2017 NWAC Task Forces summary

Following the review at the NWACP summit, email voting, and meetings of the executive committee and leadership, it was agreed that there would be five TFs in 2017:

1. Tribal outreach and technical training
2. Non-floating oil
3. Fire to environmental response
4. 96 hour plan
5. In-situ burn update

The preliminary facilitators, TF membership and work products for each TF are provided in the table on page 2. The comments column summarizes the discussions on 12/20/2016 along with input from the NWAC and the steering committee. For more details, see the executive voting spreadsheet email from Josie on 12/16/2016.

Proposed TFs that were not chosen in 2017 are listed on pages 3 and 4. For some proposed TFs, other activities were identified that could meet the objectives and these are detailed below.

2017 Task Forces

| **TF Name** | **6-month Work Products** | **Potential Facilitator** | **Members** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tribal Outreach & Technical Training** | 1. Develop job aid for Tribal Coordination Specialist to assist tribes in navigating ICS during an incident.2. Outreach: a) Compile and distribute information on funding opportunities, b) Develop common talking points for RRT/NWAC members (elevator pitch)3. Training: a) Develop "just in time" training/orientation for tribal representatives during a spill response (BP DWH source). b) Develop advanced training plan for tribal members pre-spill.  | DOI | EPA, SPS, SCR, D13, DOI, Ecology, WA EMD, OSFM, ODEQ Advisory | Some of the products are already being worked on in some capacity, e.g., NOAA HAZWOPER training to outer coast tribes; EPA identification of grants through BIA, BNSG; identification of current training opportunities. These can serve as background. In addition to products, the TF was encouraged to consider the role of tribes within the ICS structure and best fit.  |
| **Non-Floating Oils** | Add or amend language in Sections 9412 and Chapter 4000 of the NWACP (non- floating oils response tool and additional policy sections on non-floating oils) to reflect the NAS Recommendations. Review OSRO guidance.  | DOE | NOAA, SPS, Ecology, SCR, D13 | It was suggested that other participants could include DEQ, EPA, industry, PHMSA, DNR, shellfish growers, tribes, land managers, natural resources agency, NGOs, etc. Suggestion that there be a review of what's happening at this point in terms of new OSRO requirements and determine what can be added to the NWACP in 2017.  |
| **Fire to Environmental Response** | 1. Identify stakeholders (state, county, local fire chiefs associations, and industry) and put together a training mechanism to help educate them regarding UC and incident endpoints for fires departments.2. Transition document / checklist that outlines the transition process from fire to UC. Possible letter of transition template. | OR state fire marshal | EPA, SPS, Ecology, SCR, ODEQ, OSFM, WA EMD | Suggestion that tribal and industry partners be included. Marine fire fighting may have procedures already in place that can be used for reference. Consider adding credentials concern (i.e., ensure that team taking over the incident has adequate training).  |
| **96 Hour Plan** | 1. Identify needed documents/plans in 96 hour plan checklist, primarily pre-loaded ICS forms and EU plans. 2. Find or create suitable templates or plans 3. Assemble tool kit in one easy to access location | SCR | EPA, Ecology, SCR, SPS, D13, NOAA, ODEQ | This TF would be continuing the work of the 2016 TF and develop the actual toolkit, perhaps to be hosted on the RRT webpage. They would also provide more specifics for some items in the recently developed 96 hour plan.  |
| **ISB Update** | 1. Develop a map to represent graphic depiction of ISB Policy. 2. Revised checklist for ISB decision making. 3. Work to streamline the process for decision making.  | DOE | SPS, SCR, NOAA, Ecology, EPA | There was consideration of delaying this TF until the new subpart J regulation is issued, as it may change the role of the RRT. Decision was made to move forward with this TF particularly since ISB and decision making came up during the recent Shell drill.  |

**Potential TFs that were considered but not selected for 2017**

PIO/LNO Workshop: DOE suggested that this be an event or workshop and offered to help plan. Interagency participation was sought to make a more robust workshop. OR DEQ mentioned that they are in the process of planning PIO workshops and would be interested in collaborating with DOE and EPA. Timing for a workshop was not established, but it is expected to occur in 2017.

Rail preparedness regulation: DOE suggested that it may be better to wait until the federal regulations are finalized before working on analysis of preparedness requirements and providing a briefing memo. At this point, DOE has reviewed the proposed regulations and they and other agencies have provided comment. Also, the publication of the final rule may provide FAQs and other background material that would be useful.

Drones: SPS mentioned that CG HQ is working on a policy related to drone use by the CG, but at this time CG can not buy drones. EPA is restricted from using drones. There’s a need to be cautious about how drones are integrated into an incident response. DOE is under the same constraint regarding drones. It was suggested that the use of drones and any new policies related to drones be discussed during NWAC meetings in 2017.

Cross border response issues: SPS and DOE suggested that there are already ongoing discussions on this topic including discussions at the Salish Sea conference. SPS and DOE offered that they would brief the NWAC and RRT throughout the process that is already in place.

NWACP accessibility: EPA (Josie) will work with contractor to get cost estimates and feasibility of creating an ebook. Capt Raymond suggested that an app would be useful, such as the one CG uses. EPA will report out to NWACP on feasibility and costs.

Dispersant use: This topic generated quite a bit of discussion. There was conversation about the dispersant use policy in southern v northern Puget Sound and some members noted the dissatisfaction that has been voiced over this policy and lack of rationale. It was suggested that explanatory text could be added to the plan to address this dissatisfaction. There was also mention of Canada’s emerging policies related to use of dispersants and how that could affect US resources and a need to monitor Canada’s approach.

In terms of better understanding and sharing the science of dispersant use, it was suggested that Catherine Berg, NOAA SSC in Alaska, do her presentation on the latest science at a special meeting/workshop in Northern Puget Sound (e.g., Anacortes, Bellingham). The meeting would be outside the usual NWACP/RRT meeting schedule and would be specifically designed to address concerns from constituents in San Juan Islands and northern portions of the SPS AOR. The meeting could be done in collaboration with the NW Straits and/or Marine Resources Committee. Capt Raymond and Dale Jensen offered to discuss and report back to the NWAC and RRT on possible plans.

There was also discussion about the ongoing Endangered Species Act consultation on the NWACP and that the associated documents and analyses should represent the best available science on dispersant use and impacts on natural resources.

Drill injects: Suggested involvement through steering committee; DOE offered to work on this independently and keep USCG informed.

GRPs as GIS tool: NOAA’s ERMA has been identified as a means for incorporating GIS tools into response planning. NOAA noted that suggestions and requests for data layers for ERMA are welcome. The states have been working with NOAA OR&R to have data added to ERMA. It was suggested that ERMA staff continue to participate in drills to increase awareness.

Protesters: It was agreed that this topic is more of a law enforcement issue and that WA EMD and perhaps OR state police should be contacted for guidance. Also, may want to broaden scope to security planning for a potential TF in the future.

State Response assets: This is focused on OR assets. OSFM noted that assets are being input into WRRL, ODEQ will coordinate with OSFM and will likely propose updates to chapter 3400.

Disposal Plan Update: Recommendation that states update this portion of the plan; no need for task force.

Volunteer management: Recommendation that states update this portion of the plan; no need for task force.

Dispersant science summary: See discussion on dispersants above and proposal to have workshop with NOAA SSC.

NRDA capacity: The steering committee determined NRDA is not within the scope of the NWAC, should be a Joint Assessment Team issue.