



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

April 14, 2021 at 8:30 AM
Conference Call In

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Matt Epstein	DCRFD
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Tim Mattos	RPPS
Bill Bullard	Graton	Ron Lunardi	Occidental
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Spencer Andreas	Sonoma Valley Fire
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa	Steve Mosiurchak	Sonoma County
Nick Silva		Todd Derum	PGE
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa	KT McNulty	REDCOM
Mike Nicholls		Ray Mulas	Schell Vista
Shauna Jones	CALFIRE	Trevor Collins	Santa Rosa
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS
Steve Suter	Santa Rosa	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale
Steve Herzberg	Bodega Bay		
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE		
Chris Godley	So.Co. Emergency Management		

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 on the Conference Call

Presidents Report: Chief Heine reported have been working with the BOS Fire Ad Hoc to support Bodega Bay Fire in the fiscal crisis that they find themselves in. FSWG has been meeting weekly now.

Changes to the Agenda: Chief Heine moved the presentations up next in line.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Chief Nicholls, 2nd: Chief Bullard, All AYE. Chief Nicholls noted that the model number for the new Copter 104 was incorrect. Notation was made and will be corrected.

Treasurer's Report: None

Correspondence: None

Presentation: 1. Alchera Inc. Michael Park, Bow Rodgers and Robert Grey-Introducing IA technology to the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services. Fire service

camera network system. Using the IA capabilities with-in wildland fires as well as extended attack. Spotting smoke as fast as they can using an algorithm and creating a data set of information. Smoke is detected with-in .0008% of accuracy. Overall, science and technology is doing better than the human eye. The partnership with Alert Wildfire is now at 776 cameras and growing on to 2,000.

2. RPPS Fireworks-Tim Mattos Spoke in regards to the City of Rohnert Park looking into a band of fireworks. The Mayor had asked for a letter from the Chiefs in support of the band. Sebastopol may also be asking for a band of fireworks. Chief Braga reported that they will be moving forward. The Chiefs Association will write letters in support for both.

3. PG&E Natural Gas Emergencies-Todd Derum spoke about AB56 which requires PG&E to interact with fire agencies. The First Responders Guide to Public Safety is available free through the first responder portal or contacting Todd and will deliver them. Todd went over the natural gas emergencies with-in the guide. In size, frequency and duration for PSPS's this year, we could be looking at a 75% increase. On April 20th at 0900hrs the California Public Utilities Commission will be doing a virtual workshop for anyone who would like to ask questions. Chief Suter asked a question in regards to CO alarms in homes. Can we call out a PGE gas rep to help us determine the source? Yes most definitely.

Old Business: Tablet Command update-Chief Andreas reported the one way communication has been tested and is working well. Many have asked to upgrade to the 2-way communication. The cost for the upgrade will be \$8,550.00 for 32 users at \$220.00 per device plus a mobile data management plan at \$3,000.00 at \$43.00 per device. For a total of \$11,794.00. We will utilize the Chiefs fund as a pass through for all agencies and bill out all agencies. Motion: Chief Akre, 2nd: Chief Epstein, All AYE.

New Business: County open invoice from 2020 upsatffing. This was brought up by Chief Plakos. She still had a number of unpaid invoices from the 2020 upsatffing that had not been paid. At the date of the meeting, all invoices had been paid. Chief Andreas asked about future funding and still no word on what funding we will receive for this fire season.

Sonoma County Strike Team Leader policy amendment-Chief Andreas reported that about 10 years ago the training officers had created a policy that outlined the progression and requirements for overhead positions and ST/TF leaders. The policy is currently being updated. One item in the policy was for any ST/TF leader to be qualified had to be acting BC or Chief Officer. Local CICC has applications pending with people trying to fill the requirements as acting BC or higher. The change will allow you to receive your assignments, then you must be a qualified BC or higher.

Back to in person meetings-Open discussion of this topic. It was discussed that in person meetings should be started up again, when safe. Possibly June as well as the FPO's looking at this as well. Compliance will be looked into. Also having a joint in-person and Zoom meeting as a permanent type of meeting. Looking into a joint Zoom account that Chiefs, FPO's and other groups could share.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Heine reported that the group is now meeting weekly. New Measure G target date will be June 2022. The group was asked by the Ad Hoc to develop the plan for this measure to move forward. To look at the ordinance, the distribution plan and how to coordinate the whole process to move forward. Beginning tomorrow the group will start to create an IAP for this. The group is looking at ways on how to support Bodega Bay in their work with the County BOS on funding scenarios.

SMART: Doug Williams reported that the Board continues to talk about the future plans. The next meeting is April 21st. In May there will be more discussion on the freight system. The training in Petaluma has been completed with close to 140 firefighters in attendance. The Board discussions that came up were crossings, it is nearly impossible to add new ones to the system. This is one of the reasons why SMART needs to have early on talks with anyone having any work done near the tracks. The AVL system for Marin County is moving forward. Doug thanks everyone for the support from everyone with his current medical challenges.

PG & E: Todd Derum reported for this year we could be looking at an increase in size, frequency and duration for PSPS's this year, we could be looking at a 75% increase. On April 20th at 0900hrs the California Public Utilities Commission will be doing a virtual workshop for anyone who would like to ask questions

Sonoma County Emergency Management: No report

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported Level 2 staffing, 1 engine per Battalion comes into effect on April 26th. The Academy starts this next week. With the addition to Cloverdale Station 49. Grant windows are starting to close. The Rural Fire Assistance Grant closes on May 4th. The Fire Prevention Grant closes on May 19th. May 1st is the start date for all CALFIRE Burn Permits. Wild Fire Awareness Week is also the first week of May. The Sherriff's evacuation tag program will also be starting that week. This will be done on Saturday's throughout May at fire stations in the County (Sonoma Valley Fire, Sonoma County Fire, Graton Fire, Timber Cove and Bodega Bay). Copter 104 is at AMU and still on track to be here early fire season. Working with Alchera and REDCOM to make sure we have a seamless alerting process to get the smokes into the system, currently the IA identifies the smoke, but does not give a location. The ERC's are above max and the 1000hr fuels are below lows. Currently at about 100 fires more than last year and about 1000 acres more as well. Transitioning out of the Oakland vaccination site as OES comes in to continue the operations.

Zone 3: Chief Akre reported that the new volunteer firefighter academy has started. Later today will be doing an elected officials training the District Board Members and the Sonoma City Council.

Chief Bellach reported looking at the early stages of hosting a B Faller class at Kenwood as well as a wildland training burn at Kunde Winery.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: No report

Zone 7: Chief Heine reported their in preparation to bid the County Ambulance RFP process. The BOS approved the draft RFP document and now on its way to the State EMS. A recruit class of 6 new Medic FF's in week two of their academy. Currently looking to pick-up another 6-9 Medic FF's. Hoping to bring the REACH Public Safety Helicopter Program contract to the Board in May. Completed a volunteer FF recruitment academy and have 12 new volunteers.

Zone 8: No report

Zone 9: No report

OES: No report

Training OP's: Chief Andreas just asked the group if anyone was opposed to amending the ST/TF leader policy. No one opposed.

FPO's: Devon Gambonini reported the FITF group was able to participate in a live training burn on March 13th in Windsor. Thank you to the Sonoma County Fire District for hosting. Looking at participating with the joint building officials in June, the focus will be on the energy storage systems and code changes that will be taking place in July. They will work on drafting a letter in support to the fireworks ban for RP and Sebastopol.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported they continue to meet on a monthly basis. Next meeting will be on April 22nd. The Districts put forward a letter of support for the Fire Impact Fee. For Sonoma County Fire District and Sonoma Valley Fire District both programs were approved by the BOS, without any public opposition. Now that this path has been paved, any District can move forward it would only need to go to the BOS as a consent item and does not have to go through the public hearing process. The Districts have formed a new subcommittee to work on the new sales tax measure. The FDAC is having a virtual conference yesterday and today.

Volunteer Fire Companies: No report

Vegetation Management: Steve Mosiurchak reported that Chief Williams has left the County and is now with the City of San Jose as the Assistant Chief. During the interim recruitment process Steve has been asked to function in his duties along with running the CUPA program. Vegetation Management programs one is Defensible Space Inspections the map and parcels in draft form should be out next week. The other program is the Wildfire Awareness Grant which is being targeted in four areas of the County. This week is batch (1) defensible space inspections, Fitch Mountain, Geyserville and Cloverdale. These areas should be done with-in 4 to 6 weeks. Batch (2) areas have not been determined as of yet. Another part of the grant will be structural hardening of homes. The criteria is being developed by staff. Feel free to email Steve if you have any questions.

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported the RFP for the EOA will be sent up to the EMS Authority for review. They are continuing to have regular meetings with the EMS Ad Hoc. Due to COVID policies need to be developed fairly quickly. Rancho Adobe Fire District has contacted CVEMS and would like to start providing ALS care. Currently there is no policy or process in place to do this. There are still iPad's to be distributed. Any agencies that have not

received one and are currently using Image Trend for PCR's may receive one. There are currently 20 left.

Chief Suter asked about certifications, EMT's skill verifications forms not being required. Currently at the State level there is no skills required due to COVID. ALS update are still not being offered and have not decided when it will be offered.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: None

Fire/EMS: Chief Akre reported they have been meeting every other week. They have been working on hospital notifications with crews that have been exposed whether it is COVID or TB or any type of communicable disease, to get the notifications in a timely matter. Reviewing the draft RFP that went out for the EOA and providing input.

County Alerting System: No report

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported they met a couple weeks ago. Currently pre planning for this fire season.

REDCOM: KT McNulty reported that they are still looking for a rep from each agency to register AED's. Currently have 453 unverified AED's in the County. Also working on rolling out the Pulse Point Verified Pro application, we should be seeing an email from KT soon. This program will be free until the end of September.

Chief Bullard wanted to recognize that this is National Dispatcher week and wanted to thank everyone at REDCOM for everything they do.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Steve Herzberg stated he wanted to thank everyone for the strong support to Bodega Bay Fire. They are currently running 1 on the engine and 2 on the ambulance. Thank you for the operational and political help.

Adjournment: @ 10:02

Next Meeting: May 12 - Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary