

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION
FOREST FIRE LABORATORY
4955 CANYON CREST DRIVE POST OFFICE BOX 5007
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92507

3000
March 2, 1978



The FIRESCOPE Board of Directors met at Griswold's on the afternoon of February 15. Present were:

Douglas Leisz (Chairman)
Clyde Bragdon - L.A. County
Robert Callaham - USFS, PSW
John Chaffin - USFS, R-5
John Gerard - L.A. City
Stanley Masson - Ventura County
Larry Richie - CDF
Richard Barrows - OES
Frank Borden - L.A. City
William Dresser - Angeles N.F.
Robert Irwin - FIRESCOPE
Joseph Springer - CDF

Principal items discussed:

Implementation philosophy. Regional Forester Leisz reiterated the Forest Service stance for implementation. The FIRESCOPE design is taking shape, a conceptual plan (Implementation Plan, January 1977) exists, gradual progress is beginning in line with that plan. It is imperative that the collective efforts generated to implement the system are deliberate, backed by thorough evaluation, and supported by considered mutual decisions. No major efforts should be undertaken without comprehensive study of the costs and other implications of those efforts. Interactive information exchange and mutual partner support are required for each step in the process.

FIRESCOPE Action Plan. The proposed Action Plan (dated 1/23/78) was reviewed and revised. Major points of revision concerned the inclusion of more Board involvement in critical decisions. Several wording changes were made to assure that key alternatives would be brought to the Board of Directors for their review and action.

A corrected copy of the Action Plan (revised 2/15/78) is enclosed. This now sets forth the important goals and objectives for the Program Office and agency personnel for the remainder of 1978.

Core Area. A Program Office and Operations Team "white paper" recommending a change in the 1977 Core Area concept was discussed. Consensus of the Board was that a specific area of focus is still required. This is to be an area where "full application of the system can be demonstrated in a concentrated area as quickly as possible."

It was agreed that the 1977 Core Area would remain as this focal area, and that future implementation efforts would be concentrated there whenever practical. However, it was also agreed that other areas such as those proposed in the "white paper" be supported when circumstances prevented application of advances within the Core Area. In essence, this agreement provided acceptance of the recommendations made in the "white paper."

The Board directed that all efforts be closely monitored and evaluated, with reports to the Board, regardless of the area of application.

Full agreement on how the complex computer models would be tested within the Core Area was not achieved. The Program Office and Research will develop a briefing to display the facts, constraints, and recommendations surrounding this issue. The briefing will be presented to the Board at a later date.

Research Design. The Board requested that the Research design be prepared with short, succinct "Executive Summaries" explaining the managerial aspects of each element, pointing out the more critical "choice points" and decisions involved.

Operation and Maintenance Costs. Two sets of cost information are needed. First, the full partner agency costs to operate and maintain the 1979 implementation efforts (expected to be funded at \$3.7 million) must be calculated. The Program Office will develop detailed estimates of these costs within the next 30 days. It will be necessary for agency personnel to assist in this effort.

The second effort to develop costs concerns the potential full system. This effort is presently under contract, and preliminary information on total-system operation and maintenance costs should be available by June 1978.

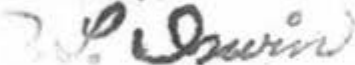
P.I.&E. Contracts. The Planning, Integration, and Evaluation contracts now underway were briefly reviewed. The main points discussed were:

- development of potential system
- configurations for partner review and selection
- urbanization and "other emergency" capacities in the configurations
- specific information on effectiveness and benefits expected

Each of these concerns is covered in the contracts, and insofar as is possible, partners will be consulted so that the contract outputs will meet the widest spectrum of needs.

Next Meeting. The date originally selected for the next meeting was in conflict with some other priorities. Therefore, no date or place now exists for the next Board meeting. The Program Office will be calling you to establish a new date in the near future.

Sincerely,



ROBERT L. IRWIN
Program Manager

Enclosure

cc: apu Team
Task Force