

# **NRCG Equipment Meeting**

*Winter 2005*

January 18-20

Helena MT.

Members in attendance: Rick Grady, Roberta Whitlock, Bruce Mottern, Harvey Wolff, Ann Vogt, George McLaughlan, Jim Rueter, Mike Frislie, Kevin Erickson, Tim Murphy, Mike Kopitzke, Jim Blankenship, Bob Bell

Guests: Tom Thompson, Darrel Folkvord, Rick Ostberg and Julie Colomb

Tuesday January 18.

Introductions were made and Rick Ostberg was added to the agenda.  
Reviewed fall meeting minutes and approved.

Gave a report on the various Action Items and assignments from the fall meeting.

Tim Murphy gave a report on the Strategic Action Committee group (SAC)  
The SAC group is working on the proposed "Best Value Contracting" for the rental of water handling equipment in the Northern Rockies. The group has identified different committees to provide various information and assigned timeframes. The Equipment committee was notified of these tasks and timeframes.

**Minutes from meeting are attached to Equipment meeting minutes.**

**ACTION ITEM: Complete tasks outlined on the SAC timeline that are assigned to the Equipment Committee.**

Jim Rueter and Mike Frislie discussed the planning efforts of the Basic Equipment Inspection class that will take place the week of April 11-15 in Kalispell. Jim and Mike have secured a classroom at the West Coast Inn at the Kalispell Mall. Jim secured the use of the equipment yard at Northwest Parts and Rigging a few miles North of Kalispell for the field day. Mike will approach some of the previous year's workshop attendees to help with different presentations. It was also decided that we would keep the number of persons in attendance to 50 so that the class will be manageable.

Mike Kopitske introduced Jim Blankenship to the group and informed us that Jim would be the liaison between the training committee from now on. Mike gave the committee a brief rundown on the rewrite of the 310-1 training document and the differences between the 5109 document that the Forest Service uses.

Bob Bell made general comments from the Contractors Association. Radios are still an issue. Communications are paramount to completing the task at hand safely. The Contractor community believes that it should be a required item on engines and water tenders.

**ACTION ITEM:** Does Operations want to require radios on Engines and Water Tenders? Kevin Erickson will take to the Operations Committee and propose.

Tires and tread depth was discussed, issue was brought up about the 6/32 minimum tread depth. The Contracting Community thinks that they are throwing good tread out the door when DOT states that 2/32 is the minimum while NRCG set 6/32 as the minimum. Kevin Erickson contacted San Dimas Tech. Center on this issue and is waiting for information

Wednesday January 19

Rick Grady, Darrel Folkvord and George McGaughlan presented the proposed agenda for the first ever “NRCG Advanced Equipment Inspection” class that will be held in Helena on March 21-22 and 23-24. The intent of the two day classes is to educate the attendees about DOT “out of service” criteria requirements, hazardous material transportation requirements and air brake awareness.

A completion letter will be issued to attendees:

**ACTION ITEM:** Go to the NRCG BOD for approval to use the NRCG logo on the completion letters and cards.

Jackie Colombe approached the NRCG Equipment committee with an interesting proposal.

Jackie Colombe is a graduate student working on a project for her Masters degree; she proposed to make a 20 to 30 minute film on Fire Equipment Inspections. The film will be of Professional quality and with an emphasis toward a training film. The film can be copied and used for our Agencies use in the future for training purposes. A time frame of May 1, 2005 was set and approval was given. Rick Grady, Kevin Erickson, Mike Frislie and Bruce Mottern will be the contacts to this person and will review the script that is proposed. The committee thought that this might be an excellent time to formalize the inspection procedures of a type 6 engine following the format of the OF-296.

Sue Beron gave a presentation on the National changes in the EERA terms and conditions, and also asked for some comments on the rewrite of the OF-296. Sue will send a draft of the rewritten OF-296 to the committee members for review. Changes and additions were discussed in regards to the OF-296 with suggestions to be forwarded to Sue.

**ACTION ITEM:** OF-296 changes forwarded to Sue Beron by April 1, 2005.

Roberta Whitlock discussed any changes that were needed in the blue pages of Chapter 20 and a discussion of the requirements for the COTR position that will be mandatory for the administration of the “Best Value” contracts in the near future. Roberta explained the procedure of developing rates for equipment and also discussed what the Interagency Business Practices Committee is proposing for the setting of National rates.

Roberta and Sue then gave the committee timelines for admission of materials to be formatted and included into the NRCG Equipment Inspection Workbook and Instructors guide.

**ACTION ITEM: Roberta needs all power points and scripts to her by March 9, 2005.**

Power points were disbursed through the committee members for rewrite and format.

Discussed cab protection on equipment capable of 360 degree upper structure movement and will develop wording to go into the blue pages.

**ACTION ITEM: Roberta requested that all changes to the blue pages be to her, no later than FEBRUARY 11.**

1. wording on sweeper protection
2. Development of classes for Feller-Bunchers.
3. Development of classes for Soft-Tracks.
4. Formalize changes to Dozer classification to match Fireline handbook.
5. All inspection forms that are to be included in the blue-pages must be formatted the same other wise they will remain job-aids.
6. Look at type 3 engine crew requirements from NWCG and make changes to the NRCG matrix if needed.
7. Wording for excavator cab protection.

Thursday, January 20

Mark Romey, Operations Liaison joined our group.

Further reviewed the writing of the inspection forms and discussed the correct format to be included in the IIBMH blue pages.

Rick Grady showed the group a “new and improved” Lowboy trailer inspection form which was approved by the committee with minor changes and will be included in the blue pages.

The Business committee started their meeting at 1000 and Chapter 20 and any changes were discussed and made page by page.

Kevin Erickson gave a report to the business committee.

**ACTION ITEM: A spring meeting will be held in Missoula, March 2-3 at the Lolo NF. SO. to finalize all workshop assignments and finish up the workbooks.**

This meeting is a working meeting to finalize workshop assignments and organize the workshops. If an Individual, Contractor or Association has questions, please mail or e-mail the question(s) in a written form and will be discussed with the entire committee on a conference call at a later time.

Minutes taken and completed by Kevin O. Erickson

