

**FMB Members in Attendance:** Sarah Fisher (USFS), Aaron Baldwin (BIA), Jason Fallon (NPS), Ed Christopher (FWS), Meagan Conry (BLM), Erin Horsburgh (OWF), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA/FEMA)

**Staff:** Karma Hope (Executive Secretary)

**Guests:** Jesse Bender, Derek Hartman, Nick Nauslar, Aaron Thompson, Cheryl Bright, Adam Mendonca, Jeff Arnberger, Representatives from the NMAC & NWCG Exec Boards.

**FMB 2023 Topics of Focus**

- IWDG
- IFPM
- PSOG
- Workforce Development
- Health & Wellbeing

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p><b>IWDG – Engaging Non-Traditional Partner memo briefing:</b>            Jesse Bender and her team presented FMB with findings of their research into difficulties associated with non-traditional partners engaging in fire response. They found four main barriers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Qualifications</li> <li>2. Agreements</li> <li>3. Systems</li> <li>4. Communications</li> </ol> <p>They also outlined their 8 recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>Points of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NY Fire Dept has created a possible model for how other entities can contribute to WF response.</li> <li>• Potential need for a master agreement and a standard for recognizing qualifications.</li> <li>• Currently there is no mechanism or way to fund non-traditional response entities. Even if they have the qualifications, there is no available system to include them.</li> <li>• Experience in Hawaii was an example of the options available under the Stafford Act. The current master agreement gives agencies a lot of authority – may need to revamp the agreement or it may be a simple education/communication regarding what can be done under that agreement umbrella.</li> </ul>	<p>Jeff Arnberger will work with Jesse Bender/IWDG to prioritize and address those efforts that give us the most return on investment.</p> <p>Jesse and team will work to make the memo less specific/more generic in regard to the recommendations and who will own the tasks.</p> <p>Memo will be finalized over the next two weeks and then shared among the FMB, NMAC &amp; NWCG chairs for consensus.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 14 day availability window is a problem for some entities. Need to evaluate possible varying timeframes to accommodate more response options.</li> <li>• Create more flexible qualification pathways and alternative methods for tracking in order to engage the most folks. Possibility of creating a single source option for non-federal individuals.</li> <li>• Siloed decision making has negatively impacted overall communication. Need to have decision making cover more agencies/response entities. Find better ways to disseminate information down to those smaller groups.</li> <li>• Important to have more local government representation on exec boards, response entities, etc. Build lawmakers into the system.</li> <li>• What is the return back to wildland fire after the investment of time/money into the recommendations. Need to prioritize those efforts that give us the most bang for the buck and are within our wheelhouse to change/influence.</li> <li>• GSA has a lot of utilities and framework that could be integrated into WF response. Would potentially take a dedicated position to mediate the effort.</li> <li>• Important to make sure we aren't duplicating other efforts already in process.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Fatigue Management Tasking:</b> Kaili McCray presented the current memo – Tasking to Develop a Wildland Firefighter Research Project.</p> <p>Points of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is currently sitting as a joint tasking for MPHAT &amp; RMC. There are concerns about the clunkiness of having two groups working on the same effort.</li> <li>• The research needs to be objective, may end up involving more than just firefighter fatigue. Want to ensure the research isn't influenced by standards that already exist.</li> <li>• Important to keep it clean regarding who does what and expectations for final reporting.</li> <li>• Make sure joint fire science is being used to its full capacity. They already have funds for research related to wildfire.</li> <li>• Seems to make the most sense to have MPHAT do the research side and RMC uses the research for mitigation efforts.</li> </ul>	<p>Group consensus – MPHAT should be tasked with developing the research plan with an RMC individual as an ad hoc member.</p> <p>Sarah Fisher will craft an email to Kaili McCray, Eric Franstead &amp; Katie Wood outlining how FMB would like to see the research plan tasked per group consensus.</p>



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<p><b>NMAC CIM Implementation &amp; NMAC Authority:</b>            Jeff Arnberger brought up the need for a potential upgrade of delegation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was decided that the delegation was still valid and no changes were needed.</li> <li>• Discussed the need for clear messaging coming from a single group to tighten up some of the perceived vagueness. Who should it come from – FMB? FEC?</li> <li>• FEC &amp; FMB sent out messaging over the last year that was helpful and had a positive impact.</li> <li>• What information should be included in this messaging/memo?</li> <li>• When should it be released? Don't want it to get lost in the craziness of use or lose season and end of year tasks.</li> <li>• Opened the door to philosophical questions about not living from memo to memo. Is updating the MOB guide enough? How do we communicate firmly what we are doing and sending the message 'everyone needs to get on board.'</li> </ul>	<p>Jeff Arnberger will work with Jesse Bender and begin crafting a memo. He will have a discussion with NWCG next week and work toward what entity should own/sign the memo.</p>
<p><b>PSOG Update:</b>            Derrick Hartman &amp; Nick Nauslar brought their three main concerns to FMB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for a new PSOG chair. Process to determine who is next isn't established as they are in discussions about who are voting members of PSOG and possible changes to the charter.</li> <li>• Wanted FMB's thoughts on where we were at with buckets 2 &amp; 3.</li> <li>• Derrick brought up the long-term issue of incorporating the predictive services/fire environment model into a workforce dominated by dispatch. How to make a change in staffing models and who has the power to make those changes – particularly in the light of strong resistance from the dispatch side of the house.</li> </ul> <p>FMB discussed the evident frustration coming from PSOG and ways we can help them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSOG feels sidelined – anxious to see something move forward. Members of PSOG are potentially looking at moving to other jobs due to the frustration of feeling handcuffed in their efforts.</li> <li>• With current budgetary constraints, no agency is really in the position to supplement PSOG positions.</li> </ul>	<p>Erin Horsburgh will reach out to Kettie to look for some pockets of BIL money that could be used to fund these NTEs.</p> <p>Jason Fallon will work with PSOG – let them know how FMB thinks we can assist and help them dial down on what positions/programs of work they most want prioritized.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed the potential for some 120 day detailers to come in. Concern that it won't really create the assistance they need – by 120 days a person may be getting into a rhythm just to have a new person come in and start the learning curve all over.</li> <li>Is there a possibility to use BIL money to fund 3 or 4 NTE positions for 2 years. The group felt is was a promising option – still need to decided what agency/organization the positions live under and have PSOG drive down their top priority work over the next couple of years. The NIFC HR shop would be the fastest avenue for making these hires.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>FMB Logistics Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do we need to incorporate representative from the State Foresters? The vice Karels position?</li> <li>Issues with FMB meeting location.</li> <li>Where is the right home for the learning portal? What does the staffing model look like?</li> </ul>	<p>FMB will think about the state forester inclusion and will discuss at the Nov FMB meeting.</p> <p>Group consensus is we only need a room large enough for regular FMB members – guests can attend virtually. *Karma will reserve a room for all meetings moving forward.</p> <p>The learning portal will be an agenda item for the Nov. meeting.</p>