

# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

*Minutes of the April 25, 2019 meeting*

*Cloverdale Fire Protection District*

*Cloverdale*

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Bennett Valley: None

Bodega Bay Fire: Dave Kruppa, Sean Grinnell

Cazadero CSD: Mike Nicholls

Cloverdale: Carol Giovanatto, Michele Black, Jason Jenkins,

Forestville: None

Geyserville: Fred Petersen, Tatsuo Okaya

Glen Ellen: Hal Weise, Peter Van Fleet

Gold Ridge: Bob Glockner, Joe Petersen, Lisa Guerrero

Graton: Robert Sabrowsky

Kenwood: Daren Bellach, Dennis McIntosh, Daymon Doss

Monte Rio: None

North Sonoma Coast FPD: Bonnie Plakos, Jackie Gardener

Rancho Adobe: Mark Hemmendinger, Michael Gadoua

Russian River: Jason Weaver

Sebastopol: None

SCFDA Secty/Treasurer: Sean Grinnell

Schell-Vista: Ernie Loveless, Ken Finn

CalFire LNU: None

Sonoma LAFCO: Mark Bramfitt

Timber Cove: None

Sonoma County Fire Dist: Steve Klick, Bobb Briare, Frank Treanor

Sonoma Valley FRA: Steve Akre, Bill Norton, Brian Brady, Nick Greben

Valley of the Moon: None

Guest Speaker: Chris Godley

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

President Frank Treanor called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and introduced Chief Jason Jenkins who also welcomed everyone to the Cloverdale FPD, Chief Jenkins introduced Jim Kadeg who was our chef for the evening. Chief

Jenkins also pointed out various logistical aspects and told everyone to please tour the fire station.

Self-introductions were made all around.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Secretary Lisa Guerrero gave her final Treasurer's Report. The Balance in account as of 3/31/19 is \$4,833.72. Cloverdale moved to approve the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valley of the Moon. All were in favor.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- *FDAC/EBA*: None
- *LAFCO*: Mark Bramfitt stated the commission recently agreed to dissolve the Roseland FPD. There was not sufficient protest to the Sonoma County Fire District, so this district is up and running. Mark Bramfitt also reported that MSR's have been requested in the Sonoma Valley and in Zone 6. The West County MSR is ready to be sent out to be fact checked.
- *POLITICAL ACTION*: See attached report from President Treanor.
- *FAIRA*: No report
- *FASIS*: See attached report from Director Giovanatto
- *FIRE SERVICES*: Chief Steve Akre reported

#### **PROGRAM:**

Sonoma County Emergency Manager Chris Godley: Chris is the Director of the newly created Emergency Management Department and reports directly to the CAO. He is currently expanding from 4 staff to 8 staff members and a 2.4-million-dollar budget. His first priority is to reinforce traditional emergency management concerns-treat assessments for all the various things that can happen. His department is working with a Wireless Emergency Response Team to identify what systems will work and how to notify all the various people that need to be notified. Recent state issued guidelines last month that include community engagement and preparedness. It's tough when we can't get people to stop driving into the water-so we need to people prepared; his enhanced full-time staff will help. They will provide a lot of information to those that need it or request it, we will not tell you how necessarily, but we will provide them with what they need to know. Emergency Management will be a resource agency and with more admin support be able to keep up with the demand. Mr. Godley will be hiring 7 staff currently and

be set up by July in time for the fire season. His department will not take vacations during the fire season; they will have a more dynamic website to get the information out. The public is expecting more, and the County is serious about this as well; they will hold quarterly meeting with supervisors to discuss the disaster preparedness.

Mr. Godley, in his own words, did not prepare a presentation, but preferred the dynamic nature of a question and answer session. Director Gulckner ask how to have better communications with REDCOM? We will have dedicated people to link in with the Sherriff's Office and REDCOM- A scalable approach based on need. Alert warning systems should go to public safety answering point (PSAP), intelligence as a link to a hotline to get intelligence info. The IC still drives this bus- our job is to find what they need. Director Nicholls asked about flooding-when PGE goes down, then goes communications. Cazadero was 3.5 days stuck and no info was available for us, we were isolated. Mr. Godley said our goal is put a slice of public safety onto these islands, capable to serve the area, but Cazadero is tough. We need to treat Cazadero as an island-we need to take lower river flood plan of 25 years and extend it to the whole Russian river area. We are looking at that model to capture the whole river. Director Nicholls added, evacuation routes for earthquakes and other events is an issue. Current road damage is still not fixed, which spells deep trouble to residents. We have bigger issue with evacuations as a whole. Analysis of all roads for priority evacutaions-24 communities have been identified, let us come up with a community plan, a simple two-page plan- what do I do, where do I go? Then take the plan on the road locally to check with everyone to see if it will work, then we need to practice the plan. Our goal is to reach 30% (a sad fact) who we need to influence the rest. Chief Bellach said you have mentioned plans for sirens. A) we have applied for money; each one costs between 30-130 k to install and connect it to it. Grant applications have been forwarded up the chain, and we stand good chance to get the money. Now the question is where do they makes sense? Lots of areas that cancel the sound, like Doran Beach in Bodega Bay; Dry Creek valley has a dam; so who is at the greatest risk. The County Fire Chiefs will be involved. More discussion ensued. SOCO is still our best option...One notice will not start people moving. We need to target vulnerable populations. Chief Plakos asked at what point will you engage fire? A) We will reach out to networks- as many as we can, we can't reach everyone individually. Chief Akre gave appreciation to the new county department and acknowledged Mr. Godley's engagement in the Op Area and various other calls

during recent events as well as sending staff to the regions- a great improvement from where we were- thank you!

Mr. Godley reported that North Coast Fire got \$50,000 for radios and Forestville Fire got \$30,000 for radios, both funded from state homeland security grants.

President Treanor thanked Mr. Godley for his time and was given a round of applause.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Approval of the January 31, 2019 SCFDA Meeting Minutes: Upon motion by Kenwood, seconded by Sonoma County and approved by all, the minutes from the 1/13/19 meeting were approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Recognizing outgoing SCFDA President, Dan George: Frank Treanor would like to move this to next meeting as Dan George is not in attendance to accept his award.
- Selection of Sec/Tres: President Treanor thanked Lisa Guerrero for her service and presented her with a plaque. Lisa received a round of applause. Sean Grinnell will take Lisa place as Sec/Tres.
- Selection of representative to the Strategy Leadership Group:

President Treanor gave a brief history from last month's meeting. Director Lovelace talked about being more interested in prevention-James Williams has money for vegetation management and needs us to sign up, if you need to talk to him, call 707-696-2902, they will reimbursement us for inspections. The other thing-the last meeting was a bit uncomfortable-one the things you asked me to do was to be listener to the SLG-I went and asked to attend-I was told we do not need you at the meetings. To be clear I do not want to attend, but I do want to listen. They did not listen...I so I brought up the need for minutes and transparency. Change is being made, they were listening, they gave this organization a spot on the new SLG, so we need to get the info take notes, and place it on our webpage. You sent me, I put myself in that position for a month to wait and see, so the next meeting is May 2, 1-3 pm. I believe our person needs to have our values, they need a director, not a fire chief. Chief Akre is the VP and a good alternative. At this first meeting, our person

should make a push for taking minutes so we can post to our web page-the person represents the whole SCFDA, not just their own District, work toward agreement and move forward, we only have so much time before the supervisors change direction. These are my beliefs that person should have- does the new group have a mission statement? Is there a new group? President Treanor then called for comments. Chief Akre, as the only SLG member here, reported: I have been on the SLG, I am happy to be here and aware of frustrations and I am here to help move forward. We were a working group of the original FSAC group, but the large group was a large group and tough to get work done. Our goal was to improve the fire service county wide. We gave you the Silver plan-it was agreed upon by all and based on NFPA standards. Once FSAC was disbanded after the silver plan was approved, we continued to work for the ad hoc, and the board gave us our priorities. We admitted to shortcomings with communications and initiated monthly updates and we did take steps to improve communications. We worked toward consensus and had some tough discussions. Lastly, four chiefs from fire districts-Akre, George, Francheschi, and Heine were all there and did not represent our own interests but those of all of you. That was the lens we looked through. The Supervisors approved updated plan; they added SLG and renamed the SLG and added spots for labor and fire districts specifically. Essentially the same group but new a mission. We looked fractured when we needed to look united. As a working group minutes, those are tough in that environment, as the SLG we had a lot of different opinions. President Treanor added the worst thing that can happened is for people to feel not communicated with. Perhaps a little more comprehensive than before, the first meeting might help establish that, we want all the folks to get the info they need to be happy with the info given. This new group is going to answer to the board ad hoc. Chief Jenkins said we felt the updates were very high level, but we needed for more detail. When it came down to it, "there were our marching orders" which we had no idea of, we felt behind the curve, we felt uninformed, we need to be in a better spot going forward. Chief Akre said, looking ahead, can we do better, but we need that two-way communication. President Treanor-bottom line we have another seat on this committee for fire districts-who should we nominate? Director Petersen nominated Mark Hemmendinger, would made one comment about minutes. Minutes need to point out what was discussed and the various points around the discussion. Director Norton Frank Treanor.

Director Hemmendinger nominated Director Lovelace. Chief Akre nominated Director Petersen and he accepted. President Treanor declined the nomination and thanked Director Norton.

Discussion ensued about proper representation within the group and voting procedures. It was decided by group action that each director would be allowed to vote for one nominee. The one with the most votes would represent the fire district association and the one with the next highest number of votes would be the alternate.

Director Joe Petersen introduced himself to the group and gave a brief bio.

Ballots were handed out to each Director. The following tally was reported after the raffle was completed:

Director Joe Petersen-12 707-486-8161 (cell)

Director Ernie Lovelace-9

Director Mark Hemmendinger-6

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Cloverdale FF Association is having a golf tournament on June 8

Geyserville mentioned the annual Wine Country to the Rescue event to be held on July 20<sup>th</sup>


Director Fred Peterson announced, "Thank You!!!" And then asked if anyone is interested in creating a fire district working group? Any directors who want to meet? We need to report to our sups and our citizens, let him know...send email to Director Peterson

**NEXT MEETING:**

- The next Regular Meeting will be held July 25, 2019 and will be hosted by Geyserville.

**ADJOURN: 9:40 PM.** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cazadero 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sonoma County Fire, approved by all

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Sean Grinnell, SCFDA Secretary/Treasurer*

Minutes Approved:  Date: 7/25/19  
SCFDA Board President





April 25, 2019

TO: Sonoma County Fire Districts Association

Subject: FASIS Report

The FASIS Board of Directions held a Meeting on March 21st at the York offices in Sacramento.. As most of you are aware, Bickmore Services who manages the FASIS organization was bought by York Financial Services and as such is now York Services. The FASIS Management personnel and services remain the same.

Actions from the meeting include:

- Received a presentation from Occu-Med staff on the Member Satisfaction Survey Results, Post-Exam Survey Results & Program. During the 2018 year occurred performed 657 pre-employment physicals with 77% found medically qualified and 17% found conditionally qualified. Concerns still remain with some member districts that continue to do no pre-employment physicals. This can have profound effects on future medical costs if pre-existing conditions are not discovered prior to employment. This issue is a target issue for future discussions on how to encourage these districts to do pre-employment physicals...i.e. make it a mandatory requirement for FASIS membership. 60% of member agencies utilize Occu-Med; 40% do not use any type of medical evaluation.
- The FASIS Expansion of Services Discussion. As you will recall FASIS members were surveyed on their interest on consideration of expansion of services which may include property, liability, medical, dental, vision and life. of the responding districts, 69% said they were interested/31% were not interested. Out of the 192 member districts only 67 responded to the survey. The majority of the membership responded that the medical, dental, vision and life coverage's were of the greatest interest. FASIS has been in discussions with the EBA and they are interested in continuing to look at ways of potentially combining services. Staff will continue with an in-house feasibility study on this.
- Very interesting presentation on a resource called firestrong.org. It is an online resource for fire personnel which can be tailored to your organization to address different areas of both training and counseling. FASIS will be subscribing and establishing a page. You can go on You Tube to "take a tour" of the firestrong website. I'd encourage you to do so. cost to establish your personal Department page is \$1,500. It's completely confidential for your employees and visits are not tracked.
- The Board received the draft Workers' Compensation Program Actuarial Report and Proposed Rates for 2019/20 Program Year. The draft rates reflect a likely 2.8% increase in Safety rate and a 6.9% increase in Non-Safety rate. These rates will be modified by each Districts payroll review and x-mod factors. Every agency should have received their individual information.
- Finally we reviewed the preliminary 2019-20 operating budget for FASIS. No major changes to report at this time.

## CALL TO ACTION

### HEARING DATE CHANGE

#### Update on SB 438 to Secure Local Control for Public Safety Dispatch Services

CalChiefs is co-sponsoring SB 438 - Emergency Medical Services - Dispatch (Hertzberg). SB 438 would make it clear that county EMS administrators do not have the power to dictate when city or fire district units can be dispatched to respond to a 9-1-1 call in their own jurisdictions or empower a private ambulance company to bypass potentially closer fire-based units or downgrade the severity of medical emergencies so that it can dispatch its own ambulances. This is a critical public safety matter.

You can read the SB 438 in its current version at this [link](#).

The date of the Senate Health Committee Hearing has been changed to May 1st, 2019 at 1:30PM in Room 4203 of the Capitol. We have received many letters of support, but cannot overstate that as many support letters as possible are critical. We urge all of our members to send letters of support to the committee members and the committee consultant. We also need a copy of that letter sent to the attention of our Executive Director, [Tracey Hansen](#), so that the letters can be uploaded into the new website that allow letters to become part of the Committee bill analysis.

We have prepared a template letter of support for your use and ask that the letter be sent on your agency letterhead. You can find the template letter at this [link](#). The highlighted areas on the template letter will need to be removed, and the letter will need to be revised with your agency's specific information. You will also need to add the author's signature.