

Public Information Officer Subcommittee (PIOSC)

Meeting Minutes: 1/25/2024

Attendees:

Chris Barth (BLM – Chairperson), Lisa Wilkolak (BLM), Candice Stevenson (NPS), Catherine Koele (NASF rep.), Sean Collins (IAFC Rep.), Brian Harris (USFS), Adrienne Freeman (USFS), Kerry Greene (USFS – Vice Chairperson)

Also in Attendance:

Angie Lane (WA-DNR – CEPEC Liaison), Katy O'Hara (NWCG Coordinator), Steph Bishop (Associate Member), Nick Terrell (Admin.), Kevin Maier (NWCG - Training Specialist)

Committee Business:

- Candice motioned to approve December 2023 meeting notes and Adrienne seconded the motion. Notes will be finalized for NWCG web posting.
- National Lead PIO Meeting: The committee had previously scheduled a few dates in February and March for this meeting. Several members have scheduling conflicts with proposed dates. Kerry will send out a doodle poll to committee members to select the best dates for this meeting.
- Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) overview: Katy O'Hara and Kevin Maier attended the meeting and gave a presentation overview of the IPTM process and deliverables. Kevin will be the NWCG Training Specialist assigned to work on the PIOT and PIO3 IPTM reviews. He will be the point of contact for the PIOSC, and the Subject Matter Experts (SME) assigned to the review. The PIOSC will select 5-7 SMEs to the IPTM review team. Katy has received applications via the NWCG website (interested parties apply here: <https://www.nwcg.gov/iptm>) and will forward the list to PIOSC. The PIOSC needs to have SME selections submitted to NWCG by March 8th - prospective applicants apply by March 3rd. The PIOT & PIO3 reviews are scheduled for April 29 - May 2 in Boise.

New Business:

- Community, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC) update (Angie) – The NWCG Executive Board has been outreaching for budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 25). CEPC had not submitted a funding request for the S-203, Introduction to Incident Information course because of the upcoming IPTM review.
- NWCG update (Katy) – NWCG all committee chairpersons meeting will be February 21-22 in Boise. PIOSC will be sending a representative.
- Incident Management Response Roundtable (IMRR) update (Brian) – Brian may have found an interested party from this group to fill the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) representative seat on the PIOSC. This group may also benefit from an NWCG representative giving a presentation of the IPTM process; there has been some unrest and uncertainty expressed on the IMRR calls of the pending changes to the PIO field.

Old Business:

- Standard configuration for PIO organization in Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT) – Katy was able to provide clarification on this pending agenda item: this tasking came from the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NAMC) and was never a formal NWCG tasking. The Incident Commanders Advisory Council (ICAC) had previously drafted and submitted a standard configuration for CIMT. Katy will track that document down to forward to the PIOSC to review for situational awareness. No further action needed.
- Vacant agency representative seats on PIOSC – Still no word from Robin Broyles or Lesa Peters on a BIA representative. Brian is checking on the potential lead from the IMRR meeting for a fill for the FWS committee seat. Lisa Wilkolak has been recruited to serve as the new BLM representative from Moab, UT.
- PIO training course revision – Training was discussed during the IPTM presentation. Course revisions will essentially be the second phase of the IPTM position review process. S-203 is tied to the PIO3 position and the course revision will follow the position analysis. Kerry has created a PIO training matrix. Committee members are tasked with reviewing the matrix and making contributions to discuss in a special work session meeting in roughly two weeks.
- InciWeb – Chris and Kerry have been meeting with the InciWeb development team bi-monthly and are reporting that interactions seem to be remedying ongoing issues on the platform. They will continue to meet with the developers and share updates with the PIOSC as the committee may want to weigh in on process changes – e.g., alignment with Wildfire Crisis Strategy language.

Action Items:

- Kerry will send out a doodle poll to choose date for National Lead PIO Meeting.
- The PIOSC will review SME applicants and get a list of selections to Katy for the IPTM review team by March 8th.
- Candice and Catherine will continue to update social media guidance.
- Kerry will schedule work blocks for committee special session meetings. Committee schedule demands and travel guidance will not allow for in-person meeting.
- All committee members are tasked with reviewing the training comparison matrix in the Teams folder prior to the next special session meeting in roughly two weeks.
- All committee members are tasked with reviewing the 2023 Accomplishments/2024 Steering document in the Teams folder prior to next regular meeting.
- Committee chairs will work with NWCG to schedule a Training Specialist to attend the next regular meeting to discuss the Next Generation Position Task Book.

Next call: February 22nd, 2024: 1330 ET, 1230 CT, 1130 MT, 1030 PT