



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2021 at 8:30 AM
Occidental FD/Zoom**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Kelly Bradley	North Bay Fire	Brian Henricksen	AMR
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Ron Lunardi	Occidental	Steve Suter	Santa Rosa
KT McNulty	REDCOM	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Steve Mosiurchak	County of Sonoma
TC Collins	Santa Rosa	Matt Epstein	Dry Creek
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Mark Courson	OES
Spencer Andreis	Sonoma Valley Fire	Jeff Schach	Petaluma
Doug Williams	SMART	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Mike Parks	CALFIRE
Chris Godley	So. Co. DES	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire
Bonnie Plakos	North Coast Fire	Andrew Smith	RPPS

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Heine

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Lunardi welcomed everyone

Presidents Report: Chief Heine reported working with FSWG on the purposed County wide sales tax measure and helping with negotiations with funding agreements for consolidations and stabilization with agencies.

Changes to the Agenda: Chief Bellach stated there were changes to the minutes from Chief Nicholls and was unable to make the changes in time for the meeting. Chief Bellach asked if we could approve the minutes for last months meeting in November so he could make the changes.

Approval of Minutes: None, moved to next month

Treasurer's Report: Chief Bellach reported:

Chief's General Fund	\$3,478.12
Survivor's Fund	\$103,396.31
Training Officer's Fund	\$2,219.92
Training Officer's Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$3,822.76
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$11,956.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$888.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$1,951.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53

Safety Pals General Fund	\$24,165.62
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
TOTAL FUNDS	\$155,161.57

Correspondence: None

Presentation: None

Old Business: Follow-up on the Watch Duty App - Chief Nicholls reported there is talks about a future meeting with REDCOM, Sonoma County SO and the Op area on how the App should function within the system due to them being sponsored by DEM.

Ambulance RFP update – Chief Heine reported that the County approved a draft RPF back in April. It needed to be sent to the State EMS Agency for their weigh-in. The County now has it back and are in a disagreement with the State over any changes. Nothing else to report and just waiting to hear back from the County.

Update on mowing campaign – No report

Purchase of video conferencing equipment – Chief Heine reported that we are using the Owl conferencing device today. It runs about \$1,000.00. It will do all the audio and visual for computer based meeting conferences as a 360 panorama. We will move forward and purchase one for SCFCA and FPO's.

Fire sales tax measure update – Chief Heine reported we are still engaged with the County and looking at a June 2022 ballot measure. We are currently concerned about missing the June 2022 ballot opportunity because the November ballot of next year is starting to look very crowded for other measures. The County has hired EMC Research, they are a polling and data analysis company. The first week of November they will be holding community focus groups. In January they will do the official polling. The polling needs to come back in the high 60% range to create the margin of error. The County is about a week away from closing out its RFP for a marketing consultant. The consultant will deal with the marketing of the tax measure. Working with FSWG on what that distribution plan will look like. The sales tax is anticipated on generating around \$52M a year. The ask list is over \$78M.

New Business: October predictive services weather briefing – Chief Heine reported, if you haven't seen this, please get online and go to the North Ops Predictive services site and take a look at the forecast for the October- December time frame. The bottom line is we are in an above average, above normal prediction for large scale events.

Joint Meeting in November – Joint meeting with Marin County Chiefs on November 3, 2021 at 0830hrs at the SRJC Training Center in Windsor. We will be focusing on hiring issues. Chief Schach brought up about looking into hiring and starting the process to have Advanced EMT's and creating a program to certify those individuals.

Addition of specialty resources in LG and CalFire responses – Chief Heine reported at the Op area there several local government agencies that have specialty resources that they would like to offer up locally or even at the State level. Example, with Occidental Fire District they have a dozer now available, Sonoma County Fire District will soon have a public safety helicopter available and Sonoma Valley Fire District has a drone available. We need to communicate these assets effectively and use these assets effectively. Last week the Op

Areas Coordinators all met together to see where we want to go with this. We want to embrace this and find a way to help an agency envision a program for these assets. There are steps we need to go through to make this happen, either through the Op area and/or OES. We will have the Op Area Coordinators along with CalFire/LNU and the organization with the asset to discuss ways how we can create this program. Chief Parks stated that coordination before an incident needs happen. Before the asset shows up, we need to look at who is going to take the liability, cost and who are they working for. Chief Nicholls added that the process and time it took for the County of Napa to decide that they wanted a helicopter and it came online was several months. Issues like logistical support and how the asset falls into the system need to be addressed early on.

Discussion on private fire brigades and private equipment came up. Topics were; who do you work for? PPE, liability, accountability and communications. All of these problems need to be looked at and how do we come up with a solution.

Use of Active Status list – Chief Heine reported how important the Active Status list is. Region II dispatches directly off this list. Some agencies assume that they will be sent only in County. This is for State-wide responses. It is very important that this list is updated not only by each agency, but also the RDO. Chief Andreis stated that all in County and adjacent County dispatches are CAD based by closest units. The Active Status sheet is only used for planned needs state-wide. If you cannot send a unit to an incident, then do not sign-up.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Along with the items listed under Old Business, continuing to work with the agencies on funding agreements. Sonoma County Fire District, Bodega Bay Fire District, North County Fire District, CSA40 with North Bay Fire District and Gold Ridge Fire District and Kenwood Fire District. Having multiple contracts coming from the County. Hope to have some resolution here soon.

SMART: Doug Williams reported that the trains are still running on a modified schedule. Looking at another grant that would restore full service and hire engineers as necessary. Should have an announcement on who will be the new general manager soon. Still trying to get the AVL for Marin County. Chief Schach asked in regards to the weed abatement program and the city mowing the track areas. A bill was sent to SMART for the services and was denied saying the city does not have authorization to do that. Doug Williams was not aware of this.

PG & E: None

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported in the next couple of days, maybe a week the new Fire Hawk is down for its mechanical service. We will be taking possession of the new 101 this morning. Because the Huey is still in service you will hear it on the air. It will not be Copter104. It may be 482DF because there already is a 101. As we transition into the later part of fire season, anticipate the next several of weeks some smoke coming up from prescribed fires in the County at the coast and in North County.

Zone 3: Chief Akre reported they just had a Medic FF complete their pre-employment and will be starting in a few weeks. Next month will be going to the Board with a fire

prevention fee program to recover more of our costs. May be hiring a full time inspector in the future.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: Chief Boaz reported the new ladder truck is on its way and is 2 months ahead of schedule. It's a Peirce 107ft. If anyone is looking for a ladder truck the old one will be up for grabs it's a 2000 Smeal 75ft. in great shape. We have secured almost \$1M in grants for vegetation management on Fitch Mountain. Moving forward with the construction of the new fire substation, rough grading is done as well as the drawings. There is a funding gap of \$1.5M-\$2M and are trying to find ways to close that. The Sotoyome-Fitch Mountain contract was brought back to council on October 4th. It has passed council and is now on its way to the County.

Zone 7: Chief Heine reported they hope to be executing a contract with REACH next month. Initially it would utilize the existing REACH 1 Copter and missioned for EMS response and inter hospital transports. It would also be available for aerial recon flights. Next May delivery of a new Euro Copter H135 this will be all risk capable. Have been meeting with the SO and CalFire to make sure whatever the program is that it is collaborative and in support of the existing air missions for CalFire and Sonoma County Sheriff's Department. Took delivery of a new type 6 about a month ago and should be in service in a couple of days. It will be assigned to station 9 in Guerneville and live at Station 6 in Mountain after the bugs are worked out. Hoping today we will be able to move forward and have an executed agreement with Bodega Bay Fire District that would have a LAFCO process starting in December, with a go live date of July 2022. The new construction impact fee program was passed both by the BOS as well as the Town of Windsor. This is anticipated to generate around \$350k to \$500k a year.

Zone 8: No report

Zone 9: Chief Schach reported they did a recruitment for an Assistant Fire Marshal and have given a conditional job offer. On Monday they will go to Council for a new type 1.

OES: Chief Courson reported that he wanted to thank Sonoma County for the substantial support that we have done for this summer's responses. In the process of finalizing the funeral arrangements for Deputy Chief Vern Brun who passed a week ago. The Region II fall meeting will be Nov. 2nd. Location to follow.

Training OP's: No report

FPO's: No Report

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported they are continuing to meet each month. The last meeting the big focus was vegetation management and trying to get the Fire Districts a seat at the table with the County. Mark Brown from Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority spoke last month about Marin's model and what they are doing. Continuing the support with the Districts working with the County for additional funding. Next meeting will be October 28th.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Bradley reported they are moving forward on their type 3 engines. They should be shipped by Christmas. Looking at another purchase of a type 3 and a type 6. Chief Bradley will be replacing Chief Mickelson in representing the Volunteer Fire Company's.

Vegetation Management: Chief Mosiurchak reported they are still out doing inspections per the Hazard Mitigation Grant for defensible space. These should be completed by April of next year. Starting in January we will looking at the structural hardening component of the grant for contractors to assist property owners with prioritizing the structural hardening. Having an open recruitment for extra help fire inspectors. If your agency has any volunteers with-in their organization that would like to get into the inspection world, please have them apply for entry level training. There is a new State Law that started in July of this year, it is called AB 38. This has to do with wildland defensible space inspections to structures prior to the sale. These inspections are required in the SRA. Since the County has the 13A Ordinance, they would be on the hook to do these inspections. If there are departments already participating in 13A DSI program, you can charge for these inspections. The Collector App has this on it to assist with the inspections. All the Data can be shared as well as shared to CalFire.

Coastal Valley EMS: No report

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: Chief Heine reported the Ad Hoc is working with SMART on emergency operations, Chief Busch is on the committee for SCFCA. Doug Williams added the Sonoma County Transportation Sub Committee met yesterday and they are starting to develop with Sonoma County Emergency Management some tools in trying to figure out how they can use the trains to move people when necessary.

Fire/EMS: No report

DEM: Chris Godley reported they will be meeting with the SO to talk about the AG ID program and how much restrictions they will put on it. The Ag community wants to get an ID card to allow them to come into closed areas that may be under hazard conditions. In April at SDC there will be an earthquake exercise. This will be a full scale event. Working on trying to build community emergency resource centers. These will be steel sheds at 3500 sq.ft. to store emergency supplies. They would be solar powered with batteries. Currently have enough funding for 3 out of 5 of the units. Looking at moving the drought task force from being a conference call to something more operational. We do not know if the drought will impact fire suppression. North County will run dry first unless we get some good rain.

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported he covered most of it already. Wanted to thank everyone who participated in the most recent up-staffing. We were able to field an OES Strike Team and a Task force under County Pre Pos funding.

REDCOM: KT reported the Zone All Call is working and new to the system. The Comm van is almost usable and ready. Chief Heine reminded everyone that we now have a Zone All Call rather than the County All Call. Op Plan 18 discusses how to use this.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Brian Henricksen reported with a BLS Co response. It has been going on now for about 2 months. Averaging about 2.5 transports a day and has saved around 200 hours of wall time. With over 200 transports there has been no clinical issues. Chief Nicholls reported they will be meeting with Alchera on Friday, the IA is still missing fires. They will be doing an upgrade after Friday. Chief Schach reported Petaluma has 2 new wildfire cameras in service. Both on the Haze Lane water towers.

Adjournment: @ 1015hrs.

Next Meeting: November 3, 0830, at the SRJC Public Safety Training Facility. The meeting will be a joint meeting of the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association and the Marin County Fire Chiefs Association.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary