

# Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

## MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid meeting (In person/Zoom) January 26, 2023, 5pm.

Northern Sonoma County & Cloverdale FPDs.

### 1. Call to Order

President Akre welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 5:15pm and thanked our joint hosts, Northern Sonoma County and Cloverdale fire districts.

The following members were in attendance.

Name	District	Name	District
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley	Bob Uboldi	Kenwood
Fred Peterson	Northern Sonoma County	Daren Bellach	Kenwood
Bob Moretti	Rancho Adobe	Chief Veliquette	Rancho Adobe
Steve Klick	Sonoma County	August Moretti	Kenwood
Charlie Lachman	Gold Ridge	Mark Heine	SCFD
Michael Gadoua	Rancho Adobe	Carol Pigoni	Cloverdale
Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe	Bob Briare	SCFD
Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast	Frank Treanor	SCFD
Chris Tachouet	Gold Ridge	Shepley Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge
Marshal Tuberville	Northern Sonoma County	Bill Adams	Counsel
Daymon Doss	Kenwood	Brian Brady	Sonoma Valley
Bob Taylor	Cloverdale	Doug Williams	SMART
Bill Norton	Sonoma Valley	Gary Johnson	Sonoma Valley
Marti Campbell	North Sonoma Coast	Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley
Matt Atkinson	Sonoma Valley	Paul Bernier	Northern Sonoma County
John Cooper	Kenwood	Rob Stewart	Northern Sonoma County
Ray Petersen	Rancho Adobe	Joe Petersen	Gold Ridge
Scott Newman	Northern Sonoma County	Bob Gloeckner	Gold Ridge
David Warberg	Gold Ridge	Darren DeCarli	Gold Ridge

### 2. Amend/Approve the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved by all (unable to hear who moved and 2<sup>nd</sup>).

### 3. Review/Tally Ballots received for President/Vice-President

President Akre said he received six written ballots from: Sonoma Valley, Sonoma County, Kenwood, Graton, Rancho and North Sonoma Coast. Members present voted for the presented slate: Cloverdale...9 member Districts voted in favor of President Steve Klick and Vice President Shepley Schroth-Cary. First

#### a. Seat the new President and VP-Pass the Gavel

Past President Akre turned the gavel and agenda over to President elect Klick. President Klick accepted and thanked everyone for their confidence in him and VP Schroth-Cary.

### 4. Treasurer Report

Absent, no report

## 5. Committee Reports

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

On the website

### b. LAFCO

On the website

### c. FSWG

- i. County funded programs
- ii. Sales Tax Initiative

On the website, and today's meeting was reported on by Director Taylor. FSWG is a sub committee of the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association. We are considering the feasibility of a petition driven ballot measure for Sonoma County fire services county wide; it will be independent of the county; a ½ cent sales tax will generate roughly \$62 million annually; will be used on those programs that all fire services use, like REDCOM, Tablet Command, upstaffing, etc. A new distribution plan will be developed. The feasibility study will cost about \$150,000.00; SCFCA is looking at the feasibility, legality of the membership funding the study. As more information becomes available, I will reach out and get it to you. Question-when do you want to go to the people-Director Taylor said March 2024, November is our next best option. How long with the feasibility study take? Chief Akre said they have been involved with them for some time, so we have a good relationship and they understand what our needs are. They have done a lot of work pro bono up till now. Once they get back to us with a number will get back to you for a contribution. It should be fairly quick based on past experience. One question asked went silent, answered, we have polled at 65% since 2018 said Chief Akre. The undecided portion was at 8% back in 2018, but that margin has gone down since then. Our hope is that a citizen based initiative only needs 50%, not 2/3<sup>rd</sup>. We will still shoot for 2/3<sup>rd</sup> because we have a couple of other threats out there, other initiatives. Director Hemmendinger asked if \$150k is still a good number with what we have learned can we save the 150k and proceed. No, if you will remember our polling will be different, we will not have early warning as an item to be paid for, plus the 150k also pays for the ballot language and other things that have not been completed yet. Chief Heine said things are a little different now, 1401 is 100% behind us now and they have some big donors who are not willing to discuss this without having ballot language and current numbers. Secondly, the measure that the realtors brought forth will be on the ballot, that calls for all taxes to be passed by a super majority of 66% and they are trying to make it retroactive. This is why we need to shoot for the super majority regardless; and Props and Measures is the company we want to work with, but they will not work with us unless we prefund (current formed this) this. Director Treanor thanked Bob for all his work and sticking with this even though you told it would only be one year.

### d. Political Action

- i. FDAC Legislative Report

On the website

### e. Cal Chiefs

Chief Heine said we are very well represented on Cal Chiefs (Chiefs Heine (President Elect), Westrope (Area Director-Six Counties reporting), Chief Akre (Northern CA Director-all Northern Counties). Cal Chiefs is working on a few things. Primarily we are reimagining the structure of Cal Chiefs to be more inclusive to bring in a lot more agencies. Just last week Chief Tubbs (President) and I spent time at the Pechanga Resort talking with the Tribal Fire Chiefs Association-there are 74 tribal fire departments in CA; they will be merging their association into Cal Chiefs; they have lots of issues too and together we can support each other much better. Cal Chiefs has a podcast every two weeks, discussing various fire service and leadership issues. The next one will be with the Tribal Fire Chiefs Association President. EMS, Chief Tubbs and I have a standing meeting every Wednesday with State EMS Director. She is keenly aware of our issues and comes to us with an incredible amount of experience, is a remarkable leader, and is coming

in to make sweeping changes at state emsa. She will bring back equity to the fire service and private side of EMS. The reorganization process is looking at how to make membership easier for agencies. The current membership structure will change (membership-general, and sub-committee, etc) to a single membership that will give access to board members and command staff. On May 21 and 22, Cal Chiefs will host the a 2 day Pre-CEFD (CA Fire EMS & Disaster Conference) in Indian Wells ( [Pre-Conference | CFED West](#)) I great event.

6. Program: 2019 Kincade Fire Documentary
7. Old Business
  - a. Approve Past Minutes – October 27, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Director Peterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Treanor, approved by all.

- b. EMS EOA/RFP Update – Chief Heine

Chief Heine reported that the County's RFP process, the bid has been on the streets for a couple of months now. Bids are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Last week was a huge milestone, a mandatory pre-bidders conference. If your agency or company wants to bid on the contract, you must have attended the conference. AMR and SCFD are the only bidders. An outside panel of experts put together by the county will review and score the proposals. They have one week to score the bids against a very specific set of criteria, then each bidder will be given two hours to present to the panel in a unique manner-a blank screen zoom type presentation, where we cannot see the panel. Two days later the County will issue a letter that extends the offer to award a contract, and the awardee will then enter into negotiations with the County. After negotiations the County will formally award the contract in May or June for a January 2024 start date. I have a team of about 20 people working on this, we meet for 10 hours a day. As an interesting side note, about a month and a half ago, AMR sued the county of Sonoma. The negotiated contract extension to 2024 was in bad faith and we no longer consider ourselves to be in contract with you. The County said "oh no" you do not get to determine when you are or are not in contract with us. It is still in the legal process.

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

No updates this month.

8. New Business

- a. Request from SCFCA to all member Districts to Contribute an Initial Funding Amount towards the New Sales Tax Initiative Process

Update given under FSWG.

- b. LAFCO Request-Gold Ridge

Chief Schroth-Cary reported that Gold Ridge is working through the process to annex the VFC's. We have hit a roadblock. There are two important meetings-I am asking for your support both written and your presence to support us on February 1, at the LAFCO meeting and March 1<sup>st</sup> as well. The challenge is the LAFCO process, and we see this move as something that we support (SCFDA). Supervisor Gore spoke up about process steps and the amount of work required to get through the LAFCO Process. Chief Schroth-Cary said the roadblock seems to be getting to the Sphere of Influence portion and the ability to work out any issues via an open process like many processes before. We want the same opportunity as those before us. Bluntly, we feel like we are being treated differently than other processes and we do not know why. Chief Plakos asked if you can share what the roadblocks are? Yes-it's the process and its getting to the SOI hearing. Our avenue is to engage the commissioners because the Executive Officer it seems (without being controversial), there just seems to be a roadblock and a lack of communication with him. Director Campbell asked if it's LAFCO that does the SOI study-Yes. Chief Plakos asked if there was any specific help you are looking for now? Right now, as we formulate a plan, we will ask specifically once we do that, right now we are just sharing info. Director Campbell said she went to the website and found no info on the

meeting and now there are only holding in person meetings. We are interested in keeping up on meetings were the fire service is involved, but its an all day event for us now since we have to drive to Santa Rosa now. I am going to be complaining that they need to post the agendas sooner since they cannot post it the night before.

9. Good of the Order  
None

10. Next Meeting February 23, 2022, via Zoom

11. Close  
President Klick ended the business portion of the meeting at 6:05 pm and re-introduced Director Peterson who then MC'd the remaining portion of the night.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_