

National Predictive Services Subcommittee

Virtual Conference

Meeting Notes

April 12 to 14, 2010

Meeting held via conference call and Live Meeting net conference

Hosted by NICC, Robyn Heffernan

Agenda: Red Highlights = Action Required!

Green Highlights = Made Decision

Yellow Highlights = Review for clarification/correction

Attendees

| Last | First | Affiliation | 12-Apr | 13-Apr | 14-Apr |
|----------------|----------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Arnold | Herb | NICC | | | X |
| Chan | Dan | ODF | X | X | X |
| Christianson | Kim | NICC | X | X | |
| Curcio | Gary | NC DFR | | | X |
| Elenz | Lisa | WFDSS | X | | |
| Heffernan | Robyn | NICC | X | X | X |
| Henry | Bryan | NRCC | X | | |
| Hirschfield | Isaiah | NWCC | X | X | X |
| Jaycox | Kenan | SWCC | X | X | X |
| Law (Sharples) | Shelby | EBCC | | X | X |
| Leonard | Charlie | NICC | X | X | X |
| Marien | Steve | EACC | | | X |
| Mathewson | Tim | RMCC | X | X | X |
| Naden | Rich | SWCC | X | | |
| O'Brien | Dan | NWCC | X | X | X |
| Ochoa | Rick | NICC | X | X | X |
| Wiley | Marva | NOPS | X | X | |
| Zeltwanger | Jennifer | NWS | X | X | X |

Monday April 12: Review Items from Fall 2009 Meeting

10:00 to 10:30—Confirm NWCG Budget Proposals & Review NPSS 2010 Budget Allocations (Robyn)

Review NPSS 2010 Budget Allocations

- Action Item 251: NWCG budget requests. Submit to Robyn. due date: June 14th (All).
- Robyn will send forms to project managers.

Majority of 2010 proposed requests were funded. \$8K NPSS funding remains available to allocate (This \$\$ was allocated to SIT/209 redesign; PS statistics software purchase was a potential recipient, but this budget request was shifted to FY2011).

Live Fuel Moisture received funding outside of NPSS.

IT March documentation submitted on time. Mid-year reports sent.

- Action Item 252: Consider/submit awards candidates to Robyn by July 1, 2010.

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\$2.5K still unallocated.

Robyn to spend \$100-\$150 for new PS member shirts

10:30 to 11:00—Update on Standard PD's (Kim C.)

PS PD's for GS 9 & 11 intel have been submitted DOI & USFS to Albuquerque. Difference of interpretation regarding 455 series - USFS is pursuing, DOI is not. Aim is to have consistency within each agency, but avoid each unit creating their own. 301 classification problematic. Expect both GS 9 & 11 to be recognized by USFS, but not DOI.

11:00 to 11:15—Update from Fire Wx Subcommittee (Bryan H.)

RAWS Non-Compliance. Fire Danger Committee had some concerns. No single cause for "non-compliance," but reasons fell into 3 general categories:

1. no maintenance on time.
2. maintenance on time but RAWS Depot not notified.
3. maintenance done, RAWS Depot notified, but compliance not updated.

Need further steps for compliance before proceeding with "disconnect." Underscore requirement for notifying the RAWS Depot.

WFMI/WIMS Discrepancy w/ metadata 60%. Determine database of record. WFMI preferred. Stations require GPS of station locations.

Action letter to station owners to be sent out in 2-3 wks by Bryan.

WFMI Lightning contract granted ~\$187K. Research proposed to study accuracy of this data.

Compare RAWS & "METAR". Funding for RAWS data archive. Updating fire Wx Handbook.

Standardization policy to guide WIMS id NWSLI. Examination of reasons for missed 1300 RAWS observations.

11:15 to 11:30—Update from NFDSC/WFDSS Liaison (Lisa Elenz)

Lisa Elenz established as liaison between PS & WFDSS. Building staff (6 of 8 staff are currently hired) @ Decision Support Center. Website address will be sent out via Robyn. Developing list of potential analysts can/will be shared.

*Password requirements change will require help desk attention (All GACCs).

11:30 to 11:45—Predictive Services Survey Results (Marva)

Preliminary results in. PS staff have ~80% of the recommended training/skills recommended in PS handbook.

*Full report planned for Fall meeting (Marva).

11:45 to 12:15—R&D Functional Area Task Proposal: Preparedness Plan utilizing PS Products (Dan)

Phased action plan. Nat'l Preparedness plan should be developed across the 11 GACCs. NW plan 20 ya. Study begun 2005. No follow-up. Presumed role of FA Operations leader to pursue.

→ Action Item 253: Dan to present R & D tasking proposal to integrate PS into PL plan to Center Managers, and NMAC by next NPSS meeting.

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12:15 to 12:45—Overview of Functional Areas: Purpose and Structure (Robyn/Dan)

Proposed changes and structures were reviewed (these were subsequently voted on and approved).

12:45 to 2:00 – Miscellaneous Items

Previous meeting notes approved unanimously and Charlie will post the notes to the NPSS website.

Lani Williams has a new job as Ctr Manager – Richfield UT, but hopes to remain as note-taker for future NPSS meetings.

2:00 - Review of action items: See Exhibit A.

Laine Chrisman – Economic benefit of PS. Addressing the \$ value of PS. \$10k for project.

Findings: 30+% of \$ saved via PS. Pursuing publication for the paper. Charlie will post this to the NICC website.

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Tuesday April 13: Predictive Services Reorganization

10:00 to 13:00—Predictive Services Guiding Documents
Reinforced that these are “Living Documents.”

10:00 to 11:00—Strategic Plan (Robyn)

Comments/edits review of strategic plan use. Goals and Strategies the focus to work on. Language fits required format for guiding documents – it’s awkward but has to be that way. Each FA has primary responsibility to maintain and develop their FA-specific strategic plan, and edit and adapt as emerging priorities/changes arise. These are reviewed by NPSS.

Action Item 254: Dan to email comments/additions on R & D objectives to Robyn by the end of the week.

Training & Outreach. Reinforce the concept of “training” to include internal training (stats, software, etc.)

- Action Item 255: Add internal training-related objective to draft (Robyn) and work with Shari Shetler to incorporate edits by May 1 (Robyn).
- Action Item 256: Send editable Word version of strategic plan draft to NPSS (Robyn).

11:00 to 11:30—Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines (Robyn)

Review and additional edits made to SOPs. Unit (deputy) leadership election process.

Decision item: Election and term of service start date will be the same for all Units.

Document Edit: Oct elections, Jan. 1 inauguration.

Document Edit: Decision-making requires a 2/3rd majority or more.

11:30 to 12:00—Intent Document (Robyn)

Review. Had been delayed until approval FA restructuring. Includes changes assuming FA passage.

- Action Item 257: Send any draft edits to Strategic Plan, Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines, and Intent Document to Robyn by April 30th (all).

12:00 to 13:00—PS Handbook Edits (Tim M.)

Goal: insert language to update handbook but not make wholesale changes.

“NPSS Units” terminology (to be used over Functional Areas, Functional Units, et. al.)

- Action Item 258: Draft edits by NPSS on PS Handbook to Tim by April 30th (all).
Tim will follow up on 80.1 part C. Add'l Data/Workload Requests and Robyn will forward additional edits (inc. 209, and 7-day appendices) to Tim for inclusion in the handbook.
- Action Item 259: Send out with PS Handbook draft NPSS edits to PS staff by first week of May. (Tim)
- Action Item 260: All GACCs to send new national shapefiles for PSA edits to Barbara Haney by April 30th (all).

Decision Item: No printing of Handbook. Electronic copies only to be distributed. June 1 completion date.

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13:00 to 13:30—Center Manager Response to Functional Areas (Kenan J.)

Gettysburg, PA Ctr Mgr Mtg. Functional Area Proposal discussed. No objections. Concerns of local vs national products, that GACC level products would still have the time/latitude to be developed. Assignment prioritization somewhat ambiguous, may need NPSS direction. Ctr Mgrs (NCSC) chartered under NMAC—how does NPSS, chartered under NWCG, receive tasking or proposals from NCSC?. Center Manager rep would transmitting center manager proposals to the NPSS level.

13:30 to 13:45—Confirm Functional Areas (Group)

Yes/No vote for restructuring of PS program. 7 voting members in favor, none opposed.

*******Restructure confirmed.*******

Voting Members Present

| Last | First |
|--------------|--------------|
| Mathewson | Tim |
| Ochoa | Rick |
| Heffernan | Robyn |
| O'Brien | Dan |
| Jaycox | Kenan |
| Christianson | Kim |
| Chan | Dan |

13:45 to 14:00—Confirm Functional Area Leadership Results (Group)

Elections results (Lead & Deputy). Nominees unanimously approved by above group.

Research & Development - Tom Rolinski, Marva Willey

Outreach & Training: Brenda Belongie, Steve Marien

Operations & Support: Gina Dingman, Bruce Risher

Official notification will be sent out by Robyn tomorrow, with a follow up email by Kenan on restructure to center managers, dispatch offices.

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Wednesday April 14: Bin Items and Wrap-up

11:00 to 11:15—NPSS Education Liaison & Possible GIS Liaison (Robyn)

Proposed academic liaison to increase research awareness and advisor. Un-official to begin, potentially official later in our intent document (can be dissolved in future). Rick sent out solicitations for this individual. Interested respondents: Brian Colle (Stony Brook University). John Horel (University of Utah). Discussion followed whether their discipline (fire wx, data mgt, fire science, research) should be fire weather-specific or other. Concerns over benefit to the program. Potential conflicts of interest (searching for funding, etc.). Values a positive adversarial relationship, review of validity of our research. No objections to bringing on this potential.

Some objection to current meteorologic/climate focused candidates and their capability. Effort will be made to widen the field of candidates.

→ Action Item 261: NPSS members need to broaden candidate solicitation for liaisons to NPSS. Send new prospective candidate names to Robyn by May 15th via email (all).

(Robyn) pursuing geospatial liaison.

11:15 to 11:30—EDDN (Herb Arnold)

Presentation (w Powerpoint) on Emergency Data Distribution Network. Backup for meteorological. System infrastructure. Seeking multi-agency funding for operations and support. \$10K committed from US Corps Eng, USFS, Bureau of Rec. Seeking \$10K from DOI. Wanted for FY2010. FY2011 more likely. Letter of support from NPSS could support funding request from NWCG.

→ Action Item 262: NPSS Letter of support for EDDN to Herb due April 30th (Robyn).

11:30 to 12:00— Software license for Statistical Software (Tim Mathewson)

Address desire to pursue further statistical ability in PS: further skills training coupled with the technical (software) capability. GBStat previously used. Candidates: SPSS, SYSTAT. Seeking approx. 10 licenses. Seek at least 1 moderately skilled stats person per GACC. SYSTAT to be used as a trial version at upcoming workshop (Boulder 5/19/10). Vision: agree on program, seek national approval, FY2011 implementation.

→ Action Item 263: 1st week May discuss further, agree on statistical software selection (Robyn & Tim).

12:00 to 12:30—Stull Method for Calculating Mixing Height (Gary Curcio)

Presentation (w Powerpoint). Improving opportunities for RX Fire. Addressing challenge in determining mixing height. Higher moisture content in Southern Region compromise mixing ht calculations. Stull vs Holzworth methodology comparison.

Fire Environment Committee will likely give guidance on a recommendation (no date defined).

12:30 to 12:45—Criteria and Nomination Form for PS Roving Award (Rick)

Once a year. Nomination for any GACC or NICC to submit. 1st of October by NPSS. Presented at annual meeting.

Criteria for nomination approved. Can be improved in future.

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12:45 to 13:00—Other Business/Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled Oct 5 -7, hosted by Dan.

→ Robyn will be in charge of drafting the October meeting agenda.

NPSS meeting tentatively scheduled Feb 8-10, Boise.

13:00 to 13:30—Announcement of NPSS Unit (Functional Area) Leadership (Group & PS membership)

New leadership announced. Congratulations!

Tasks: Revise charter, assess current projects within PS and assign to appropriate NPSS Unit, Introduction and training within strategic plan format.

→ Action Item 264: Send roster list of NPSS Units to newly elected Unit Leaders by April 16 (Dan)

May 1st - the restructure officially goes into effect. Future communications from NPSS are to be filtered to each unit members via unit leadership.