



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
Nov 13th 2019 at 9:30 AM
Hosted By Rancho Adobe

ATTENDANCE

Aaron Abbott	REDCOM	Steve Akre	SVFRA
Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP	Dean Anderson	AMR
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Mike Mickelson	NB/Wilmar
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Mike Bates	RPDPS
Chris Godley	Sonoma County	Mike Nicholls	Cazadero
Mark Heine	SCFD	Kemplen Robbins	Santa Rosa
Dave Franceschi	Forestville	Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa
Bill Bullard	Graton	Jason Boaz	Healdsburg
Doug Williams	SMART	James Williams	Sonoma County
Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Aristotle Wolfe	CHP
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Spencer Andreis	SVFRA
Mike Parkes	CALFIRE	Matt Epstein	Dry Creek
Mark Dunn	SCFD	Tim Mattos	RPDPS
Dan George	Gold Ridge	Sheply Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge/NB
James Salvante	CVEMSA	Mark Courson	Cal OES
Bill Braga	Sebastopol		

Call to Order: Chief Boaz began the meeting at 0934 and asked Chief Schach to lead the pledge.

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Boaz turned it over to Chief Schach who welcomed the group who explained logistics & housekeeping. He added RA is now at 3-0 staffing at all stations and they are hiring and thanked those who helped Petaluma cross staffing a Type 3 during the recent fire.

Presidents Report: Chief Boaz reflected on the events that have transpired over the last few weeks and that as an organization, we should be proud of the accomplishments we have made since the 2017 fires. This included being proactive with evacuations, coordination with community groups like COPE and an improved response as reflected by the Unified Command. He turned it over to Commander Wolfe who spoke of his experience during the incident and how he was impressed with the coordination and the fire response. He also invited the group to join him in an informal ICS workshop/after action Nov 21. Location and exact time TBD.

Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the September minutes by Chief Boaz (the October meeting was cancelled), second by Chief Grinnell . Unanimous vote.

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

Chiefs General Fund:	\$2,3196.66
Survivors Fund:	\$105,896.31
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$8,401.92
TO's Command Grant	\$25,000.00
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$8,956.90
Career Succession:	\$1,375.64
FPO General Fund:	\$2,325.35
Youth Fire Setter Fund	\$41.53
FITF	\$1,613.49
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$36,850.47
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$195,360.62

Correspondence: Randy shared the correspondence he received from Ukiah Ford offering a free \$50 gift card to all First Responders

Presentation: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- **2020 Installation Ceremony:** Chief Boaz shared his interest in holding a more social gathering for next year's event. Chief Williams (Ret.) reflected on the history of past ones. After a short discussion, there was general agreement to explore the suggestion and Kemplen Robbins, Doug Williams, Chiefs Boaz and Mattos agreed to serve on a committee and bring a proposal back at the December meeting. Randy reminded the group that it has been a goal of the group for many years to use the event as an opportunity to recognize staff who went "above and beyond" or earned a degree or certificate and we should take this opportunity to do so.
- **Election of Area Coordinator:** Chief Boaz punted to Chief George who shared this item is on the Region II agenda for tomorrow and subsequently nominated Tony Gossner with Chiefs Andreis and Heine as alternates. Second by Chief Boaz. Unanimous vote.
- **Appointment of Nominating Committee:** Chief Boaz shared that while the group has one or two-year terms, the Secretary's position is the only one that will need to be filled. To that end, he appointed Chiefs Grinnell, Williams and Braga on the committee to bring a slate of candidates back to the Dec. meeting.
- **Appointment of EMCC Rep:** Chief Akre reported that this group is responsible for nominating two reps to the EMCC, which is currently himself and Chief Kahn who is unable to fill his role while his is up for renewal and proceeded to nominate Chief Schach for Chief Kahn's position. Chief Grinnell nominated Chief Akre to a second term and seconded the slate. Unanimous vote. Chief Williams (ret) reminded the group the nominees will still need to be confirmed by the BOS.

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Heine shared the focus over the last 30 days has been preparation for the tax measure and the associated documents (which have been completed and have gone through the second reading at the BOS). An important note is if you are in a fire service position and receive any type of compensation, you cannot take a position or advocate for the measure (a handout to that effect was circulated). He added that when the BOS passed the measure establishing the vote, it includes "consolidation" language that we should all read and can be subject to interpretation (it does exempt the Cities). The next polling on the measure will occur in late Dec/early Jan. The group is also working to lock down LAFCO reimbursements and pursuing a single invoice for the LEXIPOL services we are receiving. They are also working to lock down reimbursement from the BOS for all-risk activities and not just fires. Chief Boaz added that we are receiving a discount from LEXIPOL so if you are interested, now is the time to participate. Some questions were raised if Cities are eligible for reimbursement for these costs, which Chief Boaz will look into. In response to Chief Braga's question, the BOS will be pushing the Mental Health tax measure back so as not to conflict with our measure. Chief Gossner shared that the BOS will be holding a study session on the measure in Santa Rosa on Dec. 3 at 3 PM and a PPT is being developed for use by other agencies. Chief Schach added his council will be receiving the same presentation. Chief Heine ended by adding it is going to be a very busy 3 months.
- **Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Boaz asked for and received the following reports from the Zones:
 - CALFIRE:** Chief Nichols shared Dec 22 is the target for the end of peak staffing (subject to any significant precipitation) and the C-130 will be going to Australia soon to assist in their firefighting. He thanked all the local agencies for their cooperation during the fire. Chief Parkes inquired if there is interest in conducting our own After-Action (independent of the County's). A – Yes. He will work with the new OP Area Coordinator to identify some dates.
 - Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported they began serving the Developmental Center as they transition from the State to County. Their re-org. continues including LAFCO approving the staffing and sphere of influence proposals. They have hired three laterals who will start on Dec 2 and have 12 positions they still need to fill.
 - Zone 4:** No report.

Zone 5: Chief Franceschi and Board Member Nicholls shared they continue to move forward and spoke to the problem they had with access at checkpoints for their staff due to lack of ID's. He also spoke to a communications failure they had and a lack of cell tower reception so they are looking at installing a fiber-optic connection.

Zone 6: Chief Epstein shared his efforts to begin restoration efforts to the landscape and the steps they are taking to minimize erosion. This includes a report prepared to guide these efforts. He suggested we might want to be proactive before the rains begin. Chief Gossner reminded the group, the WERT (Watershed Emergency Response Taskforce) report was prepared after the 2017 fires is applicable to the entire county and can still be used. Chris Godley shared it is now considered a Debris Taskforce and they will be examining the erosion impacts to the river closely as well as reviewing their Emergency Plans. Chief Courson reminded the group of the Mud/Debris annex's to our emergency plans that can also serve as guidance docs.

Zone 7: Chief Gossner shared they are hiring and having difficulty recruiting. Out of the nine positions available, they only have 7 in the process. He also shared the up-staffing efforts they implemented during the fires and even with the PSPS and FMAG, you expect reimbursement of approx. 75%. Chris Godley added they will be submitting a California Assistance Disaster Act declaration. Chief Heine shared Windsor's EOC performed very well given most involved had not gone through an activation. On Dec 4 they go to LAFCO for the RR sphere of influence. He said it will include any entity within RR's ambulance service area as well as Bodega Bay, Bloomfield and Bodega.

Zone 8: Chief George shared both Graton and Gold Ridge's measures passed.

Zone 9: Chief Schach shared they were heavily impacted by sheltering and they are changing their staffing pattern to match their 2 x 4 shift with RA, RPDPS & SR. Commander Bates shared the all-call was beneficial and asked if there is a better way to increase our overhead staffing (they were tied to their EOC)?

OES: Chief Coursen thanked the group for their coordination during the incident. He added at the Region meeting tomorrow, the Chief and Deputy will not be attending. Chief Gossner expressed his appreciation to Chief Courson for all his efforts and the heat he has taken for being an advocate for the membership.

- **Training/OP's:** Chief Andreis shared the following from yesterday's meeting:
 - **Apparatus Numbering Scheme:** With consolidations, we are running out of numbers and a committee has developed a draft policy which will be finalized at the Jan OP's meeting and then brought back to this group.
 - **XSN Battalion Coverage:** Have not received much movement because of the fire activity.
 - **Tablet Command:** Is up to about 60 users and will be spearheaded by Chief Dunn.
 - KT McNulty will be the new Sec.
- **FPO's:** Kemplen Robbins reported they will be establishing goals for 2020 and are considering aligning their meeting dates with the Marin county group so they can work more closely.
- **Fire Districts:** Chief Akre shared their last meeting was at Schell Vista and included a presentation on the tax measure where there was some push back on the tax measure language promoting consolidations. The next meeting is in Glen Ellen on January 23rd. He also shared the FD's Leadership Conference was well attended
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson shared the E-Board meets tonight and will consider the contract language. They have also hired some admin staff to assist. In response to Chief Gossner's question, Knights Valley is part of Geyserville.
- **Vegetation Management:** Chief Williams thanked the Districts for giving them data for the report on their overall efforts. They will also be looking into seeing if their efforts made any difference with the Kincadee fire. He added the chipping program is over for the year and they are working on a schedule for next spring.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fire/EMS Committee:** Chief Akre reported the second reading on the ordinance occurred yesterday and they are pleased it includes language giving historic recognition of 201 rights and the ability of individual agencies to determine what medical resources they wish to send to a call (including ALS) as well as an appeals process. James reflected on the positive working relationship that has emerged in the process and the importance that it continues.
- **County Alerting System:** Chris Godley reported that he believed the fire was the largest wireless alert in the nation's history and it happened despite being handicapped by the planned outage. He does have a time-line including maps of all evacuations which you will find in this link. <https://links.sonoma-county.org/kuEVWCiYQeA/> He believes it was the largest in Northern California history. They will also do two After-Action reports; one for the fire and one for the outages. They will be pursuing claims against PG&E as well as the wireless providers for their inability to provide adequate communications during the outage.

He ended by reporting the Russian River Flood Plan has been updated and they will have a public workshop at Dec 12, 2PM at Graton Fire. He added he will fund overhead if an ICP is activated for any flood activities.

- **Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief Gossner reported the up-staffing plan was exercised with the weather event/fire and included overhead (himself, Chief Heine & Healdsburg PD). They remained proactive throughout the event including calling Chief Rocha directly. He did reflect on a few small communication glitches and some innovative ways they committed resources to the incident to create a “surge” plan. He reminded the group that because some of our responses were considered local mutual aid, they may not be reimbursed although to date, he has not heard of any issues and if there are, will explore using County up-staffing funding to make agencies whole.

Chief George reinforced the value of working with Marin County to put the “surge” plan into effect. He added that there was approx. \$600k left in the up-staffing account but cautioned on turning reimbursement requests at the same time so they are all captured (send to Chief George). Chief Andreis reminded the group to cite the Active Status page and resources committed when submitting your paperwork. Chief Gossner thanked Chief Andreis for his assistance in making the up-staffing plan go so well. Chief George expressed optimism our reimbursement will be made whole with the FMAG process. There still remains the question if all-risk activities will be covered (to be agendized for a BOS meeting).

In response to Chief Gossner’s question about the value of the conference calls, Chief Heine shared it helped provide very clear lines of communications to identify resource needs and provide effective intel. Chiefs Bullard and Schach echoed this sentiment and shared it helped squelch inaccurate social media reports. Chief Parkes reflected on the importance it had in minimizing the problems associated with free-lancing and lack of command & control. Chief Boaz ended the discussion by indicating he looks forward to learning more at the After-Action report.

REDCOM: Director Abbott applauded Chris’s Emergency Management group for the great job they did and how smooth the hospital evacuations went. As for REDCOM, they logged more than 500 additional hours during the event and ended by sharing he will be leaving REDCOM in January to take a promotion and thanked the group for their support and the honor of working with us.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order:

- Chief Williams (Ret) shared SMART will also have their tax measure on the March ballot & the Larkspur and downtown Novato stations will open soon.
- Randy shared that they have had enough interest to hold a FFI certification test class and shared a flyer. He also shared Chief Coleman has resigned from STEAC and if anyone wishes to attend the luncheon SFT will be holding for him after the next STEAC meeting on Jan 10, he will be happy to give them a ride.
- James Salvante thanked the group for its efforts. The EMCC meets Nov 19 at the UFO building. He also shared Dr. Nathan Morrel is their new Public Health Director

Adjournment: At 12:01

Next Meeting: December 11th at Santa Rosa

Respectfully Submitted: Nov 13, 2019

Randy Collins,
SCFCA Secretary