



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
Sept 11th 2019 at 9:30 AM
Hosted By CHP Labath Ave

ATTENDANCE

Aaron Abbott	REDCOM	Steve Akre	SVFRA
Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP	Dean Anderson	AMR
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Mike Nicholls	Cazadero
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Ari Wolfe	CHP
Mike Bates	RPDPS	Chris Godley	Sonoma County
Mark Heine	SCFD	Kemplen Robbins	Santa Rosa
Dave Francheschi	Forestville	Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa
Hans Henneberque	OSFM Ret	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista
Bill Bullard	Graton	Jason Boaz	Healdsburg
Doug Williams	SMART	James Williams	Sonoma County
Ashley Helmetag	PG&E	Nick Silva	NB/Lakeville
Tim Mattos	RPDPS	Daren Bellach	Kenwood
Bill Braga	Sebastopol		

Call to Order: Chief Boaz began the meeting at 0932, asked for a moment of silence for 9/11 and lead the pledge.

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Boaz introduced Commander Wolfe who welcomed the group and explained logistics/housekeeping.

Presidents Report: Chief Boaz shared he will need to leave early, will be handing the meeting over to Chief Heine and that more Red Flags are on order.

Changes to the Agenda: The REDCOM report was moved before standing committees.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Chief Heine to approve, second by Chief Akre. Unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Hans reported the following:

Chiefs General Fund:	\$2,717.61
Survivors Fund:	\$105,896.31
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$8,695.92
TO's Command Grant	\$25,000.00
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$8,956.90
Career Succession:	\$1,375.64
FPO General Fund:	\$2,405.35
Youth Fire Setter Fund	\$412.24
FITF	\$1,613.49
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$36,850.47
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$196,423.93

Correspondence: see LEXIPOL payments under New Business

Presentation: Chief Boaz introduced Ashley Helmetag from PG&E's Meteorology Operations and Analytics team who has a background at the US Weather Service, Aviation and Air Traffic Control. She spoke to their real time monitoring tools which include; a satellite fire detection system, weather stations and a web camera network. The satellite detection system was put into service in June and has some of the following features:

- IR capability
- Resolution of 2 kilometers

- Geostationary capability (it is parked over California).
- Data transmitted every 5 minutes
- Can be refreshed every 1 minute
- Can accommodate overlays

She also spoke to the fire camera system they have which they plan to bring to 600 (100 by the end of 2019) with the goal of overlapping all areas. They also have plans for 1300 weather stations (600 currently up and running). All data collected is fed into the Wildfire Operations Center. In response to a question regarding sharing this information to the fire community, Chris Godley shared there is some wrestling between the PUC, First Responders and their lawyers about this (more to come). In response to Chief Heine's question regarding how empowered she is to update their webpage, Ashley indicated they update it as they deem appropriate making the decision based on meteorology only and if anything, tend to err on the side of caution when it comes to critical forecasts. Their main goal is to stay ahead of any potential event and life threatening event. In response to Chief Gossner's question regarding inconsistencies with Red Flag alerts issued by the National Weather service, she indicated they have re-written their procedures to address this but added they are not an echo chamber for the NWS. She can be reached at: Ashley.helmetag@PGE.com.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- **LEXIPOL Payments:** Chief Boaz shared the request he had received from Terri Wright in the County Administrator's Office about the group handling the distribution process for the LEXIPOL payments and opened it to the group. After a short discussion, the consensus was to decline the request.
- **REDCOM:** Director Abbott reported they did some research into the use of Tablet Command and found there will be some consulting costs which will dependent upon the number of endpoints (he does not have a cost estimate but he can look into). He added that it will be only one-way communication. Imagetrend is almost fully implemented. Chief Akre (as one of the primary users) shared they are working out the bugs. Director Abbott added they have experienced a leadership change and if you have questions to contact him directly. In response to a question regarding the action of the TO's/OP's yesterday, Randy shared The outcome was the group voted to use the \$25K PG&E grant and \$5K of their own funding to begin implementing Tablet Command by purchase 50 licenses (to operate 50 devices).

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Heine shared they met Monday and continue to be focused on the implementation strategy for the ballot measure and what the funds will be used for. This has included convening two focus groups. Two things they learned, is if there is any organized opposition or if there are no fire sirens, it will not pass. He added that if there is a competing Mental Health measure, if ours is not for the same amount (1/4 cent), it will create a significant obstacle. It will all boil down to what measures the BOS decides to place on the ballot and we need to be careful of not making any of them choose between the two. They are expected to vote on it month. The item ended with a discussion on how only a few members in the focus groups knew who provides fire protection in their respective areas and the uphill battle we are facing.
- **Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Boaz asked for and received the following reports from the Zones:
 - CALFIRE:** Chief Nichols shared as of Sept 8, 4k fires have occurred which is far below average. However, fuel moistures are critical and they are very low on crews and have 6 hired dozers in the unit to supplement those on fires. The only fire doing anything is the Walker Fire in Plumas. He also offered some hands on training to the group on the use of their fire cameras.
 - Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported they continue to look at improving efficiencies. Their MMR is moving forward and they began an Apprentice Academy. They are working closely with Chris Godley on preparedness and alerting including planned outages and an evacuation drill in the Cavedale/Trinity Road area. Chief Mulas reported hiring 3 engineers and implementing a border drop with Sonoma.
 - Zone 4:** No report.
 - Zone 5:** Board Member Nicholls shared there is a PUC hearing on phone issues in Monte Rio at 6 PM on Sept 23 (Parks & Rec Hall). He also shared they are looking for volunteers to paint their station this Saturday. They also hosted a fire forum. Chief Franceschi shared the Forestville Board is moving forward with Sonoma County and that Occidental will be hosting the next Chief's meeting
 - Zone 6:** Chief Boaz shared they will be conducting evacuation drills of the Mill Creek area on Oct 19 and Fitch Mt on Nov. 2
 - Zone 7:** Chief Heine shared their sphere of influence for RR goes to LAFCO Nov 4. They are also working with the Town of Windsor for planned outages and will be conducting a promotional for their vacant FM position.

Zone 8: Chief Braga reported they continue to discuss shared BC coverage and the ST in Covelo is on the way back.

Zone 9: Chief Schach shared next week they will be meeting with Marin Co. to discuss changes relative to North bay Fire. They recently graduated 5 FF/Medics and they are performing outreach for planned outages. He also spoke to a discussion from yesterday's Emergency Coordinators Forum on starting a Countywide CERT team. Some concerns about CERT vs. COPE followed.

OES: No report

- **Training/OP's:** Met yesterday and covered the following:
 - **Tablet Command Presentation:** A more detailed version of the presentation this group received at our June meeting.
 - **CSI Debriefing/Resilience:** Was discussed and the outcome was to identify CSI resources to the website (or provide a link to existing program) and include into dispatch protocols.
 - On behalf of Chief George, Chief Heine asked for more participation in the Monday OP's call.
 - Chris Godley shared he has a pot of money and has a desire to put on RS 1 & 2 classes.
- **FPO's:** Kemplen Robbins reported the code adoption process moves forward with an effective date of Jan 1. Their Youth Fire Setters training is next weekend and the next FPO meeting is the combined meeting with Nor-Cal Friday Sept 20 in Petaluma.
- **Fire Districts:** Chief Akre shared (1) they cancelled their Sept 19 meeting between the Districts & the Working Group and (2) the Districts Asso. is holding their Leadership Academy in Sacramento (info on the FDAC website)
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Silva shared they are meeting with Terri Wright tomorrow regarding contract negotiations.
- **Vegetation Management:** Chief Williams reported their working group met last week and their compliance rates are improving. 2011 inspections have been completed to date and they are optimistic about being awarded the \$6m grant they submitted. Of the 470 chipper requests they have received, 270 jobs have been completed with the application period closing mid-October

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fire/EMS Committee:** Chief Akre reported a large number of persons visited Con-Fire to learn how their partnership with AMR works and that the workgroup meetings have wrapped up the EMS ordinance with the draft just released (see attachments). Chief Schach added the ordinance covers anyone who provides EMS and not just transport providers and is a big improvement. Doug Williams requested everyone review and share any comments sooner rather than later.
- **County Alerting System:** Chris Godley shared Zach Hamel has taken a job elsewhere and they are working on doing some tactical planning for failure of the 911 system. The test they conducted on Sept 5 went well as well as the preparedness day last Saturday at the fairgrounds that drew 4000 persons.
- **Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief Heine shared the recent activation of the ST's showed we need to do a better job using active status

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order:

- Chief Akre shared they are hosting resiliency training on Nov 18 and the DeRosa preserve on the Sonoma/Napa county line will be offering free admission to First Responders in October.
- Chief Mulas has free water (in cans) for anyone who wants it.
- Chief Williams (Ret) shared the SMART Larkspur extension should go live at the end of the year and he is working on SMART hosting one of our meetings. He reminded the group to approach SMART early if you have any projects adjacent to their ROW. He ended by disavowing any knowledge of the SMART sales tax
- Chief Bullard shared their tax measure is moving forward
- Chief Mattos reported that County Mental Health is extremely dependent on the tax measure moving forward
- Randy shared information on the FEMA mitigation grant program and who's deadline is September 18. He will send all documents out with these minutes
- Chief Nicholls shared that in Zone 8 and 9 there are some CAD issues on SRA fires and asked the group to make sure notify REDCOM if dispatched to a SRA call.

- Commander Wolfe asked the group's help in helping locate a yard for Creams as they are the only company that does vehicle abatement and have lost their lease. He also will be glad to hold any joint trainings this group may want to see and asked for as much advance notice on such activities.

Adjournment: At 12:05

Next Meeting: October 9th at Occidental

Respectfully Submitted: Sept 12, 2019

Randy Collins,
SCFCA Secretary