



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
July 10th 2019 at 9:30 AM
Hosted By RPDPS

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	Shana Jones	CALFIRE
Mark Courson	OES	Chris Godley	Sonoma County
Dana Mc Knight	HR Matrix	Kirk Van Wormer	CALFIRE
Mark Heine	SCFD	Ruben Mandujano	Healdsburg
Dave Franceschi	Forestville	Joe Buchmeier	CALFIRE
Dean Anderson	AMR	Mike Mickelson	Wilmar
Spenser Andreis	SVFRA	Steve Krausmann	Cazadero
Doug Williams	SMART	James Williams	Sonoma County
Bill Bullard	Graton	Jason Boaz	Healdsburg
Tim Mattos	RPDPS	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE

Call to Order: Chief Boaz began the meeting at 0933 and led the pledge (thanks to Ret Chief Williams for the flag)

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Boaz introduced Chief Mattos who welcomed the group.

Presidents Report: Chief Boaz shared he still had a few “Red Flags” for distribution. Chief Nicholls asked for one for each of his 22 stations. He added a press release has been prepared which he shared with the group. He also introduced Dana McKnight who is assisting the Fire Working Group.

Changes to the Agenda: Veg management was moved up to go first under Standing Committee reports.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Chief Akre to approve, second by Chief Heine. 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:	\$7,340.25
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
	\$170,156.02

Correspondence: Chief Boaz shared he received a letter and check from PG&E which will be addressed later in the meeting.

Presentation: Inspector Mandujano from Healdsburg provided an update on the role of the Fire Investigation Task Force (FITF) which is a sub-group of the FPO’s. The purpose of the organization is:

- To provide a pool of trained investigators and equipment to assist fire and law enforcement agencies
 - To provide a forum for the sharing of ideas amongst participating agencies.
 - To provide training for participating agencies.
- To access, contact REDCOM (a handout on the call-out procedures was distributed).

He shared they have had a minimal number of call-outs and is he is looking for the group to support their staff who are FITF members including; attending their meetings & trainings and most important to the group, allow members from other agencies to participate in your investigations to facilitate getting their task books signed off. He reminded the group attending a minimum 4 hours of training a year is a requirement of membership (policies in the attachments portion of these minutes).

Old Business:

- **PG&E Grant:** Chief Boaz reported we were awarded the PG&E grant. A discussion regarding using it to implement the Tablet Command system followed. He will work with Director Abbott to investigate further.

New Business: None

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Vegetation Management:** Chief Williams reported they have performed 1700 inspections but it is slow moving and compliance rates are low which typically do not change until year 3. He will be conducting a training on their tracking software for participating agencies. In response to Chief Franceschi's question, he will be pressing County Roads to clear along the ROW.
- **Fire Working Group:** Chief Heine shared the County shared an accounting of the fund balances which he feels is not accurate and they will be working with the CAO to correct. They are also working on an allocation plan to prepare for the tax measure. He added communication has improved and he has regularly scheduled meetings with Supervisor's Rabbit and Hopkins and meets monthly with the CAO. He also complemented Dana McKnight for the positive contributions she has made to the group. Chief Akre reported the tax group has hired a polling firm to call members of the public as to their appetite for the measure. He also asked departments to keep him in the loop if you have an interest in using LEXIPOL as the County has committed financially support as well as for LAFCO fees. They are also working with other agencies that have expressed interest in also having a tax measure on the same ballot as ours. Chief Boaz shared that for those who accessed Recruitment and Retention funds, you may be asked to prepare a report. Dana McKnight added that they have retained a consulting firm to help with outreach.
- **Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Boaz asked for and received the following reports from the Zones:
 - CALFIRE:** Chief Nicholls shared they are in the last week of their re-hire academy and fire activity Statewide is below average. He expects the C-130's to go in service soon and when they do, S-2's will be taken off line for maintenance. The LNU did not get any of the additional engines included in the budget. They did get some funding to maintain evacuation routes so if you have perspective ones in your jurisdiction to let him know. They are working to put cameras on every lookout in the State (they have been used twice in Battalion 13). They are also coordinating their inspection program with the County. Chief Jones indicated they will most likely get additional engines in the future. She added that they did not get the extra staffing Executive Order from Gov. Newsom that they have received the two previous years from Gov. Brown.
 - Zone 2:** No report.
 - Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported they completed their Vol. Academy and the MSR with LAFCO is moving forward. Schell Vista has hired 3 and they are working on conducting evacuation drills on Cavedale Road. They are also working with the County on the impact of power shut-downs
 - Zone 4:** No report
 - Zone 5:** Chief Franceschi shared Camp Meeker, Cazadero and Timber Cove were working on a sharing agreement. He also voiced some frustration with rumor control issues.
 - Zone 6:** Chief Epstein shared Dry Creek is hiring and just finished their Vol. Academy and plans another this fall. They are also conducting several prescribed burns on the reservation. He has also been working on a piece of legislation to aid Volunteers get reimbursed for strike teams (AB 942). Chief Boaz shared they will be bringing 9 Vol. on board and Geyserville and Cloverdale have entered into agreements
 - Zone 7:** Chief Heine shared they graduated 17 in their academy which ensures 3-0 staffing at all their stations. They are beginning a renovation of their Mountain station and are working with LAFCO on Russian River. They did have a private contractor implement a prescribed burn on Calistoga Rd. Himself and Chief Gossner will be working on coordinating response around his station 4 and SR's station 5.
 - Zone 8:** No report.
 - Zone 9:** Chief Schach shared they have an academy beginning Aug 6 with the goal of staffing another ambulance. They are also working on action plans and trainings in preparation for planned outages. RA has hired two Captains with the goal of staffing the Liberty station full time.

OES: Chief Courson shared they had two strike teams go to support Region V after the earthquakes. He reminded the group that MARS is moving forward.

- **Training/OP's:** Chief Andreis shared they met yesterday and covered the following topics:
 - **Nominations for Vacant VP:** Chief Andreis shared Mike Medeiros is the new VP of the group.
 - **XSN Battalion Coverage:** This emerged at a Zone 9 meeting after BC coverage was reported running through other jurisdictions. With duty Chief 29 going away, the consensus was now is the window to make this change. Chief Mickelson indicated it would most likely be replaced by Chief 89. Director Abbott indicated this is set up in the CAD to implement and they are ready to implement. The outcome was to implement as a beta test and work on issues as they arise, get the feedback needed to resolve them and bring back for a review with the goal of full implementation around the first of the year.
 - **Vol. BC Task Book Assistance:** Chief Andreis shared there are a few Vol. BC's working on SFT Task Books but do not have the capability to complete them so they are looking for larger agencies to "host" them and give them that opportunity to do so.
- **FPO's:** Ruben Mandujano reported the FPO's last meeting was the joint REACO meeting in Petaluma.
- **Fire Districts:** Chief Akre reminded the group their next meeting is July 25 in Geyserville and Liebert, Cassidy and Witmore will present on legal services. He reminded the group of the FDAC Leadership workshop they are hosting on Aug 3 & 4
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson reported the contract between Gold Ridge and North Bay Fire has been signed and they are working out the details. He recommended this group look at insurance for auxiliary groups that no longer have coverage with the County going away.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fire EMS Committee:** Chief Akre shared they continue to meet every other week and have been making good progress and expect resolution of the remaining issues in a couple of months. He did remind the group that the existing ordinance is more than 20 years old and it needs significant work. Two areas the new ordinance will address is 201 rights and an appeals process.
- **County Alerting System:** Chris Godley encourage the use of NOAA radios for alerting (used to be available at Radio Shack – now \$30 on Amazon) since there is a NOAA transmitter on St Helena. He will also be doing a test in mid August in the north county. There is also talk of doing a two-year anniversary conference here this fall of elected officials. They are waiting to hear back on their siren grant and if awarded, they will be prioritized so not everyone will get them. They will also develop a plan to incorporate existing sirens. He will bring Tim Romero (their new Alerting Manager) to our meeting. Expect to see some PR work in the Press Democrat so if you have anything you want to add, let him know. In response to Chief Schach's question, he indicated planned power outages will be of larger scope than originally considered which will impact cell systems. He anticipates 200k people being shut-off for 48 hours so it has the potential to be a big deal and he strongly recommends incorporating this element into your emergency plans. He has also developed a website for emergency documents at: socoem.docs.net. He reminded the group of the July 24 PG&E workshop that is open to government entities and first responders.
- **Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief Akre reminded the group we still have \$600K left in the up-staffing account and they are working to use some of these funds to address the flood event (All-Risk) since the wording was specific to Red Flag events. Director Abbott commented on how their reimbursement for dispatch costs during the 2017 events were denied funding so when they received a FEMA reimbursement he discarded the letter. A discussion on a local fix followed.

REDCOM: Director Abbott reported they have a long Board meeting scheduled for tomorrow with several positions up for re-election. Dr Holbrook has resigned her position. They are also have a multi-year dispatch agreement that does not contemplate additional members, which will need to be discussed. The new raceway contract no longer includes REDCOM dispatcher so they will be negotiating a separate agreement. Q1 billing has gone out which should be approx. 35% of each agency

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order:

- Chris Godley said they now have a staff of 8 and they will be receiving an antenna trailer that will allow for clear communication with remote sites. In an ominous sign, he inquired how many departments had back-up generators.

- Doug Williams shared it has been a tough couple of weeks for SMART with the fatalities. On the bright side, the extension to Larkspur has been completed and you can expect test trains to begin in August. In response to Chief Mickelson's question, there is an ESZ for a train derailment.
- Chief Mattos shared changing their deployment for fireworks enforcement, which resulted in 59 admin tickets for violations in an 8 hour period.
- Chief Akre shared Mayacamas put a type VI in-service.
- Chief Nicholls reported his agency will work with other agencies as prescribed burns become more widespread. Chief Heine shared his experience working with privates to conduct these activities as an "image" issue since they often minimizing the importance of fire departments in these efforts. A short conversation about some miscommunications and problems followed. Chief Nicholls expressed concerns that the way the burn-ban was enacted by the county has caused some confusion we may want to address.
- Director Collins shared the following from the JC Fire Program:
 - The Volunteer academy is on track to begin on Sept. 18 and run through Oct 26 (Wed night & Sat 8-5). While the course has been very popular, he has concerns there is not the same level of interest as there was in the past and it may be challenging to get the 22 students it will take to make the course fly. To that end, he distributed a flyer and encouraged sign-ups.
 - The FFI Academy has become very popular and in addition to the 75 that we could not accommodate over the last year, there were another 19 are on the fall wait list.
 - On the SFT front there are a number of big changes coming our way. They include:
 - Their fees will be going up with an FSTEP class going from \$20 to \$75 and CFSTES \$80 to \$140. This will add close to \$500 in fees to the FFI academy.
 - FFI & II is slated to be combined into one course consisting of 4 modules; Structure (FF1A), Haz-Mat (FF1B), Wildland (FF1C) & FFII Structure (FF2A). The work experience for FFI is being moved to occur at the end of FFII so when a FFI academy is completed, students will get their FFI (unclear if 1 or 2 year work exp.). <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/5056/attachment10-firefighter12-2019-curriculumcertification.pdf>
- Chief Mickelson reported Two Rock Volunteers broke ground on their new station
- Chief Boaz thanked his neighboring agencies for their help July 4.
- Chief Akre asked Chief Courson where the reimbursements with the USDA lay. Chief Heine indicated there has been no action and shared they are looking for egregious examples to share in a political fix.

Adjournment: At 11:54

Next Meeting: August 14th Coast Guard Two Rock

Respectfully Submitted: July 13, 2019

Randy Collins,
SCFCA Secretary