

Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual meeting on March 24, 2022

1. Call to Order

President Akre called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

The following members were in attendance.

Name	District		Name	District
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley		Sheply Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge
Fred Peterson	Northern Sonoma County		Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay		Chris Tachouet	Gold Ridge
Paul Bernier	Northern Sonoma County		Doug Williams	SMART
Matt Atkinson	Sonoma Valley		Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe
Tony Gossner	Rancho Adobe		Jackie Gardener	North Sonoma Coast
Paul Barry	Cazadero		Mark Bramfitt	LAFCO
Charlie Lachman	Gold Ridge		Joe Petersen	Gold Ridge
Bill Norton	Sonoma Valley		Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe
Marshall Tuberville	Northern Sonoma County		Bob Gloekner	Gold Ridge

2. Amend/Approve the Agenda

Director Hemmendinger said there was nothing about the REDCOM fees on the agenda. President Akre said he would report on that during the FSWG report as he had a meeting with Terri Wright.

VP Peterson moved to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd by Director Gardener, approved by all, opposed by none.

3. Treasurer Report

Sec/Tres Grinnell reported we did earn \$.17 in interest, and we no longer have the \$2.00 fee for a printout of written checks anymore and we did take one deposit so our account balance is \$7,257.50.

4. Committee Reports

a. FDAC / FDAC EBA / FAIRA / FASIS

President Akre reported the FDAC Conference is in Napa on April 5-8th, at the Marriot, and registration is still open, and the agenda is posted with some very interesting topics for discussion.

The FASIS and the FDAC-EBA sub-committees met jointly toward the end of February, after our last SCFDA meeting, and voted in favor of posing the question of consolidating to both full boards at our meeting on Friday, April 8th, in person at the conclusion of the conference. FASIS would become the parent

agency and offer the services of FDAC-EBA. The EBA needs it to be done this way as their by-laws would require a complete re-write, and FASIS does not have that restriction.

b. LAFCO

Mark Bramfitt reported the Commission meets the week after next, the main item on the agenda is the protest proceeding for Sonoma County Fire's reorganization with Bodega Bay. We expect that to go smoothly and that will wrap up that reorganization. I have been doing a lot of work with Northern Sonoma County Fire with their application for reorganization involving 2.5 IRP areas in region 6-its about complete so the commission will be tackling that one shortly. I also had a productive meeting with Gold Ridge about how to proceed with their reorganization.

Chief Grinnell asked if LAFCO received any protests for the Bodega Bay/Sonoma County reorganization? A)-No, and I do not think anyone is going to protest the tax drop from \$524 to \$180-205...Wed did have a couple calls from some confused people.

President Akre asked if he an update from the City of Sonoma MSR? A) Yes, it is back with the LAFCO consultant to wrap up the formatting of it and then it will be posted for 21 days on the website. Mr. Bramfitt went to explain that they have a strong recommendation in the MSR for the City to come to a more permanent arrangement for fire services using Sonoma Valley Fire. President Akre added the City has been had an arrangement since 2002, it started out as a JPA and then evolved about ten years ago into a contract for service model. We just recently renewed for another 5 years. We are looking for a more permanent solution as it has benefits for both the City and the District. First and foremost, it's a benefit to the communities we serve but also to each agency as well.

Mr. Bramfitt added, in part due to Chief Plakos reminder, ballots are out for the alternate special district representative. The ballots are out, we have four candidates, so please vote so it does not take as long as it did last time, thank you!

Chief Schroth-Cary added he had a good conversation with Mark Bramfitt, it was productive, and he helped with a pathway forward and ID'd a couple challenges ahead of Gold Ridge, thank you Mark.

c. Political Action

No Report

d. FSWG

President Akre said the FSWG got a chance to finally meet last week, in person, with Terri Wright. It was a productive meeting. She is scaling back her employment and transition to a consultant kind role but wants to see our projects through to the end. REDCOM fees was discussed. The agreement is with the REDCOM board and the County and there does not appear to be an "out" clause and the agreement is through FY 23/24. Terri did confirm the understanding this week. She was also helpful by providing information about the history of upstaffing and costs. We also discussed a path forward about possible future funding for the program. We also got some information about Lexipol but we did not get a commitment for Lexipol. She also informed us about something I was not aware of and that was the agreement was only for Districts and did not include Cities. More work on this will happen. One change to the members of FSWG, Shanna Jones has retired, and Mike Marcucci will take her place. Many members have a long history of working with Chief Marcucci and he is an outstanding leader and person, I look forward to his participation and working with him in the unit. President Akre then asked Chief Schroth-Cary if he had anything to add, he did. Chief Schroth-Cary added that one proposal and one nexus is to consider looking at PG&E settlement funds to be used for upstaffing events. It was even discussed that going direct with PG&E would be a worthy cause if the county could not come up with the funds. In summary, these three programs that are potentially not

funding and the loss of Terri as our advocate and conduit to the county, we need to identify the next person and we did speak to Terri about that. We also expressed concerns of the lack of a fire ad hoc. I suspect that will change shortly, but currently we do not have one. President Akre asked if Chief Tuberville had anything to add? A) **No**. VP Peterson asked if anyone new where the second tranche of PG&E funding intended for the Kincade fire went? President Akre added the Kincade settlement funds have not been allocated or discussed yet. Chief Tuberville added that he had no update, but he did think that we need to pursue this, and we might stand a better chance if we went to the county directly or at least see if the county will advocate with us. I think the county is in litigation over environmental crimes from the Kincade fire, I think the county is in the driver seat to reach a settlement that can benefit both the county and fire districts. When we spoke to Terri about this last week, it would be nice if the county worked with the fire districts and tried to get some of those funds set aside for upstaffing. And the wording was to fund upstaffing whenever a PSPS in any part of the county was called for.

e. Measure G 2.0

No update, although we did loosely discuss using Props and Measures for the campaign, but the contract has been terminated. They are good group to work with and we hope to get engaged with them later.

f. Ad Hoc Funding & Attendance

President Akre confirmed what Chief Schroth-Cary eluded too, the County Ad Hoc has been disbanded, it does not make any sense that the county would have meetings with the fire service and not have us in attendance. Sec/Tres Grinnell said the “ad hoc” agenda item was relative to our own ad hoc committee to talk about future fees, assessments, and funding. President Akre said another worthy project, but we had not had time to hold a meeting, the members are myself, Chief Grinnell, VP Peterson, Director Hemmendinger.

5. Program: None

6. Old Business

g. Approve Past Minutes – February 24, 2022

VP Peterson moved to approve the minutes as written with corrections (date and minor edits that do not affect the content), 2nd by Director Petersen, approved by all, none were opposed.

h. EMS EOA RFP Update – Chief Heine

President Akre said that Chief Heine was on vacation, but as reported last meeting, the RFP was pulled by the County an extension was granted by the county to AMR/SLS so they could fix the RFP Problems. Work continues to craft a new RFP. We did send a joint letter with the Chief Association to the new Director of Health Services, Tina Rivera, asking for inclusion in the process and better stakeholder engagement. VP Peterson asked if we received a reply, Yes, we did. We also received a response to the letter we sent concerning wall times (a stateside issue too), which have increased significantly.

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

Due to technical issues, no report was given.

7. New Business

None

8. Good of the Order

VP Peterson reported that Geyserville could not host an “in person” meeting in May due to a schedule conflict. President Akre then asked the group if there was interest in having the April 28th meeting in person? And is there a district that can host that? Silence...Chief Plakos reminded the group that due to the size of the county that zoom meetings are very good for us, and our hosting a meeting is silly, and the online meeting is very helpful. President Akre said his desire is to continue Zoom meetings on a monthly basis, have the quarterly in person meetings and have the business portion of the in-person meeting as a Zoom meeting as conditions allow. Director Gloekner offered Gold Ridge as the host of the April meeting, and they would see if the Washoe House was available. VP Peterson and Director Hemmendinger voiced similar sentiments and more. All agreed to the in-person meeting and the attempt to conduct the business meeting using tech to keep everyone involved in association business prior to the social meeting aspects.

Director Petersen offered to reach out to other Districts to increase attendance. President Akre will also ask each standing committee Rep to forward their reports at the time of the agenda goes out so we can streamline our meetings as well.

Sonoma Valley was proud to announce that the south county agencies of, Rancho, Sonoma Valley, Petaluma have developed a leadership training for company officers that has been taught 6 times now and we also partnered up for an engine companies fire operations at the SDC, with a cadre of instructors from Petaluma, Sonoma Valley, San Francisco, and Cal Fire presented many topics relative to company officers.

9. Next Meeting April 28, 2022, in Person?

Yes, the next meeting will be in person, see above.

10. Close

A motion to close at 7:52 pm was made by Director Gloekner, 2nd by Director Gardener, approved by all, none were opposed.

Minutes approved on: _____

Signed: _____