

# Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

**Hybrid (virtual and In person) meeting on July 28, 2022, at 1900 hours**

1. Call to Order

President Akre called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm and asked Director Brian Proteau to speak, he welcomed everyone to Sally Tomatoes for our dinner meeting. Chief Akre thanked everyone for being here and was very happy to be seeing everyone in person again. Thank you to Rancho Adobe for the ability to put this together, with special thanks to Jennifer Bechtold who made this possible.

The following members were in attendance.

Name	District	Name	District
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley	Sheply Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge
Fred Peterson	Northern Sonoma County	Carol Pigoni	Cloverdale
Sean Grinnell	SCFD	Chris Tachouet	Gold Ridge
Jason Nunes	Graton	Bob Briare	SCFD
Matt Atkinson	Sonoma Valley	Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe
Mike Weihman	Rancho Adobe	Jackie Gardener	North Sonoma Coast
Paul Barry	Cazadero	Domenic Carinalli	Gold Ridge
Charlie Lachman	Gold Ridge	Rob Stewart	Northern Sonoma County
Bill Norton	Sonoma Valley	Larry Heiges	Northern Sonoma County
Jennifer Bechtold	Rancho Adobe	Paul Bernier	Northern Sonoma County
Tony Gossner	Rancho Adobe	Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast
Ernie Lovelace	Schell Vista	Doug Williams	SMART
Brain Proteau	Rancho Adobe	Steve Klick	SCFD
Terry Leen	Sonoma Valley	Gary So	SCFD
Frank Treanor	SCFD	David Kruppa	Guest
Marti Campbell	North Sonoma Coast	Brian Brady	Sonoma Valley
Bob Taylor	Cloverdale		

2. Amend/Approve the Agenda

Director Pigoni moved to approve the agenda as presented 2<sup>nd</sup> by VP Peterson, approved by all, no one was opposed.

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3. Treasurer Report

Sec/Tres Grinnell reported the current balance is \$7,067.03 and it will drop by \$90 tonight for two meals we provided.

4. Committee Reports

a. FDAC / FDAC EBA / FAIRA / FASIS

Written report provided

b. LAFCO

Written report provided

c. Political Action

No report

d. FSWG

i. Regular Report

Written report provided

ii. County funded programs: Lexipol, Upstaffing and REDCOM Fees

e. Measure G 2.0

Written report provided.

f. Ad Hoc Funding & Attendance

No report

President Akre turned the meeting over to VP Peterson to speak about the program for the October meeting, hosted by SCFD, at a location to be determined. VP Peterson has been working with Director Hemmendinger on a program that shows where we have been but also shows the challenges we all have going forward. For those of you who have not heard me rant, I am a believer that if we want to achieve something we must work it. First, we need to determine what we need most, determine the best approach and then we have to get political. The October program is intended to present where have been, the facts, the challenges, what has gone on before, and to project where we want to be. VP Peterson said that Mark has done most of the heavy lifting and offered him to add anything that he might have missed, Director Hemmendinger said the subject was covered well. President Akre offered his thanks for there efforts.

5. Program:

a. Roberta McIntyre of FireSafe Sonoma will report on all of the work they are doing in our communities

President Akre introduced Fire Safe Sonoma CEO Roberta McIntyre. Roberta offered her thanks for the opportunity to speak tonight. She gave a brief outline of what she would cover tonight. She started her career with the Roseland Fire District as a volunteer, then to the City of Santa Rosa as a career firefighter, then she moved to the prevention side of the house as an inspector, she would eventually become the County Fire Marshall from 2008 to 2015, when she retired. She was also a Director with the South Lake County Fire District for 9 years. While working for the county she was directed toward Fire Safe Sonoma, she would eventually become the CEO of Fire Safe Sonoma, a 501(c)3 organization. Overall what we do, as a countywide fire safe council, is work with the State Council very closely and we proved resources and

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information to smaller organizations within Sonoma County. We also interact with fire districts, the chiefs association, and the FPO's subgroup. Our first publication was Living with Fire in Sonoma County, it still exists, but we are doing a re-write now. We also had the first organized chipper program in the county- Chippers Ahoy 1 and 2. While at the County I started the first County Chipper Program. We also wrote the first community wildfire protection plan (CWPP). The revised version is at county council now. And eventually back the Supervisors (January hopefully). Roberta reviewed the handouts (attached) that were provided and discussed several projects and successful collaborations from previous years, like Ready-Set-Go. We are about to launch a tool trailer funding by the state, so if you have a project that might need tools, give us a call. Roadside projects might not be as sexy as other projects, but they do provide an escape route for residents and access for us. Roberta reviewed her flip charts (attached) with the group. Unfortunately, the sounds start to fade now...Current projects-we have about 15 projects in the air, worth about \$3.1 million. We are busy. Low-income home assessment project working with the County. Unfortunately, this also requires funding on the back side to clean up the things that were identified. Working with four community groups to create CWPP but we are leaning more toward Fire Wise Communities. More sound issues... We can help with CEQA and programmatic EIR, but that can take a long time, up to two years, tough id the project is 3 years long. Fire Safe Sonoma hopes to have a representative from each of the supervisorial districts. Firewise Communities are the best way forward and here is why: CA Insurance Commissionaire has said they will recognize these communities and work with them for a reduction in premiums and coverage is none is available. For grant applications, most now include the check box for Firewise Communities, this can also help you. Roberta asked if there were any questions. Chief Plakos asked who determines you are a Firewise Community? A) A community gets together and identifies a logical footprint (less than 2500 homes), conduct a risk assessment, I D the projects to be completed over the next three years, and then get accredited. Accreditation requires a certain amount of work each year thereafter. You apply to FireWise USA and the local rep who works with CalFire currently. You do not need to be a legal entity, just a loosely formed association. FireWise will provide you with the next steps and contacts.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: [Firesafesonomastaff@gmail.com](mailto:Firesafesonomastaff@gmail.com) Phone: (707) 676-4600

b. Perimeter-Bailey Farren

President Akre introduced Bailey Farren of CEO of Perimeter. Miss Farren told us about her Perimeter App. Perimeter started out as research project after the Tubes Fire. At the time, I had no information, and I assumed the first responders had all the information. They did not. What she heard a lot of was if only we could share information with other fire agencies, OES, CalFire, the EOC, etc. After the Camp Fire we sent out engineers and started building the platform that was designed to help first responders share information in real time with each other, info can also be pushed out to the public so they know what or where to go. We are Beta testing now. We met with Chris Godly from DEM now. The goal is to integrate with the apps we are using now like Tablet Command. It looks like DEM will purchase this for the county and all users. We were able to go live with the recent DEM drills in Cazadero and Gove Street. A link that was sent out via nixel/soco alert. Residents have access to via a similar link. One question is the app available to the public? A) The app is designed for first responders; the public will have access through what we call a web app-Yes it is on the app store. The reason we did it this was to be able to offer first responders a place to share proprietary information. We think we can provide the product for \$20k a year, our closest competitor was \$190k (zonehaven).

Contact Baily Farren at [bailey@perimeterplatform.com](mailto:bailey@perimeterplatform.com) or call her at (707) 481-5645

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6. Old Business

a. Approve Past Minutes – March 24, 2022, and April 28, 2022

Sonoma County moved to approve the minutes of March 24 and April 28, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gold Ridge, approved by all none were opposed.

b. EMS EOA/RFP Update – SCFD Rep

i. Consideration of a letter of Support for RFP Changes

President Akre reported the RFP for EOA 1 was publicly released last week. It did not include many of the changes the fire service and public providers had been advocating for. We did have a small win as the Sups were going to agendize this for the Aug 2, but the timing was too quick and we had support from Supervisor's Hopkins and Rabbit from the EMS Ad Hoc. Our hope with the RFP is to have a level playing field, we want a transparent process, and it needs to be a policy driven decision. Now the RFP decision has been pushed back to August 30<sup>th</sup>. The public providers are strongly united in this. We hope for the following changes are that the Supervisors get an opportunity to see all the proposals and the scoring of all the proposals. This does not just affect the EOA, all our public ambulances are backing up and spending more and more time in the current EOA. The second element we want is the preferential points for a public provider. Public providers have greater access to reimbursements from the state and federal government that private providers do not have access to these funds. Everyone is affected by the EOA. SCFD President Klick said you covered it, we have been advocating transparency and for the Supervisors to make the call, not the EMS agency.

President Akre asked for permission to draft a letter with Chief Heine (Chiefs President) to the Board Supervisors requesting these items be included in the RFP: Transparency and preference points for a public provider. Chief Plakos made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Peterson, and approved by all, none were opposed.

President Akre reminded the membership that we have only one vote per district per our bylaws. Director Pignoni asked if this does not overlap any ambulance district boundary? A) No, it does not. It only covers the area of EOA 1 (AMR). President Akre took the roll call vote:

Cloverdale-Yes, Sonoma County-yes, Northern Sonoma County-yes, Rancho Adobe-yes, Schell Vista-yes, North Coast-yes, Gold Ridge-yes, Cazadero-yes, Sonoma Valley-yes, Graton-yes

c. Sonoma County Vegetation Management/PG&E Settlement Funds update – VP Peterson/Chief Tuberville

No report tonight.

7. New Business

a. None

8. Good of the Order

VP Peterson report that Northern Sonoma County had a very successful Wine Country to the Rescue Event-looks like we netted over \$300k.

VP Peterson also told the members that Chief Marshal Tuberville was nominated for Volunteer Fire Chief of the year via IAFC and was awarded the Volunteer Chief of the Year. VP Peterson also introduced the newest member of the Board Larry Heiges.

9. Next Meeting August 25, 2022, via Zoom

10. Close

President Akre closed the meeting at 8:45pm

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Minutes approved on \_\_\_\_\_ 9/22/22 \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ *Sean Grinnell* \_\_\_\_\_