

# Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

## MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid meeting (In person/Zoom) October 27, 2022, at 1900 hours

Kenwood FPD.

### 1. Call to Order

President Akre called the meeting to order at 7:34pm and thanked our joint hosts, Sonoma County and Kenwood fire districts.

The following members were in attendance.

Name	District	Name	District
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley	Jackie Gardener	North Sonoma Coast
Fred Peterson	Northern Sonoma County	Daren Bellach	Kenwood
Sean Grinnell	SCFD	Richard Gulson	Guest
Paul Barry	Cazadero	August Moretti	Kenwood
Charlie Lachman	Gold Ridge	Mark Heine	SCFD
Michael Gadoua	Rancho Adobe	Steve Klick	SCFD
Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe	Bob Briare	SCFD
Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast	Frank Treanor	SCFD
Chris Tachouet	Gold Ridge	Matt Windrem	SCFD
Marshal Tuberville	Northern Sonoma County	Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley
Daymon Doss	Kenwood	Brian Brady	Sonoma Valley
Brian Proteau	Rancho Adobe	Mark Johnson	Sonoma Valley
Tony Gossner	Rancho Adobe	Gary Johnson	Sonoma Valley
Marti Campbell	North Sonoma Coast	Ernie Lovelace	Schell Vista
Matt Atkinson	Sonoma Valley	Paul Bernier	Northern Sonoma County
Doug Williams	SMART	Rob Stewart	Northern Sonoma County
Ray Petersen	Rancho Adobe	Joe Petersen	Gold Ridge
Shepley Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge		

### 2. Amend/Approve the Agenda

VP Peterson moved to approve the agenda as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Norton. All approved, none were opposed.

### 3. Treasurer Report

Sec/Tres Grinnell reported the account balance was at \$6, 967.55.

### 4. Committee Reports

#### a. FDAC / FDAC EBA / FAIRA / FASIS

President Akre reported that FDAC, as of Wednesday, just completed the Leadership Conference. This class is intended for the company officer looking to promote to the command level. Very well attended for a post covid event.

FDAC-EBA and FASIS continue to move forward with the consolidation.

b. LAFCO

Report provided by EO Mark Bramfitt. President Akre asked if the report was accurate in its reference to Northern Sonoma County and the Sonoma County's request the Commission for reconsideration of original findings? VP Peterson said it had more to do with the Sotoyme area more than the Dry Creek area and the Mello Roos tax that is in place. It is more to do with legal steps to prevent us from going back to step one with LAFCO process, assuming this goes well. Its just another delay for us.

c. Political Action

- i. [FDAC Legislative Report Link](#) Follow the link for the October Report.

d. FSWG

President Akre reported in the absence of Director Taylor that our priorities are in supporting the consolidation efforts of Gold Ridge and Northern Sonoma County Fire District; and the second item which we have spent a lot of time on is the sales tax measure. We support an initiative-based sales tax. Benefits include a 50% +1 vote, the money would not go to the county, although it will require us to create a governing board. However, there is a realtor initiative in front of our efforts to put all tax approvals at 2/3 vote. The new tax effort will require funding in the amounts we have not yet spent.

- i. County funded programs: Lexipol, Upstaffing and REDCOM Fees

Nothing new to report here.

- ii. Sales Tax Initiative

See above.

- e. Measure G 2.0

Covered above.

5. Program: Where have we been and where are we going, VP Peterson and Director Hemmendinger VP Peterson started of the discussion and introduced Director Mark Hemmendinger, and both presented the attached presentation. Much discussion was generated throughout the presentation.

Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/10E024ilGzZkac7Q9SX8kjSoEzwCVwcbp3X9j1oNzJguanJATTgJYf3mMXTQoHIM.UKUt0Z7fnGB8svPN>

Passcode: gD19BGz\*

1:52:29 minutes in, sound goes off for a couple of minutes-

President Akre said any disagreements have to stay inside "at this table" not be in the public. Our united front of Labor, County Chiefs, and Fire Districts sends a very powerful message, a united front. We have been very successful on the EMS front because we are united. The second most important thing for us to consider is relationships. We see the importance of this everywhere in the state. If we fight, people dig in and we get nowhere. Director Petersen suggested adding an agenda item for a Union report. We will have more follow up at our December or January meeting.

6. Old Business

- a. Approve Past Minutes – September 22, 2022

Director Gadua moved to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Lachman, all were in favor, none opposed.

- b. EMS EOA/RFP Update – Chief Heine

Chief Heine reported that the area in and around the City of Santa Rosa that is EOA 1, Exclusive Operating Area 1, is part of the 10-year contract that AMR holds for 911 ambulances. We are at year 13.5 of a 10-year contract via extensions. The county is in a bid process for EOA1. The "bid" was approved to go out last week. This ends about a 14-month process with Stakeholder input. The reason this is such an important

item for us locally, and statewide, is the first few pages of the original RFP has language that would have forbidden a fire district from even being allowed to submit a bid. SCFD is bidding on this contract, but we had to do a lot of critical work behind the scenes to get changes in the document that would at least give us a level playing field. The county approved the bid documents last week, the State EMS agency will have to approve it now. Bids will be due back to the county by January. If you are a qualified bidder, you must make a formal presentation to an outside panel of experts who will then make their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. They will award by the Bid by June of next year for a January 24 start date. The second piece-EOA1 is no longer an EOA. The state notified the county that it is no longer exclusive. AMR does not have enough ambulances on the street to provide the services it is under contract for. It is a big mess right now. This impacts all of us now. The former standard cannot be held, and this is occurring all over the state. The process will be very competitive. Director Bernier asked for more information. The contract expired 3.5 years ago, covid hit, the county, most likely did not have the band width to conduct a robust bid process, they grant two one-year extensions, supply issues, you name it, lots of good reasons for the delays. So we all agreed that we need to extend the contract again. The county and their legal team was not paying enough attention and probably extended it a little to far and that has created the most recent issues. We had input, which is what we wanted, a level playing field. Likely a \$500 Million contract. SCFD has had great support from the community. Director Hemmendinger asked if a letter of support would be needed, Chief Heine said yes, in the 60 to 90 days, the agencies that contact the "E" OA will be asked to provide letters eventually.

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

VP Peterson said Hopkins and Gore hosted a zoom meeting for veg management and wildfire resiliency yesterday. There is talk that the county will apply for CSA41 to be authorized provider of veg management, but the supervisors I spoke to have no idea it was occurring. Given what I saw yesterday it looked like a sales pitch for the county to move forward with this. Today wrote a letter to Gore and Hopkins, the governance model needs subject matter experts like fire. We would like a seat at the table to help move this forward.

7. New Business

None

8. Good of the Order

VP Peterson thanked Director Hemmendinger for his presentation and for the discussion that ensued. Sunday is the Geyserville Fall Colors is back so please join us.

Director Peterson asked for a show of hands of those that could attend a December 22 meeting? Enough people raised there hands for us to consider holding a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Chief Heine invited those present to the open house for Station 11 and the helicopter program, Sonoma County 1, starting at 10am.

SCFD is also hosting a softball tournament at the Forestville Youth Park.

9. Next Meeting December 22, 2022, via Zoom

Yes

10. Close

President Akre closed the meeting at 9:15pm.