

Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual meeting on September 23, 2021, at 1900 hours

1. Call to Order: VP Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:01

The following members were present:

Name	District		Name	District
Fred Peterson	Northern Sonoma County		Paul Barry	Cazadero
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay		Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast
Joe Petersen	Gold Ridge		Marti Campbell	North Sonoma Coast
Matt Atkinson	SVFRA		Charley Lachman	Gold Ridge
Sheply Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge		Michael Gadoua	Rancho Adobe
Mark Bramfitt	LAFCO		Gary So	SCFD
Mark Brown	MWPA		Bob Taylor	Cloverdale
Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe		Doug Williams	SMART
Paul Bernier	Northern Sonoma County		Bob Gloeckner	Gold Ridge
Jackie Gardener	North Sonoma Coast			

2. Approve/Amend the Agenda

Director Taylor moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Director Gardener, approved by all, none were opposed.

3. Treasurer Report

Sec/Tres Grinnell reported an account balance of \$7,216.43

4. Program: Executive Officer Mark Brown will discuss the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

Executive Officer Mark Brown gave his presentation on the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. Please see attached PowerPoint presentation. A link to the Zoom meeting is also available on the SCFDA Webpage. The following questions were asked: VP Peterson asked who led the charge in Marin to create the JPA? Was the push from the Grand Jury Report? EO Brown said the grand jury report was the icing on the cake, the JPA idea came about from the Marin Chiefs Association and the City Managers, they started working on the language before the grand jury did, but it was the partnership between the chiefs association and the city managers that help move the elected officials along. Special recognition to Mathew Himel, the County Administrator, when it came to who would be on the JPA Board, he said he was not going to get you to accept more than one supervisor to be on the MWPA Board, no power play by him or the Board of Supervisors. We also needed a champion for the cause and ours was Chief Jason Webber-energy and drive! VP Peterson added – If we (SCFCA and SCFDA) promote and push this battle this will help us aa well. In our case the cities and districts do not seem to have a lot of interaction or communication. That's on us. EO Brown said he had had the opportunity to speak to both the chiefs and city mangers in Sonoma County,

both were favorable and very interested. They are trying to schedule me to speak in front of the Sonoma County Council of Mayors and Council Members city managers. This might be a good way to gain momentum. Director Petersen asked EO Brown if he was able to leverage the Tam Crew or use other resources that can be used for response as well? We basically contract with Marin County Fire Department and that is how they get some of their funding to maintain the crew. We had one crew up until three years ago, we added the 2nd crew through funding with Marin County Parks and Open Space, that funding went away but we were able to keep them because we new we would have funding from the MWPA, great point as that augments our firefighter resources. Director Petersen then asked if there were any issues between MWPA work and fire response? EO Brown said yes, if you have two crews they want to use them all over the state but we do have the winter time to finish work if needed. We did have an interesting use of personnel during the Woodward Fire-we were able to send out D-Space evaluators together with the IMT, well in front of the fire so the IC had that info for planning and could send in crews to some work around the homes. Some of our D-space evaluators have also gone out of county as damage assessment personnel, which allows more augmentation by not having to use line firefighters for the same activity. VP Peterson thanks EO Brown for his presentation.

Director Lachman thanked EO Brown and complimented him for the presentation. Director Lachman said JPA's are kind of new to Sonoma County. EO Brown agreed and suggested other forms of agreements such as an MOU is an easy first step between the agencies involved, the JPA is just one model. We could also used a smaller portion of the County instead of thee whole county.

See the Power Point here: [Marin WPA](#)

5. Committee Reports (As appropriate)
 - a. FDAC / FDAC EBA / FAIRA / FASIS

Sec/Tres Grinnell said FASIS does not meet until next month.

- b. LAFCO

EO Mark Bramfitt said he had two items, one short and one long. The short item is that LAFCO will meet on October 6th, there is nothing of much interests to fire districts on our agenda. I do want to revisit the election process. I reread the law, it turns out the LAFCO EO, I can keep extending the term of the election until the member is seated. We have 38 special districts in Sonoma County, that means 19 is half and 20 is a quorum, I would really like 21 votes. As of today, we have 18, thank you Monte Rio for voting. I want to thank Chief Grinnell, Chief Akre and Counsel Bill Adams for helping me reach out to some districts trying to get them to vote. In the class one districts (fire/EMS) I am missing votes from Timber Cove and Graton, I have been to believe that both are voting soon, I only need one more vote after that, Occidental and Coast Life Support are left to vote. There are other water districts that can vote. We do not have an alternate member for special districts. I would like to send out a ballot with 3 candidates. Given the Fire/EMS issues expected in the near term it would be nice to have candidates with experience in fire/ems.

Chief Plakos told EO Bramfitt to resend the blank ballot, and she would make sure that CLSD turns it in.

Chief Schroth-Cary said he would reach out to Chief Lunardi and asked if there was any update or timing for the MSR in the South County. EO Bramfitt answered that he completed interviews with Rancho Adobe and collected data for the three core volunteer agencies. I have not produced more than an 80% draft. I would ask that you contact the commission on October 6th. Frankly, I have been watching the negotiations between the county and fire districts. It seems like the water is churning and LAFCO staff (me) is waiting-if you think LAFCO needs to participate, please let them know. Recent interactions with the County have not gone well. LAFCO Staff have not been consulted and timelines presented that have no LAFCO input and financial documents that are not realistic from a LAFCO perspective. The upshot of all this is that if you do not think we are working fast enough, let us know. Chief Schroth-Cary clarified his question, the timelines we are being asked to work with in the county contracts and whether or not they are realistic and an understanding of what is realistic. Additionally do you anticipate interviewing myself or any chief

officers from those CSA 40 areas. EO Bramfitt said those interviews are on his to do list. He has pushed back on the county several times for things he is not copied on. Thanks to many of us for making sure he gets the information. I have pointed many times to county staff that the timelines they are suggesting are not doable for LAFCO perspective, but I need time to follow procedures and Laws that fall under LAFCO processes.

c. Political Action

No report.

d. FSWG

Director Taylor reported today we put the finishing touches on the FSWG version of the distribution fund. We will need a funding distribution agreement with the county, but the county seemed mostly focused on vegetation management. The county is seeking a pollster and an RFP is going out for a consultant. FSWG is working on a priority list of various stakeholders. We will be coming to everyone very soon as they want a campaign and we still do not know what the ordinance language is going to be.

Chief Schroth-Cary added they want to see us have funds for a campaign, an advocacy campaign not an educational campaign. And we explained again that it is hard to ask for money without the details of the ordinance. We are still back and forth on that and the timeline. But we are moving forward. We are running out of time to meet a June timeline.

VP Peterson asked if you could give us any insight of what is going on with the efforts in South County, Bodega Bay/SCFD, or Kenwood? How can they expect to move ahead until the current stuff is resolved?

Director Taylor said those items were not really discussed Chief Schroth-Cary added the contracts are close to final drafts agreements, but we are close. LAFCO issues relative to county's lack of understanding or asking LAFCO notwithstanding.

e. Measure G 2.0

See above.

6. Old Business

a. Approve Past Minutes August 26, 2021

Director Gloeckner moved to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Director Campbell, approved by all, none opposed.

b. EMS EOA RFP Update – Chief Heine

No update-Suspected that the RFP is still stuck at state EMSA.

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

No report, but good news North County able to move ahead with their project with funding from the first application. If we want a successful vegetation management program, we need to take the lead, waiting for the county will not lead to our success. Schroth-Cary added that our conversation with the county about the county desire to carve out money from Measure G 2.0 for veg management, we need to ID what the term vegetation management means-depending on the group you are with has different definitions of what it is. Chief Tuberville is working on a definition of vegetation management for the ballot. Director Taylor.

7. New Business

VP Peterson mentioned the idea of inviting the Press to our meetings. He likes it the idea but is also wary. We are not going to vote on it tonight, but we might have a vote in the future. Director Hemmendinger said he was the one who originally brought this up after he spoke to with Phil Barber from the Press Democrat who mentioned some inaccuracies in his reporting, for which he apologized for. He is the one charged to follow fire and he does not appear to have a significant amount of understanding of it. As Fred said a minute ago, inviting him to these meetings would give him the opportunity to learn more of the background of what is going on and for what might occur. Right now, the Press Democrat is responding to press releases from the County. So they are getting press and we aren't and that puts us a disadvantage and that disadvantage will become more acute over the next year or so depending on how we all proceed. The fact there are differing opinions in this group is a strength. I think the group always comes together on these matters. Like Fred, I think that any press is better than no press at all, that's my background on this issue. VP Peterson said we will place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Good of the Order

VP Peterson said he spoke to President Akre when he called about missing tonight's meeting. He said with the new order and infection rates it might still be a little early. VP Peterson said he will offer to plan on January if the group agrees about an in-person meeting. Director Hemmendinger mentioned the vaccination and masking requirements in place right now. Let's us not be like the San Francisco Mayor got caught doing. I would like to have an in-person meeting but it's complicated right now.

Director Lachman told the group of what they do at station 1 for Gold Ridge meetings with big doors at both ends of the apparatus bays that are opened for the meeting.

9. Next Meeting October 28, 2021, via Zoom

10. Close

Meeting closed at 8:14

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sec/Tres Sean Grinnell

Minutes approved on _____

By _____