



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by Coast Guard Fire-Two Rock

August 10, 2011, 9:30 am.

Attendance:

Randy Collins	SRJC	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Mark Aston	County Fire	Lori Anello	Two Rock
Eric Hoffman	Cal Fire	John Marty	Rohnert Park
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Cary Fergus	Petaluma
John Lantz	Rincon Valley	Cyndi Foreman	Rincon Valley
Peter Van Fleet	Glen Ellen	Loren Davis	Mountain
Bill Braga	Sebastopol/REDCOM	Phil Garcia	Sonoma Valley
Larry Anderson	Petaluma	Tim Streblow	Cal Fire
Mike Jones	Santa Rosa	Al Ramos	Coast Guard
Steve Davidson	Rancho Adobe	Doug William	Rincon Valley

Call to Order: President Collins called the meeting to order at 9:44.

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Ramos welcomed the group to the Petaluma Training Center at Two Rock, invited all for lunch or a tour of the base.

Approval of Minutes: Randy asked if all had accessed the minutes on the website and if so, asked for a motion to approve. Motion by Doug and 2nd John Marty. Unanimous vote.

President's Report: President Collins reported that he had three items to share. First, that despite the record low approval ratings of government, we still rate very high and are appreciated by the public, should not lose site of that and continue to do our best to maintain the high levels of service we provide. Second, with his soon to be retirement, he felt it important to recognize the good works John Zanzi had done for the fire service in this county. He reflected that in the 24 years he has worked with John, he has seen first hand the commitment he has demonstrated including a stint through the chairs of the FPO's, time on the Public Education committee, three terms as President of this organization (a record), extensive work on the grant committee and of course his time on the REDCOM Board. He added that he has also been impressed that he had been able to accomplish things at Sebastopol that paid departments were incapable of doing and that it had been an honor to serve with him. Chief Zanzi was given a standing ovation. The last item, involved a story how the maintenance technician at the JC had recently found a plaque with Fred Bunker's name on it and asked if he wanted it. It turned out to be the perpetual plaque for the Carl Harrison award that had never been presented to Bruce Varner, the 2010 recipient. To that end, it had been updated to reflect this and Randy asked Mike Jones to step forward and accept the plaque to be displayed at SRFD on Bruce's behalf with an apology for the delay.

President Collins asked for two changes to the agenda: SRA fees were moved to Old Business and Nominations Committee was added to New Business. President Collins then asked for a motion to

approve the agenda as amended. Chief Aston moved to approve the agenda and Chief Hoffman 2nd, all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Chief Grinnell reported the checking account balance was \$1,194.94; the W/O checking account balance of \$15,659.87 and W/O CD of \$116,448.36.

One bill was received from North Coast Engravers for \$15.81 to add Chief Varner's name to the Carl Harrison Perpetual plaque.

Correspondence: None received although Randy had copies of the SRA fee letters that had been sent to the local newspapers and the State Board of Forestry.

Presentations:

Cary Fergus, President of the Fire Prevention Officers (FPO's) spoke to the two primary goals the FPO's have this year; Standardization of their guidance documents and to enhance public education. To that end, he introduced FPO VP Cyndi Foreman who presented the concept of the Fire Pals. Fire Pals is a theatrical troupe (made up of agency volunteers) that conducts animated pub-ed presentations to kids using songs, dance, etc. In Butte County over 800 kids are educated each year in Life safety, first aid, safety how to, water safety, seat belts, fire, etc. Earlier this year they were brought to Mark West School and were very well received. Given it is a collaborative effort that includes participation from numerous agencies the FPO's wish to move forward with the program locally and will be conducting a facilitated planning meeting on August 24 1100 at the AMR office, 930 South A Street SR. The FPO's would like the support of the Chief's and their staff for the program. Fire Pals is available on You Tube if you want more information. Chief Hoffman added it was great program and should provide a great model for the county, especially if funding is obtained from different sources. President Collins added that he very supportive and reminded the group of our goals of improving efficiencies and working together (especially with law, dispatch, EMS, Red Cross, etc), this is a great opportunity and will participate in the planning session. Thanks were given to Cary and Cyndi for the great work the organization does.

Chief Ramos- informed the group about the Sonoma Life Family Life magazine event - Baby & Child Fair on Sept 24, 2011 at the Finely Center. This is a perfect opportunity for public education, static displays, and a get to know your firefighters. Chief Ramos is looking for few members from each department, one apparatus or equipment and educational material...Contact Al Ramos, Friday the 19th is the deadline.

Committee Reports

Training Section: President Collins reported that he had met with TO President Jeff Holden on July 24 to help the group prioritize its goals for the year. Among theme were to; develop a more unified mission with the Op's group, draft new By-Laws and conduct a training needs survey for the county. To that end, at yesterday's meeting, the group moved ahead to begin drafting By-Laws and agreed to do so in concert with the Op's section. A training needs survey was also distributed and requested it be returned as soon as possible. Another idea brought forward by the TO's was the sharing/comingling of TO funds with the Chiefs and allow the Chiefs Secretary/Treasurer to disperse as needed. B/C Steve Davidson said the TO's have about \$5500 and change in their account. The Chiefs and sub groups all have dues and various financial needs and inquired if they could be brought under one "roof". B/C Davidson clarified that the dues would be collected by the Chiefs Association and this would raise the Chiefs dues. President Collins said this has broad implications and would lead to a closer working relationship with the groups. To that end, the next planning session should include representatives of all sub group. He was also going to suggest to the E-Board that in the future the sub-group liaisons should report to the Chiefs instead of the Chiefs having a liaison go to the groups.

Prevention Section: Cary Fergus stated that the Prevention Section will miss Chief Zanzi and we wish him well. They recently held a joint REACO/FPO meeting in Petaluma which was well attended and covered Solar and WUI (Chap 7a) issues with Ethan Foote presenting. The FPO's will also be hosting NORCAL in Petaluma on September 23rd (Hawaiian shirt day). The meeting will be held at the Luccessi center. The Investigation task force is fifty members strong and plans to host several classes in the near future. Code College is a big hit and in the planning process for this year. Hans Henneberque and Robert MacIntyre do a great job. Monthly PSA's are going out, lets us know if you would like to receive them. Engine Company Inspection forms were standardized and you can expect the 13D checklist (residential sprinklers) soon. If you have any other specific prevention needs to let Cary know.

Operations Section: Chief Lantz reported the group met yesterday. Several items were discussed. The strike team leader refresher, CICC standards and our own requirements were questioned. Chief Aston said the CICC group and Chief Marvin Howard provide standard information. The concern is that the information is not necessarily specific to Sonoma County nor is it the same between instructors. CICC is ok with allowing alternate training out of this county and county specific info is on the website. Chief Lantz suggested a consistent policy and will bring one back for review. He also reported that the Op's group has been considering a Social media policy but it potentially represents a "slippery slope". Current policies vary. Some agencies use it to disseminate information while others prohibit its use. Chief Aston added that the County is looking at a policy. Consistency between departments is also an issue. Chief Anderson asked if they proceed, will it be considered a "best practice" document from the chiefs? **A)** Yes, developed as a minimum from which each agency can amend to fit their needs. Chief Streblow reminded the group that once a piece of information is placed on a department issued device/account, it is discoverable (which is the main reason he carries a personal device). The next meeting is October 11th at 10:30. Next year, they may switch meeting times with the TO's.

District Chiefs: Chief Williams reported on the last meeting which was held in Geyserville and had the County Auditor staff and Supervisor McGuire. Charlene will retire as the Secretary of the group so they will be looking for someone to fill the vacancy. The next meeting is September 22 in Monte Rio and Supervisor Carrillo will attend.

Volunteer FF Association: Chief Aston reported that the June meeting was canceled.

REDCOM: Director Luttrell reported the new REDCOM Chair is Scott Foster from Coast Life Support and Santa Rosa Fire Chief McCormick is Vice-Chair. The Board meets next Thursday the 18th, and the Board will consider selection of a PR consultant to explore for new revenue ventures. REDCOM is very busy with Petaluma with some radio (short, medium, and long term) fixes having been identified. Director Luttrell and Bill Braga have started work on the 2011 AFG pager grant.

CAD Group: Chief Williams said this group does not meet until October and no incidents since last month's meeting were reported. Everyone should have received the recent map book revision; please let us know if you find any errors.

OES Operational Area: Chief Williams reported that two years have elapsed since we deployed an out of county strike team. It does affect our proficiency with the system and encouraged the group to keep current with active statusing and not let their guard down.

County Fire: Chief Aston said the last Infineon event is just around the corner. They expect light crowds on all days but Sunday. REDCOM was engaged as dispatch for the last event. IRL is the final event in August.

EMCC: Chief Zanzi reported that the EMS agency has moved to its new address of 625 Fifth St. in Santa Rosa. The County of Napa did leave Coastal Valleys which has resulted in a significant

loss of funding and a proposed \$8 per patient transport fee (to be discussed later). With the impending retirement of Chief John Zanzi, the City rep. spot on the EMCC will need to be filled. Fire Chief Garcia volunteered. Chief Williams made a nomination, 2nd, by Chief Streblov. The vote was unanimous.

Legislation: Chief Aston reported that things are quiet since the legislature is in recess. AB 29x1-SRA Fees will go to Board of Forestry and many efforts to revise, repeal, etc are in the works. Our own appointment with Representative Hoffman and the E-Board has been scheduled for Aug 26th. Chief Streblov added that Cal Fire is holding weekly meetings, but much is still unknown and to expect revisions. The SRA in Sonoma County contains roughly 32,500 “habitable” structures. The biggest challenge is that they expect to lose \$50 million in funding.

Grants: Chief Zanzi reported the 2011 WMD grant funding will drop a little but not much. Chief Zanzi recommended to continue funding CAD mapping (\$40,000.00), and to add simulcasting of Control 2 and 4 (just under \$200,000). Chief Aston also agreed and further commented that EMS, law, and fire are competitors. Chief Aston also added that S.O. will assume radio (county coms) tower improvements and pagers might be an option for funding via WMD.

Chief Aston also mentioned the need for a city representative for this grant committee with Chief Zanzi’s retirement and Chief Anderson volunteered. Chief Garcia made a motion, 2nd by Chief Williams. The vote was unanimous.

SRJC Advisory: President Collins reported the next meeting will be November 3rd.

CHP Liaison: No Report

Red Cross: No report

Marin Chiefs Liaison: President Collins attended on July 21st and reported that Henry One made a presentation that they are looking for at private sponsorships and grants. Henry-1’s budget was cut from \$ 2.1 Million to \$900,000. The Marin Chiefs are looking at creating some efficiencies like a joint apparatus repair program with one vendor. They are also moving forward with adopting the same SCBA’s county wide with Scotts. Southern Marin will make the first purchase (100 units). Ross and Ross Valley are considering a consolidation. Chief Marvin Howard commented at the meeting that the requirements of Division/Group sup would take 24 years to complete.

Cal Fire: Chief Streblov reminded the group of B/C Mike Wink’s information about the Eagle Fire radio issues. St. Helena has started dynamic CAD broadcasting. This might pull unexpected units to areas not usually covered by the responding unit. LNU received a grant to place a camera on St. Helena and maybe a second camera could be placed in Sonoma County. Cal Fire is looking at a possible 16 million reduction in the budget. The primary focus will be to maintain the core mission for this current fiscal year.

Fire Safe Sonoma: Chief Aston reported that 566 homes and 941 acres have been cleared using the Chippers Ahoy program. The first defensible space project has been approved-these are for low income elderly and disabled persons. Chief Hoffman added that crews are available via the crew request process if needed. Road side fuel reduction is designed for problem or diseased trees. Fire Safe Sonoma is helping to reduce the fire risk at the Cloverdale River Park. Chippers Ahoy will end in November if new funding is not found.

Old Business:

- **SRA Fees** (covered in the legislative committee report).
- **Revised by-laws W/O fund:** President Collins handed out the revised version and explained the current status. He asked that everyone review and given all departments do not have stakeholders present, asked that the vote occur at the October 12th evening meeting in Forestville. President Collins explained the changes. Both the finished and

redline versions will be available on line. He added that we will need 25% of the voting members present to have a valid vote on the amendments. All fire agencies will be notified. In the meantime, comments, concerns & suggestions should be forwarded to rcollins@santarosa.edu

New Business:

- **EMS fees:** Chief Garcia spoke of the proposed fee and the effects on transport providers. To his agency, it represents a cost of approximately \$26,000. He understands the need for the fee but will have great difficulty absorbing and it represents another hit. With the loss of Napa County, CVEMS lost status as a regional agency which means the loss of additional funding. Chief Aston added that EMS is in talks with other counties. Chief Anderson added it affects Petaluma as well (approx. \$34k) Chief Zanzi added the matter was briefly discussed during the last EMCC meeting and they will be holding a special meeting to consider the matter. One concern shared was CVEMS rejection of an earlier proposal for a similar fee to help fund REDCOM and if this represented a change in their position regarding transport fees. Clarification was asked if the fee represented a cost to the agency or if it was passed through to the consumer. **A)** Because a significant number of users never pay, the fire agency ends up paying the fee. President Collins asked if there was interest to draft a letter asking CVEMS to reconsider the proposal. The transport providers agreed to do so. Chief Williams made a motion to support the letter, 2nd, by Chief Zanzi. Unanimous vote.
- **Nominations Committee:** President Collins reminded everyone of the need to appoint individuals to fill out the terms of VP Northern and Past President Zanzi. Chiefs Aston and Williams both volunteered to be the nominating committee and bring back the names of those willing to become association officers. Secretary/Treasurer Grinnell asked to remain as the Sec/Treas. because this position needs consistency considering the recent, expected, and increased duty changes.

Improving Efficiencies:

- Chief Aston said the County is looking at outside fleet services and is interested to know if others are interested. Please email Chief Aston if you are interested. Chief Anderson said Petaluma crafted an agreement with the city school district. Chief Streblov added Chief Hoffman to future discussions. Chief Ramos asked with all the various types of equipment will this be a certified shop? **A)** That is the intent.

Customer Service:

- Reminder- Succession planning workshop- the next one will be taught by Chief Dan Northern and the topic is FLSA. September 21, 9-noon at Windsor Fire. RSVP to Randy Collins at rcollins@santarosa.edu by September 14.
- PCAM airshow- The uniform for the day is class B (if you have it).
- Chief Williams told the group of the NORCAL FPO golf tournament fund raiser.
- Chief Zanzi said Sebastopol has a type one fire engine for sale, open to county agencies until the 15th, then opens.
- E-Board meeting for lunch.

Good of the Order: None

Closed Session: None

Meeting Closed: The meeting was closed by Chief Collins at 12:08 hrs.

Next Meeting: CHP-Rohnert Park September 14th.