



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
June 9 at 8:30 AM
Sonoma Valley Fire District/Zoom**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Matt Epstein	DCRFD
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Mark Courson	OES
Bill Bullard	Graton	Ron Lunardi	Occidental
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa	Dave Franceschi	Forestville
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Brian Henricksen	AMR
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa	KT McNulty	REDCOM
Mike Nicholls	Schell Vista	Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley Fire
Ray Mulas	Coastal Valley EMS	Bill Braga	Sebastopol
James Salvante	Sonoma Valley Fire	Mike Bates	RPPS
Steve Akre	SMART	Bonnie Plakos	North Coast Fire
Doug Williams	Cloverdale	Mike Weihman	North Bay Fire
Jason Jenkins	North Bay Fire/VFC	Tim Mattos	RPPS
Mike Mickelson	North Bay Fire	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Shepley Schroth-Cary	Sonoma County Fire	Chris Godley	So. Co. Emergency Management
Matt Gustafson			

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Heine

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Akre welcomed everyone to Sonoma Valley Fire District

Presidents Report: Chief Heine reported that we are deeply engaged with the County at the FSWG level. Chief Heine has been in contact with Cheryl Bratton related to the purposed sales tax initiative and some concepts on how they want to manage vegetation management. He also expressed on behalf of the Fire Chiefs Association our disappointment that we were not reached out to as the County commissioned their study from UC.

Changes to the Agenda: None

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

Treasurer's Report: Chief Bellach reported:

Chief's General Fund	\$3,328.12
Survivor's Fund	\$103,396.31
Receivable from Fire Agencies	(\$850.00)
Training Officer's Fund	\$2,119.92
Training Officer's – Command Grant	(\$2,223.90)
FPO General Fund	\$4,052.59

FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$11,881.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$875.64
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$1,926.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53
Safety Pals General Fund	\$24,115.62
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
TOTAL FUNDS	\$152,163.99

Correspondence: None

Presentation: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Chief Heine report he asked Chief Mickelson discuss insurance issues that may affect some of us.

Chief Mickelson stated that the County had an audit done on the CSA-40 agencies. It was determined that CSA-40 was paying for some different associations with-in the Arson Task Force. This was not appropriate for the County to be paying for this. At the end of April, Terri Wright sent an email to Mike and Mark letting them know those organizations would have to find other insurance. The County is removing those organizations starting July 1st. The effected organizations are: Healdsburg FF Association, Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers Association, Sonoma County Fire Investigation Task Force, Sonoma County Training Officers Association and Fire Safe Sonoma. These groups were insured for general liability.

Devon Gambonini asked in regards to the policy for the Prevention Officers, if it said anything about coverage for Safety Pals. Mike will check into this with Terri Wright.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Akre reported that they have meetings on a weekly basis. Last week they met with Terri Wright and Cheryl Bratton. They presented ideas about how to spend the current funding that the County spends on fire services. CSA-40, funding from the TOT and Prop172 funds are being looked at. They proposed ways to spend this into the future. This is supposed to be independent to the sales tax measure and dedicated on going funding to CSA-40 as well as Bodega Bay and Kenwood that would get additional funding. Tomorrow the group will be taking a look at the proposal in detail. The group is continuing to work on the County wide sales tax measure. Right now we have Dana McKnight back with us thanks to Chief Heine and Sonoma County Fire for employing her. The County will be reimburse Sonoma County Fire for her services. Dana was instrumental in helping us with the original Measure G. The group will be looking at updating the former expenditure plan from Measure G and will be scheduling appointments with each of the fire Chief and a representative from their Board to share what has changed since Measure G was first crafted. Service needs, revenues, and any updates as far as other needs and wants will be talked about. A suggestion was made that money get put into vegetation management this time around. Chief Heine mentioned that this proposed funding from the County is mainly focused on consolidation. The County has proposed 3 to 4 major categories for the distribution of the sales tax revenue, one of those categories is vegetation management. 30% which is about \$15M a year will be going towards this. The new measure is scheduled to be on the June 2022 ballot.

SMART: Doug Williams reported that SMART has added more trains along with the Saturday service being restored. A number of promotions happening to attract more riders. Recruitment process is under way to replace the retiring general manager in August. Continuing discussions about the pathway extensions. The freight service is still being reviewed for possible expansion. Still waiting to get AVL added to the Marin dispatch.

PG & E: None

Sonoma County Emergency Management: None

Regional Zone Reports: Chief Heine acknowledged Chief Dave Franceschi retiring at the end of this month. There will be a luncheon for Dave on June 29th at the Forestville Station starting at 11:00AM. Congratulations Dave!

Cal Chiefs Annual Conference is going back to live. It will be September 14-16 in San Diego. The National Fire Academy is also opening up again.

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported they will be hiring 44 FF's for peak staffing next Monday. Working to fine tune the IA component for the Cams. Trying to pin point smokes as detected. The new copter 104 is scheduled for late June. Brent Stanglen will replacing Todd Derum for PGE. Currently have only 50 of the 150 funded hand crews. Staffed between 8-12 members on duty per crew, down from the normal 16 staffed per crew. Will be anticipating about 2 crews available in the entire LNU during this summer. Crews will not be on initial dispatch, but will have to be requested. Chief Nicholls stated that he was pulled into the process of the dollar distribution for the vegetation management. There was a lot of requests for roadside clearing. Looking at staffing put back into the TPW to get the roadside vegetation management going again. North Region is sitting at just over 1200 fires to date. 176 here in the unit. This is roughly 50 more fires then last year at this time. Last year we were sitting at 1660 acres burned. This year we are at 284 acres. We need to really engage the SO to start evacuations early. We are having small fires moving fast with spotting and taking structures quickly. The AOP is almost complete, we will sit down and have those conversations soon. Resources left on an incident must be documented Cal Fire 101 is the document to use. Chief Heine added to please take a look at the tablet command especially the mobile app. You can really fine tune it to take a look at different incidents at your choice.

Zone 3: Chief Mulas reported they just received and put in service new air packs. They just brought in 4 new volunteers. Chief Bellach report they are working on a Benefit Assessment Tax for the November Ballot. Chief Akre reported they have a meeting this afternoon with PRMD to work on the implementation and fee collection of the new fire impact fee. Working on a prevention study with HR matrix on service levels and opportunities. The big challenge is trying to find out how to bring on more capacity in terms of prevention staff and where are those funds coming from. A new T-6 should be here in a few weeks. This will be placed up in Diamond A.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: Chief Franceschi reported they received 2 vegetation management grants. All engines have been re branded for the consolidation with Sonoma County Fire.

Zone 6: Chief Jenkins reported North County has completed their fire academy with 9 graduating. Busy with vegetation management, burns, and inspections. Replaced a type 1 for Cloverdale with a new one now in service.

Chief Epstein reported he wanted to thank Cloverdale for finishing the fire academy for them. They have had some unexpended down staffing. Chief has been covering some of the shifts himself. He appreciates all the work we are doing to improve services with-in the County. The tribe did get a grant for vegetation management to help clean-up after the Kincade Fire. They have removed the invasive species around the area using high tech science. If anyone is interested in more information on how and what they are doing, please contact Chief Epstein.

Zone 7: Chief Heine report Deputy Chief Matt Gustafson is retiring July 31st. They will be conducting an internal recruitment for that position starting August 1st. Looking for a few FF Medic positions to fill he helicopter position with REACH to create the public safety helicopter program. This program will very similar to the models in Contra Costa, Oceanside and San Bernardino. This season the Copter will have recon availabilities, but no firefighting as of yet. Chief Heine spoke in regards to having one of their pick-up trucks stolen from the front of their station while crews were in the station. The vehicle was found into a tree on Lytton Springs Rd. with the subject fled on foot. The keys were left in the vehicle with it open. New policies will be adopted to keep vehicles and stations more secure.

Chief Westrope reported the city has hired a new CFO which took \$150,000.00 from their budget. Assistant Fire Marshal Hartage has accepted a position as Fire Marshal for South San Francisco. Maria Peterson will be retiring in about a week. Will Powers will be moved into a FT position. The vegetation management program is in full swing. The city received about \$3Mil from PGE to purchase wildland equipment. Two T3 engines have been ordered and should be here by January. Two T6 and a tactical water tender will also be purchased. All new wildland PPE has also been purchased. Just took delivery of a new ladder truck and should be in service soon. Chief Busch reported they have hired Jimbo Jerry as their community outreach person. He is working on social media and public information. They were successful in getting 6 FF Medics through a 2 month academy. Station 6 is planned to open mid fire season. July 1st the Forestville station will go ALS. One T-1 on order and a T-6 to go to station 6 soon. He wanted to thank everyone that has participated in some of their fires recently.

Zone 8: Chief Grinnell reported that he wanted to thank Chief Heine and Sonoma County Fire for a delivery of a T-3 Engine that should be in service in a few weeks. Also thanking for a new utility. Should be back up to normal staffing soon.

Zone 9: Chief Bates reported the new fire station 3 is slated to open June 20th. A new T-1 has been ordered and should be here in March.

OES: Chief Courson reported they have been busy all winter long with the COVID response. Rolling into fire season now. The new CSFA rate/salary survey came out. The IRIS program is getting worked out so we will have an aircraft down south and north for this. The aircraft will fly above any TFR to obtain needed data. Reimbursements for the COVID response are getting cleaned up as well as some passed prepositions. The MARS program is currently on hold until a new vender is found.

Training OP's: None

FPO's: Devon Gambonini reported that vegetation management inspections are in full swing. The Youth Fire Setter group is having a meeting to gear up for a fall academy. We currently have 5-6 that have been identified to participate in the academy. FITF coordinator Ruben Mandujano wanted to remind the group that the FITF is available, the group has not had any call outs this year. Started looking into replacing the fire safety trailer. A trailer was found that meets ADA and

has new technology. The cost for a 26 ft. trailer is \$142,000.00 complete ready to use. The group is looking for a grants and donations to help pay for this. The next FPO meeting will be in June in Petaluma.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported that they are working on the sales tax measure in the revision of the measure as well as campaigning. Vegetation management concerns are also being looked at. The next meeting June 24th at 7:00PM Zoom. Looking at an in person meeting for July.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Mickelson reported they have a Board Meeting tonight.

Vegetation Management: None

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported he wanted to thank the EMS committee on the work they have done working on the ALS First Responder Program. He is currently working on policies to back up the MOU for this program. Still have not heard back from the RFP submission. There are still ipad's available. There are 8-10 left. Any agency that has not received one and would like one that are currently using them for PCR's please contact James.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: None

Fire/EMS: Chief Akre reported they have been working on Rancho Adobe to be able to have an ALS First Responder program. Looking at other County examples of Skinny MOU's to allow for that service to take place without jeopardizing 201 Rights and obligations.

County Alerting System: None

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported on the large amount of IA activity over the last few weeks. One of the take aways from this is that the responses have been quick. The ST/TF leader refresher has been completed as well as meeting with the RDO's and how to complete the Pre Pos paper work.

REDCOM: KT McNulty reported that they are working on the artificial intelligence fire cameras. Continuing work on providing dispatch services to Marin County and meeting every 2 weeks. Upsatffing as needed for fire season.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Brian Henricksen reported wall times at the hospitals are through the roof right now. An upward of 2 hours on the wall. This may get worse. This is a state wide issue. Doug Williams stated that members of the Chiefs Association have access to the Survivors Reunion link. Doug will get the link out to all the members. James Salvante stated they are doing some data gathering regarding the long wall times in hospitals.

Chief Heine reported the E Board will get together and have a meeting to discuss technology and having meetings continue in person and on Zoom.

Adjournment: @ 1000hrs.

Next Meeting: July 14th @ RPPS 500 City Hall Dr.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary