

Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid (virtual and zoom) meeting on April 28, 2022, at 1900 hours

1. Call to Order

President Akre called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and thanked Gold Ridge for the ability to put this together very quickly for us. This is our first in person meeting since January 2020.

We are trying something new tonight. Under Frank Treanor, we pivoted very quickly to the Zoom meeting format and tonight we are trying a hybrid version with Zoom in addition to the in person aspect for the business portion of tonight's meeting.

The following members were in attendance.

Name	District		Name	District
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley		Sheply Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge
Jim Comisky	FDAC		Gabe Stirnus	Sonoma Valley
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay		Chris Tachouet	Gold Ridge
Bob Taylor	Cloverdale		Bob Briare	SCFD
Matt Atkinson	Sonoma Valley		Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe
Daren Bellach	Kenwood		Jackie Gardener	North Sonoma Coast
Paul Barry	Cazadero		Domenic Carinalli	Gold Ridge
Charlie Lachman	Gold Ridge		Joe Petersen	Gold Ridge
Bill Norton	Sonoma Valley		Michael Gadoua	Gold Rdige
Bob Uboldi	Kenwood		Bob Gloekner	Gold Ridge
Bill Adams	Counsel		Darrin DeCarli	Gold Ridge
Steve Genesi	Fort Ross		Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley
Brain Proteau	Rancho Adobe		Steve Klick	SCFD
Terry Leen	Sonoma Valley		Gary So	SCFD
Frank Treanor	SCFD		Ray Peterson	Rancho Adobe

2. Amend/Approve the Agenda

President Akre called for a motion to approve or amend the agenda. Sec/Tres Grinnell said he did not have the minutes completed in time for tonight's meeting. Item 6.a. will be removed from the agenda; Chief Schroth-Cary asked that a letter in support for the proposed reorganization of Gold Ridge and CSA 40

President Akre called for an approval of the amended Agenda-Motion by Director Gloekner, 2nd by Director Norton. Approved by all and opposed by none.

President Akre then asked to move ahead to the presentation and introduced FDAC President Jim Comisky. Go to program below...

3. Treasurer Report

Sec/Tres Grinnell reported a balance of \$7,257.68 in the account and one bill to be paid very soon in the amount of \$191.19.

4. Committee Reports

President Akre thanked Directors Carol Pigoni and Bob Taylor, as well as EO Mark Bramfitt for their providing their reports prior to tonight's meeting. It really helps streamline the meeting and it also helps keep our members informed.

a. FDAC / FDAC EBA / FAIRA / FASIS

See attached report. No questions or comments.

b. LAFCO

See attached report. No questions or comments.

c. Political Action

No Action

d. FSWG

See attached report. No questions or comments.

e. Measure G 2.0

See attached FSWG report.

f. Ad Hoc Funding & Attendance

No report, no action at this time.

5. Program: FDAC President Jim Comisky

President Comisky thanked everyone for allowing him to speak tonight. FDAC is here to represent Fire Districts, our interests are not significantly different than Cal Chiefs, however, our funding mechanisms are different. We have been in lock step with Cal Chiefs and the 1797.201 rights issue. We have been under significant threat to our ability to provide transport services. We are partnered with Cal Chiefs, Metro Chiefs, CPF, League of California City Chiefs- we are meeting, one team one fight. We have gotten together and also hounded our legislators to get more hardware on the road! We can't wait until that order comes through hours later. State EMSA has a new Director (Dr Duncan is out), we are looking forward to a much-improved partnership with Director Elizabeth "Liz" Basnett. Cal Chiefs President and I talk to her about every other month discussing issues. What it appears to be is that each local EMSA is attempting to place us (fire service) in a position of their creation and not ours. We brought in IMT's to help EMSA throughout the state to help with vaccinations and hospital coverage. The Governor's office is listening to us. We are making sure that the legislature knows that local government personnel account for 50 to 80% of the firefighting force, its not just Cal Fire personnel. This is not a slam on Cal Fire, they are our partners, however, we need access to the state funding stream. Recent fuels reduction crews in North County-are state funded. Why not get them to pay for more crews? They reduce the fuels in toe off season and then fight fires in the summer-we need these crews since the loss of the inmate crews. We are working on a white paper to show what local government does to support the mission. We support that, we advocate for that. We just had our first in person conference in Napa-what a great opportunity for networking. The educational sessions were excellent as well. We will be back in Napa next years. The last time I spoke to this group I mentioned the Certificate of Achievement Program-Many of you have sent members when it

was hosted by Sonoma Valley. Its an opportunity for new chiefs and new directors to learn. A two-day session that is cost effective and can move around the state. We talk about current events and other long time funding impacts and how we got here. ERAF is one that we are going back after to see if we can regain our funding loss. There is a lot of work at the capitol to get us the help we need and deserve. The legislative task force is hard at work-we caught the missing link to special districts that would have left us without the ability to collect a lot of money for Covid reimbursable costs.

If you have needs, if you have questions, if you need to know how to do something, that is what we are here for, we can point you in the right direction. If you are interested in the COA program, please reach out to Chief Akre and he can get you my contact information. Director Hemmendinger suggested a ½ day refresher course for regional areas. President Akre asked about past leadership conferences (Lost sound for a few) President Comisky said the Leadership Conference will be back in Sacramento. The conference is designed for “up and comers” as I look around the room, most here have been around a few years. We hope that Captains and BC’s come to the symposium. This year we are going to change our by-laws, we only allowed chief officers and directors to represent FDAC, we will now allow for deputy positions, they will not have voting rights, but they will be prepared to take over without missing a beat and not having the all to common learning curve. We hope to have agency reps as well, those individuals that are voted on to represent the agency.

President Akre thanked President Comisky for his presentation and a warm round of applause was given. President Akre also mentioned that Sonoma County was well represented at the conference and as presenters such as Bill Adams and Chief Mark Heine who spoke on consolidation. Chief Heine was also on a panel discussing recruitment and retention. Our own DEM had a presentation of what has been done since the Tubbs Fire that was well received; and thank you to the FDAC Education Committee.

6. Old Business

a. Approve Past Minutes – March 24, 2022

No action-no minutes to approve.

b. EMS EOA RFP Update – Chief Heine

President Akre reported for Chief Heine. There was a Board meeting concerning a contract extension with AMR for EOA 1 for 18 months. It included a mandate for tiered response for ambulance transport. What this meant is that BLS ambulances would be allowed to respond in EOA 1, for certain calls for service. This not a great level of service. We pride ourselves on the fact that everyone in this county gets an ALS evaluation. So they were going to drastically reduce the level of service to our citizens and constituents with a contract extension with a multi-million dollar corporation, and they were going to this without any stakeholder or provider input. So a number of us in leadership positions from fire, the Chiefs EMS ad hoc, reps from labor, Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, and others were involved and got all involved who were impacted by the proposal from the county. We felt that was not acceptable and it was done without engagement, and we asked for engagement. We were able to get the item removed from the agenda. We met with Tina Rivera and here team. It was not the route we wanted to take but were forced to do it this way. We also took a big step with the EMCC. We were able to get EMCC to write a letter that said tiered response in EOA 1 was not acceptable. EMCC also create an ad hoc to evaluate and investigate what might happen in a tiered response system. Tiered response does work in this county-citing the Petaluma example-the medic still conducts an evaluation first, with the possibility of BLS transport if needed. We have been in lock step with Cal Chiefs, SB389 requires agencies/entities with new contracting options in California. Sonoma County has not yet met the requirements of the new law. Chief Akre offered Bill Adams the mic-no one had any questions.

c. Sonoma County Vegetation Management/PG&E Settlement Funds update – VP Peterson/Chief Tuberville

No report.

7. New Business

a. Quarterly In Person Meeting Schedule

President Akre said we are now able to provide quarterly “in-person” meetings again and that means districts can host future events. We do have a request from Northern Sonoma County Fire to host the January meeting, but we are looking for host districts in July and October. We will continue to hold monthly zoom meetings in between. Director Hemmendinger from Rancho Adobe offered to host the July meeting. No answers needed since we are putting you on the spot, please reach out to Sean or I in the near future if you would like to host the October meeting.

b. Letter of Support for Gold Ridge and CSA 40 reorganization.

Chief Schroth-Cary asked the members in attendance if they would consider validating what we have been doing for the last three years. Our plan going forward is facing a lot of scrutiny so we will need your support and that of others too. President Akre added this is consistent with the agreement that Gold Ridge signed with the County. Director Hemmendinger asked what were the concerns raised? Chief Schroth-Cary answered the concerns were with the relationship of Ft Ross to Gold Ridge (geography and distance), the second issue is with ambulance service and ambulance standby cost and some thought there should be some form of compensation to the providers. That concern is in line with the sphere of influence considerations, the six criteria, and that was one of them. There has been some discussion at FSWG and the legality of it or if either of the agencies would even consider giving Gold Ridge a bill for service. Director Hemmendinger said there are issues that need to be worked out and LAFCO is the appropriate place to do that. Director Gloekner moved to approve the letter of support, 2nd by Sonoma Valley, no discussion followed, President Akre called for the vote. All but one approved the motion, Director Hemmendinger abstained. Motion approved. President Akre will work with Chief Schroth-Cary on the wording and finer details of the letter.

8. Good of the Order

Former President Frank Treanor was presented with an award for his years of dedication and leadership through the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Thank you, Frank!!!!

Director Treanor thanked President Akre and Sec/Tres Grinnell, and said as mentioned earlier, by working together we were able to accomplish a lot. I could not do it without your help.

Chief Bellach thanked the group for their efforts to stop the tiered response.

9. Next Meeting May 26, via Zoom

10. Close

Meeting adjourned at 8:08