



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

**Hosted by Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue, 630 2nd Street West
June 10th, 2009 0930 HOURS**

Attendance

Doug Williams	Rincon Valley	Bob Uboldi	Kenwood
Chuck Abshear	Cal Fire	Ray Mulas	Schell-Vista
Will Horne	Mayacamas	Peter Van Fleet	Glen Ellen
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Frank Treanor	Rancho Adobe
Kent Coxon	EMS Agency	Dan Northern	Forestville
Paul Pigoni	Geyserville	Phillip Garcia	Sonoma Valley
Dean Anderson	Sonoma Life Support	Ernie Loveless	Cal Fire

Call to Order: Past President Chief Williams called the meeting to order at 09:50 AM.

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Garcia welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes: No changes to May minutes as presented. Motion to approve by Chief Loveless, second from Chief Treanor. Approved unanimously.

President's Report: Chief Zanzi unable to attend this meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Chiefs Account Balance = **\$2,737.69 (as of May 31st)** W&O Fund Balance = **\$132,624.74 (as of May 31st)**.

Correspondence: None

Presentations: Chet Laws, Sales & Marketing Manager with Servpro www.servproofpetaluma-rohnertpark.com. Servpro specializes in Fire & Water cleanup and restoration. Handouts provided.

Pending Presentations for Future Meetings:

- Bunker – refresher skills program at SRJC
- Shane Francisco – Update on current terrorism threats and issues. Shane has attended previous meetings and is an Intelligence Officer with the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC).

Committee Reports

- **Training Section:** Chief Aston – no report
- **Prevention Section:** Chief Williams mentioned the annual Joint Marin – Sonoma FPO & Code Officials meeting will be held next Wednesday in Petaluma. The Assistant State Fire Marshal is scheduled to attend. Chief Collins was unable to attend today's meeting, but submitted an update on the NPDES storm water permit issue:

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- The new draft document is out and it can be seen on the RWQCB website http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/hot_topics/santa_rosa_ms4_npdes_stormwater_permit. The Public Hearings will be held on July 22 & 23 and Chief Collins plans on attending. The good news is if you look at the table on page 11 in the plan, the changes they have incorporated since we met with them include:
 - An exemption for flows from emergency firefighting.
 - Flows for training and equipment repair activities shall comply, but specifies de-chlorination may occur with aeration. Chief Collins is communicating with the Water Board to determine if spraying from nozzles and hose streams as well as pumping would qualify. They indicated they will meet and discuss (waiting to hear back on meeting dates). The proposed plan also indicates sediment and solids be removed through settling filtration but I do not see this as being an issue. If we can get them to accept nozzles as aeration, I think we are in good shape.
- **Operations Section:** Chief Lantz unable to attend – Chief Williams indicated the next meeting is July 20th, the operations group is continuing with projects previously identified.
- **District Chiefs:** Chief Garcia – Good turnout for the last meeting at Safari West. Next meeting will be July 30th at Bodega Bay – considering a bay cruise.
- **Volunteer FF Association:** Chief Horne – next meeting June 24th at County DES 2nd floor conference room (room 212) at 1900 hours. Two main issues of concern for the near-term. 1) Submission of the CSA 40 study to the Board of Supervisors – expected in late July. 2) County DES will start apparatus vehicle maintenance on July 1st.
- **REDCOM:** Ken Reese unable to attend, Dick Luttrell provided the update - Alpha paging problem resolved with AT&T, also will start seeing county box numbers on the rip & run. Santa Rosa city will be using box numbers starting June 15th. Also meeting internally to review and train on dispatch process for out of county Strike Team assignments. Ken is working with Cal Fire to drill on ROSS and get up to speed. The dispatch contract is out for attorney review and will come back to committee for review and approval. If the contract is not in place by July 1st an extension has been prepared and will be in place. As discussed in previous meetings, there is a budget shortfall of approximately \$225k. Hope to be resolved through improved savings, browning-out shifts where possible, reducing overtime where possible, and periodically eliminating a regular weekday shift. Will revisit the budget and adjust if necessary in October.
- **CAD Group:** Chief Williams – The firm date for transition to box numbers ties in well with overall goals and projects of the CAD Group. Next meeting will be Tuesday June 16th at Windsor 0900 hours. Also meeting tomorrow with management advisory group to tie-up some loose ends on the law side as a result of the last upgrade. From a fire perspective the last upgrade went well.
- **OES Operational Area:** Chief Williams – MAD Drill completed, OES Region II spring meeting was held on May 28th, and the County Zone Chiefs meeting was held on June 4th. Highlights – the annual rate letter solicitation is out, remember you can update the rate letter at any time if your situation changes. In regard to out of county assignments, make sure you clearly

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understand how you are ordered when you go since it could affect reimbursement. If the 3-letter ordering designator is NOT a National Forest or Cal Fire – be aware you may not be reimbursed. Code of conduct also discussed at the Region OES meeting. A violation of the code of conduct may be grounds for OES to refuse reimbursement.

- **County DES:** Chief Aston – no report
- **EMCC:** Kent Coxon – Next meeting July 27th noon at 475 Aviation (Guild Hall). Agency has hired a consultant (Jack Becker) to analyze the possibility of creating a JPA structure. Coastal Valleys is currently under Sonoma County Department of Health Services – and contracts with Napa and Mendocino to be the EMS agency for those counties. The consultant was asked to collect input from the fire service – working with Chief Zanzi. In regard to budget issues – looking at losing 2 out of 7 positions. Currently studying which specific services will be impacted.

Discussed the recent statewide response to the Swine Flu. Overall good response from public health in the county - it went well. There remains some concern that since this virus has never been seen before, there may be a second wave this fall. Work on a vaccine is underway. Expect only to have enough doses to go to 1st line. Review your supplies (note – an N-95 mask on a patient is of no use – use a surgical mask).

- **Legislative:** Chief Collier – No Report.
- **Grants:** Chief Zanzi unable to attend – Remember fire station stimulus grants open for submission.
- **SRJC Advisory:** Chief Collins unable to attend, Chief Williams updated – last meeting in April – next in November. Chief Northern complimented Chief MacIntyre for his outstanding efforts in coordinating the process to achieve state certification for volunteers.
- **CHP Liaison:** No Report. Reminder Mark McAfee is retiring in September.
- **Red Cross:** No Report.
- **Marin Chief's Liaison:** Chief Northern – Chief Massucco requested a copy of our code of conduct.

Old Business

- **2010 Homeland Security Grants:** No additional info from the last meeting. Kent Coxon shared what EMS is looking at in regard to PPE for ambulances. EMS asked providers to review the State recommended list of PPE and ensure they have those items. This area would be a priority for EMS grant funding. Chief Northern mentioned possible acquisition of

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technology support items for Strike Team Leaders (such as air cards and cell phones for weather info, maps, RAWs, etc.). Take these items under consideration for next year.

- **EMCC Reps:** Current representatives are Bill Shubin & John Zanzi. Participation involves attending quarterly meetings, generally held on the 4th Monday from noon to 2 pm. Meetings held at EMS offices off Aviation. The intent is to represent interests of the fire service in the County. The Board appointed positions need to be re-affirmed. Need a letter from the association to re-affirm. Chief Treanor motioned to continue with the same representatives, Chief Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously – a letter will be sent to EMCC.

New Business

- **Widows & Orphans Fund:** Discussed investment return for the Widows & Orphans fund and possible alternatives to increase return. After discussion – it was determined the e-board has authority to move funds as long as the condition of capital preservation is maintained. The fund will provide \$5,000 to the survivors of a line of duty death (or 5% of the fund balance – whichever is less) and \$2,000 for a non line of duty death (or 2% of the fund balance).

Customer Service / Good of the order

- Chief Horne: Mentioned the passing of Loren Sorensen, author & fire fighter. Funeral in St. Helena today at 1400 hours.
- Chief Williams: will forward email regarding Inter-operability radio frequencies. Com East & Com West frequencies are being established in Sonoma County. Reminder that CESRS is the statewide travel net. Agencies should also add the national inter-op channels coming out on email. Dick Luttrell added that Sonoma County has contracted with a company to study interoperability issues. After interviewing responders the contractor will return with recommendations
- Chief Williams: Attended CICC training. There remains a lack of clarity in regard to 100, 200, 300 level certifications. Cited the example of Field Observer. NWCG id's it as a 200 level, but some feel it's a 300 level. Op areas also have the ability to independently increase the standards if they feel a need. Chief Williams will pose the question to CICC to consider treating certain 200-Level positions as if they were 300-level in terms of task books and certifications. Note: There are 2 applications pending (base camp manager trainee / facility unit leader trainee)
- Dean Anderson: New franchise agreement starts July 1st. Will be adding 2 new field supervisors to replace 24 hour shifts with 12 hour shifts. Crews have a new PCR platform (ruggedized PC). Still working on IT transition issues. Instead of one urban zone for compliance, it will be split into 4 zones (zones are generally population density based – more closely tied to fire Emergency Service Zones). Expect to be adding a new ALS unit to ensure compliance with performance stands. Recently received and putting in service new training equipment. Compliance issues may end up creating new posts – will be monitoring and adjusting as needed.

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- Chief Loveless: State Fire Marshal Dargan retired, new B1411 (Russian River) is Marshall Turbeville, filling behind Deanna Baxman who promoted to Division Chief in Cal Fire's Mendocino Unit. Air Tankers will arrive on Tuesday the 16th, all stations staffed now – will add second engines on June 29h. Burn ban in effect on Monday June 15th. New ECC Chief Mike Wink effective Monday June 29th. Eric Hoffmann has promoted to Division Chief at Delta Camp. Currently have 4 vacant Battalion Chief positions.

Closed Session:

- N/A

Next Meeting: July 8th – Rohnert Park Public Safety

Meeting adjourned 11:30 hrs

Respectfully submitted – Chuck Abshear, Secretary / Treasurer, June 10th, 2009.