAL Update (Nick Nauslar)
 - Still ongoing. Talking points to go out soon
 - Internal NWS debates about best way to “replace” Haines/stability
 - Know its not perfect but still step forward and better. Operations catching up to science
 - Stress local/GA conversations between fire partners and NWS about FWFs
 - IRPG revised pages. Will pass around to the group for comment. Nedd to send by end of July
 - Tim Brown: how to know what mixing height is compared to climatology?
 - Darren Clabo: SPC sounding climatology and also heard WRCC might have one?
 - Tim Brown: have had versions of one, needs updating. Let's talk later
 - Darren: How to get NWS forecasts of mixing height with respect to climatology?
 - Me and Robyn: Not a quick solution and takes official process. Also no agreement on method of determining mixing height and need to update ASOS so we can better observe and forecast. Once standardized methodology then official process of inclusion
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- FENC Membership (NASA, ITC, Tactical Fire Remote Sensing Advisory Committee (Mike F is on it))
 - Mike Falkowski (NASA) introduction. Wildland Fire Program Manager. Discussed Firesense and taking technologies and applications the last operational mile
 - TFRSAC.
 - Robyn: Largely a coordinating body. Occasional conferences. Subject matter fits under fire environment but not really NWCG. May be liaison to this group or help them.
 - Dave S: Agree with Robyn but want to get more info
 - Mike F: 20-years. Remote sensing for tactical purposes. More information sharing about this. Started by NASA and USFS. NOAA and USGS now

involved. TFRSAC looking for a home and wanting to continue to meet needs for community. No current charter and no MOU either

- Robyn: can help them navigate but probably not their home
- Will send background info
- FEMS/RAWS Data Update (Travis Verdegan)
 - Travis: FEMS working on comms plan. Had one but with all changes, hit pause and major changes to it
 - Next release for Field Sample Module in early August
 - NFDRS POR RAWs 2005-2022 (current). Gap-filled with DRI method(s) but not back-filled
 - Working on paper for best practices, explainers, and path moving forward for weather data and fire danger calculations
 - Tim: data release soon 2000-2022 but is ready. Next spring fixing precipitation and wind speed. Flag entire POR for RAWs but not gap filled so to have QC dataset
- Round Robin Report Outs
- FDSC (Travis Verdegan)
 - Canceled June call. Nothing else to report
- FWSC (Darren Clabo)
 - Got quote for fire weather handbook revisions
 - Start moving forward with new lightning contract needs. Expires next spring
 - Fire weather handbook scheduled to be complete 2026
 - Lightning paper from Hatchett - will disseminate
- FBSC (Chris Moore)
 - S-290 test course this month. Waiting on feedback from NWCG
 - S-390 kickoff meeting this month. Between contractor, NWCG, FBSC, and University of Idaho. Good meeting and contractor came prepared.
 - Great Basin planning March 2025 offering. Might be test course if everything goes well
 - S-490 revision to start in fall once S-390 nears completion. Still securing some SMEs to help. Heather to step back and find someone with more experience for it
 - National offering or multi-GACC offering for S-490. Maybe NAFRI to host, do have a time slot. Would help with cadre and student issues
 - Working to get the Mann Gulch Virtual Staff Ride and other videos hosted with NWCG
 - Awaiting confirmation on FBAN/LTAN on IPTM for 2025
 - Some issues with Great Basin S-390 offering and field assessment guide. Printed locally and it was cheaper
 - Working with NWCG comms with course revisions, virtual staff ride, and other developments
- Robert Clark: S-490 being hosted by Cal-Fire in 2025. Extended 10 seats to R5. Same issue Fire Behavior Field Reference Guide. Did it locally for fraction of cost and easier to get. Fire activity increasing in California and issued Fuels and Fire Behavior advisory in California. Identify research on critical live fuel moisture for different fuels via

FIRESCOPE. We have some thresholds but compiling research to write paper on making a standard or say we need standard. FDOP statewide meeting

- NASA, Mike: NASA Field Campaign selected - In PYREX—the Pyrocumulonimbus Experiment—David Peterson of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington will lead a study of pyrocumulonimbus clouds, which form when wildfires burn hot enough to make their own weather. Flying over the western U.S. and Canada, researchers will examine the fire characteristics that produce pyrocumulonimbus, while exploring the mechanisms that lead these clouds to inject smoke into the stratosphere, where it can have climate effects.
- <https://science.nasa.gov/earth/nasa-selects-new-aircraft-driven-studies-of-earth-and-climate-change/>
- Working with FIRESENSE and practitioners to better transfer technology and tools into operations. May hear from Jackie Shuman
- Robyn: GOES-U launch yesterday. Better spatial resolution with new series of satellites. Also had FWT. Transition spot forecast application.
- Nick: FWT unmitigated success. Testing IWT, NGFS, and Fire Warnings. Will send short summary
- Robyn: WFLC meeting on how to make progress on initiatives related to fire environment/science.
- Dave: briefing update for EB on Haines/LAL in July. IPTM looking to have FBAN/LTAN in 2025. Had meeting with Chris Moore and NWCG comms to create social media plan to highlight FBSC work.

Kevin Heirs report out if he is not on

- I want to let the group know that DOD is funding a major investment in micrometeorology with projects just completed being selected (will become public in two weeks). We also are supporting the continued development of an EPA low-cost automated PM sensor that will enhance research and monitoring with quality data. I can imagine EBAMs giving way to these type of easier to use and automated systems sometime in the near future.

Wes Hall

- The FCESC folks met on 6/5. We discussed next steps for the FCESC.
- 1) Identify and focus to FCESC audience, historically analysts (IMETs, LTANs, FBANs, SOPLs)
- 2) Develop a questionnaire/survey to identify gaps and needs for continuing education.
- 3) Work on future format of continuing education engagements (including frequency)
- We have 2 new members:
- Jim Riddering from the RMA group
- Julie Malingowski from NWS