Public Information Officer Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes: 7/28/2022

Attendees:

Chris Barth (BLM), Robyn Broyles (BIA), Candice Stevenson (NPS),Catherine Koele (NASF), Sean Collins (IAFC), Brian Harris (USFS), Adrienne Freeman (USFS), Kerry Greene (USFS)

Also in Attendance:

Tina Boehle (CEPC)

Sarah Lee (NWCG)

Stephanie Bishop (note taker)

Committee Business:

1. NWCG Update
    - Tomorrow is Deb Flaming's last day.
    - Sarah Lee will become NWCG liaison for PIOSC and is looking forward to working with us.

2. CEPC Update
    - CEPC is invited to present to the NWCG executive board in August. PIOSC will send items to present.
    - Kerry will present on behalf of PIOSC and will present highlights, accomplishments, challenges, and information pertinent to the executive board.
    - CEPC is planning an in-person meeting in October in Boise.
    - Fire restrictions task team met this morning and will be surveying stakeholders and municipal, county, state, Tribal, and federal levels to see what is currently being used to publicize fire restrictions and find out needs for a national product.
3. PIOT Update
    - Note has been added to this position on the qualifications page: *For the Public Information Officer (PIOT0 position, satisfactory completion of the required training meets the position qualification requirements.*
    - Brian has seen several PIOTs on incidents and they are contributing in various ways. Brian attempted to order a PIOT with video skills, but had to change it to THSP.
4. Other Updates
    - Feedback to NWCG glossary additions and deletions are due by August 18. Sarah advised that the glossary database EDG will be expanding over the years.
    - S-520 will be offered twice this year in December 2022 and January 2023.

5. Follow-up From Virtual 2-day Meeting
    - We created an outline for S-103, which would be online/self-taught for PIOT
        - The course would be a good starting point for all PIOs
        - S-103 would take some basic topics from S-203

- o We will need to put in a budget request through CEPC to work on course development.
- S-203/303 is planned to be 40 hour course.
- Would like to keep S-403 under 40 hours and have a 3-4 day course
- Some topics in the outline may be skipped in S-203 if they are covered in O-305 or the equivalent course when it is required at type 3 levels
  - o Catherine reported there is discussion about a national 320 course. It was consensus that O-305 may function as a 320.
- Branch lead positions would require a task book for each and branch leads would be supervising others. Each branch position qualification may require only that portion of the task book that pertains to the specific position. You must be a PIO3 before opening a branch lead task book and you must have at least one branch lead qualification before opening a CPIO task book.
- We need to coordinate with FEMA to see how these changes would fit into their qualifications.
- We are unsure what happens to current PIO2's if they don't obtain CPIO qualification, do they drop to PIO3 and would the AD pay rate change? The AD pay rate for PIO3 may change based on the new position description and qualifications.
- IDWG should develop a communications plan to address all the questions that we are unable to answer. We need more guidance to make correct decisions for PIOs.
- There is no guidance for signing off complex positions. The CPIO position description had not been published for anyone to review. How does an evaluator they know what they're evaluating a person to do? If people who are not ready to handle a complex incident are signed off, it can hurt the agencies.
- There will be an AAR this fall and PIOSC will create a document to send to CEPC to present our position.

New Business:

- NWCG issued a memorandum to support the delay and launch of InciWeb Application Updates: Memorandum No. 22-005 NWCG Request and Support to Delay the Launch of InciWeb Application Updates
- The Wildland Fire Information Technology (WFIT) Program Board supported the delay until the CEPC, PIOSC, and Data Management Committee (DMC) have been provided enough time to evaluate developer changes and ensure they are aligned with application business needs and standards.
- We need to determine if InciWeb records should be archived, and if so, where. Currently, there does not appear to be any criteria for determining which records are deleted.