



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
Aug 14th 2019 at 9:30 AM
Hosted By USCG Two Rock

ATTENDANCE

Arron Abbott	REDCOM	Steve Akre	SVFRA
James Salvante	Costal Valleys EMS	Matt Epstein	Dry Creek
Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP	Mike Mickelson	Wilmar
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Mike Nicholls	Cazadero
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Devon Gambonini	Petaluma
Mike Parks	CALFIRE	Shepley Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge
Mark Heine	SCFD	Kemplen Robbins	Santa Rosa
Dave Franceschi	Forestville	Chuck Funkhouser	Coast Guard Two Rock
Mike Mickelson	Wilmar	Sam Lazarich	CALFIRE
Bill Bullard	Graton	Jason Boaz	Healdsburg
Doug Williams	SMART	James Williams	Sonoma County
Dan George	Gold Ridge	Tim Mattos	Rohnert Park
Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa	Mike Bates	Rohnert Park

Call to Order: Chief Boaz began the meeting at 0938 and asked Chief Funkhouser to lead the pledge.

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Funkhouser welcomed the group and introduced the new Base Commander Captain Ramassini who reflected on his 26 years of CG service with the running of the Training Center as the pinnacle of his career. He also thanked the group for the partnership the base shares with the fire service and Chief Funkhouser. A round of applause followed. Chief Funkhouser ended by shared lunch logistics.

Presidents Report: Chief Boaz asked those present who had obtained a Red Flag to sign the sheet he circulated and added he will also be ordering 10 more. He also shared he has a few iPADS left over from a Homeland Security grant from CVEMS that are up for grabs.

Changes to the Agenda: The Fire EMS was moved to the top of the Standing Committee Reports and the Youth Fire Setter presentation pushed toward the end of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the July minutes by Chief Heine, second by Chief Parks. Unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by Hans was as follows:

Chiefs General Fund:	\$2,717.61
Survivors Fund:	\$105,896.31
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$11,460.25
TO's Command Grant	\$25,000.00
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$8,956.90
Career Succession:	\$1,375.64
FPO General Fund:	\$2,405.35
FITF	\$1,613.49
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$36,850.47
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$199,276.02

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Fire/EMS Committee:** Doug Williams shared the ordinance process has now focused on a few issues (such as the composition of the RFP review selection committee). James Salvante added they expect the first draft to be shared at the next meeting. Doug ended by reflecting things are moving along positively.
- **SMART:** Doug Williams also reported that testing is occurring on the Larkspur extension and the downtown Novato station should open soon. He left a standing invitation for anyone who would like to tour the Rail Operations Center (ROC). At Chief Boaz's suggestion, he will look into SMART hosting a meeting
- **Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Heine shared they are focusing on the Sales Tax measure and the polling they conducted was favorable so the intent is to put it on the March 2020 ballot. Concerns about multiple tax measures on that ballot were dispelled by the consultant who feels it will not be a threat. On a ranking of issues, the desire for fire sirens was very high so expect them to be tied into any ballot language. One important issue the consultants raised is if there is any organized opposition, it will have a very adverse impact so unity is critical. The implementation of the Silver plan continues to be fine-tuned. They will be reaching out by region (as was just done for Zone 6) and very much want your feedback. The group also has several funding requests they are holding until a revenue source is found. They are also battling rumors (one is that the plan involves moving Cal Fire out of the county, which is false) and asked the groups assistance with dispelling. They also continue to pursue reimbursement and LEXIPOL funding as well as facilitating the LAFCO process. He encouraged feedback on any of the issues they are dealing with. He ended by sharing that they have a good working relationship with the CAO. Chief Gossner spoke to how fluidness the process is and the importance of on-going communication and the need to reach out if there are any concerns. Chief Akre echoed these sentiments and the importance of "By-In" by all our organizations and elected Boards (see attachments for the Aug FSWG Report).
- **Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Boaz asked for and received the following reports from the Zones:
 - CALFIRE:** Chief Nichols shared fire activity is picking up (3200 fires for 24k acreage Statewide) which is far less than last year. The Moose fire created some panic due to the drift smoke. They also received the Governor's approval to increase staffing for a fourth firefighter per engine
 - Zone 2:** No report.
 - Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported they held a joint wildland readiness drill and will be recruiting Apprentice and FF positions (with Chief Andreis handling). They are also in negotiations with the State to handle the transition of the Eldridge Developmental center. They continue to work with LAFCO and with PG&E on planned outages as well as conducting evacuation planning for the Cavedale area.
 - Zone 4:** No report.
 - Zone 5:** Chief Franceschi shared they are consulting with Sonoma County Fire on service delivery. Chief Nicholls reported Cazadero's sphere of influence will be expanded to include Fort Ross.
 - Zone 6:** Chief Boaz shared the Wine County to the Rescue fundraiser was very successful, HBG is hiring 7 Reserves, they have developed ladder truck specs and are moving forward with their north substation.
 - Zone 7:** Chief Gossner shared they are hiring 9 FF/Medics and reflected on how the hiring pool has shrunk over the years. They are also working on evacuation maps with the County with the goal of having a GIS overlay available to the public to demonstrate all routes of egress. He added that he regular shares topics covered at this meeting with his City Manager with the goal of the material being shared at the monthly City Manager's meeting. Chief Heine reported they have a 5th wheel trailer to provide housing staff at their Mountain station. They are also in negotiations with a developer on a five story airport hotel. Tonight they go to the RR Board for a shared services agreement. They are also pursuing a USDA loan for the Guerneville and Bellevue stations. The goal is to bring RR up to 3-0 staffing. Chief Parkes spoke to some regulatory changes at OES that included standardize terminology for evacuation plans. He also spoke to the importance of working with other stakeholders when dealing with re-population plans. To that end, Chief Heine shared the Town of Windsor has hired an analyst to deal with emergency preparedness. He added they have taken delivery of a Type III from Novato and experiencing some Deja-vu.
 - Zone 8:** Chief George reported they are going out for a parcel tax and Gold Ridge is hiring. He also announced the appointment of Shepley Schroth-Cary as their new Chief.
 - Zone 9:** Chief Schach reported the RA Liberty station is now staffed 24/7. Petaluma has hired 5 and are looking into a shared Battalion arrangement. Jeff Holden has been hired back to conduct training and they are working on de-energization plans. Chief Mickelson shared they are working with Gold Ridge and are transferring assets.
 - OES:** No report although a short conversation on aircraft ordering procedures followed which concluded nothing has changed.

Presentation: After a short break, Inspector Robbins from Santa Rosa (FPO President) and Inspector Gambonini provided an update on the Youth Fire Setters program. It originated in 2016 but was sidetracked due to the 2017 fires. It is a north bay effort and serves Sonoma, Marin, Lake and Napa counties and includes law and mental health agencies to be as comprehensive as possible. The goal is to provide education, intervention and follow-up for any fire setter activities. A training for agency coordinators members is scheduled for Sept. 21 & 22 at the Petaluma Community Center. It works by using agency coordinators to schedule an intervention using intake forms, which grade the severity of the fire-setting activity and specify additional interventions as needed.

- **Training/OP's:** No report but Chief Akre shared they have asked all agencies send a rep to the next meeting September 10 where a presentation on Tablet Command and Battalion sharing will occur.
- **FPO's:** Inspector Robbins reported they meet next week at Santa Rosa followed by the Nor-Cal FPO meeting in September in Pealuma. A short sidebar discussion on Hawaiian shirts followed. Chief Williams shared the Fire Code adoption process continues with the first draft of the local amendments due out soon.
- **Fire Districts:** Chief Akre shared the July meeting in Geyserville included a presentation from Liebert, Cassidy and Whitmore on the formation of a legal consortium for the Districts. He also shared the leadership academy they hosted was well attended and that the FDAC will be hosting a second leadership academy in Sacramento in October.
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Covered earlier
- **Vegetation Management:** Chief Williams reported 1900 inspections have been completed and invoices are being processed (in case you are waiting). The chipper program is very popular with 200 on the wait list and they are working to expand it but are competing with a low unemployment rate. There is a meeting scheduled in September on treatment of the County Right of Ways (ROW). In response to Chief Franchesci's question about PG&E leaving piles of cut debris, Chief Williams shared these are being referred to Jim Wickham. Chief Nicholls suggested sharing with him as well.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **County Alerting System:** No report.
- **Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief George shared they are working on scheduling a meeting with OES about the use of the D-RISC funds

REDCOM: Director Abbott reported they have an RFP out for consulting work for the Marin proposal. They are beginning the design phase for their expansion and have re-designed their webpage and are migrating all their SOP's, etc. to it.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order:

- Chief Parkes inquired if anyone was going for a Type VI through OES. A few responded on the affirmative.
- Chief George shared the SLG is looking for recruitment and retention data
- Chief Schach asked who conducts psychological backgrounds
- Chief Akre shared the DeRosa preserve on the County Line is offering free admission to First Responders
- Chief Williams said there will be a "Sonoma Ready" emergency preparedness day on Sept 8 at the fairgrounds. In response to James Salvante's inquiry on who reviews special event permits he said the process has not changed.
- Chief Mickelson shared some nostalgia he found in a binder from the 80s on a number of county departments he will share with the group
- Chief Boaz indicated he will be scheduling an E-Board meeting to address a number of issues.
- Director Collins encouraged agencies to enroll staff in the Volunteer academy beginning on Sept. 18 and distributed a flyer.

Adjournment: At 11:56

Respectfully Submitted: Aug 15, 2019

Randy Collins, SCFCA Secretary