

**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

**Hosted by Healdsburg, 601 Healdsburg Ave
March 11th, 2009 0930 HOURS**

Attendance

John Zanzi,	Sebastopol	Steve Francis,	Coastal Vllys EMS Agency
Randy Collins,	Healdsburg	Larry Anderson,	Petaluma
Chuck Abshear,	Cal Fire	Doug Williams,	Rincon Valley
Mark Aston,	Sonoma County	John Clary,	Cal EMA / OES
Ernie Loveless,	Cal Fire	John Evans,	CHP
Phil Garcia,	Sonoma Vllly Fire & Rescue	Peter Van Fleet,	Glen Ellen
Fred Bunker,	Santa Rosa JC	Bob Uboldi,	Kenwood
Vern Losh,	Healdsburg	Dan Northern,	Forestville
Paul Pigoni,	Geyserville	Sean Grinnell,	Russian Rvr / Bodega Bay
Dick Luttrell,	REDCOM	Mike Jones,	Santa Rosa
Ron Marsh,	REDCOM	David Cornelsson	Santa Rosa / Windsor
Ken Reese,	REDCOM		

Call to Order: Chief Zanzi called the meeting to order at 9:35.

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Collins welcomed everyone and offered lunch to those who could stay after the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: No changes to minutes as presented. Chief Williams proposed to accept as presented, second from Chief Grinnell. Approved unanimously.

President's Report: Chief Zanzi mentioned the website and requested feedback.

Treasurer's Report: Chiefs Account Balance = \$1,637.69 (**as of March 1st**) W&O fund balance = \$132,613.48 (**as of March 1st**). Mentioned several outstanding dues payments, and discussed the publication of the minutes on the website.

Correspondence:

- Chief Zanzi letter to representative Woolsey regarding possible funding for REDCOM expansion. Question from Chief Collins regarding sending similar "funding request" letters to Thompson, plus federal senators (Chief Williams suggested making telephone contacts to the offices as well). Chief Collins agreed to make telephone contacts, Chief Zanzi will send the letters.
- Received letter from CHP regarding upcoming open house.

Presentations:

- **Volunteer Academy at SRJC:** Fred Bunker initiated the discussion by providing background information on the development of a volunteer firefighter academy at SRJC. Fred recognized Vern Losh, Brian Elliot, Dan Northern, Eleanor Ratliff, and Bob MacIntyre for their contributions in the development of the project. Fred mentioned the volunteer academy project has the support of the Chancellor's office (providing \$15k funding). Ultimately will have non-credit courses at minimal or no cost to the students.

- Chief Northern led a brief discussion outlining the program. The proposed program will have state of CA certification, is compatible with existing programs that many departments already have in place, and is modular. It is also designed to meet applicable state & federal mandates (NFPA 1001 entry-level FF task book, NIMS, Basic ICS, etc). The program will also have a small wildland component to meet minimum certification requirements – but not CICCS. If local departments want more than the basic minimum - they can add to the NFPA minimum requirements. The academy will also have an e-based component as an alternative to some classroom courses. The program also provides options for local mandates for additional courses and certificates (up to individual agency). Completion of all elements will lead to a SRJC certificate and a state fire marshal certificate.
- Bunker requested people look over the program and provide feedback and questions to Fred Bunker. The next step will involve meeting with State Fire Marshall and getting textbooks. Chief Aston asked questions about the classification of “support volunteers” who could provide logistical support and/or medical response support without meeting the full requirements of fire-response personnel. Sonoma County is currently building a task book for a “support volunteer.” Chief Northern mentioned it would take approx a year to get through the program and obtain certification. However – individuals who receive basic introductory training may be able to ride along earlier (similar to an explorer). Northern emphasized the modular aspect is specifically designed to address the needs of potential volunteers who live or work in remote / rural areas.
- Three handouts were provided during the presentation
 1. List of Volunteer Training requirements
 2. Classroom and skills component (like a task book)
 3. March 2009 Position Paper from Chief MacIntyre
- **Grant for State-Wide Volunteer FF Recruitment:** Chief Losh discussed the grant parameters and intent. \$800k statewide grant. Advertising and a website will be developed to function as a portal getting new volunteers into a system to track and direct willing volunteers. An 800 number will also be set up. Approx 10,000 posters will also be distributed (similar to what DES has done locally over the last two years). The campaign will target 18 to 25 year-olds and will use Facebook, You-Tube, and other appropriate social networking sites. Chief Losh played a TV ad developed for Idaho, and recognized that it will need some refining for the California audience. A sample recruitment flyer was distributed.

Pending presentations for future meetings:

Bunker – refresher skills program at SRJC
Rosevear – North Bay Conservation Corps

Committee Reports

- **Training Section:** Mike Jones addressed pending issues. FF bill of rights class coming up in Petaluma, looking at better ways to deliver training. Training Officers are still looking for a Liaison from the Chief's Association (next meeting April 14th – usually held second Tuesday of the month, every other month). Typically held in Petaluma, but next meeting will be held in Southern Marin.
- **Prevention Section:** Chief Collins provided an update. Starting training for the NFPA 13D sprinkler standards. In regard to solar installations - took the state template and trying to adapt it for local installations. Chief Zanzi suggested making contacts with local building officials to ensure solar installations are Firefighter friendly. The building officials group is having some difficulty – there seems to be some resistance to adopting firefighter safe regulations for solar installations. Chief Collins noted the group recently took delivery of a new “Sparky Suit.” Chief Aston asked for any information on coordinated public information on fireworks displays. Chief MacIntyre will address the issue with FPOs. Chief Aston noted the benefit of a coordinated media effort. On a related note, Chief Williams expressed some concerns about the lack of overall consistency in enforcement in areas that do not allow non-commercial displays. It was felt that some concerns may be mitigated by a coordinated media campaign. Chief Anderson discussed Petaluma's recent revision to their ordinance that restricted days of sale and also restricted the discharge to ONLY one day.
- **Operations Section:** Cornelsson provided an update – The group will be meeting next Monday (March 16th) at the tower in SR regular meeting will start at 9:00. Discussion will focus on pending Strike Team Leader handbook (approximately 9:30 AM) and membership formalization.
- **District Chiefs:** Chief Garcia – Next District Association meeting will be held March 26th at the Sonoma Vets auditorium – Sonoma County Auditor-Controller Rod Dole will be the featured speaker. The state FDAC (Fire Districts Association of California) annual conference will be April 16 – 18 in San Diego.
- **Volunteer FF Association:** Update from Chief Aston – next meeting is next week (Wednesday March 18th at County DES at 7:00 PM). Membership is comprised of board members and volunteers.
- **REDCOM:** Dick Luttrell – Introduced Ron Marsh – watch supervisor at REDCOM. Dick advised the contract process is progressing between AMR and the JPA. Ken Reese advised the CAD upgrade will take place March 31st and dispatching will be done manually for a few minutes. A memo regarding the upgrade has been widely circulated. Once new server is on-line they will begin to use new system. The complete process should take 4 to 6 hours. Some pagers, MDC's, rip & run, may take a little longer to come on-line. There are some pending issues on the law side of the CAD. The new map grid will be implemented with the upgrade.
- **CAD Group:** Chief Williams – met yesterday morning. The map products have been out since January – looking for feedback on maps. Discussed processes for how to deal with mistakes.

Will meet again April 21st.in Windsor at 9:30 hours. Map numbers will be automatically generated by the new CAD.

- **OES Operational Area:** Chief Williams – No activity. REDCOM getting up to speed on OES radio. ROSS training continuing and should be complete by fire season. Chief John Clary discussed outstanding OES payments. Chiefs Clary & Loveless requested that jurisdictions who received payment for outstanding OES assignments please send them a brief email note so they can stay up to date. STEN refresher classes scheduled for end of April. Chief Clary also discussed Region II dispatch. Alameda County will eventually handle Region II dispatch. They are also discussing a Move-up-manager (MUM) for Region II. Additionally - IQS will be the portal into ROSS for CICCIS.
- **County DES:** Chief Aston – Discussed CSA 40 study being prepared for presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Fire Act grant for SWISS pagers was denied. Homeland security purchases are beginning for the approved grants. Note: DES is unable to fund a dedicated procurement position – so the County purchasing department will lead the procurement process – this may lead to some delays in acquisition. There are two Assistant Chief positions that are filled temporarily, working to fill on a permanent basis. CUPA - UNIDOCIS moving forward. Working with Fire Marshal's office on new permitting processes.
- **EMCC:** Steve Francis – Working on contract compliance components with AMR. Four new ambulances are in service, changing to electronic PCR process. In light of the current poor economic conditions, the fiscal impacts are significant. Directors have asked for a review of all costs and asked staff to find a funding mechanism. Will likely result in increased fees. Hearings on any new fees will probably occur in June or July. Henry 1 has been recruiting for paramedics. Hired two paramedics and some part-time now positions who are now going through background checks. Henry 1 is now back up to full ALS response. New EMT certifications will become state responsibility in July 2010. Approx. 1,200 EMTs in Sonoma County and 140,000 EMTs in the state. Anticipate certification will probably cost more and have another layer of bureaucracy to get an EMT re-certification. NOTE: First Responder certification may be an option to maintain compliance with Title 22 (required for PO, FF, park guards, etc).
- **Legislative:** Chief Collier – No report
- **Grants:** Chief Zanzi – Reiterated the Swiss phone pager grant was denied, but will likely resubmit. Chief Williams noted that Yolo County had a successful grant for similar items and suggested we review their proposal.
- **SRJC Advisory:** Fred Bunker - (see presentation described above) No additional Report
- **CHP Liaison:** John Evans – Open house is scheduled for key contacts to discuss CHP roles. Will also display their local specialty vehicles (including communications). Will also have specialty vehicles. Burn run is tentatively scheduled May 13th. Fiscal issues not yet significant for CHP – pretty stable.

- **Red Cross:** Roger Doncaster – no report.
- **Marin Chief's Liaison:** Chief Northern – no report.

Old Business

- **Strike Team Policy (April Meeting).** Current revision will be distributed soon. Dave Cornelsson provided a brief update. The Operations group met with the e-board to discuss and get guidance on several issues related to the Strike Team Policy. Generally trying to make it easier for chiefs to get personnel qualified and maintain currency. This issue will be further reviewed at the next Ops meeting on Monday March 16th at the Santa Rosa Training Tower. (start time for the Strike Team Leader Discussion will be approx 9:30).

New Business

- **Annual Chiefs Association Planning Meeting – Goals.** Chief Zanzi led the discussion. These goals will be on the agenda for approval next month. (see attached). Chief Grinnell suggested an annual "All Chiefs Meeting." Chief Williams noted it has been done in the past in advance of fire season. If not county-wide, many areas all already doing it locally. More discussion next month. May want to tighten some of the time frames described in the attached document as the discussion advances.
- **Priorities for the 2010 Homeland Security Grant (April).** Would like to establish Chief's priorities well in advance of the final prioritization meeting. Will discuss in April. Question from Chief Garcia regarding stimulus funding – general understanding is that it will be included.

Customer Service / Good of the order

- **Chief Northern:** Seeking input for training room construction. Also – Insurance Provider FARA is predicting 4% to 10% increase in costs for next year. Has also contracted (\$3,500) for an opinion on compliance with volunteer FLSA issues (Stipends, nominal fees, etc.)
- **Chief Williams:** CICC meeting today at 1:00 at Windsor.

Closed Session: none – meeting adjourned approximately 11:50

Next Meeting: April 8th – Forestville

Respectfully submitted – Chuck Abshear, Secretary-Treasurer, March 15th 2009.