

NWCG Fire Environment Committee

Date: 17 December 2025

Attendees:

- Nick Nauslar
- Chris Moore
- Darren Clabo
- Dave Schultz
- Jim Wallman
- Ben Hatchett
- Travis Verdegan
- Robert Clark
- Pete Lahm

Agenda

- **S-290/390/490/491/590 Updates**
 - 290: Consternation of blended vs. not? Dave: lots of conversations on how folks are using it, what best path forward is. Progress made on how stuff is available, how folks request content/access to it. On FB call earlier, more info will be coming out soon but no specifics yet. Have plan that agencies are good with. Chris: Feedback been positive overall, worked out fine once into the swing of things.
 - 390: Chris: released last week, lots of interest, six month grace period.
 - 490: Chris: ICF needs to have final version by end of this year. Certification mid-Feb. Two GACCs got oks from NWCG to use new material.
 - 491: NWCG is not going to support coming under FBSC into more fire analyst form, currently day-job focused. Constant re-write is frustrating, losing key people in fire danger as a result. Dave: on the list, but not top priority.
 - 590: Poor rate of success on pre-test, needs re-writing. After seeing results, top of list this year in 2026, re-wording questions, but want to revisit if pre-test is hitting what we want. 490 is last technical class, 590 is about interpretation. Need to show proficiency in fire behavior triangle relationships. March class will be topic of discussion. 29/30 students applied.
- **FBFRG:** Submitted to NWCG on Dec 2 am, big lift, appreciated folks getting stuff in! Request at 490 for a place to get information for analysts, when re-doing lesson will include web-links for analyst community and get up before fire season.
- **NWCG Funding:** Nick forwarded email last month, no interest thus far. Due Jan 23, want to have them into FENC a week before this to review. Darren: trying to get funding for fire weather handbook, artist student trying to build up portfolio, wants to do science communication.
- **FENC Chair/Vice Chair Replacements:** Nick's term ends in January. Currently nobody to fill roles. Cheryl/Wes supposed to, then had re-org, jobs changed, not feasible for them. Reach out to exec board members that we need FENC chair starting next year. Dave: agency reps for new committees with re-structure have been

submitted, next step for that is to get folks together and figure out who chairs will be. Not an easy lift/process but want to get this moving by meeting in Feb. Re-org not implemented until 1 July, need someone for six months, talk to your EB rep, need someone to step up for six months to close out the FENC part of work, help with transition. Short-term commitment, Nick needs to move on due to professional commitments increasing in new year, can't put enough time in to be passable chair with transition. Darren will be on new fire weather committee, not on FENC.

- Dave: exec board meeting yesterday, let folks know who is going where.
- Robyn/Dave: Associate member agencies does not seem to be changing, voting in committees, but not executive board voting members.
- Darren: NWS will need to be prominent part of weather subcommittee.
- Dave: Annual meeting will have current chair/vice chair and incoming, lots of discussion about working through change.
- **Round Robin**
 - **Fire behavior:** January call canceled, will re-assess in February, certify 490 when ready.
 - **Fire weather:** nothing to report.
 - **Fire danger:** Dan and Travis met to discuss unification etc, decided to cancel next meeting, will re-convene in new year
 - **Continuing ed:** Last meeting transitioning chair to Thomas St. Claire.
 - **Smoke:** Smoke symposium upcoming, workshops on remote sensing, exceptional events, rx fire, other elements included. Earth Fire alliance on FIRE SAT, registration opening in a week.
 - **Predictive Services:** Annual meeting second full week of January, PSAW at beginning, will get some direction there, lots of changes in personnel, interviews and hiring is moving forward.
 - **Tim:** RAWs QC, adding 200 more stations to FEMS this week using previous QC version, working on v2 with some improvements. New FEMS update coming out tomorrow per Travis. Good changes coming forward.
 - **Robyn:** nothing to report
 - **States:** nothing to report
 - **Nick:** IAWF conference in Hobart, Tasmania, Portugal every 4 years conference (international fire behavior) in early November, WF Canada conference at end of October in Saskatoon. AMS in early Jan.