

# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

and the

# SONOMA COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES ASSOCIATION



## JOINT NIGHT MEETING MINUTES October 20, 2010

### Attendance:

Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Randy Collins	Sotoyome
Lori Anello	Two Rock	Ron Collier	Windsor
Dean Anderson	SLS/AMR	Steven Adams	Healdsburg
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Steve Ginesi	Fort Ross
John Marty	Rohnert Park DPS	Marvin Howard	Cal EMA
Eleanor Ratliff	Sonoma County Fire	Ron Albini	Bodega
Will Horne	Mayacamas	Caerleon Safford	Fire Safe Sonoma
John Lantz	Rincon Valley	Doug Williams	Rincon Valley
Dan Northern	Forestville	Loren Davis	Mountain
Bob Uboldi	Kenwood	Peter Van Fleet	Glen Ellen
August Grube	Knights Valley	Duane Rosengren	Wilmar
Andy Pforsich	Goldridge/Bennett Vly	Jeff Mathews	Bloomfield
Bob Green	Wilmar	Al Mello	Wilmar

**Call to Order:** Chief Collins called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Andy Pforsich welcomed everybody to Goldridge FPD and stated that GRFPD asked to host the meeting, since we border five volunteer companies. Chief Collins thanked Chief Pforsich for the wonderful meal.

Chief Collins started the round of self introductions.

### Approval of Minutes:

- Sonoma County Volunteer Fire Companies Association- Chief Horne called for approval of the minutes for the VFC's. Motion made by Al Mello and seconded by Loren Davis, all approved.
- Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association- Motion by Doug Williams, seconded by Peter Van Fleet- all approved.

### President's Report:

- Sonoma County Volunteer Fire Companies Association- Chief Horne reported the single and most recent accomplishment for the VFC's was the recent approval of the strategic plan by the Board of Supervisors. Chief Horne also apologized to the group for being pulled away from the area for work reasons.

- Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association- Chief Collins thanked those assembled for their attendance because of the playoff game occurring at the same time. Congratulations to Chief Doug Williams for being named the Fire Chief of the year-2010... Congrats to Steve Adams for being named the Healdsburg Fire Chief. The E Board met on September 28<sup>th</sup>. 2010 goals – the website and sharing of resources were the items discussed.

**Treasurer's Report (SCFCA) as of October 1, 2010:**

Chiefs Checking Account:	\$2,453.37	As of 10/1/10
W&O Fund 7 Month CD:	\$116,271.94	As of 10/1/10
<u>W&amp;O Checking Account:</u>	<u>\$17,657.95</u>	<u>As of 10/1/10</u>
Total:	\$136,383.26	

One disbursement: Ben Hakala Trust-\$300.00

**Treasurer's Report (VFC's):**

Checking \$1,223.33 and \$1642.42  
Savings \$1,642.42

All dues paid to date.

**Correspondence:**

- Sonoma County Volunteer Fire Companies Association--none
- Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association--none

**Presentations:** None

**Committee Reports:**

- Training Section: Chief Ratliff-TO's to sponsor a leadership class. TO's also discussed the splitting of the Marin /Sonoma Association-two County's together is not as productive as it could be. No decisions yet. Chief Collins added from the training stand point-one of our goals was to have TO's work closer with the OPS group and that the T/O's will approach OPS group to participate in a joint planning session for 2011. T/O's will be sponsoring a Leadership Class in Petaluma on November 8,9, December 6 & 7 and January 18. Cost \$375 (\$275 for TO members in good standing) contact Jeff Holden at Petaluma if interested [jholden@ci.petaluma.ca.us](mailto:jholden@ci.petaluma.ca.us)
- Prevention Section: Chief Williams- reported (working backwards) a Q and A concerning burning in the bay area air quality management district is needed. Why do we have why two pollution districts? Might have started with the farmers and regional differences. Code adoption process is moving ahead with the area of greatest discussion regards PV systems and whether to codify or put into standards, more to follow.
- Operations Section: Chief Lantz reported the group met September 27<sup>th</sup> and developed draft policies for rehab and helicopter landing. Rehab is guideline only and the helicopter policy last revised in 88. Changes are consistent with pilots request including removing the "no more emergency landing" terminology. Next meeting is November 15, 2010 at the Santa Rosa Tower. Chief Collins asked everyone to review the policies so action could be taken on them at our next meeting.
- District Chiefs: Chief Collier reported they met at Windsor station 2 and the program was green fire stations-Chief Ratliff reminder the group the no interest loan program to conduct energy upgrades to their fire stations is still available through Sam Ruark. Fire District will be sponsoring training for its E-Board (TBA)-more to follow.
- Sonoma County VFC: Chief Ratliff reported the acceptance of the strategic plan was a good thing and Chief Horne reiterated the strategic planning process could not of succeeded without the help and support it received and that we should be proud of what was accomplished. Fundraising efforts continue for the Ben Hakala trust with the next event a dinner on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Santa Rosa Vets Building. The good news is Ben is doing well.

- REDCOM: Director Luttrell reported that they have been in contact with PG & E for the anticipated winter season and if you have any PG& E related you wish to share to let him know. Gran Fondo event was handled well with the use of 5262 with forty incidents. The Board met last Thursday. A sub-committee for long range planning will report to the Board in January...many ideas for future are being considered. The budget is flat and has been for two years now. Currently 2% under last year's but 3% above target so they continue to look at what steps need to happen to keep the budget down. Chief Williams reported Petaluma is exploring the feasibility of joining REDCOM and we should know by the end of the year.
- CAD Group: Chief Williams reported on last week's meeting which dealt mostly with map related Issues. The goal of which is to resolve before the next enhancement which is due in February.
- Cal EMA Operational Area: Chief Williams reported, prevention has done their job with the quietest year in anyone's memory. No team has gone out-of-county since August of last year which if trends continue, will need to address STL issues related to currency. Chief Howard reported on the San Bruno incident- The PG&E gas line was 30 inches in diameter and the welds were 50 years old. Pipeline routes are not very well marked and it is currently hard to get the info from PG&E. Expressed concerns about the lack of shut-off valves (automatic or manual) and who should turn them off. Upon arrival at the incident on the second day, Chief Howard indicated a T-card system had not been put into place which made tracking resources difficult. Lesson learned is that it is difficult for tankers to perform drops with aials deployed. Pilots dropped from higher elevations on houses and wildland. Just enough to cool and slow the fire for hand crews to catch up. 5262 did go down and was very useful (contact Steve if you have people interested in staffing the unit). New Type II OES engines have been delivered to SR, Ross and Napa with very positive feedback so far. Total cost equipped is \$244K. Have learned that to maintain STL currency, training activities can be utilized but a CalEMA rep. and Div/Group or higher instructors must participate. He is currently working with Scott Vail to put a program in place. Plan on an 8-hour day with many activities for the refresher. The general feeling is if we have another season like this most will bump the timeline requirement. Interested in being on a Forest Service Team, nominations are now being accepted November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup> (contact Marvin). Rincon Valley is hosting the next Region 2 meeting which will be November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Sheriff's Office training room. Chief Horne inquired as to PG&E's inspection frequencies and stated the oil industry is required to run a pig down the line every ninety days. PG&E has a priority system for testing, but priorities change on a regular basis. Chief Collins added that PG&E expressed interest at presenting at the December Chief's meeting. Chief Williams added that according to dispatch recordings, many assume that a plane had crashed in San Bruno.
- Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Dept.: Chief Ratliff reported that all sub committees are progressing forward and the budget is looking very ugly- \$30 Million short-fall expected next year-no support anticipated expected for another year.
- EMCC: No report. Kent experienced a cardiac event and is doing well and is back at work. Dean Anderson added that EMCC has not met, but will do so in December.
- Legislative: Chief Collier reported it is now clean up time at the capitol with lots of Trailers bills occurring which we have no control over. Ron indicated he resigned last month as the legislative task force member for the Districts but will still receive legislative info from Ralph and will forward them along to the group. Information will be out soon concerning AB-1648. Chief Collins added a big thank you for 24 years of reporting to the group.
- Grants: No report.
- SRJC Advisory: Chiefs Collins reported that the group met yesterday, no quorum so they could not hold an official meeting and that he is looking for new members. As for the college, Fire Tech classes are running full and JC will look at the needs of the county to implement new classes, in particular, Command I and Driver Operator IA.
- CHP Liaison: no report. New CHP Commander is Greg Tracy-expected to start this month. Randy indicated he will send a letter soliciting their continued participation with this organization (see attached).
- Red Cross: no report
- Marin Chiefs Liaison: Chief Northern reported the group meets tomorrow and Randy indicated he will attend and make a report at the next meeting. Chief Williams reported attending last month and how they are having the same discussions we are (including the viability of the TO's) and recommended each Chief attend at least once. The meeting included a presentation from Marin Water District. Chief

Collier explained some past issues relative to individual needs in each county and the reasons for consolidating the T/O's to begin with.

- Fire Safe Sonoma- Caerleon reported a lot of chipping has occurred (over 200 parcels) and handed out flyers for the Chippers Ahoy program (Applications from the website should be available soon). Funding will be available through 2013 and she recommended sign boards as an easy way to let people know. Money is available for chipping for elders with limited incomes. Chief Collins asked if banners are allowed as an expense...yes, and will be available soon from FSS. He asked if there is funding for projects in the public right-of way (ROW)? She is working on one to access ROW hazards next year. She also encouraged anyone who is interested in serving on FSS board to contact her.

#### **Old Business:**

- Website: Chief Collins provided the background that although Mike Johnson has been a great help, due to re-assignment, he is unable to continue to devote time to the project so a sub-committee of Chief Zanzi and Abshear put together a proposal with a recommendation. Chief Northern made a motion to adopt the report's recommendation (Option-3) with a not to exceed amount of \$1000.00 (2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Williams). No discussion, Chief Collins called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously. Chief Collins indicated this item was discussed at the last REDCOM Board meeting and at this time they declined to participate in a joint website venture with the group.
- Status of 2010 Goals: Chief Collins reviewed the goals that the group had adopted including the following: REDCOM advocacy and rep from chiefs at every meeting,-Yes, Chief Northern added that it would be nice to see more fire chiefs at these meetings and that REDCOM is moving to quarterly meetings beginning in January which is another reason to attend (Director Luttrell echoed Chief Northern's comments). Website--Just completed tonight. Improving efficiencies-work continues with more discussion on this topic expected at November's planning meeting. Meeting Efficiency: is getting better. TO /OPS section coordination; A joint meeting was recently conducted and the TO's will be participating with the Op's planning meeting in December. Fire Code adoption is moving forward. Coordination with RECO organization; Chief William's attends regularly.

#### **New Business:**

- 2011 Planning Session: Chief Collins reminded the group of the 2011 Planning session scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2010, at 9:00am. To be held in the Academic Senate Chambers on the east end of Bertolini Hall on the Junior College Campus. Bertolini Hall is the new building on the north east corner of the campus adjacent to Elliot Avenue close to Mendocino. The most convenient parking is the across the street from Bertolini Hall off Elliot Avenue. It is the first parking lot on the North side of Elliot Ave if you are traveling westbound off Mendocino Ave. There is a \$4 parking charge (no charge if you come in a marked vehicle with exempt plates). **Please RSVP to Chief Collins at 836-2913.**

**Improving Efficiency:** No report

**Customer Service:** Ron Albini reminded everyone of the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday and the November 12 dinner at the Santa Rosa Vet's Building. All proceeds to benefit the Ben Hakala fund.

Congratulations to Mayacamas- Chief Horne reported that hydrant locks are in place which should keep the tanks full in the future. The new water tender from Opperman is in service. It holds 2200 gallons and has a short wheel bass-perfect for their area. The new water tanks are in place at station one and two more are coming to station two...

Chief Northern reported on the new OSHA regulation as found in section 5193 of T-8 and require anyone (including firefighters) exposed to aerosol droplets (coughing, etc), is now required to wear a P-100 mask and that the N95's are no longer considered sufficient. Chief Pforsich said that Tony Gossner (the new Deputy Chief) is working on this project for City of SR and he would be a good contact for follow up.

**Good of the Order:** Chief Collins state that Chief Varner is retiring and asked the group if a party was planned? Tentative date of January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Closed Session** (if necessary): None

Next Meeting: November 10, 2010 – Hosted by City of Petaluma Fire Department