



September 19, 2024 | [Fire Weather Subcommittee](#) Meeting

Members/Invited Attendees:

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

Actual Attendees: Drew Daily, Darren Clabo, David Schultz, Brian Potter, Larry Van Bussum, James, Charles Maxwell, Paul Sopko

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

Agenda

1. **Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level Updates** (Darren Clabo/Larry Van Bussum/Jim Wallmann/Dave Schultz)
2. **Oklahoma Mesonet Fire Environment Graphics** (Drew Daily)
3. **BLM Lightning Contract** (Paul Sopko)
4. **Handbook Update** (Darren Clabo)
5. **Fall Data Summit** (Charles Maxwell)
6. **Priorities for for 2025** (Darren Clabo)
7. **Round Robin** (all)

1. **Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level updates** (Darren Clabo/Larry Van Bussum/Jim Wallmann/Dave Schultz)

Feedback from the NWS National Service Change Notice was reviewed. While a majority of respondents believed that the Haines Index should continue, Larry Van Bussum noted that there is no scientific reason was included in any of the feedback. Overall, specifics were difficult to get out of the survey because it was only about taking a single component of a product, instead of an entire product. A call took place with Mary Mollusky, NWS Forecast Services Division Chief of the Forecast Services Division, about the survey results and why we are continuing to move forward. A full NWS 10-102 package will be created to continue the process through the NWS chain of procedures.

Darren Clabo will start preparing a WFSTAR script that will be shared with our group. Dave Schultz will set up a meeting with Darren Clabo, Nick Nauslar, Jim Wallmann and the WFSTAR contact, Joe Schindel (mschindel@blm.gov).

Dave Schultz has been working with the NIFC communications shop on Haines and LAL talking points that can go to the entire fire community. They will be finalized by next week and published to the NWCG fire weather subcommittee webpage. The goal is to make the information less technical for the general public and base user.

2. **Oklahoma Mesonet Fire Environment Graphics** (Drew Daily)

Drew Daily shared a Mesonet Fire Environment graphic from the state of Oklahoma that highlights a class day or staffing level reflective of the G model and NDFD. The map scale is a value 1 to 10 (10 being high) where the Red Flag Threat Index (RFTI) given as a value of 1 to 5 was added to the ERC (based on the G model) given as a value of 1 to 5. That way it includes weather and fuel information. The maps are for 1500 for current day, day 2, and day 3. The overall goal is to create a situational awareness display for internal and external partners and the public. Drew is soliciting feedback from the fire weather subcommittee and will send us an email with additional details.

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

Paul Sopko, chair of the Lightning Unit (LTNU), reviewed the previous Statement of Work for the contract from Nanette Hosenfeld and Paul Sopko in 2020 (was shared with the working group in an email on July 16th from Darren Clabo). He did do some edits to the 2020 version and will share it out with the LTNU. Some of the issues is that there wasn't anyone at NIFC at the time. Team members on the LTNU included Robbie Swofford who contacted other folks who needed to be included, and John Lonaman(sp) who was on the IT side. Kathy Paulson will continue to be involved. Darren Clabo will look at future meeting dates and make sure that the contract planning is moving on schedule.

4. **Handbook Update** (Darren Clabo)

Videos will be created to go along with the Handbook. These will be the same ones used for S-290 and S-390. Graphics will cost \$40K to 80K of additional funds. Chris Moore will be updated on the budget, and additional costs of the graphics. The Handbook will be more on applications, and more usable to folks preparing for an on fire. The subcommittee members will be asked to review chapters. Brian Potter would like to be a subject matter expert.

5. **Fall Data Summit** (Charles Maxwell)

Invited guest, Charles Maxwell invited fire weather subcommittee members to the Fall Data Summit. It will be held in Nashville in 3 weeks and will likely have a virtual component. The summit is highly fire-environment focused. An email was shared to the entire group to register for the event. Charles also mentioned that a

couple of datasets need reviewing, and that he would be in contact with our subcommittee.

6. **Priorities for for 2025** (Darren Clabo)

The top priority for 2025 is the lightning contract. A lower priority is the glossary. Jim Wallmann noted that the group working on the glossary terms were around 20% completed.

7. **Round Robin (all)**

Dave Schultz - On October 3rd, there is a NWCG quarterly connections call for Darren Clabo and Jim Wallmann.

Kari Fleegel brought up the member agency information on the NWCG Roster page, listing "other" for Drew Daily (NASF), Kari Fleegel (NWS), and Larry Van Bussum (NWS). Kari requested the changes to the page.

Next meeting October 17, 2024 at 11 am MT

****typically the 3rd Thursday of each month****