



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES
Hosted by Petaluma Fire
November 4th, 2009 0930 HOURS

Attendance

Randy Collins	Healdsburg	Dean Anderson	AMR / SLS
Chuck Abshear	Cal Fire	Kent Coxon	Coastal Valleys EMS
John Lantz	Rincon Valley	Bill Braga	REDCOM
Dan Northern	Forestville	Mark Aston	County DES
Paul Pigoni	Geyserville	Rodger Doncaster	Red Cross
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Larry Anderson	Petaluma
Ron Collier	Windsor	Phil Garcia	Sonoma Valley
Peter Van Fleet	Glen Ellen	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay/Russian Rvr

Call to Order: Chief Collins called the meeting to order at 0945 AM.

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Anderson welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes: No changes to the October minutes as presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Chief Aston, second from Chief Lantz. Approved Unanimously.

President's Report – Nothing significant to report.

Treasurer's Report as of September 30th: Chiefs Account = **\$2,672.69**. W&O Fund Total Balance = **\$132,898.76** (\$115,267.30 7-month CD + \$17,631.46 checking account = \$132,898.76)

Correspondence (can also be found on web site)

- Homeland Security Grant Distribution Information
- Agreement with Cal Fire to Issue NWCG Certifications
- Water Quality BMP Draft
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Flow-Chart for processing Complaints and/or Poor Performance Evaluations on Cal EMA Assignments
- Comments Submitted from Coastal Valleys EMS Regarding Proposed Changes to EMT / Paramedic Regulations.

Presentations None



Pending Presentations for Future Meetings

- Bunker – refresher skills program at SRJC

Committee Reports

- **Training Section:** No Report. Note from October Minutes, TOs group planning on attending the January Meeting.
- **Prevention Section:** Chief Collins – Updated the group on the current draft of the Best Management Practices (BMP) guideline developed by the FPOs group to comply with new regulations from the Water Quality Control Board. A copy will be distributed with the minutes. Chief Collins also advised the FPOs are working on developing county-wide CUPA standards for above ground storage tanks. It was also noted the state will begin a new round of code adoption in January, with publication of updated codes in July. Once published – a 180 day window begins for local amendments. In regard to Photovoltaic issues – only looking at signage requirements at this time.
- **Operations Section:** Chief Lantz – Next Meeting Nov 16th at the tower. REDCOM Duty Chief meeting is scheduled for November 23rd 9 AM to Noon at the Sheriff's training room.
- **District Chiefs:** Chief Garcia – Next meeting will be hosted by Bennett Valley at Cattleman's on the 19th in Santa Rosa. Cocktails at 6 PM – Dinner at 7.
- **VFC Association:** Chief Aston – Association met on Oct 21st and had a good turnout. Bill Braga attended for REDCOM. County Counsel also attended and discussed liability training for VFC Boards. Continued progress on implementation of the CSA 40 study issues. Looking at developing budgets for VFCs. Also trying to coordinate fundraiser dates in an effort to avoid conflicting dates and encourage participation of elected officials.
- **REDCOM:** Dick Luttrell – Bill Braga: Cost allocation committee held the initial meeting which was met hosted by SVFR. The belief is that the current REDCOM cost allocation model is not sustainable. The next meeting will be held Nov 17th 11:30 at SR station 10 (2373 Circadian Way).
- **CAD Group:** No Report.
- **OES Operational Area:** Chiefs Abshear & Northern discussed. Implemented active status as a result of the recent fire in Santa Cruz County – Dick Luttrell commented active status went well.
- **County DES:** Chief Aston – discussed homeland security grant process. The final approval was a very difficult process since there were many more requests than funds available. It was also noted there will likely be fewer funds available in future years. Chief

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Aston is also looking to change the procurement process so that County jurisdictions have more authority for expenditures. In regard to the CSA 40 study – a steering committee has been established to craft an implementation plan (referred to as “Vision 2020”). Will also be revisiting each contract between VFC and the County. The application period for filling the Fire Marshall has closed – received many applications. After the Fire Marshall position is filled – will look to fill the Operations Chief position within 10 months.

- **EMCC:** Kent Coxon – Last meeting was on October 26th. Next meeting Jan 25th. Offices will be closed periodically for mandatory furloughs. The closure dates have been announced – but they are still encouraging people to NOT wait to last minute to renew certifications since they may find the office closed and experience a delay. Recently received 50 backboards funded by prior year Homeland Security grant – the backboards have been strategically distributed to 10 departments around the county. Memo was recently distributed regarding H1N1 vaccinations for emergency responders. 4 clinics have been set up for first responders only – administered by Verihealth nurses: 1) November 4th from 2 PM to 4 PM at 2190 S McDowell, 2) November 10th from 10 AM to 12 PM at AMR in SR, 3) November 12th at Santa Rosa Training Tower from 4 PM to 6 PM, 4) and November 13th at Russian River Fire from 5 PM to 7 PM. Discussed distribution and availability of the H1N1 vaccination. Comment for current state revised EMS regulations closed today (November 4th) – Kent will forward the most recent comments (see attached).
- **Legislative:** Chief Collier – Discussed the potential for significant legislation impacting public safety. Pension reform is a very hot topic. A local group is trying to get ahead of the pension reform issue by meeting with stakeholders to develop a reform plan.
- **Grants:** No Report.
- **SRJC Advisory:** No Report. Next advisory meeting is Thursday November 12th 10 AM – Noon at Windsor.
- **CHP Liaison:** No Report. Chief Collins discussed a recent visit to CHP dispatch center in Vallejo / Benicia. The CHP is willing to complete agreements to redirect 911 calls.
- **Red Cross:** Rodger Doncaster – not much going on nationally. No local resources from Sonoma County were sent to American Samoa following the recent earthquake. In California – we’re working on improving mutual aid to become more self sufficient. Continue to offer support for drills. The Red Cross is also providing grant-funded services to the armed forces families in Sonoma County.
- **Marin Chief’s Liaison:** Chief Northern – No major concerns / issues.



Old Business

- Status of Strike Team oversight for performance evaluations, complaints, after-action reports. Chief Lantz discussed. Will send out the current flow chart with minutes. A complaint must be written and submitted to the Op Area Coordinator. Submit feedback regarding the flow chart to Chiefs Lantz & Northern. Expect the flowchart to become an appendix to Strike Team Leader Handbook / SOG.
- Water Quality Discharge Requirements. Chief Collins discussed. This has been an ongoing process. The Regional Water Quality (WQ) Control Board initially proposed regulations that would have significantly hinder fire service operations. After input from the fire service, The WQ board has subsequently revised proposed regulations to address many of the initial concerns and will accept BMPs established by the fire service in the County – will be sending draft BMPs with minutes.
- Firescope Resource Typing: Chief Northern – Advised the Ops group is handling the issue. No discussion needed.
- Strategic Planning Meeting in November: Chief Collins – Date is November 10th and will be held at Bennett Valley Golf Course (Legends Club) starting at 9 AM. Lunch will be served – RSVP. Tom Forester & Bob Marcucci will be facilitating
- Adoption of Conflict of Interest Policy. Policy was distributed and discussed at the October meeting. Establishment of this policy is required to establish a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Motion to approve policy as written by Chief Garcia, second from Chief Collier. Approved unanimously. Expenditure of a \$300 application fee was also approved.
- CAD – make non-fire season default to one engine. Discussion tabled – to be old business for December Meeting.

New Business

- Nomination Committee for new officers: Chiefs Williams, Collier, and Garcia will handle nominations for 2010 Officers.
- Strategic Planning Group for REDCOM: Luttrell, Aston, Williams, Collins. Additional details will be outlined at the strategic planning meeting next week.
- Discussed agreement with Cal Fire to issue NWCG certifications.

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Customer Service / Good of the order

- Northern: A group is seeking to bring a Large Animal Rescue course to the County. Uncertain if there is enough interest (need at least 20 persons to put on the class). Chief Northern will forward the information to the Training Officers. Chief Collier noted REDCOM has maintained a group of qualified trainees in the past, it may help determine need.
- Garcia: Noted the JPA has selected Citygate to investigate consolidation options and make recommendations.

Closed Session:

- N/A

Next Meeting: December 9th hosted by Santa Rosa Fire

Meeting adjourned 11:25 hrs

Respectfully submitted – Chuck Abshear, Secretary / Treasurer, November 5th, 2009.