

NWCG Fuels Management Committee

Meeting Notes and Decision Log

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: 10/13/21

Begin Time: 1300 MST

End Time: 1545 MST

Attendees

FMC Members

Present: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS) Chair; Andy James (NASF) Vice Chair; Mark Jackson (BIA); Angie Simpson (BLM); John Larson-detailer (FWS); Deb Fleming (NWCG); Frankie Romero (USFS)

Absent:

Guests

Heather Heward (U of I), Annie Benoit (NWCG), Bre Schueller (Note Taker), Jason Fallon (OWF)

Decision Log

Topic: Role Call

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS-chair)

Discussion/Considerations: Introductions for FWS detailer, John Larson

Topic: Burn Boss Training

Presenter: Heather Heward (U of I)

Discussion/Considerations: Heather presented proposal for testing the Alpha Version of the Rx301/341 course with the Great Basin 301/341 cadre this December. The question is do we move forward with testing this new course framework. FMC was impressed with work that has been done but there is a need to slow down and ensure that the new format will apply nationally across all agencies as well as policy and liability concerns needing to be addressed when it comes to trainers and trainees. FMC will engage in more immediate discussions on next steps working with Heather and the Fire Use Subcommittee.

Topic: Rx Escape Commonalities

Presenter: Frankie Romero (USFS)

Discussion/Considerations: FMC discussed sharing the cost between FS and DOI. Jason will look into using a one-time funding source to meet the DOI share. Jason needs a copy of the scoping document, estimate, and proposal. Bureau leads should reach out to Jason if they have additional thoughts on this.

Topic: RXMG required experience

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS-chair)

Discussion/Considerations: Last minute agenda item and members did not have adequate time to review. Mike will gather more information on this from previous meeting notes and will send it out to folks to review prior to the next meeting.

Topic: Chair/Vice Chair terms

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS-chair)

Discussion/Considerations: Mike and Andy discussed the idea of having the State position continue as a full FMC voting member but excluding that position from having to serve as Chair. This is based on the Fed-centric nature of most of the business that allows federal FMC members to have more knowledge and understanding of day-to-day activities. It would be over burdensome for a state rep to be expected to keep up on all federal dealings and continue with their daily work responsibilities. FMC members agreed. Mike will review the charter and see if any changes need to be made.

The current 2-year term limits were also discussed. It was proposed that the committee consider going back to 1-year terms for Chair and Vice Chair OR allow for flexibility in term based on bureau and workload. Some bureaus may be stretched too thin to serve 2-year terms while others have back up and able to cover a 2-year term. Members are send Mike their thoughts in preparation to vote on this at a future date.

Topic: Interagency Fuels Academy

Presenter: Frankie Romero (USFS)

Discussion/Considerations: The Forest Service will be delivering the first year of the Fuels Academy curriculum to 20 FS students starting Feb/March of 2022. This is a three-year progressive academy with different focus areas each year. Content for year 1 is ready for delivery, while content for years 2 and 3 is still in development. Frankie will send briefing materials to the group to garner interest from DOI Bureaus. The FMC will investigate how the FS Fuels Academy could move to an interagency governance body.

Action Items or Assignments

Name(s): Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS-chair)

Action/Assignment: Mike will schedule a meeting with the FMC to revisit the Rx301/341 course alternative Heather has been working on. He will send an email to the group with some options for meeting dates/times.

Name(s): Jason Fallon (OWF)

Action/Assignment: Jason will work to get the \$40,000 (CR funding) in the lump sum to be transferred to FS from DOI for the Escaped Prescribed Fire Commonalities review Frankie is proposing.

Name(s): ALL DOI Bureaus

Action/Assignment: Send your letter of support or non-support to Jason in regard to DOI partially funding the Escaped Prescribed Fire Commonalities review Frankie is proposing.

Name(s): Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS-chair)

Action/Assignment: Mike will look up the information on RXMG required experience and send it out to folks for review before the next meeting.

Name(s): Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS-chair)

Action/Assignment: Mike will look at the charter and determine if an amendment needs to be made regarding the State representative not being required to be Chair of the FMC. He will look at it before the next meeting and will come up with verbiage as to why the decision was made and will get it to the group for review.

Name(s): ALL

Action/Assignment: Everyone think about changing Chair and Vice Chair term to be flexible based on the individual (1 or 2 years) before the next meeting. If you have a strong opinion for or against it, get your thoughts to Mike so we can talk about it for a vote at next meeting.

Name(s): Frankie Romero (USFS)

Action/Assignment: Frankie will send out briefing materials on the Fuels Academy so DOI folks can gather interest in creating an Interagency Fuels Academy soon.

Name(s): Deb Fleming (NWCG)

Action/Assignment: The Operations Subcommittee have a couple of recommendations that they would like to see with FIRB to align with other single resource bosses. Deb will send these out to the group for review. It is only 3-4 changes.

Name(s): Deb Fleming (NWCG)

Action/Assignment: Deb will ensure the REED group and Missy Forder are aware that if “MIST” changes, there will be downstream impacts that would require clean up in publications and other documentation.

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Date: November 10, 2021

Time: 1300-1700

Location: Microsoft Teams