

# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



## Minutes

Hosted by Rincon Valley FPD  
Windsor Fire Station #1 - August 11, 2010  
Meeting begins at 9:30

### Attendance:

Bill Braga-SFD/REDCOM	Kent Coxon-CVEMS
Todd Duram-CalFire	Nathan Garrett-Fire Safe Sonoma
Tim Streblov-Cal Fire	Sean Grinnell-Bodega Bay
Eric Hoffman-Cal Fire	Randy Collins-Healdsburg
Dan Northern-Forestville	John Lantz-Rincon Valley
Dick Luttrell-REDCOM	John Zanzi-Sebastopol
Doug Williams-Rincon Valley	Larry Anderson-Petaluma
Frank Treanor-Rancho Adobe	Phil Garcia-Sonoma Valley
Mark Aston Sonoma County	Andy Pforsic-Goldridge/Bennett Valley
Marvin Howard-CALEMA	Ron Collier-Windsor
Dean Anderson-AMR/SLS	

### Call to Order: 09:33

### Host Chief Introduction:

Chief Collins introduced Chief Williams who welcomed the group to Windsor and advised he might need to leave early to attend another appointment..

### Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Chief Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Lantz...unanimous vote.

### President's Report:

Chief Collins reported his tan is due to working out in the sun on a construction project and not due to an extended vacation. He also announced that effective August 16<sup>th</sup>, he will take over as the new Director of the Fire Technology Program at SRJC but will remain as the Sotoyome Fire Chief until the end of the year so he can fulfill his term at the request of the E-Board and remain in compliance with our By-Laws.

### SCFCA Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2010:

Checking: \$2,453.37 Widows and Orphans \$17,653.52 W and O, CD \$115,808.18

### Correspondence: None

### Presentations:

The "Urban Shield Project" presentation by Fremont Fire Chief Bruce Martin was canceled due to a last minute conflict.

Christine Alilovich of County ISD introduced Jody Frost of ISD and Budge Currier from AECOM (formally CTA Communications) who spoke of the "Strategic Radio Plan and Governance Project" Budge began by reviewing what had been shared on the project at the September 09 meeting at Gold Ridge and that the goal of the \$290k grant was to develop a Governance Model and Business plan for the radio system to both the Board of Supervisors and respective City Councils. Amongst the challenges facing future radio use is that even with narrow banding of the VHF spectrum, there will not be enough channels to meet the anticipated needs so a 700Mhz trunked system was being studied. However, given the costs and other

potential problems, they were outreaching to groups like ours (and other public safety stakeholders) through early September for feedback. Among the benchmarks the project group hopes to achieve is to have a draft Governance Plan developed by October 25<sup>th</sup> and make a formal presentation to the BOS on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Among the discussion topics that followed in the Q & A session were the following: (1) there are very limited funding sources to finance the estimated \$25 million cost of the system, (2) the topography of the County is not conducive to 700 Mhz transmissions, (3) how the Cities will respond to sharing or relinquishing control of frequencies they are currently licensed, (4) MDC's and other devices show promise at freeing up exiting frequencies, (5) it is anticipated 20 channels will be needed (if 700 Mhz is used) to meet the County needs (6) the urgency is to secure the channels in the 700Mhz spectrum or lose them and (7) paging will very likely remain as a VHF function.

In summary, the group conveyed to Budge and Christine that the 700 Mhz is not a good fit for the County and its reluctance to pursue it and other options should be pursued. Budge suggested the group examine the model that had been adopted in Santa Cruz County.

Given the challenges anticipated with this issue, system governance, narrow banding and the time commitment needed to monitor them, Chief Collins reminded the group of the straw vote taken last month to show support for making a request to the REDCOM Board to ask to increase the Staff Analyst's hours with the intention of requesting a formal vote today. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Chief Garcia and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Northern. After a brief recess to check the By-Laws, the vote was taken with all in favor.

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### Committee Reports:

- **Training Section:** Chief Williams reported they held a joint meeting with the Op's section and the main thrust of the group was to schedule classes for STL and that Petaluma will be sponsoring a leadership class.
- **Prevention Section:** No report...no meeting. Build and fire code adoption draft coming soon.
- **Operations Section:** John Lantz reported they met yesterday. They expect to have a draft Helo & Rehab policies for approval soon. Next meeting Sept 20th
- **District Chiefs:** Last months meeting was held in Forestville with Rod Dole as the speaker who shared tax roles have dropped 3% drop in un-incorporated area and audit fees would be raised substantially for special districts. Next meeting in September 23, at Windsor new station.
- **Sonoma County VFC:** meets tonight
- **REDCOM:** single item-REDCOM not consistent in reporting to Calfire of fires in SRA. Director Lutrell made a request to the group to prompt dispatchers to contact St Helena if they are sent to SRA fires.
- **CAD Group:** no report
- **Cal EMA Operational Area:** Chief Williams reported a quiet season so far with no deployments. On the CICCIS side of things the Chairs from the north met to discuss consistency with the STL requirements and deal with the issue of currency for those who do not make it out frequently. The new version of CICCIS went into effect July 1 so if a Task Book has not been started by this date, the new requirements will apply. Other changes; the Host agency will maintain docs on each individual and the committee will only validate education and experience. One reminder, it is the responsibility of the Chief to ensure the employee meets all other requirements. A letter is minimum level of document for proof. Dan reported Active Status has worked very well as a prevention tool as there have been no fires. A few bugs remain in the system, but overall it has been performing as planned. The biggest challenge is reminding users to follow protocols. Lastly, the Com Unit (5262) will be moved back to County Fire at the airport from Rohnert Park.
- **County Fire:** Chief Aston reported 2010 homeland grant was submitted and received. Next Infineon race attendance is way down so no night shift. Next assistant Chief position is facing some challenges

due to the budget but is still on track. Volunteer Companies meets tonight, and the Vision 2020 is still moving forward.

- **EMCC:** met July 26 and main topic was discussion of the new EMT regs. Issues have occurred with Personnel who obtain their Livescans from questionable firms and recommended using local law enforcement agencies. Hospital hoarding is also occurring which is stacking ambulances at hospitals. ER's being used as primary care. An exploratory meeting for the advanced EMT has been scheduled in Cloverdale on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Legislative:** Chief Collier cautioned the group that we are at the gut and amend stage of the legislative process and that there has been a tremendous focus in reaction to the City of Bell issues. He added that the DMV bill might be abandoned by FDAC due to changes in the text.
- **Grants:** Chief Zanzi reported the Homeland Security Grant went out and has many training opportunities and funding was retained (but at lower levels) for GIS mapping and a consol at St Helena was approved. Purchasing will begin soon through county, do not purchase yourself. Chief Collier reported that the OTS grant was awarded but at a lesser amount which will result in an amended equipment requests.
- **SRJC Advisory:** no meeting
- **CHP Liaison:** No report.
- **Red Cross:** Rodger Doncaster reported that they are aggressively pushing their Sheltering Initiative and will instruct a class for any interested parties.
- **Marin Chiefs Liaison:** No report.
- **Fire Safe Sonoma:** Todd Durum reported that a large grant has been received to conduct a chipper program and an RFP has been released with a contractor to be named within the next month.

#### **Old Business:**

- Update on the Fire Chief's Web Site: Mike Johnson is the lead but has not had much time available since his job change but he is still willing to help. Chuck Abshear is still assisting as well. Ron asked if intent to move REDCOM to Chief's site, it is.

#### **New Business: None**

#### **Improving Efficiency: none**

#### **Customer Service: None**

CALEMA asked for an agenda spot and reported that SR received a Type II USAR Equipment Cache trailer which is available to all agencies in the County and that a new rate letter for OES coming out. The new Admin. Rate will be 16.5 %

#### **Good of the Order:**

Chief Aston advised of a Readiness Drill planned for the weekend and you might receive a request to participate from Chief Jones at SRFD. You may also contact Mark Aston if interested.

#### **Closed Session (if necessary):**

**Adjourned at 11:56**

**Next Meeting: September 8, 2010 – Hosted by Two Rock Coast Guard**

**Presenter: Bill Myatt: Volunteer Center of Sonoma County on the 211 System.**