

# Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

## MEETING MINUTES

Virtual meeting on October 28, 2021, at 1900 hours

1. Call to Order:

President Akre called the meeting to order at 7:06

The following members were present:

Name	District	Name	District
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley	Bradley Dunn	Permit Sonoma
Fred Peterson	Northern Sonoma County	Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Marti Campbell	North Sonoma Coast
Bill Adams	Council	Charley Lachman	Gold Ridge
Sheply Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge	Michael Gadoua	Rancho Adobe
Mark Bramfitt	LAFCO	Steve Mosiurchak	Permit Sonoma
Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale
Mark Heine	Sonoma County	Doug Williams	SMART
Paul Bernier	Northern Sonoma County	Bob Gloeckner	Gold Ridge
Jackie Gardener	North Sonoma Coast	Paul Barry	Cazadero
Marshall Tuberville	Northern Sonoma County	Chris Tachouet	Gold Ridge
Charles Lachman	Gold Ridge		

2. Approve/Amend the Agenda

Chief Heine moved to approve the agenda with the change to move the presentation to be the next item, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Bernier. Approved by all.

3. Program: County Special Events in Fire Districts: Permit Sonoma, Director Tennis Wick Fire Marshal Steve Mosiurchak & Bradley Dunn

President Akre introduced tonight's speakers Sonoma County Fire Marshall Steve Mosiurchak and Bradley Dunn. Fire Marshall Mosiurchak thanked the members for the opportunity to speak and offered his attendance at future meetings.

Zoom control was given to Bradley Dunn for their power point presentation. Power point attached to these minutes- *once we get it.*

Chief Tuberville said with his Gran Fondo event history, such big events have an impact on the local responders even though we are not the contracted emergency responder like AMR is. The permit might tell the event the required number of standby ambulances but that is not usually enough if they get simultaneous incidents and transports. The unwritten impact is our ability to serve our own constituents as these events delay our response. The local agencies need mitigation funds from these events too. A) Mr. Dunn said the permit process does allow for cost recovery. Mr. Dunn asked what determine when an event footprint gets to big? Chief Tuberville said a good example is the 200-mile rides and the triathlons. Each district has its own threshold for the size of the event. Chief Tuberville then asked if you would deny an event if a fire district said no unless you fund three additional engines as an example? Mr Dunn said the purpose of these permits is protect life and public safety. We have the discretion. We had several events try to run while the fires were ongoing and we said no. Mr. Dunn then asked if, for example if the riders clumped together or if they are spread out-is the impact the same? The example Chief Tuberville asked what is the number of ambulances required for a sixty-rider event? Chief Tuberville said the issue is the reliance of local resources when event responders are out of position, so we get pulled into the event. We get impacted even though we get impacted. Fire Marshall Mosiurchak said he understood the issues and the impacts and said he would work with Mr. Dunn to address these issues during the permitting process. We will also bring back some options to the fire districts. Mr. Dunn added the need for the committees created to address these issues allow for the emergency responders to attend and to speak to the issues, be engaged with the process.

President Akre reiterated our desire to be involved with the ordinance update process and with special event permit process in general.

Chief Plakos said she understands the permits generally identify the need for additional ambulances, but it would be nice if they also captured the need for first responder agencies to pre-position along the route or to respond normally. Speaking also for Timber Cove and Ft Ross, the Grand Fondo assumes that we are going to preposition resources along the route, but we are all volunteer agencies, and we will respond to calls, but we cannot pre-position for these events without some kind of compensation or reimbursement. VP Peterson reiterated the sentiment of the group and the need for a meeting in the early new year.

Mr. Dunn said they are warning the event coordinators of the risk in the fall of fires and the fact they could be canceled.

Director Stewart asked if the small group rider companies are permitted-Yes, but not part of the permitting process. They are looking at a threshold number that would trigger a permit. Mr. Dunn added they could consider using influence with the bike companies to get them to notify the agencies that they are in their area.

President Akre thanked Fire Marshall Mosiurchak and Mr. Dunn for their presentation.

#### 4. Treasurer Report

Sec/Treasurer Grinnell reported our account balance is \$7,214.61. To date all but one agency has paid dues.

#### 5. Committee Reports (As appropriate)

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

Sec/Tres Grinnell reported on the long meeting with the FDAC-EBA/FASIS meeting. We reviewed the draft audit and actuary reports. President Akre added it was a long meeting with not many reportable items. He also added that FDAC-EBA and FASIS continued to move toward consolidation of services both offer independently. Both Boards now need to decide if consolidation is in each other's best interest and will meet soon.

b. LAFCO

Executive Director Bramfitt reported our election for the class one special district member is closed, we received twenty votes out of the 38 independent special districts in the county. I would like to thank Sean, Bonnie, Steve and Bill Adams for helping me shake the trees to get the needed votes. Mark Hemmendinger from Rancho Adobe will be serving the four-year term for the class one special district representative on LAFCO. Join me in thanking Bill Norton from Sonoma Valley for throwing his hat in the ring. Our alternate member is also open, and I will be sending out ballots to all 38 special districts next week. All district members are eligible for the alternate seat. We have four candidates and only one is from a fire district and that is Bill Norton. Please watch the mail for those ballots. Fire districts made up the majority of ballots cast in the last election. Things are quiet at LAFCO right now. We will press forward to hire a commission clerk as we need to fill that position.

c. Political Action

President Akre said we still do not have a volunteer to fill the void left by former President Trainor.

d. FSWG

Chief Heine reported engaged in two areas-the ½ cent sales tax and supporting the four entities looking to the county to fund their individual agreements. Sonoma County received an agreement for the annexation of Bodega Bay and his Board signed the agreement last week. We hope to go in front of the Supervisors on November 16 and then we will begin the LAFCO process again. I am not sure where the other agencies are with their agreements, and I will let them report out on their status. A lot of work. On the sales tax front we still meet every Thursday morning for 3 to 4 hours.

Chief Schroth-Cary added they continue to work with county counsel to get their agreements to yes, but I am not sure we can make the desired timeline of November 16.

Chief Tuberville said that as of right now, we have a tentative agreement from County counsel that our attorney is looking at. The county is putting some pressure on us to review it and get it back to them ASAP so we can get back to them in time for the November 16 Board meeting. We are pushing back saying we did not create the emergency, you did. We are optimistic that it will be a good contract. Our next regular meeting is not until after the 16<sup>th</sup> so we would have to have a special meeting. I still want to maintain our alliance with the other districts too.

President Akre said he appreciates everyone's efforts.

e. Measure G 2.0

Chief Heine reported a couple things have occurred. The FSWG is deeply engaged. We held our first stakeholders meeting. There were 30 or so people representing veg management. The county has placed a large portion of the focus of this tax measure on funding vegetation management. There is a strong need from us to get a collective definition of just what that term means. The purpose of the two-hour meeting was to see if we could establish the framework to collectively define veg management. On the county side, they have hired EMC research, the same company that did the polling and focus groups for the original measure g. They are planning for their first focus group in early November and in two weeks we should have the results of that focus group. There is a meeting scheduled with the City Managers Group on December 16, to brief them and to make sure they are on board with the concept. Right now, they appear to be on board. The county just completed an RFP for a community outreach and marketing firm. Not a campaign firm but community outreach and marketing. That was the big thing missing from the last tax measure. Chief Scott Westrope, representing FSWG, sat on the bid review committee. The final item is the timeline. The county is still moving ahead with a June 2022 ballot. The timeline-the Board, at there February meeting will have the first reading of the proposed ordinance that will be the support tool for the sales tax measure, the final reading and adoption in March and be able to place the item on the June ballot.

6. Old Business

a. Approve Past Minutes September 23, 2021

Chief Plakos requested a change in the minutes to reflect that she would get a ballot to CLSD, not North Sonoma Coast FPD as the minutes indicated. With the correction, VP Peterson moved to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Plakos, approved by all.

b. EMS EOA RFP Update – Chief Heine

Chief Heine reported on the EOA RFP. Back in April the Board of Supervisor adopted a draft RFP. By statute they are required to send the RFP to State EMSA. It was there for a long time, eight months and was just returned last week. According to Supervisor Hopkins, End Point, their consultant was negotiating terms to the RFP that they did not authorize or were aware of. The RFP came back with changes that would have carved out all but the current provider. Next Tuesday, on consent, will the allow their Health and Human Services Division to make any minor edits they think are necessary to the document and send it back to State EMSA for approval and then publish the document and put the RFP out on the street. The RFP is an absolute mess. Having been on and currently involved with four other county RFP processes with Cal Chiefs, this one is a mess. One short example that illustrates one of many issues-the timeline of this RFP, keeping in mind the current contract runs out in June of next year. Bids are due back to the county in March, presentations of your bids in April and awarding of the contract in May that only gives any bidder 45 days to purchase 25 ambulances, hire 130 people and stand up an entire ambulance system. The least amount of time we have ever seen in any other county has been 6 months stand up time. How they envision anybody to be able to within that time frame, anyone other than the incumbent provider. All we have ever asked for since the beginning was to give us a level playing field with other bidders.

Chief Heine asked for support of the association in either written communication to the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator or a public comment on the agenda item at next Tuesday's meeting that speaks strongly against the written endorsement given by Bryan Cleaver.

President Akre voiced (and affirmed by Chief Grinnell) similar actions were made against Bryan Cleaver many years ago, and he was removed from the process then.

Chief Heine also told the group that his Board President Steve Klick sent a letter informing the county that SCFD intends to start ambulance service in the entirety of the District beginning July 1, 2022.

Director Bernier moved to approve SCFDA support of the Sonoma County Fire District in the calling out of the inappropriate behavior of the EMS Agency Director Bryan Cleaver, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Gardener, approved by all.

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

Chief Tuberville reported there was a grant application process last year that gave out some of the 2017 PG&E settlement funds, I know of a couple of projects that turned there money back in because they could not do what they said they could do. In June/July 2021, the County of Sonoma conditionally approved \$3 million of those funds, some were under the radar, but a few ai was aware of since they are on the lower Russian River. The county is trying something new. They are going to mentor the community and get these fuel reduction projects done. This is Ag and Open Space in a new role. More grants expected in January 2022. That roughly 7 million left for anyone to apply for. Cal Fire grants also expected in January as well. As the fire service we are not that well involved. VP Peterson added there has not been a healthy discussion about how to best implement this, it's the county wanting to control the money and make all the decisions.

d. Northern Sonoma County FPD Update – VP Peterson

VP Peterson said this will be our last update. I want to thank everyone for their help. It is frustrating, they are pushing on us when due to their incompetence for the delays in the first place. How do I trust them to disperse tax funds when this is what they do? They just do not want to let go of control or the money.

7. New Business

f. Consider Supporting Funding Needs of Member Agencies with the County of Sonoma – VP Peterson

VP Peterson felt he said what needed to be said already. We are working together, and we need to continue to help the rest of the Sonoma County Fire Service with all endeavors that includes the County.

8. Good of the Order

Director Hemmendinger said we need to keep in mind the lessons we have learned with the County when dealing with the County and the tax measure. I spoke with a City Manager Friend who suggested that we create a JPA for the new tax measure.

Chief Tuberville told the group that Northern Sonoma County Fire was able to get a fire management assistance grant for the 2019 Kincadee fire. Funds that are available if CalFire is not going to reimburse you for funds because of an LRA fire and low or no cost share. A lot of work. Keep an eye out for these types of funds-60 to 90 day window. OES rep can help.

Director Lachman told the group his son used to say, “sometimes it’s just easier to do it the hard way.”

Chief Heine-FMAG, SCY received about 90% of the funding for the Kincadee fire. John Lantz and Teri Buldoc have a great process.

VP Peterson said he knows the press item was pulled from the agenda. My preference is to be more open than closed. I think we need the press or to use the press for our benefits.

The second item-I am frustrated by the seeing the same people at our meetings. I want more participation from more of our members to attend. What is lacking in the organization that is preventing more people from attending? Future discussion.

President Akre agreed with the second point-we had only 19 members, and most are staff members and not directors. I would love for at least one member from each agency to attend our meetings.

As for the press-I did pull that item. We will have that meeting in January, I simply was not prepared tonight, and I think we need to involve more people with the conversation, such as legal and other groups that may or may not have experience.

Director Hemmendinger asked what about tonight would have been a problem for the press to find out (rhetorically)? We had several items that could have been good for the press to know about or to address.

Director Lachman added his agreement to the press discussion and is looking forward to it.

President Akre suggested that inviting the press might be problematic when we have our inner discussion without determining our final position, the incomplete nature of a discussion leaves those aspects up for publication. If we had the press here tonight-we could not talk about the EMS agency and its employees like we did. Let us determine the message we want to send out and send it out. More to talk about in January.

9. Next Meeting January 28, 2021, via Zoom

No Comments.

10. Closed

Director Stewart moved to close the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Lachman, approved by all.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sec/Tres Sean Grinnell

Minutes approved on \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_