

# Public Information Officer Subcommittee

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## Meeting Minutes: 8/28/2025

### Attendees:

Kerry Greene, Catherine Koele, Candice Stevenson, Jenner Harsha, Sean Collins

### Also in Attendance:

Sarah Lee (NWCG), Angie Lane (CEPC Liaison), Stephanie Bishop (non-voting member)

### Committee Business:

We have a quorum for voting. July meeting notes are approved.

#### NWCG Update

- The new PIOSC coordinator position has been filled with Steven Gaskill.
- New IPTM Program Manager-vice Toni Suminski should be announced soon.
- Several other details have also been filled.
- Committee reorganization feedback was reviewed. There will be a call with the Executive Board next week to move to agencies for approval.

#### CEPC Update

- CEPC Virtual Fall Meeting is October 14-17. Topic submissions and suggestions for presenters are being accepted. Examples from last year include a fire investigation case study and a communications presentation.
- Prevention Subcommittee Report:
  - Will have briefing paper for FireNET support out to committee for discussion this week.
  - Stacey Grimes will fill in as the National FPET coordinator.
  - USFS Branch Chief Melissa Jenkins will assume the CEPC liaison role.
  - Getting a lot of questions on how one wildland fire service will affect prevention and questions about the yearly pay cap.
- Fire Investigation Subcommittee Report:
  - FI-210 Instructor Guides and PMS 412 are in process for approval.
  - Universities are trying to get letters of support to sponsor proposals of research.
  - Several members are attending an International Conference of Fire Investigation in Porto, Portugal.

#### IPTM Update

- S-203 Alpha course is coming up in November.
- We are still working out the process and standards for test courses. Two representatives from the SME group and two from the PIOSC may observe.
- The Beta course in February is meant to be near final with one NWCG representative and other representatives as room allows.
- The ground rules for observing are no commenting or critiquing on delivery, feedback on content only, and no engagement except for breaks and AAR.

## Agency Updates

- USFS is exploring incident use for photos/videos using Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS). The intent is similar to InciWeb and this is worth exploring as a future agenda item.

## New Business

### PIOT Name Discussion

- In July 2024 the PIOSC voted unanimously to follow the recommendation of the IPTM SMEs to remove the “O” or officer connotation from PIOT. To move this name change forward, we need to determine a new name.
- We recognize some of the challenges related to the moniker. The term “O” in officer has the connotation that it is related to a leadership position within the C&G tied to NIMs.
- This change aligns with the pathway change that PIOT qualification is no longer required to become a PIO3.
- The committee considered several new names and 4-letter position codes.

## Old Business

None

## Action Items:

- Continue to circulate the proposed new name and position codes for PIOT position and provide feedback from your respective agencies.
- Identify SME and PIOSC members as observers for the Alpha and Beta courses for the revised S-203.
- Submit Request for Change forms for name change and pathway requests.

## Other Information:

Next Call: September 25, 2025