



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
June 13th 2018 at 9:30 AM
Hosted By PG & E

Attendance:

James Colangelo	Sonoma County	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley
Aaron Abbott	REDCOM	Bonnie Plakos	NSCFPD
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Hans Henneberque	H&S Associates
Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa	Matt Epstein	Dry Creek
Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP	Barry Anderson	PG&E
James Salvante	CVEMS	Dave Canny	PG&E
James Williams	Sonoma County	Todd Derum	CALFIRE
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Ron Lunardi	Occidental
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Darren DeCarli	GR/BV
Leonard Thompson	Petaluma/RA	Spenser Andreis	Sonoma Valley
Jim Wickham	PG&E		

Call to Order: Chief Derum called the meeting to order at 0933 and asked Chief Lunardi to lead the pledge.

Host Chief Intro: Jim Wickham welcomed the group and thanked them for allowing PG & E to host the meeting. He also asked the membership to fill out the form circulating to satisfy PUC requirements. He also explained logistics, guest speakers and the lunch arrangements.

President's Report: No report

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion was made by Chief Grinnell & seconded by Chief Lunardi. Unanimous vote. Randy expressed his appreciation to Jennifer for taking the notes in his absence.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by Hans showed the following balances.

Chiefs General Fund:	\$6,175.19
Survivors Fund:	\$108,021.31
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$17,793.79
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$7,681.90
Career Succession:	\$4,637.28
FPO General Fund:	\$3,270.78
FITF	\$2,070.09
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$41,505.31
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
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	\$193,655.65

Treasurer Henneberque indicated all the money is in a checking account which will be transferred to a money market once he obtains signatures from the E-Board.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report by Chief Grinnell, second by Chief Gossner. Unanimous vote.

Correspondence: Randy indicated he has not received any correspondence.

Old Business:

- **Peer Support:** Chief Boaz shared the Peer Support class scheduled for June 26th has low enrollment and encouraged the membership to commit staff to the training and asked to get the word out. A short conversation on the reasons for the low enrollment followed. Randy indicated he will send the flyer out again. Chief Gossner reminded the group it is also open to law, EMS and Dispatch personnel and the goal is to build depth with our peer support network.

New Business: None

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Training/OP's:** Chief Andreis shared the DOAG has approved the numbering changes to capture Type V & VI apparatus and that changes to the Active Status page are almost complete and he encouraged the group to navigate the page, become familiar with it and show your availability. He added that it will also auto-populate to Region II (with a live feed) and will soon send out a detailed email with detailed instructions. Chief Gossner shared that at a recent Region meeting, he learned that while people may be labeled as available, when a fire occurs, they often go in and change their status as unavailable. Chief Andreis indicated this has led to some creative ordering.
- **FPO's:** Hans reminded the group that next week is the annual joint Marin-Sonoma REACO meeting. Lunch is provided. He added that In September, the FPO's will be hosting the Nor-Cal meeting in Petaluma gave a plug to Petaluma FM Jessica Powers who is the Nor Cal President. He also recognized the Sonoma FPO group as being one of the most active in Northern California.
- **Fire Districts:** Chief Akre shared that a number of fire districts are looking at putting revenue measures on the ballot for November. He also indicated a number of districts/special districts are being discontinued from participating in the dental insurance pools through the county. They are subsequently looking for a new carrier and he expressed interest in collaborating with other agencies. Chief Thompson suggested he talk to Jennifer Ober at Rancho Adobe.

Chief Colangelo indicated that Supervisor Hoskins also has also expressed interest in putting a fire measure on the ballot that also includes funds for housing. He explained some of the challenges and how it may lead to some inaccurate public expectations. The BOS will be discussing this in more detail at their meeting this afternoon along with a potential parks, housing and mental health bonds. He did acknowledge that it is positive to have their support. Chief Lunardi shared that Region 5 met and took a position against Supervisor Hoskins housing-fire proposal and wrote a letter expressing their concerns.

- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Colangelo indicated they are still looking for partners for the individual VFC's. He believes the quickest approach is to negotiate with the Vol. Fire Association since the only proposal received was cost prohibitive. He expects this to be a temporary measure but in response to Chief Thompson's question, could not identify what the long term solution will look like at this time. He ended by sharing they met with Bodega Bay to try to determine the cost of the ambulance service they provide to the VFC's they serve and hopes to use that analysis as a template for other ambulance service arrangements. James Salvante added the process is very complex and is intertwined with the whole RFP process

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fire EMS Committee:** Chief Akre commented that this provided the perfect sedge way for this topic and shared that at the group's last meeting, they spent time reviewing coverage maps to identify weakness. He also shared that they have received a four month extension from the State EMS agency for the current RFP but had concerns since they had asked for a year and will subsequently be seeking a political remedy. In response to Chief Thompson's question about expanding operating areas, he shared that AMR did not look on the idea favorably since it would weaken their business model. Chief Thompson expressed concerns that if there is a failure in the system, the public agencies will be left holding the bag. Both James Salvante and Chief Thompson stressed the importance of working together to make the system work although James added the revenue generated by transports is eroding and can no longer be relied on to sufficiently fund the system. In response to Hans' question, James did not know if the ambulance study conducted 20 years ago by Annie Springer was available.

- **AAR:** Chief Gossner reported SR has a contract going to his council tonight for a comprehensive city wide AAR. Chief Derum shared that he and Chief Van Wormer, Dahl and Zach Hamill recently met with the Police Chief's on evacuation and repopulation procedures and hopes to meet again to formalize these procedures. He expressed his optimism they will agree on policies soon and reflected that some of the work done in Marin helped lay a foundation for their cooperation.
- **County Alerting System:** Chief Colangelo reported for Chris Godley's that last Monday the BOS agreed to put \$500K toward developing a system that is state of the art, keeps up with technology and includes a public education component. He added they also included another \$1M to develop some citizen's programs (such as COPE or CERT) and they are planning on having a test of the countywide alert system in September (before the anniversary of the fires).

Chief Akre asked what platform is recommended for public alerting as he has received conflicting information. Chief Colangelo indicated that is a moving target but added either NIXLE and SO CO Alert will be incorporated in the end product.

Director Abbott shared that when he received the NIXLE for the Schell Vista Fire, he learned there needs to be a flowchart to explain the process for activating SO CO as he feels there is still some uncertainty. He added that it would be helpful to have a 211 component as they are deluged with calls even when units are on scene and the event is under control (as he learned with Windsor's recent freeway veg fire). Chief Gossner stressed the importance of delivering very explicit directions when future notifications be made

- **Resiliency and Recovery:** No report – Can be removed from future agendas

REDCOM: Director Abbott shared the protocol training for is complete and the next step is to agendize at the DOAG meeting. They also had a chance to demo the fire cameras which are HD and very user friendly. He added they can be manipulated by the IC in the field and have IR capability. Despite the name, they do not have an alert function. He also witnessed a presentation on the Cal Cop program which has many beneficial features and he feels is a "no brainer" in terms of implementing as it is being paid for by the state. Randy reminded the group that Commander Bates had asked we reserved the August meeting for a presentation on Cal Cop but had not received confirmation. Director Abbott said he would follow-up.

They have also been conducting tests with St Helena and they have been going well. He closed by reported they are working hard on the MDC and believe one of the issues may be traveling between 3G & 4G network areas. In response to Chief Plakos inquiry on Image trend, James shared they are working on it.

Presentations: *Community Wide Safety Plan*

Jim Wickham introduced Barry Anderson, PG&E's VP for Electric Distribution. Before turning it over to the team, he shared their First Responder plan for gas emergencies and that they have free training available to the membership at their Winters facility. He also spoke to the FLAG trailers that are also available. Randy added he has put in a letter of interest to obtain one in Sonoma County.

Jim shared today represents the kick-off on their Community Wildfire Safety Program and as a precursor to the Electric presentation, self-introductions were made with each member sharing information on their agencies. VP Anderson began by sharing what his responsibilities are and the efforts they have been making to enhance their response which included:

- Working closely with CALFIRE and OES
- Aerial inspections of power lines (conducted annually)
- Logistical improvements to provide support during incidents (Base Camps)

As for the Community Wildfire Safety Program, some of the goals include:

- Creating a 24/7 emergency response center in SF with the goal of integrating it with the State's (OES) operations center
- Hiring a private fire protection contractor (Capstone) to protect their infrastructure
- Expanding their network of weather stations

- Enhancing their vegetation management program (expanding a “ground to sky” 15 foot clearance around power lines).
- Disabling automatic re-closure systems to avoid them from being re-energized when struck by falling limbs or downed lines
- Hardening their poles and wires (a 15 year project) to withstand impact by limbs and trees

In their most extreme response areas, they are planning on implementing a program to disabling power distribution networks and are currently developing protocols. They anticipate potentially having a 72 hour notice when these situations are warranted. In response to Chief Plakos’ question, VP Anderson indicated one of the criteria in this decision matrix is the density of customers. He also shared that San Diego Gas and Electric has been conducting this practice since 2010 and there are many factors that need to be considered including vulnerable populations and the emergence of micro-grids.

In response to Director Abbott’s question on formalizing the process of having a PG&E rep in REDCOM during weather events, VP Anderson explained all emergency requests go to their Fresno center where the decision is made to commit a rep but he will look into the matter.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Jim announced that in an effort to help our efforts, he proposed a donation to the Chief’s 501c3 of \$50,000. A round of applause followed.

Closed Session: There was no closed session.

Good of the Order:

- Chief DeCarli shared BV’s fundraiser went well and they have been getting much more interest in preparedness and prevention from their community.
- Chief Akre reported that in Region 3 they have drafted a “support Volunteer” position to allow the public to participate in no-emergency roles. He also thanked the group for their assistance with the pallet fire. Chief Derum shared there is an impressive video of the propane tank exploding
- Hans shared Marlene’s celebration of life is July 1 and he thanked the group for all its support. A flyer with the details of the service will go out with these minutes.
- Chief Colangelo said on Monday the BOS approved \$100k for each Region and \$100k for the VFC’s. They also approved \$800K for up-staffing during Red Flag events. He and a handful of others are working on the criteria on using the funds.
- Chief Gossner shared himself & Chief’s George and Andreis will be working on the specific policy with the goal of increasing depth in the system. He added the D-RISC effort he was supporting received \$50M from the Gov. and not the \$100M they asked for. None is allocated for ROSS. At the Region II meeting he attended last Friday, it was agreed to expedite the mutual aid process and send the resource and sort out the details later), It will all be tracked through Region II dispatch. Details on this will be sent out as they become available. He also highlighted the information cards they are sharing with the public and said he will share with any agency that wishes to adopt them. With July 4 coming, they have staffed 2 additional inspectors. He also invited anyone to participate in the Monday morning 1100 hours rollcall to provide an update on staffing, fuel models, weather, etc.
- Chief Williams shared they continue to get a large number of veg. complaints and are working with agencies to mitigate. They will also be working with the pallet company to minimize their risk.
- Chief Thompson thanked Chief Gossner for his efforts.
- Chief Plakos reported they will be taking delivery of a Type VI next week.
- Chief Lunardi has implemented a stipend shift program and reported he is having difficulty filling shifts and queried the group on ideas. Chief Derum shared the extent of requirements makes the concept of a volunteer firefighter very difficult.
- Chief Grinnell shared their Pancake breakfast will be July 1 followed by Fireworks
- Randy shared he is pulling double duty as acting Public Safety Dean since April was in a bad vehicle accident. On the positive side, has received a \$200,000 grant to purchase a Phase II Draeger prop to conduct live fire exercises and will be incorporating into the fall academy as well as using it to begin delivering Fire Control 3 next spring. The fall academy is full with 40 students and he is dangerously low of working MSA SCBA’s. To that end, he asked if anyone uses the same unit and is willing to loan or donate he is open to trading or an arrangement that would make it worth your while.

- Chief Derum thanked PG&E for hosting the meeting. He then asked the group to provide ideas for the use of the \$50K donation within the next week. He reminded the group we are tasked with handling all risks and reminded us not to lose sight that the next incident may be an earthquake or civil disturbance. Putting on his CALFIRE hat he shared that last season was “the worst fire season ever” and cited the more than 9000 wildfires, 1.5 M acres, \$700,000,000 in suppression costs, 11,953 structures damaged or destroyed and 46 fatalities. He ended by saying we are indeed in a new norm and probably need to think of new ways to do business.

Next Meeting: July 11th at Rohnert Park

Respectfully Submitted: June 14, 2018

Randy Collins,
SCFCA Secretary