



National Wildfire Coordinating Group Training Delivery Committee

Meeting Minutes

DATE: January 21, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Name, Committee Role, In Attendance (Y/N)

Arnberger, Jeff, Liaison, Y
Buhrig, Chris, Primary Member, Y
Cota, Heath, Co-Chair, Y
Dalrymple, Daren, Primary Member, Y
Dillon, Tom, Primary Member, N
Dinkel, Anna, Primary Member, Y
Dutchick, Peter, Co-Chair, Y
Fisher, Garth, Liaison, Y
Flanagan, Sean, Primary Member, Y
Frost-Madrid, Karin, Primary Member, Y
Guzman, Frank, Liaison, N
Hall, Darlene, Primary Member, Y
Hughes, Jeff, Primary Member, Y
Jacks, Randy, Primary Member, Y
Jackson, Colby, Guest, Y
Leshuk, Victoria, Guest, Y
O'Hara, Kathryn, NWCG Coordinator, N
Palmgren, Glenn, Primary Member, Y
Patterson, Stephen, Primary Member, N
Sexton, Richard, Primary Member,
Skraba, Amy, Primary Member, Y
Sorensen, Rebecca, Primary Member, Y
Wegner, Melissa, Primary Member, N
Prosperi, Alexia, Guest, N
Sorensen, Rebecca, Primary Member, Y
Turner, Nancie, Guest, Y
Rick Gividen, Guest, Y

I. TDC Update on Current Actions:

NWCG Update - Colby Jackson

Annie Benoit is detailed to NWCG Branch Coordinator position, with Colby Jackson detailed behind her.

ICS-300/400 (K0300/K0400), developed by FEMA, are available in WFLP (Phase 1), may add to the "other courses" section in the NWCG certified course library.

All other courses still in progress.



National Wildfire Coordinating Group Training Delivery Committee

OWF Update - Rick Gividen

Editing Trainer Workshop offered this week, 2 more in Feb., will offer every 2 weeks until need is met.

Valdis Neha, Zuni Agency FMO, created virtual RT-130 (RT130 SWABZ FY21) with built-in quizzes/assessment capability, interactive content, will be added to collaboration library. (Rick Gividen provided demo to group following lighting round.)

II. GA Training Delivery Support Inquiry - Heath Cota

Delivered briefing to Executive Board, additional support may be available. For the Forest Service this would require a briefing paper with figures (in a specific format for WO)

SW: May present a briefing paper in next couple of months.

NW: Currently using Redmond IHC permanent staff outside of their tours in support of local/regional/national training.

EA: Looking for support staff to enter material in portal.

III. EWTG Transition - Karin Frost-Madrid

Working on draft transition, taking remaining workstreams (except Workstream 1) and combining them in transition, will reach out to workstream members regarding continued participation.

Exploring portal functionality, it behooves us to understand the extent of what is available to us in the portal. Looking for demo presentations from ETWG or other “experts” on functionality as continuing education for portal users

NW: Consider drafting briefing paper, to fund a small group or groups to explore and present on functionality

IV. Communications Plan - Heath Cota

Moved quickly to publish info on NWCG site, as a response to pressure from Executive Board and the field to provide updates on training and answer FAQs. It’s a baseline/living document and can be improved upon.

SW/NW: Support publishing of committee materials, information is correct and valuable.



National Wildfire Coordinating Group Training Delivery Committee

Victoria Leshuk (National Aviation Program Manager): FAQs helpful, there is some confusion on statement of “all aviation courses being in-person”, need to make sure we’re not over-forecasting.

AK: Appreciate that info came out, but as a primary committee member was caught off guard. Would like a notification from committee in the future, to be prepared to field questions.

Jeff Arnberger: Consider building this into the recurring meeting agenda, to review FAQs as a group for changes.

Peter Dutchick: Potentially add a tab in Trello that sends updates to those attached to it. (Trello updates are preferred to utilizing meeting chat for updates, to avoid the agency access limitations of MS Teams)

Heath Cota: Will roll FAQs into next meeting, make real time updates during meeting and submit for publishing

V. Delivery Standards: Time vs. Objectives-based - Peter Dutchick

Lots of questions on recommendations vs. standards for course delivery, have been directing folks to VILT page on NWCG site. It contains language which adds protection/some leeway for the field. (Add to FAQ for next week w/link)

NW: Concerns from state partners, some partners take a hard line on time standards.

Jeff Arnberger: Refer to “Fidelity to course design and materials” section on VILT page of NWCG site, intent is to provide some “wiggle room” so long as students are exposed to and engaged with material.

VI. Waiver Process - Heath Cota

Each agency will likely draft its own broad waiver letter, very similar between agencies, but following organizational structure. Will provide a mechanism to temporarily award a qualification if an employee has a completed PTB but is awaiting required training. Employees granted waiver will have to follow-up with training along a defined timeline. Could impact student prioritization for regions, will likely result in a heavy load of L-courses next training season.

VII. Lightning Round

EA: Working on RT-300, looking to make a few courses fully asynchronous.



National Wildfire Coordinating Group Training Delivery Committee

SA: Using RX-310 from U of I, working with SW on M-581 in portal, instructors are wanting to use their own material due to time limitations, just delivered ICS-300/400, working on virtual S-420 and looking to collaborate.

SW: Moving along w/M-581, enhancing classes for virtual delivery-S-300 & others, some refreshers will be Zoom meetings, fire shelter practice-looking for flexibility and discussion on this.

RM: Moving forward w/M-581, RX-310 and RX-41; L-481 in-person in 2nd week of March in larger facility/fewer teams; per Melissa Wegner, the student cap for virtual RAWS will be 25/class

GB: 49 students currently in RX-310, students starting on self-paced material this week, RX-410 starts Feb. 1, M-581 likely exclusively Zoom content, cancelled L-classes (including L-481) and looking into options to send top priorities to other GAs, looking at virtual S-420, considering small/late-season/in-person L-380, will be reaching out to other GAs for RAWS spots due to cap of 25.

South Ops: Reduced in-person courses to just those needed for certification, planning on in-person S-420, Engine Academy continuing with reduced student numbers and 1 session rather than 2.

North Ops: Working on virtual deliveries, continuing with in-person dozer academy, exploring social distancing options for in-person deliveries, L-classes still tentatively in-person for late March and April.

NW: Moving forward with schedule as posted, lots of work in portal, adding virtual M-410 for Feb. What is the discussion of FireNet for S-420 for virtual delivery? Is S-520 a go? Field S-420 model? (Heath Cota: S-520 steering committee is committed to in-person delivery, question on national support with no clear answer at this point. FireNet briefing papers were introduced, FireNet still isn't approved for long-term training, proposed creating a module for the portal on IMT membership in FireNet environment.)

AK: Moving forward with schedule as posted in portal, working with state on options for in person vs. virtual, providing tools/lessons learned to cadre.