



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
January 12, 2022 at 8:30 AM  
Zoom**

**ATTENDANCE**

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Tony Gossner	Rancho Adobe	Charles Funkhouser	Coast Guard
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa
Ron Lunardi	Occidental	Tim Mattos	RPPS
KT McNulty	REDCOM	James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Steve Mosiurchak	County of Sonoma
Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale	Matt Epstein	Dry Creek
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Mark Courson	OES
Spencer Andreis	Sonoma Valley Fire	Jeff Schach	Petaluma
Doug Williams	SMART	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Shana Jones	CALFIRE
Chris Godley	So. Co. DES	Chuck Breier	North Coast Fire
Bonnie Plakos	North Coast Fire	Jeff Justice	RPPS
Steve Herzberg	Bodega Bay	Marshall Tuberville	North Sonoma County

**Call to Order:** Chief Heine began the meeting at 0830 and led the pledge.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chief Heine

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Heine

**Presidents Report:** Chief Heine reported the EMS sub-committee has been deeply engaged working with Dr. Mace on the COVID related issues as well as the wall time issues at the hospitals. There has been an increase on the time the transporting ambulances take to offload a patient and transfer the care. The FSWG has been engaged with the County on the sales tax measure as well as funding agreements for the four entities working with the County.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Chief Herzberg wanted to add the Public Records Request from AMR. This will be added as a second new business item.  
Doug Williams wanted to add the Annual Survival Reunion. This will be added to new business.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Chief Bellach reported:

Chief's General Fund	\$3,287.17
Survivor's Fund	\$98,396.31
Training Officer's Fund	\$2,052.92
Training Officer's Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$3,418.85

FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$11,956.90
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	\$149,399.71

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:** None

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** OES Mutual Aid for Hospitals: Chief Heine reported he attended an OES conference call. This was to discuss the possibility that hospitals across the State would be reaching out through the Mutual Aid System to request EMT's, Medic's and other support personnel to help with staffing depletions in the hospitals. At the time of the conference call there had been no orders placed.

Chief Coursen stated he did not have any new updates. The National Guard is in place and taking some of the relief off of the fire agencies due to the COVID staff reduction.

James Salvante stated that the hospitals are having staffing difficulties. Hospitals are currently requesting personnel, but just not yet at the State OES level.

Public Records Request: Chief Herzberg reported that a few weeks ago Bodega Bay Fire, Sonoma County Fire and Santa Rosa Fire were served with a PRA from AMR. From the Bodega Bay perspective, this will be financially crushing for them. The cost could be up to \$200,000.00 to comply with this. Until the consolidation with Sonoma County Fire District is final, Bodega Bay Fire will have to go back to the County asking for additional funding.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Heine reported they are continuing to meet. They meet every Thursday. They have been deeply engaged working with the County on a proposed sales tax measure. The Board of Supervisors January 25<sup>th</sup> agenda will include a comprehensive update from County Staff as well as the FSWG and County polling consultants for this tax measure. It is believed that we are highly unlikely to see a sales tax measure in 2022. Maybe the earliest will be in 2023. Some of the reasons are the polling is positive, but not super strong. There is legislation being introduced that would mandate sunset terms on any new tax measure. If this was to pass in 2022 it will have a retroactive effect. The Working Group has been working on supporting the different funding agreements. North Sonoma County for their annexation of Fitch Mountain and Sotoyome, Sonoma County Fire District for consolidation with Bodega Bay, Kenwood for sustainable financial needs and Gold Ridge/North Bay Fire for the annexation of the CSA 40 Agencies as well as the IRP areas 51, 56, 61 and 71. We have been working for months for the BOS to put these agreements on the agenda. These agreements are now scheduled to go the BOS January 25<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**SMART:** Doug Williams reported there is still some discussion going on regarding the freight service and what that might look like in the future. Still meeting with the committee on how SMART can be used in an emergency. The group will be meeting next

Wednesday. There will be a drill in Sonoma County around the middle of this year. A request from Marin County for some DMU orientation was made. This will happen in Larkspur.

**PG & E:** None

### **Regional Zone Reports:**

**CALFIRE:** Chief Nicholls reported they are down to their base staffing for the next couple of months. State engines are working between Geysler Peak and Annadel on the critical fuel projects for the winter. The Cal Fire grants are open, specifically the fire prevention grants. Please let Chief Nicholls know if you are interested. The crab feed had to be canceled for the second year in a row due to the County having restrictions in place for large in door gatherings. Chief Jones reported that they are still waiting for a new director and should be announced very shortly. Chief Jones will be retiring at the end of the month and wanted to say thank you to everyone for the last 6 years of friendship and collaboration. Chief Jones replacement is currently in works and should be announced sometime in early February. Chief Heine thanked Chief Jones for her exceptional leadership and it has been a great honor to work with her.

**Zone 3:** Chief Bellach reported for Kenwood, our crab feed scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> has also been canceled. There is talk about pushing the date back to sometime in March. The Kenwood Board signed and approved the County Revenue Sharing Agreement.

**Zone 4:** Chief Plakos reported their Assistant Chief retired after 23 years of service in December. The new Assistant Chief is Chuck Breier.

**Zone 5:** No report

**Zone 6:** Chief Jenkins reported that he wanted to thank everyone for all the hard work they have put in for the annexation. Continuing to work with the CWPP in North County. A draft has been put out and should be fine tuned in the next few weeks. Working on a variety of fuel management projects throughout North County. Chief Epstein reported one of his Captains had a medical emergency on their child in Santa Rosa last week. Despite all the fantastic work by REDCOM, Santa Rosa Fire, SRMH, REACH and UCSF they were unable to save the child. Chief Epstein wanted to thank everyone for their efforts. Due to COVID some of the plans have been put on hold. When things get finalized he will make sure that information is given out.

**Zone 7:** Chief Westrope reported yesterday the City of Santa Rosa launched Inresponse program. This is the alternative response delivery model there will be FF Medic assigned to the unit as well as a licensed mental health technician. This will be a growing program and will be addressing mental health calls as well as homeless issues. Paul Lowenthal was promoted to Fire Marshal. The Santa Rosa City Counsel dedicated about \$3mil. in funds so the city can be more wildland centric. The next type 3 engine should be delivered this month as well as 2 type 6 engines being specked right now. Chief Heine reported that this is week 2 of having their EMS Division Chief Matt Windrem, Matt comes from the City of San Rafael with 20 years of experience. Currently testing for shift BC for anticipated openings in 2022-23. In the final stages of preparing their bid to submit on the exclusive operating area 1 RFP. This year will be the year to replace Station 4 on Todd Rd. and Station 9 in Guerneville. Looking to purchase 2 type 1

engines and a second type 6 engine. The Sonoma County Fire District servers had been hacked in the past week. Some bad emails had gotten out to the group. If anyone has any IT issues due to these emails going out, please reach out and the District will have their IT personnel provide support.

**Zone 8:** No report

**Zone 9:** Chief Gossner reported that he is now in his second week at Rancho Adobe as the interim Fire Chief until at least June. The mission right now is to hire a fulltime Fire Chief as well as create an ALS project.

Chief Mattos reported that are currently doing a rotation, the new Fire BC's will be Kelly Kofler and Jeff Justice. They will be rotating between police and fire.

Chief Schach reported he is the interim Fire Chief for Petaluma. Future fulltime position is still to be determined. Chief Costa is currently the acting Fire Chief. (Ret.)Captain John Lord passed away passed away before Christmas. March 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM will be a celebration of life for him at the Petaluma Elks.

**OES:** Chief Courson reported that the MARS program reimbursement is moving forward with a new contractor. Looking forward to having this roll out sometime this year. He will be reaching out to update contacts for the fire agencies.

**Training OP's:** Chief Andreis reported they met yesterday. They started their preliminary 2022 goals. They are working on the list and hope to finalize it by the next meeting in March. Chief Busch brought forth a traffic safety advisory and sent out the meeting in January for further discussion. Talked about the next part in Tablet Command for finalization. Looking to do a joint MDM Apple Business Manager and have everyone come under one domain. This will transition Tablet Command to become our primary MDC.

**FPO's:** Devon Gambonini reported they are planning on meeting today. We do have a new FITIF coordinator, Jason Paloni is now the coordinator for FITF. We appreciate all the hard work and the number of years that Ruben has put in to the Task Force for at least the last 10 years. A fire investigation training will be coming up in Rohnert Park in April for Fire Investigator 1A. We have a Harry Quinlan award recipient that we were going to announce today, this will be held for a future meeting. Chief Heine stated that we will get the FPO's outfitted with the Owl device for future meetings via Zoom.

**Fire Districts:** No report

**Volunteer Fire Companies:** No report

**Vegetation Management:** Chief Mosiurchak reported they will be reaching out to the Fire Districts Association, the CWPP is currently in its final draft. The draft is available on the Fire Safe Sonoma website for review. Steve will send out a link to all.

**Coastal Valley EMS:** James Salvante reported thank he wanted to thank everyone who responded to his sports injury and he had to activate 911 for the first time ever for himself. They have had special memos go out related for additional exemptions to process to get new paramedics on the ambulances faster, reducing for some of the redundancy.

## **Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: Chief Heine reported**

**Fire/EMS:** Chief Schach reported that the ALS first response that they have been working on with Rancho Adobe was delayed due to Rancho Adobe not having a Fire Chief. Now that Chief Gossner is the interim Chief they have been having discussions and will be reaching out to the EMS Sub-Committee to start up those conversations again. Chief Akre put out some good messaging with the current COVID status, changes and isolations. The EMS Sub-Committee met yesterday with the County in regards to the ambulance off-load delays. Chief Schach felt that there are some things we can do on our end, but felt the main issues are in the ER. He felt that Coastal Valley EMS could work more closely with the hospitals rather than the ambulance providers. Chief Hertzberg added, the Sub-Committees position is that each agency can choose for itself on how to interpret some of these isolation protocols, it is confusing and there are inconsistencies between the Federal, State and local. We have been effective in that people need to pass an antigen test. Bodega Bay is considering running a Fire/EMS vaccine clinic to get people boosters. As soon as there is vaccine available to do this Chief Herzberg will get back to the group. James Salvante stated there are some solutions being looked at. The hospitals are working with DHS leadership to define what the problems are. Looking at public health through the vaccine team to educate the skilled nursing facilities on ways they can open their doors so the hospital Pt's can get out.

**DEM:** No report

**Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief Heine reported back in November the Ops Coordinators attend a conference call for Region 2 and spoke about deployments with-in the Region for last fire season and any updates from the command staff at OES as well as talking about M.A deployments for the hospitals.

**REDCOM:** KT reported that everyone should have received an email regarding a new method to manage deployment plans. Each agencies deployments have been moved to the worksheets so each agency has access and can make changes to the plan as needed. This should create more transparency with the plans. REDCOM would like to audit the plans with each agency twice per year at the beginning of fire season and the end of fire season. Next month they will be going live with Genesis Pulse, this is the software that integrates Ways data with the AVL data it also has a system for reporting traffic straight from the app in which collisions may get reported up to 6 minutes ahead of the actual 911. Also working on importing the Pulse Point AED data feed into the same application. Plan to move SLS posting from the REDCOM channel. REDCOM has submitted 3 Homeland Security Grant proposals. To make Control 3 County wide and to make Control 2 and 4 infrastructure up to date and the 911 center expansion/Comm Van.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:** None

**Adjournment:** @ 0932hrs

**Next Meeting:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, Zoom @ 0830hrs

Respectfully Submitted,  
Daren Bellach  
SCFCA Secretary