

**NRCG Fire Prevention Committee**  
 Meeting Minutes  
 November 7-8, 2005

NAME	AGENCY/GROUP
Jamie Rosdahl	Southwest Zone rep., Chair/DNRC, SWLO
Pat McKelvey	Central Zone rep./TRICO Fire Working Group
Dena Lang	Eastern Zone rep./BLM, MFO
Marianne Baumberger	South central Zone rep./Gallatin NF
Jeremy Pris	Northwest Zone rep./DNRC, NWLO
Vickie Ellickson	IDL Agency rep.
Mike Dannenberg	BLM Agency rep./BLM State Office
Pat Cross	DNRC Agency rep./DNRC
Tim Crosmer	NRCG Training committee rep./DNRC
Dan McGowan	NRCG Board Liaison/MT DES
Gail Thurston	NRCG Dispatch committee rep./Great Falls Dispatch Center
Lisa Osborn	Billings Area Restrictions Coord./Custer NF
Tad Kolwicz	Southwest Area Restrictions Coord./DNRC, SWLO
Terina Mullen	BLM, BFO
Michael Littledog	BIA, Blackfeet Tribe

Chair Rosdahl called the meeting to order at 1310. We quickly went through introductions and identified which zones need to fill zone representative positions (North Dakota); also identified were vacant agency representative positions (BIA, NPS, Fire Wardens, and FWS). Dan McGowan can fill dual role and represent DES as well as the NRCG Board Liaison. Gail Thurston attended as the NRCG Dispatch committee representative, and Tim Crosmer attended as the NRCG Training committee representative.

Fire Season 2005 report. Most zone reports included restrictions, prevention activities and fire updates. Several people were involved with all the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial activities across the region. Dan talked a little about the budgeting process for state people that go out on fires. Larry Akers has retired and has been temporarily replaced by Kent Atwood. DES worked closely with the BLM to complete fire plans. Pat Cross mentioned the investigation task force in southwestern Montana this season. Jamie reported on the local prevention team they had working out of Missoula.

Review of April meeting minutes. The group looked through the minutes, reviewing the status of action items and made several comments.

- The sub-committee working on the special fire prevention campaign still has items available for those interested. **Pat has the radio PSA's; he will send them out again.** Marianne has the graphic she designed, and Lisa has a billboard with the L&C saying from the workshop. Contact them if you are interested.
- Regarding the prevention classes, DNRC sponsors P100/P200 every other year. The course lasts 4 days. Contact Pat Cross if you want copies of class materials.
- There still seems to be a disconnect at the zone level to fill the zone rep positions on this committee. **Jamie will mention this in her report to NRCG; Dan will mention to the NRCG board.**

- State Farm Coordination. Mike mentioned that we should look at how they are training their people; this committee could be involved in the education aspect and could be a part of “what” they are teaching. Dan mentioned that the State Auditor’s office could be a contact since they work with the insurance companies. DES is working on a conference or forum to enhance and improve relationships and foster understanding of initiatives at the policy level. This would include all aspects of emergency management. **Dan and Mike will work together on this. Pat McKelvey will be looking at sponsoring a “tactics” of what to do to mitigate risk class in his area; this would be a follow-up for those that already attended the FireWise workshops.**
- MACO presentations. Feedback from the recent presentations on restrictions was presented by individuals involved. Pat Cross felt it “didn’t sink in” at some of the meetings. Dena handed out the plans and actually had people sign them; she felt they went well. Lisa agreed but felt they need something more in depth for the counties. **These meetings will need to be repeated again this next year.**

Review of Committee Charter. The group revised the current charter (1998) and will send to the Board for approval.

Restrictions & Closure.

- The group started talking about issues and concerns from the 2005 season, which could be included in a FAQ sheet. It was decided, since a lot of FAQ sheets and lists of issues are out there, that we need a central point of contact. **Everyone is to send their lists to Pat Cross by December 9 so he can compile into one list.**
- There needs to be a meeting with the restrictions coordinators, attended by the agency administrators. Prior to this meeting, the **restrictions coordinators should gather issues and concerns from their respective zones. BLM will send a notice to the coordinators.**
- **There will be a zone restrictions coordinator conference call on December 13 at 1000. Mike will set up.**
- Other items mentioned in the discussion include the following: training by NRCG FP committee at all the zones; communication networks at the zone level; answers from FAQ’s from the agency administrators; list of “designated” recreation sites by zone; restrictions plat at the GACC level should include the FAQ’s and should be sent to the media along with the proclamations; zones should review proclamations to ensure the use of the standardized wording.

Montana Communities & Wildfire Conference. Conference will be held in Helena at the Colonial Inn (Feb. 27, 28, Mar. 1). **Pat will send out the draft agenda to everyone.**

KMG Report. Sorrel Springs in Frenchtown is the first FireWise Communities USA in Montana. Four or 5 others are going through the process. They will be recognized at KMG luncheon on April 21, 2006. Other award winners will also be honored. Pat is also looking at sponsoring one-day FireWise workshops in locations around the state (Butte, Polson, LCF).

NR/GB Workshop. GB will host the 2006 workshop May 2-4 in Moab, UT. Their flyers have been mailed. NR will host the 2007 in Sandpoint, ID.

1-800 number to report fires. Mike talked about a single number that would route a fire call to the appropriate dispatch center. He asked if we could utilize on the prevention side, advertising the proper number to call to report wildland fires across the geographic area. Miles City has an 800 number that works pretty well. Will this confuse the public? **Gail will take to the dispatch committee for feedback.**

Pat Mullaney. Pat will retire at the end of the year. His contributions to this committee were huge, and the committee would like to recognize him at his party, to be held in Billings in early January. The committee would like to present him with a gift certificate; **forward your cash contributions to Dena. Dena will send an email bill to KMG and KIG. Jamie and Don will approach the NRCG Board regarding a plaque for Pat.**

Smokey Awards. Nominations are due January 20, 2006. Suggestions for nominations were taken. **Terina will coordinate; forward ideas and text for application to her ASAP. Jamie will resend the email with the information to the group.**

Statewide advertising. Pat talked about the “debris burning” billboard campaign that KMG did last year. The grant for this did not get renewed for this year. No bites for funding help for this next year. **Pat will send out the radio scripts to those interested. Marianne will check to see what she has available.**

KIG Update. Idaho will have a new FireWise community recognized in May; a couple others are in the process. Vickie has revived the poster contest and has revamped their website. She also has a new ad campaign in the works.

Strategic Vision. The committee spent the afternoon on the first stage of revision. A long discussion included formulating a mission, vision and goals. The group brainstormed what they wanted to accomplish and how they would do so. **Vickie will type the revised Strategic Vision and forward to the group.**

#### Prevention teams.

- An issue regarding how prevention teams are called to an assignment was addressed. Several people were listed as “available” in the system, but were never called for an assignment. Emails stating that there weren’t people available to go on assignment later surfaced. The ordering of teams is supposed to be managed through the red card system and ROSS. A committee member heard that there will be standing teams with a core leader and core members in the future.
- There was talk about how a team is ordered and what criteria should be followed. **This committee needs to look at developing an order form (including guidelines to operate under) for agencies to fill out when they are considering a prevention team.**
- **Michael will forward more information regarding the BIA prevention team that travels from reservation to reservation when help is necessary.**

**Next Meeting: March 6-7, 2006 in Helena**