



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING Minutes

March 13th, 2013

Hosted By

Healdsburg Fire Department
601 Healdsburg Avenue

Attendance:

Steve Adams	Healdsburg	Eleanor Ratliff	Sonoma County
Mark Aston	Sonoma County	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa	Mark Baldassari	Enphase Energy
Cary Fergus	Petaluma	Larry Anderson	Petaluma
Annie Springer	Bodega (retired)	Stephen Baxman	Mont Rio
Steve Davidson	Rancho Adobe	Dave Cornelsson	CSCF
Dan George	Gold Ridge	Mark McCormick	Santa Rosa
Craig Lowe	Dry Creek Tribal FD	John Marty	Rohnert Park
Doug Williams	CSCF	Bill Braga	Sebastopol
Ron Lunardi	Occidental	Dean Anderson	AMR/SLS
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Ken Reese	REDCOM
Spencer Andreis	Sonoma Valley	Max Ming	Forestville
Eric Hoffman	Cal Fire	Todd Derum	Cal Fire

Call to Order: 0937 hours

Host Chief Introduction:

Chief Adams welcomed all members to Healdsburg and followed by introductions by all in attendance.

President's Report:

Chief Aston added the Photovoltaic Policy to old business and reported on the changes to the agenda including committee reports to be limited to 5 minutes and routine discussions to be under good of the order. Chief Aston presented a plaque to Chief Hoffman for his gallant and brave service as the 2012 President of the SCFCA.

Presentations:

Eleanor Ratliff presented information on the Sonoma County Fire SCBA Maintenance, flow test and fit test program. Eleanor reported on the SCBA flow test, fit test and maintenance van and the County has about 180 SCBA's that the County maintains and an opportunity other agencies have to utilize the resource, such as Healdsburg who recently used to flow test it SCBA's. Material Handlers from Sonoma County who are certified MSA SCBA technicians operate the unit out of the Santa Rosa Logistics warehouse. The presentation was followed by a tour and show and tell of the SCBA maintenance van and a presentation from the personnel who operate out of the van for Sonoma County VFC's and other agencies contracting for its services, such as Healdsburg Fire.

Approval of Minutes:

Chief Aston recommended approval of the February 13 SCFCA mints and Chief Williams made a motion and Chief Braga seconded. Unanimous vote was in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Chief Adams reported he would have the spread sheet attached to the March minutes and the balance for the Sonoma County Fire Chief is \$43000.15 and the Survivors Fund is \$11526.91. Some agencies have paid dues and dues notices will be resent to the agencies still owing for 2013. Chief George Motioned for approval, seconded by Chief Gossner. Unanimous vote was in favor.

Correspondence:

None

Old Business:

- **Updated STL Policy:** Chief Cornellson presented the policy for approval to the SCFCA and Chief Aston reviewed the changes with the group. Discussion was had regarding the program and that REDCOM and a Duty Officer from the Ops Group will be involved in the deployment to ensure currency issues are met and the list is followed the way it is supposed to. This will avoid having multiple personnel involved in the deployment which has created confusion in the past. The Op Area Chief will remain involved in this process as well. Chief Aston recommended the policy recognize the responsibility of the Op Area Coordinator. Chief Williams clarified the Op Area coordinators role was to have general oversight of the program and ultimately responsibility of the program. Chief George advised the intent of this part of the policy was to assist with a smoother process of deployment. Discussion amongst the group was had regarding the confidentiality of performance evaluations and the need to comply with the policy to ensure STL's return in a timely manner. Chief Lunardi reported he wanted to see the policy encourage communications with STL's regarding performance issues be done in a timely manner and Chief Cornellson confirmed that the policy would allow for issues to be addressed prior to the STL's renewal application. Chief Braga motioned for approval and seconded by Chief Gossner. Unanimous vote was in favor. Chief Williams added that the process has been evolving for some time and it is a volunteer operation for all stakeholders and Sonoma County should take credit for being one of the counties providing the most mutual aid equipment state wide.
- **Photovoltaic Policy:** Chief Fergus provided extensive documentation for SCFCA review and introduced Mark Baldassari from Enphase for any questions and provided information regarding the Enphase product and the technology. Chief Fergus reported on three issues: 3 foot clearance, fire testing on Enphase products and requirements for a secondary disconnect. Three recommendations can be made as followed: Require secondary disconnect; require or ask for guidelines for additional training for responders; Contact Nor Cal FPOS's for opinion. Chief McCormick reported that the lack of testing and experience with micro inverters is a cause for concern to the fire service and consideration for the future regarding micro inverter systems. Chief Williams reported the information is evolving and the State Building and Fire Officials have discussed this issue are adding this issue as a standing agenda item and Chief Aston reported the County is requiring a secondary shut off due to the unknowns. Chief Anderson reported on the amount of staff time spent on this issue and there is a lot of review of the requirements placed by jurisdictions to ensure consistency.
- **2013 Goal Setting results:** Chief Aston provided brief review of 2013 goals and any desire to change meeting times and the interest to have 6 presentations annually, including LAFCO, city officials, Cal Chiefs, etc... Improve process and results, including MSR's from LAFCO during the 2013 year and improving efficiencies and look at the environment today's fire service. Continue with liaisons with Marin County Fire Chief's. Chief Grinnell reported on the need to define relationships with sub group and financial policies with the groups and he would lead efforts in this process. Define and explain awards and recognition policies to allow a formal process. Work on a fleet maintenance JPA and work on doing a better job to be more efficient in area, select OP area coordinators and the alternative and a political action committee, Randy Collins has been the lead on developing writings on current issues. Additionally the groups continue with awards and installment meeting in January and annual planning meeting in January of 2014. Chief Aston thanked Tom Forester and Bob Marcucci ~~di~~ did a great job supporting the SCFCA in the annual goal setting process. Chief Aston reported Annie Springer has offered support in developing future goals, including fire work regulations. Annie Springer reported on the past association goals and that in the 80's the SCFCA addressed fireworks regulations and it was the intent of the group to have a County wide standard by the 1990's. Annie offered to the association her assistance to assist with the establish goals from a project management approach for the future of the SCFCA and assist in prioritizing goals and meeting them within an established time frame. Annie summed thing up by reporting to the SCFCA that she is available to answer a few questions like are some of the 2013 goals high priority, if so, which ones; would a process with her assistance be helpful; and what support would the SCFCA be interested in providing for such a process Chief Aston followed by using the fleet JPA as an example and that we would have to identify steps, such as a fact finding process for the first year. Chief McCormick reported he thinks s there would be benefit to

pursue looking into a fleet JPA. Chief Aston provided his staff to provide a survey using Survey Monkey to identify the needs of fleet JPA and received feedback from the majority of those in attendance that moving forward in a fleet JPA. Chief Hoffman reported the financial policies and bylaws updates are a high priority and the group agreed. Chief Williams motioned to approve the 2013 SCFCA goals and seconded by Chief Georg, with a unanimous vote in favor. Chief Adams reported there might be benefit to have an outside review of our bylaws by an attorney familiar with non-profits and will come back to the next meeting with further information. Chief Aston asked the Fleet JPA and By Laws and financial systems be added as old business for next meeting.

New Business:

- **Nominations for OES Fire Operational Area Coordinator, 1st and 2nd alternate:** Chief Williams reported the state policy on operational area coordination to elect member for a three year term. The county currently at its third year and time for elections in April this year and Chief Williams is now the Region 2 Coordinator. Chief Williams asked we consider members now for succession planning. Currently the first alternate is Dan Northern and term is ending, Chief Aston is the second alternate, and Chief Hoffman is a third and liaison with CalFire. Existing coordinators have met to discuss recommendations and one expressed interest and recommend Chief George as first alternate, Chief Williams as second alternate and Chief Aston as the op area coordinator. Chief Aston wanted to reach out to experienced Chief Officers serve as alternates and his availability would be limited during EOC activations, so the need for alternates is needed. Chief McCormick recommended looking at personnel with years of service available to be considered. Chief Williams reported the system has evolved and it is a volunteer system and depth is important. Chief Gossner provided his willingness to serve as an alternate. Chief Hoffman recommended the group consider a third alternate and Chief Durham could serve as the liaison with CalFire. Chief Aston stated we will vote at the next meeting for all Op Area positions. Today's nominations are Chief Aston as coordinator, Chief George for first alternate, Chief Gossner as second alternate and Chief Williams as third alternate. Chief McCormick suggested anyone interested in learning more to inform Chief Aston.
- **2013 Red Cross Real Hero's Breakfast:** Chief Aston reported on the 10th annual Red Cross Real Hero's Breakfast and volunteered as President to be a table Captain for a table of ten and would like to see participation form nine chiefs to attend. This event is to honor heroes from all disciplines in public service.

Committee Reports:

- **Training/Operations Section:** Chief Gossner reported the MAD drill will be in Marin County on May 4th. It will be a wildland event and looking for 5 engines from Sonoma County and it will be in Mill Valley. STL Refresher class on May 7th and 8th, a one day class offered twice and requested any interested to RSVP. Flyer should be out shortly.
- **Legislation:** No Report
- **Prevention Section:** Chief Fergus commented on the great job of Safety Pals where they served more than 600 students through todays and six classes.
- **Grants:** No Report
- **District Chiefs:** No Report
- **SRJC Advisory:** No Report
- **Volunteer FF Association:** No Report
- **CHP Liaison:** No Report
- **CAD Group:** No Report
- **Red Cross:** No Report
- **Cal E-M-A Operational Area:** No Report
- **Cal E-M-A Region:** No Report
- **Marin Chiefs Liaison:** No Report
- **Fire Safe Sonoma:** No Report
- **County Fire:** No Report

- **Cal Fire:** Chief Hoffman reported that Cal Fire will be hiring BC's with in the

month and DC's as well. The USFS still evaluating mission and western states are dry with hopes of rain and predict another busy fire season. Sequestration minus 50 engines, 500 personnel and 8 or 9 aircraft. The assistance for hire program is out for updated information and still supports the 12 hour free rule. Currently only 6 Command Teams and will be relying on initial attack fires locally and using CICC system for overhead. Chief Gossner reported the North Bay IMT is looking for participation

- **EMCC**
- **SMART**

Improving Efficiencies: No Report

Customer Service/Good of the Order: No Report

REDCOM: Dick Luttrell there is board meeting tomorrow and he attended the 2nd annual NICS system and while the focus on the system was intended for large incidents, there is opportunity to support planned events.

Closed Session: Strike Team Leader Performance Reviews

Next Meeting: April 10, 2013 At Gold Ridge Fire District Station 2, Water Trough
7:00 PM Night meeting w/VFC's