



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2021 at 8:30 AM
Zoom/CHP**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Cyndi Forman	Sonoma County Fire
Ron Lunardi	Occidental	Steve Suter	Santa Rosa
KT McNulty	REDCOM	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa	Steve Mosiurchak	County of Sonoma
TC Collins	Santa Rosa	Matt Epstein	Dry Creek
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Bill Bullard	Graton
Spencer Andreis	Sonoma Valley Fire	Jeff Schach	Petaluma
Doug Williams	SMART	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Shauna Jones	CALFIRE
Chris Godley	So. Co. DES	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire
Bonnie Plakos	North Coast Fire		

Call to Order: Chief Heine began the meeting at 0830 and led the pledge.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Heine

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Heine welcomed everyone

Presidents Report: Chief Heine reported we are remaining engaged with the County BOS ad hoc committee working on funding for the 4-5 agencies working towards consolidations and stabilization.

Changes to the Agenda: Chief Nicholls asked about a request to talk about the Healdsburg fires and the Op Area coordination. He stated he would be happy to talk about it.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Nicholls, 2nd: Akre, All AYE.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Correspondence: None

Presentation: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Chief Jones spoke in regards to the Watch Duty App – This is an app for the phone. Anytime a new fire happens in the County it provides info on the fire. This app is causing some challenges. We need to have some radio discipline. The app will post radio

traffic in regards to the status and conditions of the fire. Due to radio traffic from the Air Attack on the Cache Fire in Lake County stating the forward progress was stopped, the OES turned down the FMAG request. This is also causing issues with PIO's. They are now faced with answering questions based on radio traffic posted to the app. Please be aware of your radio traffic. Everyone is listening. Chief Nicholls added, the app relies on radio traffic. The system is not perfect. Chief Nicholls will be reaching out to one of the creators and discuss how we can work together. Chief Heine added the creators are in the process of contacting all the agency Chiefs in the County to introduce themselves. Chief Nicholls spoke in regards to fire origin preservation and how important it is to preserve the area of origin. Chief Nicholls spoke about the successes of the Healdsburg fires the other night, from Chief Andreis identifying additional resources early on for staging if we needed to pull the plug, Chiefs Bradley and Collister for running staging and keeping accountability. By the end of the incident there were 20 engines, 6 tenders and 3 dozers. Chief Tuberville noticed there was potential for a rapidly expanding incident to develop and put the Multiple Incident Management Plan (MIMP) into effect. Everything meshed together well, the ICP location was identified and communicated, and the SO committed a Lieutenant early in the event to the ICP to coordinate any evacuations that may be needed. The RDO was on his way to REDCOM to help coordinate. Chief Bullard added while at REDCOM, they were not familiar with the MIMP so he briefed them on why units were being staged and how it works.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Heine reported they are focused on the distribution plan for the sales tax Measure. Interviews are done with all the chiefs. The half-cent sales tax would generate close to \$51M while the needs and wants are close to \$80M. Working with BOS and the ad hoc group to fine tune the numbers.

FSWG is also working with the 4 entities currently in negotiations with the County for necessary funding for consolidation efforts and immediate sustainability funding. Kenwood FD for sustainability, North Sonoma County for the annexation of Fitch Mountain and Sotoyome, Sonoma County FD for annexation of Bodega Bay FD, North Bay FD and Gold Ridge FD for the annexation of remaining CSA 40 agencies.

SMART: Doug Williams reported that the schedule is remaining as a modified schedule. Continuing with fare reduction. The recruitment process for the retiring general Manager has received a good pool of candidates. Working again with the pathway extension and looking for partnerships with the different communities. Continuing to see freight service in the Petaluma area. SMART is looking for some grant money to hire additional engineers and conductors.

PG & E: None

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported even though river levels are low the new Copter 104 was able to draw out 13,000 gal. of water out of the river for the Neely Fire. The exclusive use Type 1 helicopter 1C-H out of the Napa Airport returned from the Dixie Fire last week.

Zone 3: Chief Akre reported he appreciated the response from all the agencies on the London Way Fire as well as the station coverages.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: Chief Lunardi stated he wanted to thank the FITF for doing a great job on the investigation on the Westwood structure fire. The dozer project is moving forward. Waiting for the transport to come in. If anyone is interested in forming a dozer team and are qualified please contact Chief Lunardi.

Zone 6: Chief Jenkins reported he wanted to thank everyone for the response the other night to all the fires.

Zone 7: Chief Heine reported they have 4 FF medic applicants in the final stages of background. The new recruit academy will be starting in the first week of October. They also have 8 applicants for the EMS Div. Chief position. The test date is September 29th. The impact fee program has been adopted for the entire Sonoma County Fire District. If anyone is looking at adopting an impact fee program, please feel free to reach out to Chief Heine. The new Type 6 is almost in service and will be stationed at the Guerneville station, then moving to its permanent home at the Mountain Station 6. Will be looking at a grand opening in the next month for Station 6. The station should be ready to be occupied for the next Red Flag event. There will be no Coffee with Firefighters events as the current COVID concerns has canceled all these events. Saturday 9/11 there will be an outside ceremony at a few of the stations.

Zone 8: No report

Zone 9: No report

OES: No report

Training OP's: No report

FPO's: Devon Gambonini reported she wanted to thank the working group that has been working on the mowing campaign, Paul Lowenthal and his team. Just about ready to launch the program. Devon will distribute a flier to everyone with-in the next week. You will be able to edit the flier and put in your own logo. At the last FPO meeting, they discussed the technology needs to be able to host Zoom meetings. The group approved funding to share the cost of the needed technology to continue both in person and Zoom meetings. Funds for the virtual Owl system and a Zoom account have been approved. The Youth Fire Setter Academy this fall canceled due to COVID restrictions and safety. This will be rescheduled for the spring. Just a reminder FITF is still available and may request them through REDCOM. The next FPO meeting is scheduled for September 24th as a joint NorCal meeting in Petaluma. There is a chance this meeting could be canceled via in person due to COVID.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported they met a couple weeks ago via Zoom. Vegetation Management was a big topic of discussion. On the September 23rd meeting Mark Brown from the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority will be presenting. The group is concerned they still do not have a Special Districts representative on LAFCO. They have gone through a couple of elections and extension cycles, still not having a representative or an alternate. We did have two candidates, but no quorum of votes to be able to certify the election. We had good voting participation from the Fire Districts. If anyone knows anyone on the Boards of any Special District, please inform them to vote. The October meeting

will have County Planning and Chief Mosiurchak talking about special events and permitting.

Volunteer Fire Companies: No report

Vegetation Management: Chief Mosiurchak reported that districts are doing a good job getting their inspections done. Rounds for billing should have been submitted for refunds. There has been some delay in getting everyone reimbursed do to some transitions with-in the County. Some contracts that were out dated and underfunded have been updated. Funds are available to do projects. If anyone is interested in doing some larger parcel or community based vegetation management projects, please let Chief Mosiurchak know. They have been doing a large amount of abatements to parcels through the Districts. Starting in November the VMI program will be changed up a bit. The County will make it work better for the District. The Districts will be able to pick their own target hazard areas with-in the LRA. If there are areas in the SRA, it will be coordinated with CALFIRE. The real-estate required inspections, the County has forms made up if you would like to do your own. Districts will also be able to charge for these inspections. The fire inspection staff for the on-call procedure will be assisting the building department for any on-call personnel. When you have a structure fire, building collapse or a vehicle into a building and request the building inspector this will be coming from the fire inspection staff.

Coastal Valley EMS: See Chief Akre's report Fire/EMS

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: None

Fire/EMS: Chief Akre reported, there has been a lot of effort on COVID and proof of vaccination and testing of un-vaccinated workforces. Members have been on weekly phone calls with fire service leadership, labor leadership and law enforcement leadership with Dr. Mace.

Chief Akre did receive an update from James Salvante. James had a conflict today and is not able to attend the Chiefs meeting. James reported the County RFP is in the approval process. James is still working to set-up a meeting with Tina Rivera of the Department of Health Services in regards to behavioral health and public safety first responders. He is also working on an emergency accreditation for new Medics, especially with the shortage of Medics right now. The State EMSA has extended the EMT skills verification exceptions through the end of the year.

DEM: Chris Godley reported they have prerecorded evacuation notices for all the types of technologies and areas of the County. If there is a custom area of evacuation the message can be sent with-in 20-30 minutes. A Zone can be sent out with-in 5-10 minutes. The urban area grant should be coming out next week. The deadline will be October 8th. They will allocate the two years of grants to the North Bay hub. Napa, Marin, Solano and Sonoma. \$1.2-1.3M. If there is fire services initiative that could benefit from this, Chris would like to sell it for this. The State Homeland Security Grant will be coming out next month. This will be for in County at about \$550,000.00. This grant will fund equipment and training. There will be a fire weather watch for tomorrow from the National Weather Service. We are looking at the river completely drying up by the end of the year. Lake Mendocino will stop giving water by the end of the year. Wells could be going dry shortly after that. Chief Heine asked if the County BOS will be declaring a State of Emergency or proclamation. Chris reported that there is already a County wide proclamation for the drought.

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported we are keeping an eye on the anticipated fire weather coming in late tomorrow. More computer models are coming in for a dry lightning event across North Ops. There will be a call this afternoon with the Ops Area Coordinators. Chief Heine stressed his appreciation during a busy season for out of County deployments. The RDO's have been working hard with equipment and crew rotations. As a reminder as crews and equipment return and leave the County, please advise Chief Heine so he can keep the Ops Area Coordinators up to speed. As a reminder for Chiefs, as you send out crews for rotations, please make sure the crews are aware that fire activity may be IA type of activity. These fires are having a mind of their own and this is not your typical crew rotation 3 weeks into an incident.

Chief Nichols added in regards to Wet Hire Engines. The list needs to be maintained with accuracy. Agencies need to make sure the Wet Hire list is current and up to date so Wet Hires can be deployed in a timely matter.

REDCOM: KT reported they are working on a regional social media platform with SR Fire and SO. This will be to have messaging for 911 activations and alert/warnings. Working on mini projects for this summer and then having town hall meetings with co-op groups before next summer. More to follow.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order:

Adjournment: 0945@ hrs.

Next Meeting: October 13, 2021 - Occidental Fire Protection District - 3800 Bohemian Hwy. @0830hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary