

Public Information Officer Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes: 10/26/2023

Attendees:

Chris Barth (BLM – Chair), Candice Stevenson (NPS), Catherine Koele (NASF Rep.), Sean Collins (IAFC Rep.), Brian Harris (USFS), Adrienne Freeman (USFS).

Also in Attendance:

Carrie Bilbao (BLM – CEPC Chair), Angie Lane (WA-DNR – CEPC Liaison), Katy O’Hara (NPS – NWCG Coord.), Steph Bishop (Associate Member), Nick Terrell (BLM – Admin. Support).

Committee Business:

- Candice motioned to approve the September PIOSC meeting notes and Sean seconded. The meeting notes will be finalized for publishing, and posted to the NWCG website once the Drupal platform migration is complete.
- Winter 2023/24 special session meetings – Kerry has scheduled the first special session meeting for December 12. Topic of discussion will be consolidating InciWeb “cheat-sheets.”
- The committee agreed to suspend discussion of several, large-scale meeting agenda items to further discuss during winter special session meetings; PIO specific training modernization, PIO CIM position crosswalk, the NMAC L2023-02 Tasking – Increasing Incident Support Capabilities, and a PIO standard configuration for CIMTs. Monthly meetings do not provide enough time to discuss these topics in detail.
- Vacant positions on the PIOSC – still no update on fills for BIA and FWS seats on the PIOSC.
- IMT PIO meeting – Sean volunteered to schedule/organize a meeting with the PIOSC and NIMO to collaborate on large-scale meeting agenda items. Will look to schedule this meeting in spring of 2024. Sean will utilize the contact lists in the PIO toolbox for this meeting invite.
- Committee members reviewed & updated list of action items on the monthly meeting agenda.

New Committee Business:

- CEPC update from Angie.
 - There are possible role changes upcoming: Tina Boehle returning to the committee from a detail, Carrie Bilbao assuming the chairperson role, and Angie assuming the vice chairperson role.
 - Reporting for fuels management will be moving to the Inform application.
 - The FI-110 course is available online in the WFLP in a test format. There is a call out for feedback on that product. The P-101 course is also slated for online test format.
 - Budget requests for FY25 are in the works and are projected to be released in December.
 - CEPC is working with the WUI Mitigation Committee on a definition update for the WUI.
 - The Fire Investigation Sub-Committee is meeting this week to discuss updates to some of their publications.
- NWCG update from Katy.

- The new NWCG coordinators are in place and their committee assignments have been restructured. A committee/coordinator assignment list is posted in the PIOSC Teams channel (General → NWCG → Memos).
- PIOT and PIO3 are on the next IPTM call order for a contract to review the positions.
- New budget requests will be more detailed but will be available in fillable PDF format.
- Review of IPTM process at NWCG: there are still opportunities to amend content in PIO position task books, relevant publications, and course materials.
- Agency updates
 - BLM – no report.
 - BIA – No report.
 - NPS – Park service is putting together a publication on PIO post-fire/BAER communications.
 - IAFC – No updates.
 - USFS – Hiring for NIMO position vacancies is upcoming.
 - NASF – The Eastern Area is reducing to one IMT as a result of the CIM transition. NWCG is supporting a basic and advanced IMT course (to replace the 420 & 520 courses) and is in the initial analysis phase this week.

Next call: December 12, 2023, at 0900 - 1200 ET, 1100 - 1400 MT, 1000 - 1300 PT (special session – InciWeb cheat sheets).