



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2021 at 8:30 AM
Conference Call In**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire
Cyndi Foreman	FPO's	Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire
Bill Bullard	Graton	Ron Lunardi	Occidental
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Spencer Andreas	Sonoma Valley Fire
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa	James Williams	Sonoma County
Mark Courson	OES	Ken Reese	REDCOM
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa	KT McNulty	REDCOM
Brian Henricksen	AMR	Larry Clutts	
Mike Mickelson	North Bay Fire	Bill Braga	Sebastopol
James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Steve Suter	Santa Rosa	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale
Dave Franceschi	Forestville	Steve Herzberg	Bodega Bay
Mike Bates	RPPS	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Ron Bush	Sonoma County Fire	Chris Godley	So.Co. Emergency Management
Marshall Turbeville	Geyserville		

Call to Order: Chief Heine began the meeting at 0830 and led the pledge.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Heine

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Heine welcomed everyone on the Conference Call

Presidents Report: Have been representing the County Chiefs Association with the Boards Fire Ad Hoc to see what can be done to support Bodega Bay and their current fiscal emergency. Working on fire impact fee programs. The FSWG will report out on where we are on the County wide sales tax measure.

Changes to the Agenda: Adding the Bodega Bay declaration of fiscal emergency. Also adding the Fire Impact Fee program.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Chief Akre, 2nd: Chief Williams, All AYE

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Hans reported the following:

Chiefs General Fund:	\$2,523.12
Survivors Fund:	\$103,396.31
Receivable from Agencies	(\$2,650.00)

OP's/TO's Fund:	\$1,519.92
TO's Command Grant	\$0
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$11,356.90
Career Succession:	\$875.64
FPO General Fund:	\$3,602.59
Youth Fire Setter Fund	\$1,041.53
FITF	\$2,463.49
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$23,815.62
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$150,445.12

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Chief Bullard introduced Larry Clutts with the Federal Government Emergency Communications WPS and TSP cell systems. Larry spoke about the Wireless Priority Service, TSP and Next Generation Networks. Services are provided to us as a priority over regular services as emergency responders.

Old Business: Chief Carl Harrison award policy approval. Motion: Chief Grinnell, 2nd: Chief Bellach, All AYE

New Business: Nomination for REDCOM Board Member. Chief Akre reported that a fire dept. rep term has come up. Chief Boaz has held the past term and has showed interest to continue in this capacity. Chief Akre asked for any new nominations or to re nominate Chief Boaz. Chief Bullard made a nomination to have Chief Boaz continue his term. With no other interest in the position, Chief Akre 2nd the motion, All AYE. Chief Boaz will continue as the fire dept. rep on the REDCOM Board.

Bodega Bay declaration of fiscal emergency. Sonoma County Fire and Bodega Bay Fire have been pursuing consolidations efforts for some time. This effort came with a large financial gap that needed to be closed. They have a high parcel tax due to 60% of their land is not taxable. Both agencies have been working with the County Board of Supervisors to find options to close this funding gap. Supervisor Hopkins came up with the vision of a TOT Tax enhancement called Measure B. The Board of Supervisors choose to attach the school districts to this funding stream. The estimated 2.7 Million of revenue generated from this measure would be split 50/50 between the two. This may be the reason the measure did not pass. Due to this measure not passing Bodega Bay is now in a fiscal crisis in both staffing and fiscal sustainability. Currently Cal Chiefs is looking into how to support their needs.

Chief Herzberg reported and confirmed that they are in a crisis both financial and operational. Before the failure of Measure B they had lost 11 paramedics in the last 8 years. Current employees are in question and planning to leave due to the measure failing and no support from the County. Plans are to reduce staffing, not paying OT to maintain staffing needs. As of now, no one will apply due to there being no sustainability for the agency. Most of the calls are in the County/State parks. 80% of the ambulance transports are for non-parcel tax payers. Currently they are cutting back on non-safety related expenditures. This solution must come from the Board of Supervisors. There are other agencies that may follow suite if nothing is done.

Chief Grinnell thanked everyone who has been a huge support for them.

Chief Akre reported in support to Chief Heine stating that this is indeed a Mutual Aid request. We cannot allow one of our peer groups to fail. We all need to rally and support Bodega Bay. SCFDA has supported the consolidations, Fire impact fees, supporting Zone 6 and their Sphere of

Influence. We need to speak as one united voice. We have the influence. This all about the service to our communities.

Chief Bellach stated that this is critical and should be the number one agenda item for the Board of Supervisors. We all need to write letters and speak as one.

Impact fee programs- Both Sonoma County Fire and Sonoma Valley Fire will be going to the Board of Supervisors on March 23rd seeking the Boards approval for both agencies to levy an impact fee program. A fire agency could levy a onetime impact fee on any new construction. A Nexus study must be commissioned by a professional organization. This study will analyze your district, service and what are the impacts of new construction. Funds can only be used for infrastructure not payroll. This levy cannot be done without approval from the Board of Supervisors. This process will lay the pathway for other agencies that would like to do this in the future. Motion to the Fire Chiefs Association to write a letter in support to the Board of Supervisors for Fire Impact Fees by Chief Grinnell, 2nd Chief Westrope, and All AYE.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Working with the Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc members on a proposed County wide sales tax measure to fund the fire service. This measure will move forward on the June 2022 ballot. The deadline to submit all the paperwork is in July of this year and we do not have enough time for the November 2021 ballot. The BOS is asking the FSWG to draft a strategic plan for this tax measure. Currently meeting every other week for this process.

SMART: Doug Williams reported they are continuing running at a limited schedule. They are looking into a reintroduction to more traffic here in the future and restoring weekend services. The Board is meeting twice a month. Training was done on the Napa River Bridge. DME orientation will take place on March 13th and 27th at the Petaluma Station. Questions on how the freight service will be reinvigorated still continues. The Windsor project is still on hold, waiting on the court case. Doug wanted the group to know he is dealing with some medical issues that may keep him away from certain things at certain times. Chief Heine stated that all of us stand ready with any support needed.

PG & E: No Report

Sonoma County Emergency Management: Chris Godley reported that they are taking their new alert and warning annex to the BOS on April 13th. The Director of Public Health with the County will be leaving in May to take a new position in Harris County, TX.

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported they are continuing to support the Oakland Coliseum vaccination efforts by sending EMT's to Oakland. The Fire Prevention Grant opened up today through May 19th. The Rural Fire Capacity Grant is also out. This is the new version of the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant and closes May 4th. Due to the long range fuel conditions we anticipate an earlier ramp up to fire season, date TBD. Copter 104, the new 170I should be arriving in Sacramento in the near future, by this fire season. Working with the Sheriff's Office to roll out the evacuation tags to the communities. SCFD St. 9 will be used as the Guerneville area point of contact. Defensible Space Inspections along with the first hire of inspectors are under way and currently working in Lake County.

Zone 3: Chief Bellach reported the old Graywood Ranch site is moving forward with construction for the new resort. They are in the process of removing fire damaged trees and have offered anyone interested in doing some chainsaw training to please contact him.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: Chief Lunardi reported last week Occidental FD had its first week of FT staffing. The daytime response has improved. They will be looking into purchasing a Type 6 and may be visiting stations that currently have them in service.

Chief Franceschi reported March 3rd LAFCO approved the application for reorganization and annexation to Sonoma County Fire. Currently under the 60 day public protest period. May 5th will be the next meeting.

Zone 6: No report

Zone 7: Chief Westrope reported they are getting through the process of using the PG&E funds to build out their CWPP/Vegetation program and use the 2.75 Million settlement funds to create their Wildland Resiliency and Response Plan. They will be purchasing a couple of Type 3's and Type 6 apparatus as well as changing staffing models.

Chief Heine reported that SCFD is in the hiring process for Paramedic FF's as well as a fulltime Community Outreach Specialist. This position will cover community education, PIO functions and disaster planning. Working on adopting an impact fee program. In the process of retrofitting Station 6 (Mountain). In conversations with the Lynton Tribe which is developing a large residential community on the Westside of Windsor. The tribe has asked SCFD to be the operational agency for responses, prevention services and support/administration.

Zone 8: No report

Zone 9: No report

OES: Chief Courson reported they have been heavily engaged in the mass vaccination sites. A lot of questions coming up regarding refresher classes. Due to the current activities and availabilities of OES, they are still waiting for some direction on how and when to proceed.

Training OP's: Chief Andreas reported the SOP 18 New DRAFT All Call Policy, the group has had discussion on how to refine it. Using Control and Victor Channels for the responses. Making the All Call by Regions and stations, rather than the entire County. Staging areas have been pre-selected with a staging area manager as well. (See Draft Policy for complete details on the SCFC website)

The DOUG voted on adding structure fire sub types. There will be three different structure fire sub types, Structure Fire Chimney, Structure Fire Appliance and Structure Fire Electrical. This will give you the ability to down grade an assignment.

Tablet Command is moving along. Hexagon and CAD work connections should be completed by the end of this week. We will also have the ability for 2-way communications for this to work as an MDC as well. Ken Reese reported the interface with Tablet Command is complete.

Testing will start tomorrow. Hyperlinks will be added to view hydrant and preplan information as needed.

FPO's: Devon Gambonini reported FPO's met on February 17th. Some goals set for this year are to focus on the safety trailer, to update it or purchase another kind of trailer. FITIF has a training burn this weekend in Windsor for cause and origin. Hazmat prevention personnel have been participating in the virtual CUPA Conference to get their required training. The Youth Fire Setter Program is still active and in use. If you have a Youth Fire Setter Incident, please reach out.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported he wanted to thank FPO's for the Youth Fire Setter Program since they used them recently. Fire Districts did establish a sub-committee that is being led by Bob Taylor. This committee will be working on items relate to the sales tax measure as well as the campaign committee. FDAC has opened up registration for a virtual conference on April 13 & 14, 2021.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Mickelson reported that they had a good meeting with the County in regards to their budget and they will have a Board Meeting tonight.

Vegetation Management: Chief Williams reported that efforts are under way to prepare for this upcoming season 2021 inspections. The projected start date will be May 27th, 2021. Training will continue with the contracted Districts. The abatement process is moving forward. They met with County Counsel on Monday to address the issue of abatement warrants. This process has been delayed due to COVID.

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported that the RFP is a big issue for all of us. March 23rd will be a meeting also having a presentation from the consultants as well as staff on hand to answer questions. They will advise the SCFCA when the draft document will be available on the website. Continuing to meet with the EMS Ad Hoc for guidance and direction. Meetings are scheduled out on a monthly basis. County protocols are being reviewed a gone through to address any problems that have come up.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: None

Fire/EMS: Chief Akre reported that an EMS sub-committee has been established as part of the SCFCA. The members will be Chief Akre, Chief Epstein, Chief Schach, Chief Suter and Chief Herzberg. The mission is to represent the interests of the SCFCA related to EMS. Chief Akre has been attending the Marin County Fire Chiefs Association meetings ass our representative. They have done a change in elected officers, Chief Rubin Martin of the Central Marin Fire District is now the President. They are working on a lot of the same issues that we are. Vaccinations, Alert and Warnings, Dispatch and joint efforts in bringing them on board with REDCOM.

County Alerting System: No report

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported that Operational Coordinators will be getting together in the next couple of weeks to start strategizing for this season coming up.

REDCOM: KT McNulty reported the REDCOM Board meeting will be tomorrow and will be finalizing the Tango Tango Application.

Ken Reese reported that the REDCOM channel you will now hear the 2-way traffic. This was done in an effort to fix the issues with the digital system which caused the channel to go down a couple of months ago.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Chief Williams added he will be leaving the County on April 2nd to take a position with San Jose FD as their Assistant Fire Chief.

Chief Herzberg reported that the CDC has relaxed the guidelines for contact between people that are fully vaccinated. This may have an impact on station crews.

Chief Grinnell reported that he wanted to express his deep appreciation in everyone's efforts and support for Bodega Bay Fire.

Adjournment: @ 1030hrs

Next Meeting: April 14 - Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary