



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

July 12th 2017 at 9:30 AM

Hosted By Rohnert Park DPS

Attendance:

Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Bill Bullard	Graton
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley	Aaron Abbott	REDCOM
Mike Bates	RPDPS	Shana Jones	CALFIRE
Karen Holbrook	County DHS	Dean Anderson	SLS/AMR
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Doug Williams	Retired
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Todd Derum	CALFIRE
Kirk Van Wormer	CALFIRE	Jack Piccinini	Windsor/RV
Doug Williams	Retired	Barbie Robinson	County DHS
Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP	Jeff Berk	County Consel
Al Terrell	Sonoma County	Dan George	Gold Ridge
Chuck Funkhouser	Coast Guard	Jennifer Welch	SMART
James Salvante	CVEMS	Mike Mickelson	Wilmar
David Bynum	Bodega Bay	George Gonzales	CALFIRE
Andres Avila	Anderson Valley	Max Ming	RR/Forestville
Scott Alanso	County DHS	Kurt Henke	Cal Chiefs
Jim Colangelo	Consultant	Bill Shubin	Santa Rosa
James Williams	Sonoma County	Jeff Schach	Petaluma
Leonard Thompson	Petaluma/RA	Dave Kahn	Petaluma
Brian Masterson	RPDPS	Darren Di Carli	GR/BV
Karen Miman	County DHS	Gregg Warner	S. Coast Fire Mendocino

Call to Order: Chief Derum called the meeting to order at 0934

Host Chief Intro: Chief Bates welcomed the group, shared logistics and led the pledge. He also spoke to some changes to occur with RP including the recent approval to hire six personnel to staff their third station which is breaking ground this month and will be house their first full time truck company.

President's Report Chief Derum began by asking self-introductions be made. He also reminded the group of the mission of the organization which is; *To unite, coordinate and represent all fire service agencies in Sonoma County.* He ended by indicating he would take the Fire Advisory Committee agenda item to be taken out of order.

Fire Advisory Committee:

Chief Derum began by commenting on how well attended the July 1 workshop was and indicated the next steps as:

- Have the individual zones (regions) identify how they can operate as a regional fire agency, what gaps this creates and identifying how to fill these gaps with a target date of this fall
- Create a county-wide volunteer stipend program that includes a baseline level of training
- Establish a more unified voice to communicate messages to the BOS
- Have a follow-up meeting with Supervisor's Gore and Rabbit

Chief George shared that cooperation with the Sheriff's office and maintaining good PR will be critical to this process.

Chief Derum asked Chief Piccinini to share his ideas on moving forward which he began by covering what the goal of the BOS was in in this process which included:

- Provide a system that delivers services at an optimal and efficient level
- Stop the march for additional funding requests
- Make sure the CSA 40 areas are taken care of
- Provide for high levels of shared services and economies of scale

He then shared his vision of a how a solutions might play out including a Regional Fire District model encompassing the following:

- Merge the districts and CSA 40 departments
- Develop a reasonable delivery model for a regional district
- Determine the costs of the plan
- Identify the Ad-valorem tax the district would generate
- Identify any shortfalls
- Negotiate with the County an AB8 rate to fill the gap
- Bring the Cities into the process (where applicable)

As the group contemplate possible solutions, he stressed the importance of not getting bogged down in the minutia but to look at the broader concept.

Approval of March Minutes: Motion was made by Chief Grinnell & seconded by Chief Williams. Unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: There was no report submitted by the Treasurer.

Correspondence: Randy shared the letter from EMCC Chair Dean Anderson requesting a replacement for the retired Chief Freeman

Presentations: Chief Derum introduced Chief Welch of SMART who shared the purpose was to introduce herself to the group. With their soft opening, they have fully loaded trains running and a fully staffed dispatch center open 24/7. She stressed the importance of sharing any incidents or activities that may impact their ROW and gave an example of a recent incident. Her contact information is: jwelch@sonomamarintrain.org 707-794-3076 (In the Q & A that followed, Director Abbott indicated one of REDCOM's repeaters was impacted by one of their transmitters and he encountered some difficulties in not receiving a prompt response. Chief Akre shared a similar concern. Chief Welch acknowledged the incident and shared she will correct the problem.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A. EMS Ordinance Discussion:** Chief Derum began the discussion by introducing Director Robinson. She shared that the goal of the draft ordinance was to be consistent with current EMS practices (it was last updated in 1991). She spoke to recognizing the diversity of issues surrounding EMS delivery in the County and moving forward with an open and collaborative approach which will include a 3 month process of forums and workshops throughout the county. She also acknowledged the important role the members of our organization play in the EMS system.

Chief Akre shared some background which included the following:

- The proposed ordinance would of impacted dispatch and potentially prevent an agency from responding to an incident in their jurisdiction and subsequently impede our ability to set our own service levels
- It would of provided less oversight for the EMS system

He expressed that from his perspective there has been a long dysfunctional relationship that can very much stand to be improved. This was echoed by several members who suggested the current structure of the LEMSA be evaluated so as to identify how it can best operate to serve all the EMS entities in the county. He also extended his appreciation to Director Robinson for putting the ordinance on hold and her willingness to engage this group. He ended by adding any work on the ordinance will need the active participation from this group, will need to clearly define the authority of the entities involved, recognize the rights of existing providers and include provide representation for the participants.

Kurt Henke shared some history as to how we arrived at this point which included Bodega Bay reaching out to Cal Chief's legal branch to inquire as to the anti-trust merits of the proposed ordinance. In their review of they identified a problem with dispatch and some case history involving Americare in Orange County and the outcome (which favored the Cities and their exclusivity). He stressed 201 addresses EMS delivery and dispatch, not just transport. Therefore, the system must contemplate anyone who provides EMS. To that end he shared that it could of resulted in a situation similar to what occurred in Stockton and that the best way to improved service delivery is to involve fire agencies which he stressed is also an expectation of the public since taxpayers fund those fire agencies. He also added there is a pending case going to the 9th District Court on this matter and is confident the decision will favor the Cities. He ended by speaking to the opportunity this situation creates for us and provided the example of Contra Costa County's RFP which at the end of the first year lowered dispatch times, improved response compliance and generated a healthy profit for Contra Costa Fire. If you can replicate this here, he strongly recommended investing that profit back into the system to further enhance service levels.

Chief George expressed his concerns that the current system is broke and they are particularly impacted in Zone 8 since most resources are drawn to the core. To that end he asked the problem is examined as a whole.

Dr. Milman thanked the group for their feedback and asked that we do not hesitate to contact her or her agency at any time which was also echoed by Director Robinson.

Dean Anderson added his voice to being supportive to this process. He also asked that the group does not take what appeared in the recent PD article not be taken out of context.

The item ended with the following agencies agreeing to act as representatives of this group: Sonoma Valley with Chief Akre as Chair, Petaluma, Healdsburg (tentative), Bodega Bay and Santa Rosa

- B. EMCC Representative:** Chief Derum spoke to the vacancy with the retirement of Chief Freeman and asked Chief George if he had a recommendation for a replacement. He nominated Chief Akre, second by Chief Grinnell, The vote was unanimous

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Training/OP's:** Chief Piccinini shared the group met yesterday and a draft Large Animal Response SOP was reviewed and will be voted on at the next meeting. It will be posted under attachments with these minutes. The group will also be looking at bringing Mary Valance, a specialist on Health and Heat Illness from So Cal to hold a class. The group is also still pressing Zones to conduct their own multi-agency drills
- **FPO's:** Chief Williams shared they have been in the training mode
- **Fire Districts:** Chief George shared the next meeting is July 27 hosted by Bodega Bay at the Chancellor Ranch in the "Big Barn" Jim Colangelo will present on the Fire Study
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson shared they met and discussed distribution on AB8 monies

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fire Advisory Committee:** Chief Thompson also echoed the good turnout at the July 1 workshop and spoke to the positive suggestions that came out of Zone 9 and the high level of cooperation present.

Grants: Chief Bullard shared that he is hopeful by the next meeting, the IPADS with Otter boxes will be in. He will also try to offer suggestions for installations. In response to Chief George's question, they will be loaded with what comes directly from Apple.

REDCOM: Director Abbott reported at tomorrow's Board meeting they will consider a proposal to accept dispatch fees from the County (to avoid dealing with each individual agency). He also shared there was good feedback on the presentation made by Gary Gasso on Fire Dispatch Protocols so they are moving forward.

While on the topic, Chief Derum asked if the group would have an interest in hearing a presentation on REDCOM, its origins, how it operates, its system of governance, etc. Given many heads nodded across the room, it was agreed to schedule this for our next meeting at Two Rock.

Improving Efficiencies/Customer Service/Good of the Order:

- Chief Terrell shared that effective August 1st Jim Colangelo will serve as Interim Director.
- Chief Piccinini said the flyer for his position should be out soon
- Chief Akre shared they have made it through the LAFCO process and thanked Doug Williams for his support
- Chief Masterson was glad to host the meeting
- Chief Funkhouser reminded the group to bring insurance and registration if you come in a personal vehicle to the meeting next month
- Doug Williams has arranged a tour of CHP's Vallejo dispatch center on Monday July 24 and to contact him if you are interested. For those who are committed to the EMCC meeting another tour can be arranged
- Chief Kahn spoke to an evaluation they will be doing of other RMS systems to see how they compare with Imagetrend and welcome other agencies participation
- Chief Bates indicated they will be examining Zoll RMS for the same reasons
- Chief Gonzales reflected on after attending how much the two counties share the same issues
- Chief Jones thanked the group for being able to attend
- Chief Ming added they have been using Zoll and like it, but it is expensive and there are concerns about on-going tech support
- Chief Williams said they have a Fire Inspector II position open
- Chief Derum commented how he has never seen grass burn like it has this season. He also shared other fuels are burning very aggressively as well. He ended by saying how proud he is of how well our OP area works well together and referenced a recent deployment of some ABH wet engines. In response to Chief George's question, he indicated for response of wet ABH engines, he said they need to be treated as a planned need

Somebody ended by saying "worst fire season ever".

Closed Session: A closed session at Chief Grinnell request followed.

Adjournment: Chief Derum adjourned the meeting at 11:55

Next Meeting: August 9th, Coast Guard Two Rock

Respectfully Submitted: July 12, 2017

Randy Collins,
SCFCA Secretary