

Public Information Officer Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes: 6/24/2025

Attendees:

Kerry Greene (USFS — Chair), Candice Stevenson (NPS — Rep), Jenner Harsha (USFWS — Rep), Lisa Wilkolak (BLM — Rep), Sean Collins (IAFC — Rep), Elaina LaPaz (BIA — Rep)

Also in Attendance: Sarah Lee (NWCG — Coordinator), Brian Harrison (NWCG — Training Specialist)

Committee Business:

- Agency updates —
 - BLM — Nothing to report.
 - BIA — National Wildland Firefighters Day July 2nd.
 - NPS — Nothing to report.
 - IAFC — Nothing to report.
 - USFS — Nothing to report.
 - USFWS — More and more interest from collateral duty folks and consolidated DOI.
 - NASF — Nothing to report.

- Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC) update —
 - Not present.

- NWCG update — (Sarah L.)

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is undergoing restructuring due to increasing complexity in its operations, which now involve 17 committees and numerous sub-committees. The organization is recognized as a national standard-setting body and aims to streamline its work to focus on core responsibilities — mainly developing wildland fire standards — while improving system efficiencies, reducing workloads, and avoiding committees doing agency-specific work. This restructuring has been discussed with the national fire leadership and is expected to be completed by February 2026.

NWCG is collecting feedback through listening sessions and seeks input on any fatal flaws in the proposed changes. The goal is to gather insights and refine the restructuring process.

Key points and concerns raised during the discussion:

- **Workload and Efficiency:** There is a focus on increasing efficiency and ensuring that the right work is prioritized, especially in areas like training and resource creation.
- **Voting Structure:** Some concerns were raised about the voting structure, where certain committees (like NASF) have limited representation. Others raised concerns about specific sub-committees, like investigations, might best fit within the new structure.
 - The restructuring aims to formalize the representation process within committees and ensure that there is diversity in geographic and experience levels. There will

still be flexibility to include non-rostered members in meetings or workgroups. As well as the importance of also having state representation.

- The proposed restructuring seems to align with the Incident Command System (ICS), looking to have ten committees with four sub-committees under them. It is still being evaluated which sub-committees would be under what committee.
- Discussions also revolved around where different sub-committees would best fit in the new structure, such as leadership training and GIS, and whether certain committees should be decoupled to ensure better communication and coordination.
- Incident Management Response Roundtable (IMRR) update —
 - Calls are back online — still working on the invites and new chat/Q&A format.
- IPTM Updates — (Brian H.)
 - ICF (Contractor) Delivered the entire course package to the PIO Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Brian has reached out to the Geographic Area Training Representatives for the pilot in the Great Basin Area for late November or early December.
 - There will be an opportunity to observe the alpha/beta test courses for PIOSC and SMEs.
 - PIOT Position Description and Standards are published on the website.

New Business:

- The Incident Management Team Course Steering Committee's (IMTCSC) S-320 charlie test course went well. S-320 should be available in the system by December for new deliveries.
- IMTCSC will now work on the intermediate IMT course. A lot of the S-520/CIMC content will move down to intermediate, with the idea is that intermediate will happen at the beginning of the CIM C&G training journey and S-520/CIMC is the finale.
- EERA Shell is out and available for use.

Old Business:

- None.

Pending Action Items:

- None

Other Information:

Next Call: July 24, 2025 — 1330 ET, 1230 CT, 1130 MT, 1030 PT.