



May 8, 2023 | [Fire Weather Subcommittee](#) Call

Members/Invited Attendees:

Larry Van Bussum, Calvin Bailey, Dennis Burns, Darren Clabo, Kari Fleegel, Brian Potter, Mike Stavish, Robert Swofford, Jim Wallmann, Kathryn O'Hara, Nick Nauslar

Actual Attendees: Larry Van Bussum (NWS, Chair), Darren Clabo (State SD, Vice Chair), Kari Fleegel (NWS), Dennis Burns (National Association of State Foresters), Robert Swofford (BLM), Jim Wallmann (USFS), Mike Stavish (NWS), Nick Nauslar (BLM)

****These and past notes are also available internally in our [Google Drive folder](#).**

Agenda

1. Review Documents: Haines Index Recommendation (Larry Van Bussum)
2. Review Documents: Development of a Decision Matrix for National Weather Service Red Flag Warnings (Larry Van Bussum)
3. Subgroup Update: Lightning Unit (Larry Van Bussum)
4. Subgroup Update: Fire Environment Observation Unit (Robbie Swofford/Larry Van Bussum)
5. Matt Jolly Fire on the 5s (Larry Van Bussum)
6. Next Meetings (All)
7. Subcommittee Election/Membership Changes (All)
8. Request to update PMS 1003 (Larry Van Bussum)

1. Review Documents: Haines Index Recommendation (Larry Van Bussum) [Internal subcommittee link to working document](#). Darren Clabo and Brian Potter will do a final review before sending the document up to Fire Environment Committee (FENC) on our recommended discontinued use of the Haines Index.

2. Review Documents: Development of a Decision Matrix for National Weather Service Red Flag Warnings (Larry Van Bussum)
Larry Van Bussum shared the research article from Sarah Jakober, Timothy Brown, and Tamara Wall: Development of a Decision Matrix for National Weather Service Red Flag Warnings. We would like a review of the project from Timothy Brown (Desert Research Institute). As a reminder, the NWS hosted a webinar on some of the latest research about Red Flag Warnings, and a potential alternative, presented by Tim Brown and Tamara Wall from DRI. Webinar available at, <https://youtu.be/qaiOCbyulVs>

📺 25 October 2022 - Fire on the 5s Red Flag Warning Matrix

Larry Van Bussum will contact Timothy Brown regarding an update to the project at our next meeting.

3. Subgroup Update: Lightning Unit update (Larry Van Bussum)
A formal vote of confidence was conducted for the new Chair of the Lightning Unit, Paul Sopko (USFS), to replace Nick Nauslar. Paul Sopko will work with the lightning contracts and archive data. It is recommended that Paul become a member of the subcommittee, and a formal invitation was sent.
4. Subgroup Update: Fire Environment Observation Unit (Robert Swofford/Larry Van Bussum)
NFDRS RAWS standards were discussed, with the main question is if they should be brought to WMO or kept at the current standards (wind of 20 ft vs 10 m (33 ft, and different time averages for winds and gusts). The cost of bringing the estimated 3,000 stations to WMO (World Meteorological Organization) standards is being calculated by Robert Swofford. The main cost is raising the wind sensor height, with a lesser cost from the software changes at the units. Would like to work with the NWCG Fire Behavior Subcommittee and get recommendations from them, as well as work with others to help with the potential funding. Larry Van Bussum will follow up those who brought up the original request to look into the changes, and the FENC in general. If changes were made to make RAWs standards the same at WMO, it could have a significant impact on the fire science and climatology communities.
5. Matt Jolly Fire on the 5s (Larry Van Bussum)
It was discussed about having Matt Jolly present at an upcoming NWS Fire on the 5s.
6. Next Meetings (All)
A subset of the group spoke to Tami Parkinson, Co-Chair of the Fire Behavior Subcommittee about the potential of an in-person Fire Weather/Fire Behavior meeting in the fall. The last combined meeting was in October 2021.
7. Subcommittee Election/Membership Changes (All)
We formalized several changes with a vote. The new Chair of the Fire Weather Subcommittee is Darren Clabo, new Vice-Chair is Jim Wallmann, and new member Paul Sopko. As a subcommittee of FENC, they may need to also conduct a formal vote to validate our selection of Darren Clabo as the new chair. Larry Van Bussum shared these changes with will share documentation about the subcommittee to our shared Google drive.

Next meeting June 2023, with a date and time to be determined