

Public Information Officer Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes: 3/28/2024

Attendees:

Kerry Greene (USFS – Vice Chairperson), Brian Harris (USFS), Lessa Peter (BIA Rep.)

Also in Attendance:

Angie Lane (WA-DNR – CEPC Liaison), Katy O'Hara (NWCG Coordinator), Nick Terrell (Admin.)

Committee Business:

- Quorum not achieved for decision making process. Will approve February 2024 meeting notes next month for web posting.
- The PIOSC reviewed project progress during the special work block sessions held March 4-8th.
 - IPTM position review SME selections have been made. All SMEs have confirmed availability and accepted nomination for the April 29 - May 2 position review. NWCG provided feedback that this SME group is highly diverse in agency and geographic area representation.
 - *Update:* some SMEs have withdrawn, and alternate(s) have confirmed their availability.
 - The PIO Training Comparison Matrix has been finalized and will be provided to the SME group to use in the IPTM review (Catherine is PIOSC liaison SME and can provide the document).
 - Finalized 2023 accomplishments & 2024 Steering document. Both are available on the PIOSC Teams for members to access.
 - NMAC tasking (2023-02) Increasing Incident Support Capabilities – Confirmed with IWDG that previously submitted PIOSC feedback was received – no response available yet.

New Business:

- NWCG Executive Board (EB) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) tasking – NWCG Committees and Sub-Committees were tasked by the EB to submit a SOP at the February 2024 all NWCG meeting. At a minimum, the SOP should outline a procedure and schedule for how agency representatives will rotate responsibility for the chairperson and vice chairperson roles.
- Community, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC) update (Angie) – Awaiting response from EB on FY25 budget requests.
- NWCG Update (Katy)
 - The PIO IPTM position review is underway.
 - The new NWCG website is scheduled to go live on April 2nd.
 - Katy attended the Eastern Area Incident Management Team (IMT) meeting this week and reported that the PIO meeting breakout was productive.
- Incident Management Response Roundtable (IMRR) update (Brian)
 - Brian will be hosting the next IMRR meeting.
 - The IMRR calls will no longer be recorded. Meeting notes will still be taken and provided to the field.

- Carrie Bilbao attended the last call and provided an update on the PIO bulletin board and the upcoming NIFC PIO Webinar (May 16 at 1000 MT). PIOSC members asked to brainstorm topics to be included at the webinar – will discuss potential topics at next month’s meeting (new action item).
- Agency Updates
 - BIA – Alaska will be hosting an L-481 course, Lessa will foreword email announcement to the PIOSC.
 - USFS – A heads up for PIOs regarding USFS Wildfire Crisis Strategy incidents; local public affairs specialists and line officers will have more involvement in incidents impacting identified communities.

Old Business:

- National Lead PIOs Teams channel
 - Sean has re-purposed the old “PIO1” Teams channel and made Chris, Kerry, and Michelle Fidler the Team owners.
- PIOSC representative on the Incident Management Team Course Steering Committee
- Fish & Wildlife Service representative – Outreach continues.

Action Items:

- Candice and Catherine update Social Media Guidance.
- IPTM (PIO) position analysis dates are April 29 to May 2.
- “What Kind of PIO Am I” document update (Adrienne).
- PIOSC SOP document EB tasking from 2024 all NWCG meeting.
- Brainstorm topics to include in NIFC PIO webinar on May 16 (all members).

Note: April 25th, 2024: 1330 ET, 1230 CT, 1130 MT, 1030 PT.