

Public Information Officer Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes: 10/24/2024

Attendees:

Kerry Greene (USFS – Chair), Catherine Koele (NASF – Vice Chair), Brian Harris (USFS – Rep.), Candice Stevenson (NPS Rep.), Lessa Peter (BIA – Rep.), Jenner Harsha (USFWS Rep.), Chris Barth (USFS Rep.)

Also in Attendance:

Katy O'Hara (NWCG Coordinator), Nick Terrell (BLM – Admin.)

Committee Business:

- Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC) update – CEPC Liaison does not present at meeting. No new updates.
- NWCG Update (Katy) –
 - The NWCG Executive Board will meet in December to discuss where the onus lies for Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) decisions. There will be clearer guidance for Position Steward Committees that comes out of this meeting.
 - The Complex Incident Management Team (CIMT) After Action Review was held this month. Meeting notes will be shared with the PIOSC.
 - **Action Item:** Make sure the PIOSC roster is updated on the NWCG website by the end of November. Kerry has submitted the roster change request – Katy will locate and pass up.

New Business:

- Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) position review updates:
 - The IPTM content gap analysis for the PIO position job aid materials is scheduled for early November.
 - Kerry will try to join in on more PIO SME meeting sessions to provide input and leaders intent for the PIOSC.
- Motion to change the name of the Public Information Officer Technician (PIOT) position –
 - Kerry has created a Request for Change document. **Action Item:** PIOSC members need to review and provide input so the document can be passed up the NWCG chain.
 - Reminder – Because of the NWCG Executive Board pause memo from August 2024, the Incident Positions and Standards Committee will not be processing Requests for Change until later 2025.
- Watch Duty and Facebook App Usage as Official Information Source on Incidents – PIOSC held discussion on the updated Facebook algorithm and the Watch Duty application. The PIOSC has received several requests to make an official statement on usage of these Social Media platforms. Because these are agency external sources, the PIOSC or the interagency PIO field does not have oversight over use of these sources.
- **New Agenda Item for next meeting** – The Fire Prevention and Education Subcommittee (FPETSC) is discussing changing the PIO qualification requirement for Prevention Education Team Leader (PETL) from PIO3 to PIOC. The PIOSC has been asked to discuss and attend an FPETSC meeting to collaborate on this decision.

Old Business:

- PIOSC Reorganization in NWCG Committee Structure –
 - The PIOSC furthered discussion on requesting to reorganize within the NWCG committee structure. Currently, the PIOSC is organized underneath CEPC. Members are wondering if moving to align more closely with the Incident Command Subcommittee (ICSC), under the IPSC would work better for command and general staff PIO business.
 - Katy advised that a committee reorganization has never been done at NWCG – not that it is not possible but more of a consideration of unintended consequences. Posed the alternative to address the communication gap currently between the PIOSC and the ICSC.
 - **Action Item** (pending from last meeting) – Chris has volunteered to draft a “white paper” to outline the PIOSC’s need to align more with the ICSC.
 - The PIOSC will continue this discussion as an agenda item at the next monthly meeting.
- **Action Item:** Update Social Media Guidance – Candice and Catherine will generate a draft document for the PIOSC to review at the January 2025 meeting.
- **Action Item:** “What Kind of PIO am I” document – Adrienne Freeman (former PIOSC member) has been contacted and has confirmed that she is able to work on this project. The current version of the document on the PIOSC committee page is outdated.
- **Action Item** - PIOSC Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Document – Members discussed CEPC questions on the draft SOPs. **Action Item:** Nick will edit the SOP document with all CEPC comments addressed and resubmit to PIOSC Chair to approve.
- PIOSC Representation on the Incident Management Team Course Steering Committee (IMTCSC) – Chris announced that he will serve as the PIO SME on the IMTCSC. No update on the Alpha delivery of S-320, Introduction to IMTs in Sacramento, CA. Beta delivery will be November 18-22 in Wisconsin. Catherine and Chris will attend.

Action Items:

- All members – Review the PIOT name Request for Change.
- Chris – Draft “white paper” summarizing PIOSC reorganizing in the NWCG committee structure for CEPC.
- Candice and Catherine – Draft an update to the PIO social media guidance for the January 2025 meeting.
- Adrienne Freeman (PIOSC consultant) – Update outdated document currently on webpage.
- Admin. Support – Edit and update the PIOSC SOP document and re-submit to Chair for approval.

Next Call: November 21st, 2024 – 1330 ET, 1230 CT, 1130 MT, 1030 PT.