



April 18, 2024 | [Fire Weather Subcommittee](#) Meeting

Members/Invited Attendees:

Darren Clabo (NASF/SD State, Chair), Jim Wallmann (USFS, Vice Chair), Larry Van Bussum (NWS), Calvin Bailey (NASF/SC State), Dennis Burns (NASF/CA), Drew Daily (OK Forestry Services), Kari Fleegel (NWS), Colby Neuman (NWS), Brian Potter (USFS), Paul Sopko (USFS), Robert Swofford (BLM), David Schultz (NWCG Coordinator/BLM)

Actual Attendees: Darren Clabo, Drew Daily, Kari Fleegel, Colby Neuman, Larry Van Bussum, Paul Sopko (invited guest - Physical Scientist, Rocky Mountain Research Station/USFS)

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

Agenda

1. **BLM Lightning Contract** (Paul Sopko)
2. **Haines Index and Lightning Activity Level (LAL)** (Darren Clabo)
3. **Round Robin** (all)

1. **BLM Lightning Contract** (Paul Sopko)

The Lightning Unit is under the Fire Weather Subcommittee. Paul Sopko is taking over for Nick Nauslar, to assist with refreshing the BLM lightning contract. The current contract is through Earth Networks, and is coming up for renewal. Larry Van Bussum was in the email discussion in the past with and will look through his emails for further details. Former Predictive Services Meteorologist and current Hydrologist for the Salt Lake City based Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, Nanette Hosenfeld may be of help as she played a significant role with the previous contract. Nanette's current email address is nanette.hosenfeld@noaa.gov. Vaisala had the contract in the past, and ground truths their data. Larry Van Bussum believes that someone from Tim Brown's Western Region Climate Center has done some verification of th 2. Earth Networks and Vaisala have databases that are difficult to merge. Vaisala is likely still under contract for historic data. A white paper was created with wants and needs from the lightning contract. Robbie Swofford would like to be put in touch with the Lightning Unit folks, so he can start working with them.

Paul will send the white paper to Darren Clabo for distribution to our subcommittee. Pete Roohr (Meteorologist, Office of Science and Technology Integration/NWS, peter.roohr@noaa.gov) is the NWS representative for the Lightning Unit. Darren will make sure that the connections are made between all Lightning Unit members.

2. **Haines Index and Lightning Activity Level (LAL)** (Darren Clabo)

David Schultz stated in a pre-meeting email that he was looking forward to getting together with Darren next week to talk about a communications plan for the Haines Index and LAL.

Several requests have been coming in to present about the current and future removal of the Haines Index and LAL, with an estimate of hundreds of folks talked to so far. If needed due to scheduling conflicts, subcommittee members will be asked to help present. A current version of the presentation is located in [our FWS folder here](#) (only available internally). Darren Clabo and Jim Wallmann are the main contacts for presentation updates.

3. **Round Robin** (all)

Drew Daily: Drew will extend an invitation to Zach Tolby (Lead Scientist, Fire Weather Testbed/NWS) to join us and introduce himself and talk about his work at our next meeting.

Darren Clabo: Darren received an from Pete Curran regarding S-290 update status via email and our level of involvement, as he had some concern about some proposed changes. This information was shared with the group. The course requirement is now 22-24 hours of online videos, followed by 16 hours of in-person classroom or live online course "discussion". The weather units have been reduced from 5 to 3 and the instructor recommendations no longer suggest a meteorologist as a subject matter expert (SME). While I am in full agreement that the 2007 curriculum needed some updating, I am a little surprised at the S-290-light program received support."

Next meeting May 16, 2024 at 11 am MT

typically the 3rd Thursday of each month