



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by Windsor Fire Dist.

February 8, 2012, 9:30 am.

Attendance:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Eric Hoffmann | Cal Fire | Sean Grinnell | Bodega Bay |
| Mark Aston | County Fire | Frank Treanor | Rancho Adobe |
| Tim Streblow | Cal Fire | Cyndi Foreman | Central |
| Dick Luttrell | REDCOM | Randy Collins | SRJC |
| Dean Anderson | SLS/AMR | Kent Coxen | EMS |
| Doug Williams | Central | Andy Pforsich | Gold Ridge |
| Bill Braga | Sebastopol | Bob Uboldi | Kenwood |
| Mark McCormick | Santa Rosa | Larry Anderson | Petaluma |
| Tony Gossner | Santa Rosa | John Lantz | Central |
| Paul Pigoni | Geyserville | Dan Northern | Forestville |
| John Marty | Rohnert Park | Max Ming | Forestville |
| Jason Jenkins | Cloverdale | Cary Fergus | Petaluma |
| Peter Van Fleet | Glen Ellen | Gary Duignan | Red Cross |
| Ken Reese | REDCOM | Jim Irving | Southern Marin |

Call to Order: Chief Hoffman called the meeting to order at 09:35

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Williams welcomed everyone to Windsor Station 21 and pointed out a couple of logistical issues and he also let us know that he would be leaving at 11am.

Approval of Minutes: President Hoffmann called for a motion to approve the January minutes; Chief Williams so moved and Chief Treanor 2nd, no discussion, all were in favor and no one opposed.

President's Report: President Hoffmann said he is leaning on past presidents; making contacts; and is looking for ways to ensure that the needs of the group are being met.

Treasurer's Report: Sec/Tres Grinnell reported the following:

- Checking: \$71.17
- W/O Interest checking: \$15,668.09
- W/O CD: \$116,664.36

Hans Henneberque has completed the tax filings for the chiefs and all-sub groups for 2011.

The bundled dues notice is almost ready to send out.

President Hoffmann asked if past practice was to accept a treasurer's report: No. Chief Treanor offered in lieu of recent events at his agency, it might be worthy to add a monthly statement.

Sec/Tres Grinnell pointed out that it is time for the annual audit. Chiefs Treanor and Pforsich volunteered to do it again this year. A future meeting will be planned.

Correspondence:

- We should expect to see the Survivors Reunion notice soon. It is scheduled for May 24.

Presentations: Northbay CISM's President Frances Rossiter and VP Joseph Pogar were scheduled to present but failed to show-a mix up in schedules occurred. Sec/Tres Grinnell reported the gist of the presentation was to provide information on the status of the organization: Still here and providing services as always. President Hoffmann said they helped with an incident in Cloverdale this last year.

Committee Reports

Operations & Training Section: Vice President Tony Gossner said that O/T will be working on a revised two in-two out policy. The next meeting would be Tuesday.

Prevention Section: Cyndi Foreman reported the FPO's had held the planning meeting last month with Tom Forester. The FPO's have a full plate but please let us know what your needs are. Ruben Mandujano will be the new FITF coordinator. A group of 11 locals (safety pals) attended the public education camp in Arizona; an interesting event for people from all over the states. Cyndi was surprised at the number of theatrical productions created in the mid-west and it was very interesting to see how others provide safety information. Safety Pals will be in the Rose Parade and the Soroptomist's gave \$10,000. Several other grants are in the process. Safety Pals is also working with the County Office of Education to get into schools. The Roseland District is at the heart of high risk areas in SR. The first show is planned for the week of April 16-20.

District Chiefs: Chief Northern reported that Bill Norten is the new President and Jack Picinni will be the Vice-President. The SCFDA will meet quarterly.

Volunteer FF Association: No report

CAD Group: Chief Williams reported that March 27 is the next meeting and the next version of the fire run book is up for review.

CAL EMA Region: No report

CAL EMA Local: Chief Williams reported the next meeting is February 29th. Currency training instead of incent based requirements will be a topic of discussion.

A question was brought up about the CICC'S. The CICC'S Committee is established by the Operational Area Coordinator in accordance with Cal EMA Guidance. Membership is defined by the Guidance and locally selected by the Committee from volunteers. If you are interested please let Chief Aston know

County Fire: Chief Aston reported the County budget is 10-11 million in the hole. With RDA changes this could decrease that number substantially, but then drive it right back up. A 3-5 % budget cut to all departments is expected. The State Homeland Security Grant for 2011 grant was approved; we are closing out 2009 grant right now; and expect 2010 purchase instructions soon. April-May is slated for purchases of 2011 grant. The Bay area got 36 million in USAI funding last year; amounts to go down in future years, maybe by 10 million or more. A lot of discussion for allocations at higher levels may help us or hinder us based on the disbursement model used.

Robert MacIntyre is going to go through gender reassignment; this is fully supported by the County; an email will follow with complete details.

Director Luttrell asked if the commitment between USAI and mountain tops is in progress BTOP Grant Chief Aston said he will ask. Director Luttrell said the near term consequence for REDCOM is the loss a mountain top.

EMCC: Chair Anderson reported the committee met last month. The slate of representatives is set. The Officers for the new term is: Dean Anderson is chair, Mark McCormick is Vice Chair, and Bob Norbaum is the Sec/Trea. The two sub groups have been meeting and the work continues. It is clear that regulations are in the form of "thou shalt" which means that it must be done. Various functions are paid through fees such as STEMI and franchise compliance. The annual report for 201 is in the works and a committee has been tasked with the project.

Legislation: Chief Aston said the new session has begun. The FDAC leg committee's first meeting is being scheduled. Chief Aston handed out copies of various reforms and informational flyers. Expect a lot of pension reform. SRA fees are still being talked about. Chief Streblov offered the fees if (or not) collected still hold an unknown budgetary impact. Chief Pforsich told of his post retirement (only allowed 960 hours only once for the same agency) issue that the retired person that cannot help the agency anymore. The only option might be a suspension of retirement benefits. In the Gold Ridge case they are not in a position to pay for a full time chief and I can't go back and work at 40%. The new law is based on one employer at a time and this can be big problem. SRA fees are likely to drive a mass homeowner exodus from SRA areas which is not likely to be approved for many reasons.

Grants: Chief Anderson reported the SAFER grant opened yesterday. Laid-off or about to be laid off is the priority. 59 CA departments have been awarded. Chief Ming said that Forestville received a grant in the amount of \$110,000.00.

SRJC Advisory: Director Collins reported the JC is in a State of flux, a new president has been hired. The State budget is starting to squeeze the JC; a 5.6% reduction in funding is expected. The Public Safety Center is likely to lose one class per semester. In-service classes will continue so long as a minimum of 18 students are enrolled. Director Collins was disappointed to have to cancel a Command 1C class last semester. March 10 is career day at the Public Safety Center.

CHP Liaison: No report

Red Cross: Gary Duignan said to let him know what is needed and he will carry the message to Roger.

Marin Chiefs Liaison: Chief Jim Irvine from Southern Marin reported that Chief Ken Massucco announced his retirement after 37 years of full time employment. Marin is working toward trying to sync regional areas for training and county wide training programs (all doing the same thing) have developed a county wide evolution book. Chiefs are also trying to by the same stuff and placing these items in the same locations on apparatus. SRA fees are an issue in Marin especially for those looking to increase taxes. There is a battle with the Marin municipal water over fire flow fees which are used to replace water mains, but these mains may not necessarily be meeting the needs of the fire service. Marin municipal water is trying to renew the fee and needs the fire service support. The Marin hazmat team struggles to stay alive and is looking at ways to join with other regional teams. President Hoffman thanked Chief Irvine for his report. Director Collins added that he and Chief Gustafson are going to attend all the Marin chiefs meetings and asked for others to let them know if they were interested in going too.

Fire Safe Sonoma: Cyndi Foreman reported there is a small amount of money for road side hazard reductions and large area that needs to be treated. Not a large area to be treated.

Cal fire: Chief Streblov reported that Cal Fire is moving forward with risk based reduction plans. St Helena will lose one dozer and five dozers are being cut from the state, the Ukiah dozer is also being cut. Cal Fire is looking at the placement of remaining assets, 2nd piece consolidation of air busses continues and Fresno will go to Porterville. Chief Streblov gave an example that if every 2nd engine was removed from the state the cash equivalent would be 40 million dollars. The hiring process for fire captains is

almost complete. 6-10 B/C spots are open as well. Karen Shubin's position is Battalion 12 and being filled on a limited term for now. Seasonal hiring will begin again tell potential applicants to get the stuff together for applications-it is very competitive. The shift from 4 to 3 left a large pool of experienced applicants, they are first. Director Collins asked about the wildland firefighter and the requirement of ff1 to get into the program. President Hoffmann added that Solano is offering the basic 67 hour class and others needed that covers the basic requirements. The Cloverdale station should be complete next month. And finally a big Thank you for all of you that went to the crab feed, a good time was had by all.

Chief Williams suggested adding SMART as a standing topic and offered to make the report. President Hoffman accepted his additional reporting duty on top of all the other topics he reports on.

Old Business-

- **SRA Fees**-Director Collins circulated a SRA fee proposal that had been developed by a committee consisting of Collins, Grinnell, Aston, and Northern. It had been drafted after Assembly Member Chesbro requested our assistance in drafting a more equitable expressed structure for the creation of competing legislation during a meeting last year. As indicated in the background statement, he shared that while it was the group's preference that the fee is rescinded either through legislation or the courts, in the event those efforts fail, this option represents a more equitable approach to the fee structure. Chief Northern added-we are not trying to write legislation and hopefully this does not get far enough to create these fees. Chief Streblov asked if the County holds a position. Chief Aston said he has not asked the Board of Supervisors to take a position in opposition to the fees but, the Supervisor's are aware of fire services opposition and he can make that request of the Board. If approved this letter will go to Chesbro. Chief Streblov asked if this will go the State Board of Forestry. **A)** No, this is a legislative solution. Chief Streblov added the issue of Chief Hoffmann's signing a letter and being a Cal Fire employee is problematic. After some discussion, Chief Hoffman asked if any member would make a motion to approve. Chief Treanor made a motion that we adopt the letter with some minor changes. Chief Braga 2nd the motion. A spirited discussion ensued. Many questions and comments were made. In the end Chief Treanor amended his motion to forward the proposal with the following addition to the end of the "Background" paragraph; *"To that end, the SCFCA would suggest a SRA fee based on something similar to the following concept"* (Director Collins made the changes to the letter): The motion was seconded by Chief Braga. President Hoffmann called for the vote. All in favor but Chief Van Fleet, and Chiefs Streblov and Hoffmann abstained. Director Collins will forward the revised letter for the file and send to Assembly member Chesbro.
- New ems agency fees-Chief McCormick said his group will generate a letter soon.
- AB1387-no updates

New Business-

- Chief Pigiotti reported on an issue in his area that affects all of us and it needs chief level direction instead of DOAG or REDCOM Board action. What we need is a code word or phrase that will not generate issues with on scene personnel and their patients (no triggers needed for violet patients) and that will not generate 20 questions from dispatch when time is of the essence. Discussion took place for many options. What might work for us: law uses-Code 6 (back up request) followed by code 2 or 3 (for us) for emergent or non-emergent. Chief McCormick suggested that a letter be written that could be forwarded to law enforcement for feedback.
- President Hoffman asked that this item be agendaized for the next meeting.

Improving Efficiencies:

Director Collins reported that he received an email that explained that CSTI is no more and the impacts to HazMat FRO and DECON. We do not know if state fire training is going to pick this up.

Chief Lantz reported that he attended the DMV licensing seminar in Los Banos. The information gathered has been posted to the chiefs website under the documents to share. Chief Lantz asked the group if anyone had an employer testing program? Cal Fire said yes-You will need 10 new drivers a year to maintain currency. More changes- driving trainer has to hold a commercial a or b (depending on apparatus) firefighter b ok until it expires. Instructors must be approved either locally or through training

officers group. Medical exams will change back to every two years-watch out if you go to Kaiser-BMI might be an issue (go to non-Kaiser Doctor). Licensee needs to know what they need and what tests to take. The folks at the DMV might not know. Chief Anderson added they did not want to sign off on those people who might want to a commercial b for outside employment; Chief Anderson suggested getting out of the DMV testing programs all together.

Customer Service/Good of the Order: None reported.

REDCOM: Director Luttrell reported: the Board task force groups have submitted their reports; a survey is in the works to look at a ballot initiative; and the next meeting will be March 8 and the preliminary budget will be submitted.

Chief McCormick explained the REDCOM board has two vacant seats: Zanzi and Northern (retirements). One seat should belong to a city fire department and the other goes to a fire district. Both terms end in July. President Hoffman said we will add this to the next meeting agenda as 'open nominations'. Chief McCormick suggested that interested individuals speak with current board members to see what is going on.

Closed Session:

Next Meeting: March 14....Healdsburg fire.

Adjourned: Chief Treanor moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Chief Lantz, all in favor and none were opposed.