

MEETING NOTES
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 14, 1980

I. Attendance

Those present:

Borden (for Gerard)	Masson
Bragdon	Patterson
Callahan	Paulus
Chaffin	Pesonen
Cunningham	Smith
Irwin	Barrows
Land	Springer

II. Progress Reports

A. Chairman's Statement

Regional Forester Smith began the meeting with a brief overview of FIRESCOPE's progress over the past year. That progress has been significant, particularly the strengths displayed during the September 1979 fires. Smith also outlined the work to be done in the future and suggested that Board members could contribute to further progress by continuing their support of Program and partnership efforts.

Smith presented information on the Administration's inflation-fighting budget restraints.

CDF Director David Pesonen was introduced, and he, in turn, introduced Deputy Director Bob Paulus who will frequently sit as the CDF's representative on the Board.

Director Pesonen indicated his interest in the FIRESCOPE Program and progress. He offered his observations about the difficulty inherent in managing a volunteer association such as the FIRESCOPE partnership. Pesonen mentioned that the vital ingredient in an effective volunteer association is commitment, and endorsed further commitment from all concerned.

B. Program Office

Program Manager Irwin reviewed progress as shown on the "FIRESCOPE Accomplishments" paper in the meeting folders.

The Federal Matching Funds estimate that was prepared by the Program Office was reviewed. Chief Bragdon mentioned that his Department is developing an accounting system to track their FIRESCOPE contributions.

The Board agreed that the Program needs a systematic accounting format to document all partner contributions. The Program Office will develop this format with the Operations Team.

Other progress items were:

- Computer system--Implementation is on schedule.
- Information contract--On schedule.
- Training--Negotiations are being completed on a major contract with CDF. This contract will provide over two-thirds of the necessary ICS training documents by 1982.
- IR downlink--Negotiations with BIFC are proceeding.
- Mapping--Partner agencies will be receiving operational products starting in July and August.
- Weather stations--Final specifications, suitable to support fire modeling, are about complete. Six to ten stations will be acquired this year.
- Communications--All partners have signed the frequency-sharing agreement, and all have supported the concept of moving to synthesizer radios as recommended by the Operations Team.

III. Decision Process

On August 1, 1979, the Program Office was directed to strengthen the Decision Process. This was accomplished and the Board was presented with the product. It included a recommendation from the Operations Team that called for the Board to record votes on all Development issues, and sign agreements on all Implementation issues.

The Board rejected the recommendation to record votes. An alternative that calls for providing the Executive Manager with clear direction was adopted instead.

OCC Manager Land was given directions to change several items and charts in the document. The signature page for the sixth revision of the process was signed by all Board members, with the proviso that the directed changes were to be included in the final version. Land will send signed copies to all agencies.

IV. Multiagency Coordination System (MACS)

The Board's direction regarding MACS goals was reviewed, along with Operations Team recommended modifications. The Board approved the revised version, with the following comments and changes.

- Smith noted that wherever used, the word "available" should be interpreted to include the necessity to redirect forces to incidents of higher priority.
- Chief Patterson stated that an overall consideration was to allow agencies to recover legitimate costs associated with all assistance rendered.
- Several Board members endorsed the fact that these goals must not alter existing laws, fiscal requirements, or agreements. The Statewide Fire and Master Mutual Aid Agreement was used as an example in this regard.
- A number of other wording changes were directed. These will be included in the final draft.

The Program Office will produce and distribute copies of this final version to all participants in the Decision Process.

The Board also reviewed and approved:

- The September Fire Analysis.
- The general list of work to be done.
- The hardware/software plan for the Fire Information Management System (FIMS).

V. Operations Coordination Center (OCC)

The Board was presented with three alternatives concerning the location and configuration of a permanent OCC. During the deliberations, two important influences were recognized:

1. The economic outlook is not favorable. It is probable that funding for a major development (a permanent OCC) cannot be acquired in the near future.
2. The FIRESCOPE system has shown increasing potential. It now appears to be much more viable--and to have more applications--than has been anticipated or planned for. It could be a mistake to build a permanent facility based upon today's perceptions of necessary functions, space, etc. only to find that future needs exceed capacity.

Based upon the recognition of these influences, the Board developed four more alternatives during the discussion. The alternatives were:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Modification</u>	<u>% MACS goals</u>	<u>Expected life</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Present bldg.	"some"	70%±	2-4 years	\$20K (?)
2. Present bldg.	"significant"	75-85%±	3-5 years	\$50K (?)
3. New bldg.	to design	100%+	7-10 years	\$1.5 million
4. So. Cal. Emerg. Coord.	new design	200-300%	Extended	?

The Program Office was directed to study Alternative #2, in particular, and #3 in some detail. The objectives are to determine how to obtain as great a proportion of present MACS goals and functions at least cost, while maintaining maximum options for meeting future needs. The Board agreed that any alternatives studied or developed must include the provision that Forest Service, CDF, and OES dispatching operations are to be collocated within the planned facility.

The Forest Service and Los Angeles County Fire Department offered Engineer and Architect help in the effort. The Program Office will prepare a new analysis with this help, and the assistance of the Operations Team. The new analysis will be provided to the Board prior to the next meeting.

The Board also asked that the 1978 SDC study of other OCC site alternatives be brought back to them.

VI. Information Officers' Specialist Group

The Operations Team recommendation to activate an Information Officers' Specialist Group was accepted and approved.

The Program Office will carry out the process of organizing the Group.

VII. Inclusion of Other Agencies

A draft paper introducing the subject of other agency involvement in FIRESCOPE was presented and discussed. All present agreed to the necessity of involving and/or including other fire services. However, no decisions were reached.

The Program Office agreed to prepare a more detailed analysis, and also to propose some criteria that could help determine inclusion policy.

VIII. Next Meeting

The date agreed to for the next Board meeting is Wednesday, June 18, 1980. The meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will be at Griswold's in Claremont in the Vista Room.

Priority topics on the agenda will be:

- OCC analysis results.
- Review of other OCC location alternatives.
- Mapping program: products and progress.

Bob Irwin

ROBERT L. IRWIN
Program Manager