

# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



## MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by Petaluma Fire Department  
at  
Lucchesi Center In Petaluma  
November 10, 2010

### Attendance:

Bill Braga	SFD/REDCOM	John Marty	Rohnert Park
Bob Uboldi	Kenwood	John Lantz	Rincon Valley
Bruce Varner	Santa Rosa	Phil Garcia	Sonoma Valley
Dan Northern	Forestville	Randy Collins	Sotoyome
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Ron Collier	Windsor
Doug Williams	Rincon Valley	Eric Hoffman	Cal Fire
Frank Treanor	Rancho Adobe	John Zanzi	Sebastopol
Mark McCormick	Santa Rosa	Gary Duignan	Red Cross
Larry Anderson	Petaluma	Charles Fleshman	County Com.
Greg Tracey	CHP	Budge Currier	AECOM
Robert Mota	CHP	Erin Nixon	SRA Touchstone
Ray Mulas	Shell-Vista	Jodi Frost	Sonoma County
Andy Pforsich	Gold Ridge/B Valley		

### Call to Order:

- Chief Collins called the meeting to order at 09:32 and requested a moment of silence for retired Cloverdale Fire Chief and past president of the Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association Chief Milt Holt.

### Host Chief Introduction:

- Chief Anderson welcomed the Chiefs to Petaluma and the Lucchesi Center.

### Approval of Minutes:

- Motioned by Chief Williams seconded by Chief Treanor, approved unanimously.

### President's Report:

- Chief Collins stated that he was happy to see representation, from the Chiefs Association, at the Board of Supervisors meeting recognizing Doug Williams as the 2010 California Fire Chief of the Year. Chief Collins also congratulated the Forestville Fire Protection District for passing their special tax measure.

### Treasurer's Report as of January 31<sup>st</sup> 2010:

Chiefs Checking Account:	\$1,753.37	As of 11/1/10
W&O Fund 7 Month CD:	\$116,271.94	As of 11/1/10
<u>W&amp;O Checking Account:</u>	<u>\$17,660.00</u>	<u>As of 11/1/10</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$135,685.51</b>	

**Correspondence: None**

**Presentations:**

Jodi Frost, Sonoma County Information Systems introduced members of the ISD Team and Consultant Budge Currier. Christine Alilovich explained the purpose and makeup of the newly organized County of Sonoma Public Safety Radio Communications Advisory Group (CAG).

The CAG, according to its draft charter, is a forum created to address the radio communications challenges faced by County and REDCOM agencies. It is designated to serve as the centralized radio communications advisory body to facilitate discussions among County stakeholders in order to enhance communications capabilities and stimulate radio communications planning for the County of Sonoma. The CAG will focus on improving radio communications systems, spectrum management, strategic planning, grant oversight, communications interoperability and improved radio coverage and capacity. The CAG may form a foundation for future expansion to include additional agencies throughout the county and could potentially include city agencies.

The CAG is made up of four members, the Sonoma County Administrator, Sheriff, Fire Chief and a representative from the other combined disciplines. According to Ms. Alilovich decisions made by the CAG will be consensus based and that the Fire Chiefs may be asked to provide input but would generally not be included meetings unless invited by their representative. Input and concerns from the SCFCA should be directed through the County Fire Chief.

Concerns were expressed over the fact that the GAC was made up entirely of Sonoma County employees with no positions on the GAC given to Cities or Districts especially due to the large number of REDCOM member agencies involved. Ms. Alilovich reminded the group that the intent of the CAG is to be collaborative and that an updated County of Sonoma Public Safety Radio Communications Advisory Group Charter will be available soon through Chief Aston.

Chief Varner stated that the associated costs for 700 is a huge concern but remains a long range issue and that narrow banding is on the near horizon.

Regarding narrow banding Charlie Fleshman, passed out documents relating to narrowbanding, Navigating the FCC's Part 90 VHF/UHF "Narrowbanding" Mandate and a Narrowbanding Inventory Form. Both documents will be sent out via the REDCOM Radio Group along with a suggested timelines for narrowbanding Cal Fire and Sonoma County Fire frequencies.

In late January/February the County will kickoff meetings to discuss County Radio's role in making the conversion. In March or April of 2011 the Cal Fire loads will be out and County Radio is looking at that date to make a transition with a completion of May 1, 2011. Cal Fire will convert mobiles and portables before the mountain tops and the County is looking towards the same timeframe. Chief Lantz suggested narrowbanding everything but the REDCOM frequency until such time as all agencies have had a chance to obtain the County wide grant or purchase narrowband capable pagers within the time frame allowed by the FCC and then switching REDCOM over in the Spring of 2012. It is expected that the results of the County wide grant for pagers and station alerting systems will be known by the end of this December. The consensus remains that the Motorola Minitor II, III and IV are not narrowband capable. It was suggested that the REDCOM Radio Group should act as the liaison to the Fire Chiefs Association as it relates to the narrowbanding change over and timeframes.

Budge Currier announced that additional VHF channels are now available through the private sector. He recommended purchasing 4 new channels, to increase capacity. REDCOM would then become a 1 way channel allowing all Control channels to be repeated. This would increase capacity on the system. Costs are about 100K per channel. In addition MDTs could be used to further reduce system usage.

**Committee Reports:** (Share what was not included in any minutes that have already been published)

- **Training Section:** Chief Treanor – Nothing new to report
- **Prevention Section:** Chief Zanzi – Nothing new to report
- **Operations Section:** Chief Lantz – Nothing new to report
- **District Chiefs:** Chief Northern - Next meeting hosted by Sonoma County Fire at Stormy's on November 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 pm.
- **Sonoma County VFD:** Chief Aston – No Report
- **REDCOM:** Director Luttrell / Reese/Braga – REDCOM Staff developed a report identifying Ken Reese's CAD responsibilities to assure that there is plan to build redundancy for the essential functions where it currently does not exist.
- **CAD Group:** Chief Williams – The next CAD meeting will be in February
- **Cal EMA Operational Area:** Chief Williams – There will be a Region II meeting on November 12, 2010 in Santa Rosa hosted by REDCOM at the SC Sheriffs training room. Sonoma County fire personnel are welcome to attend. San Bruno fire and closest resources dispatch are on the agenda.
- **County Fire:** Chief Horne – No Report
- **EMCC:** Chief Zanzi – Discussed EMT Advanced and the information is available on the Coastal Valley web site. The SRJC is currently working on the training program and curriculum. It does require that agencies providing EMT Advanced programs do so on a 24 hour basis and not only when certified personnel are available.
- **Legislative:** Chief Collier – Nothing new to report
- **Grants:** Chief Zanzi – Nothing new to report
- **SRJC Advisory:** Chiefs Williams and Collins – Chief Collins announced that Chief Williams will be the Chief's Representative to the Fire Tech Advisory Committee. A vote for the Chair will be taken at the next meeting.
- **CHP Liaison: Captain Tracy** – No report
- **Red Cross:** Gary Duignan – Retired Chief Duignan will now be representing Red Cross. Any needs or concerns regarding Red Cross can be directed to Gary.
- **Marin Chiefs Liaison:** Chief Collins – The Marin County Chiefs are considering implementing an After Action Reporting System on line, updating their mutual aid plan appendices, a county wide SCBA replacement plan and the FPOs are working on code adoption. The Marin County Fire Investigators are looking at the BATS online reporting system for arson investigation reporting. BATS is a secure, web based, computer case management system that is provided to state and local agencies for documenting explosives, fire and arson investigations. The Marin Chiefs are also working on the Wildfire Prevention Initiative, to fund vegetation management issues, establishing focus groups and feasibility studies. The Marin County Haz Mat Team is looking for more participation and possible

incentive pay for members. They may contact Sonoma County in regards to joint sponsorship of the team.

**Old Business:**

Rehab and LZ Policies – Motion by Chief Treanor and second by Chief Williams, approved unanimously with minor changes presented by the Chiefs

Web Site – Chief Zanzi and Retired Chief Abshear are working with wildfireweb.com to develop the SCFCA web site. A draft may be available in 2 weeks for review of Eboard. The new site will look much different with several new functions including Active Status.

**New Business:**

Selection of Nomination Committee – The 3 past presidents, Chiefs Zanzi, Williams and Collier, will be on the committee and will present candidates for the SCFCA offices at next meeting.

Audit Committee - Chief Pforsich and Chief Treanor will be on the committee.

**Improving Efficiency:**

Rincon and Windsor are working on a management proposal for the two organizations.

Chief Garcia stated that Valley of the Moon is working on a contract to provide services to the City of Sonoma based on a contractual price for services.

SCFCA Planning Meeting – The Annual Planning Meeting will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 to noon at the SRJC.

**Customer Service:**

Cal Fire - The historical annual average acreage burned for the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit is 15000 acres. This year we did not exceed 750 acres.

Chief Varner – Stated this will be his last meeting since hi is retiring on December 30, 2010. Chief Varner expressed his appreciation for the relationships developed through his involvement with the SCFCA. On January 7, 2010 there will be a retirement reception in the afternoon at the Finley Center in his honor. Chief Collins thanked Chief Varner for his efforts and the expertise that he brought to the Sonoma County Fire Service and the SCFCA.

**Good of the Order:**

None

**Closed Session (if necessary):**

Regarding the ISD Agenda Item and Discussion – Direction given no action taken.

**Next Meeting:**

The December meeting will be hosted by Santa Rosa Fire Department at the Transit Conference Room behind the tower and west of Finley Center. PG&E will make a presentation on high pressure gas pipelines.