



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2021 at 8:30 AM
Zoom**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Cyndi Forman	Sonoma County Fire
Ron Lunardi	Occidental	Steve Suter	Santa Rosa
Brian Henricksen	AMR	KT McNulty	REDCOM
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa	Steve Mosiurchak	County of Sonoma
Linda Collister	Healdsburg	TC Collins	Santa Rosa
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista
James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS	Jason Boaz	Healdsburg
Doug Williams	SMART	Jeff Schach	Petaluma
Tim Mattos	RPPS	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa
Mike Mickelson	North Bay Fire/VFC	Chris Godley	So. Co. DES
Bonnie Plakos	North Coast Fire	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire
Shauna Jones	CALFIRE	Spencer Andreas	Sonoma Valley Fire

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

Presidents Report: Chief Heine reported being very focused on Ops and Op Area Coordinator roles with the deployment of resources. Have been engaged with the FSWG dealing with the proposed sales tax measure and funding to several agencies for consolidation needs.

Changes to the Agenda: Chief Heine moved the presentation to the beginning of the meeting. Chief Epstein is not present for his presentation. Added a new item under New Business, Spencer to talk about Tablet Command AVL.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Mulas, 2nd: Akre, All AYE.

Treasurer's Report: Chief Bellach reported:

Chief's General Fund	\$3,428.12
Survivor's Fund	\$103,396.31
Receivable from Fire Agencies	(\$850.00)
Training Officer's Fund	\$2219.92
Training Officer's – Command Grant	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$4,102.59
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$11,956.00
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$888.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$1,951.26

Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53
Safety Pals General Fund	\$24,165.62
<u>Safety Pals Trailer Fund</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	\$154,541.40

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Mark Brown - Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority presented on the background of how the MWPA started and where it is currently going. Marin County has not had the same fire history as Sonoma County. After the 2017 fires Marin County invited fire chiefs, law officers and land managers to come down to Marin to pick their brains to see what they were doing before the fires, after and during. Looked for challenges and solutions. They ended up with six and a half pages of items that Marin had to get done. While looking at the list they found there was not one single agency in charge and not one agency that had funding for this. The thought was to create a JPA and funding source. A property tax was created to fund MWPA. Mark used examples between Marin and Sonoma County. He discussed ways Sonoma County could start a similar program. A solid model for our County that focusses on the priority. The MWPA has a \$20mil budget. The overall program looks at wildfire safety management and evacuation routes, vegetation management and public education.

Old Business: Brian Henricksen stated the wall time has not gotten any better in the last month. Times have been around 1 to 1 ½ hours. The BLS Co response has been used for about the last 15 days. There has been a benefit from using this.

Devon Gambonini gave an update on the Mowing Campaign. They have had a great collaboration between various agencies throughout the County. In the process of getting graphics together for a County wide message. The FPO meeting is next Wednesday.

Devon Gambonini reported on purchasing IT equipment and a Zoom account for SCFCA/FPO's and FITF. Devon suggested we get a joint account for all of us to share. The Zoom license is around \$300.00 a year. Meetings can be up to 30 hours with 100 participants. We should be offering a virtual component to the in person meetings. Some extra equipment would need to be purchased such as external speakers, a better camera and an external mic. All this can be purchased for around \$200.00. Chief Heine agreed to this and stated we would need at least 2 accounts. Chief Heine suggested we look at the Owl camera device that automatically moves around a room to pick up on anyone speaking with a 360 view. Motion by Chief Mattos for SCFCA to work with the FPO's to purchase 2 at \$300.00 a year Zoom licenses and spend up to \$1,500.00 for needed hardware. 2nd: Chief Andreas. All AYE.

FSWG update. Chief Heine reported they are keeping the sales tax measure discussions as a standing item now. The BOS is still looking at the June of 2022 ballot. FSWG is about 80% complete on bringing the Chiefs with their elected officials in for discussions from various Zones. Tomorrow the group will be meeting with Zone 5.

New Business: Chief Heine reported on the Fire Service Funding Project. The BOS have been working with four entities that were pursuing either consolidation efforts or that were in need of financial sustainability funding from the County. The four entities are Sonoma County Fire District/Bodega Bay Fire District, Gold Ridge/North Bay Fire transferring the rest of the CSA40 agencies, North Sonoma County Fire in consolidating and annexing Sotoyome, Fitch Mountain and Kenwood for financial sustainability. Discussions started with the BOS members and Terri Wright. Term sheets were given and outlined what the County would do. Meetings with the

entities and County have started to figure out how to divide the available Fire Service Project Funding. Agreements would go back to the BOS on October 4th. Due to the County talking to each individual agency and not through FSWG or SCFCA, this has caused somewhat of a splintering effect of the involved agencies.

Chief Andreas reported on Tablet Command. Shared AVL has been turned on for all tablet users. To be able to have the AVL on. There has to be an amendment to the service agreement contract. No additional costs for this. The membership supported this change.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Heine reported (see Old Business)

SMART: Doug Williams reported the modified schedule continues with reduced fares. Starting to see a slight increase in riders. Masks are still required to ride. Saturday schedule continues with 6 trains. Recruitment is under way for the retiring general manager. Next Board meeting is September 1st. Still doing an analysis of the freight service. Still looking at SMART's roll in disasters. Still trying to get SMART tracked on the Marin County side.

PG & E: None

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Jones reported they have been very active throughout the State. Number of ST's out. Crews, Engines and Dozers. Currently have no Crews. If you have an incident and think you may need Crews, you should order additional Engines. All aircraft on base.

Zone 3: Chief Bellach reported Kenwood had 2 Board members resign and are currently looking for new applicants.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: Chief Lunardi reported they are currently putting together a dozer and transport for Occidental that will be available for County responses.

Zone 6: Chief Boaz reported they have been doing a lot Vegetation Management and they received a \$1mil. in grants. Opening up fire roads on Finch Mountain.

Zone 7: Chief Heine reported Aug. 1st Robert Johnson promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration Services and Ryan Estes to A Shift BC. Recruitment going out today for the EMS Div. Chief position. Have 4 FF Medic candidates in backgrounds. Had a good meeting with County Admin and Coastal Valley staff on 201 issues last week. Llano Rd. Fire yesterday we had a good outcome as well as lessons learned. New Type 6 should be delivered within the next 2 weeks. Station 6 Mountain remodel has been finished and now can house staff for Redflag warnings.

Zone 8: No report

Zone 9: Chief Bradley reported that CSA 40 agencies went back to South Dakota to look at the 2 new Type 3's that are in final completion stage for Lakeville and Two Rock in October.

OES: No report

Training OP's: No report

FPO's: Devon Gambonini reported that we still have the Fire Investigation TF, if anyone is in the need of investigations, please contact REDCOM to have the TF paged out. Fire Safe Sonoma will be having 5 workshops in regards to landscaping in the WUI areas. More info. to follow. The 4th of July fireworks for the County saw an increase in activity. There were no significant incidents. The outside dining and tents document that was created at the beginning of COVID will be revised in the fall to make any needed changes or to see if it will need to be continued. Planning on having a joint meeting with the NorCal FPO group in September. Chief Heine stated that he received an email from someone in Rohnert Park asking the association to take an official position on the Rohnert Park Measure D to ban fireworks. This is on the ballot for September 14th. Devon stated that the FPO's would be happy to support this. Chief Mattos stated that he did come to the association early on to get support on the ordinance. What has changed is this is now a ballot measure. There are laws that prevent public officials weighing in on a measure. Chief Mattos explained his situation and stated that if anyone has questions in regards why he is not weighing in on this topic he would be happy to discuss it. Chief Heine stated he agrees with Chief Mattos and feels that the association would not be doing our fiduciary responsibility to not come out against fireworks. He would need to look at our bylaws before we ever took any official stance. This request was made by Gina Belford. The request was to update a letter that was previously sent.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported it has been really nice to work together with the Zones and sharing what the needs are for the new sales tax. Continuing to meet monthly. Looking at maybe an in-person meeting for October. Aug.26th will be a Zoom meeting.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Bradley reported they are still working with FSWG on moving forward with the consolidation of North Bay Fire and Gold Ridge.

Vegetation Management: No report

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported that the multi-unit stacking and creating the wall times has not been as bad as it has been compared to the last few weeks. Wall times are being tracked weekly and reports are being sent out to each individual facility CEO. Behavioral Health plays a major part of the problem. People need to understand we need to have a place for behavioral health patients. If they are not housed properly where they can be cared for and helped, they end up on the streets creating homelessness issues and 911 calls that zap the resources from the system. James is interested in facilitating a get together to have discussions on this topic. Chief Heine stated that we could just bring this into the EMS Sub Committee for starters. Chief Suter brought up that he thought we already had a sub-committee that was discussing this issue. He asked James for clarification. James stated that the first issue was mainly about how we can increase capacity at the crisis stabilization unit. The ongoing work is how to get their staff trained and capable of doing COVID tests for intakes so Pt's don't have to go to the ED.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: None

Fire/EMS: Chief Suter reported on the masking mandate at all times indoors and on fire apparatus for vaccinated and unvaccinated employees. Starting September first all unvaccinated employees will have to be masked in the work place and provide a negative

COVID test every 7 days. There are 2 types of tests. The PCR test which is a more definitive test and the Bynex test. This is a 15min test which can have higher false positive rates. Chief Heine shared the media is broadcasting this as a vaccine mandate for teachers. This is not true. There is a lot of talk going on at Cal Chief's, IAFF, CPF and OSHA all about vaccine mandates, what does a vaccine mandate look like? At this point EMTs, Medics are not classified as health care providers under the order but we expect this to change. Brian Henricksen stated that there are over 350,000 teachers in the state. His concern is we might be looking at a PPE constraints as we did before, when and if the mandate for vaccinations comes. James Salvante stated Santa Rosa Fire was enrolled with the State Testing Task Force. This allows you to latch on to the lab testing waiver that the State has, so agencies that want to test in house do not have to go out and find a physician to be that authority. This process takes about 4 weeks to complete. Any agency can do this. The County currently has about 40,000 test kits that take 15-30 minutes to get results.

DEM: Chris Godley reported the Emergency Managers version of mutual aid (EMMA) on the Dixie incident and having PIO's available and giving indirect support to the County Administrators regarding recovering efforts. This morning there will be a nationwide emergency alert test. (TV, Radio and phones). The evacuation annex is being taken to the BOS on Tuesday. This is mostly concept, policy and who has authority to coordinate and direct evacuations. Received grant money of \$1.3Mil for community preparedness. The emergency operations center will be shifting to virtual operations due to the Delta variant and will also add protections for staff. Web EOC will be pushing out to all the cities so everyone can see operational summaries as well as track resource ordering requests. Shelter trailers are ready for this season. Drought for next year is a big focus for public safety if we do not get a lot of rain this next season. County wide there is not a lot of water conservation happening. Due to this they are starting to see wells running dry in North County as well as if we lose the water coming out of Lake Mendocino. This will dry up the river bed. This could possibly happen in November or December.

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported we have been very busy with multiple calls every day, OES and Region 2. ST/TF status we have teams that will timing out, demobing and being replaced or doing crew rotations. Per OES there is no plan to demob crews but do crew rotations. If you have crews out and have any questions or needs, please contact Chief Heine and he would be happy to assist. Check Active Status daily and please update.

REDCOM: No report, Chief Heine thanked REDCOM for doing a great job on resource orders for the Llano Rd. Fire

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Chief Andreas spoke in regards to radio traffic on incidents. We really need to have Chief Officers try to be disciplined on the radio and the excessive traffic be a lot less. This puts a huge stress on the IC. Multiple resource requests being made without the IC knowledge. Also we have had a lot of prevention staff coming up on the Control Channel that is not necessary.

Adjournment: 10:40 @ hrs.

Next Meeting: September 8th, 2021 CHP Rohnert Park 0830hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary