



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue

June 13, 2012, 9:30 am.

Attendance:

Eric Hoffmann	Cal Fire	Mark Aston	County Fire
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Doug Williams	Central Fire
Phillip Garcia	SVFRA	John Lantz	Central Fire
Larry Anderson	Petaluma	Wilbert Horne	Mayacamas
Ken Reese	REDCOM	Christopher Gray	Marin Chiefs
Max Ming	Forestville/RRF	Bill Braga	Sebastopol
Peter Van Fleet	Glen Ellen	Loren Davis	Mountain
Cyndi Foreman	Central	David Frazer	UASI/County Fire
Nick Neisius	Valleyford	Tim Streblow	Cal Fire
Dean Anderson	AMR/SLS	Gary Duignan	Red Cross
Ken Sebastiani	Santa Rosa		

Call to Order: President Hoffman called the meeting to order 09:39

Host Chief Introduction: President Hoffman introduced Chief Garcia who welcomed the group to Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue and pointed out the logistics.

Approval of Minutes: Chief Williams moved to accept the May minutes, Chief Horne seconded; President Hoffman called for the vote, all were in favor and none were opposed.

President's Report: Chief Hoffmann reported little activity on the presidential front and fire season is ramping up with a more activity than this time last year.

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

Balances: As of May 31

Survivor C/D: \$116,878.68 (5-13)

Survivor Checking: \$14,523.17

Chiefs checking: Balance is \$3919.61

\$90 refund or no payment for Monte Rio FPD until 2015

\$2000 is owed to ops/training when they are ready.

\$500 is owed to the FPO's for recent & past dues collected.

Chief Garcia moved to approve the treasurer's report, 2nd was made by Chief Mulas. President Hoffmann called for the vote, all were in favor and none were opposed.

Correspondence: President Hoffmann said that he received a Survivor Reunion thank you; Chief Williams said he received a formal thank you and a plaque from the Survivors Reunion organizers and that he would bring the plaque in later. Chief Aston said that he accepted a plaque on behalf of the Chiefs Association for our support of the Alyssa Anne Rush burn run.

Presentations: Chief Aston introduced David Frazier who was recently hired by Sonoma County Fire as the UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) Program Manager. A white paper was handed out (attached to these minutes). Mr. Frazer's focus will be to reach out to the North Bay region counties (Sonoma, Solano, Marin, and Napa) and to conduct risk assessments, assess existing capabilities, conduct gap analysis, and develop grant projects based on Bay Area UASI (BAUASI) grant guidelines. Consistent involvement and our presence in the BAUASI should increase our consideration for approval of our own projects. Historically the North Bay Region receives about 7% of allocated funds. The current focus for FY13 is training and exercise. Mr. Frazer said he works for Chief Aston, but he also works for us.

Dave said he was in front of the operations and training folks yesterday. I told them of a training and exercise website that is available through the Bay Area UASI website: <http://bayareauasi.org/default.aspx>. Please contact Dave Frazer if you have further questions-business cards were handed out.

Committee Reports:

Operations & Training Section: Chief Lantz reported the group met yesterday and he has several items for the chiefs to consider and to vote on. The first item was the revised and based on new laws-AB 1648 that specifies that county training officers association have responsibility for approving all driver instructors (those not already approved by the SFT). The draft program was passed out (it is also attached to these minutes and posted to the website under draft policies) the application is also part of it. Chief Aston asked why not individual departments-the law is specific to TO's Association was the answer. President Hoffman asked if this is a draft or final draft ready for approval; a draft ready for approval was the answer, the item will be place as new business for next month. A few more questions were asked and answered as well as some minor edits were offered and made. The final version will be posted soon. The TO's will maintain a running list of those who have been approved or not and the original paper work will be returned to the home agency. Item 2: STL leader. Chief Lantz ran down a list of items (attached) that are items that need further direction, edits, or were just issue to be addressed later. Currency is still an issue as Chief Streblow pointed out the issue of two back-to-back years with little or no call outs. The following items need approval/direction: Currency as it relates to training to satisfy the need. Chief Streblow explained several options; part of the issue might be economic-its on the agency, but you could send someone and not get paid. We have tried to be consistent with the state, this is regulated by CICCIS (said Chief Williams) and training is allowed, but what kind of training? Locally we can approve, it becomes an issue for the 400 levels such as division/group supervisor. Chief Gray from San Rafael their CICCIS group is looking at STEM for refresher competency, but an approved competency is the issue. Chief Streblow added it also has the two operational periods component (someone said make it a shorter op period). Chief Williams said of the Region II meeting in November the group voted to ask for clarity but the letter has taken longer than expected. Chief Lantz moved onto the final item, the revised RIC policy (and John apologized for the late arrival) that was delivered early this morning to himself and Chief Grinnell, it is also attached to these minutes. This final version should address (and correct) all previous issues.

Prevention Section: FM Foreman-nothing to big right now; the RICO meeting is combined with training on grow house operations and related fires—flyer out soon. June 20th- a joint meeting between Sonoma and Marin FPO's will be held.

- **Safety Pals**-FM Foreman said the first set of productions (7 total shows) went great. President Hoffman said he saw three of the shows, they where great shows with no mistakes visible, the kids loved it and they got the message. FM Foreman said some pre and post show messages were sent out; post tests results will be available latter (AMR is working on this). The Bi-Lingual aspect made the kids feel important and we received great feedback (70-90% Latino audience). Sparky was the big hit. A great success. Chief /Williams said people walked away with a positive experience. It should be noted the whole program requires a lot of people with a lot of different skills; an awesome turn out from everyone.
- The Nor Cal meeting will also host a show to demonstrate the program. A big thank you Cal Fire for logistical support. Oct/Nov for the next production-location to be announced.

District Chiefs: Chief Williams reported that no meeting has occurred since our last meeting. The next meeting will be hosted by Valley of the Moon, on July 26th at 6pm, guest speaker- the new auditor/controller/tax collector.

Volunteer FF Association: Chief Horne reported that not much is going on the next meeting is July 19th.

CAD Group: Chief Williams reported the next CAD meet is in Windsor. Chief Lantz and Ken Reese attended the annual conference. Map bookwork continues. Alternatives for mobiles/Toughbook devices are being discussed. Chief Horne asked if roads and driveways are codified, they are, but the county code is stricter than the state code. President Hoffman said Cal Fire would review the state standard.

Cal E-M-A Operational Area: Chief Williams reported the region two meeting was after our last chiefs meeting, not much new info but CICCIS was discussed as well as many other issues such as training, universal-training for all. Last Thursday's zone chiefs meeting was good a meeting; every zone was represented and there was a good exchange of information. Special thanks to B/C Tuberville for taking notes and handing out necessary documents. Reminded everyone of special rules such as active status. Everyone was told of the software issues, limited to sorting capability that we had. Chief Aston reminded everyone that he has turned his CICCIS reins to Chief George. Chief Williams asked who stores the information of STL's etc.? A) All pertinent information is returned once needed information is gleamed from the applications/recertification package and inactive members info will be returned to the home agency. The Chief is the gatekeeper and must defend the documentation if necessary.

Cal EMA-Region: No report

County Fire: VP Aston reported that County Fire is focused on two items: NASCAR-Sunday's crowd is expected to be 100,000. Item two-Its budget preparation time and he is working on new approaches to see if the County will fund some special projects.

EMCC: GM Anderson said his group has not met since our last meeting; they will meet on July 23.

Legislation: VP Aston had no legislative activity to report on.

Grants: Chief Anderson reported the AFG opened Monday. SAFER opens in July. Homeland Security Program preliminary deadline is August 17, so please give us your ideas. \$721,000 was available last year and has been reduced by 44% this year and 25% to go to law. The best for our group is to figure out a countywide item; \$220,000 for use. Chief Anderson said that one thing allowed this year; they have expanded the scope for construction and renovation projects (maybe request funds for REDCOM-Or apple integration into our program-if allowed?) VP Aston added that REDCOM holds the big need and it is a regional approach. Please let Chiefs Anderson and Aston know your desires. It was suggested that we keep something for GIS-\$40,000 (the same as before). Chief Sebastiani added it is time to replace there sensor IR and if they return it they can get a \$30,000 credit toward a new one (\$77,000) needed to complete. Another idea is to upgrade the tower to a RS II site. More to follow; Chief Anderson said to let him and Chief Aston know of your desires-many ideas were placed on the table.

SRJC Advisory: No report

CHP Liaison: No report.

Red Cross: Gary Duignan reported no action and said if you need help-Please call.

Marin Chiefs Liaison: Chief Christopher Gray from San Rafael Fire reported that Southern Marin will annex Sausalito and Ross will contract with Ross Valley. San Rafael and Larkspur are working together as well. Reaching across the lines will lead to better efficiencies. Recent IAFF train the trainer was completed and in November and December they will conduct a school shooter exercise. Chief Gray also said that all agencies are cutting between 2 and 5% from their budgets. Primary factors are retirement health and pension costs.

Fire Safe Sonoma: No report

Cal Fire: Chief Streblov reported that a 2nd deputy chief will start in July (ops and admin). Dave Shoe is the Admin Chief; Napa County is funding the full time position, but the position reports to Chief Streblov, and will be responsible for day-to-day operations in Napa. As of July 1st, 1412 will be Chris Jurshack (Karen Shubin is not getting better-Cal Fire is working with the family). The State budget is status quo for now; next big piece depends on the November elections. If it does not pass 30 million equates to removal of all 2nd engines. This will eliminate surge capacity and local support is limited. SRA fees- BOE is still working on permanent regulations and August bills still expected. Peak staffing on the 26th, air attack is staffed early; one tanker and one air attack. Cal Fire is providing support for the National Air program due to mechanical issues in that fleet. Cloverdale is up and running; one issue with plumbing was fixed- a test plug was left in. Mount St. Helena camera in service on the 20th of June. July 2nd the burn restriction goes into effect; activity is up. We met the F-mag threshold already. President Hoffmann added that he is teaching an investigation class next to a firing class, its dry out there. Chief Braga asked if any units had been sent to New Mexico or Colorado? **A)** There are only two hotshot crews in the state right now-so yes.

SMART: Chief Williams reported that section of track between Santa Rosa and Petaluma is the first section/phase to be replaced. SMART has been hauling in the materials needed to replace that section. The new bridge took 15 train carloads and is in the old Napa pipe yard-it will be assembled there and then loaded onto a barge. SMART has purchased land in various locations. The most recent location is that of the Fulton processing plant (that might offer some training opportunities). SMART has discovered people have built on there land. President Hoffmann said most of the track is in the LRA. San Antonio/Penngrove has some SRA area. Freight has been delivered into SR and the track materials made up the longest freight train (20 cars) to cross our area in some time.

Old Business:

- **Sonoma/Marin joint press release:** President Hoffmann asked if everyone had seen it the revised version? Yes. Chief Williams asked if Marin County Fire had any comments? Yes they did reported Chief Gray. Chief Aston mentioned on a side note; if the courts prevail that Mountain VFC came up with an interesting approach. If you have a Mello Roos tax you could get a discount because technically you are in a fire district. Pass a Mello Roos and you could get the \$35 cost break. Chief Streblov commented that its tough spot that

the grant portion of the process is as it stands but did not have an opinion on the new idea. This fee will not put the 4th person back on the engine or replace other revenue losses. An interesting option...pay anyway, but turn the 35 back into the local jurisdiction. On the press release issue, President Hoffmann said it opposes the SRA fee and the question is do we stand with Marin? Chief Garcia moved to accept the position and to sign the joint press release with Marin. 2nd by Chief Horne; Further discussion-yes Chief Horne commented that the messengers do get shot sometimes and related a local story. The public is not necessarily aware of the differences between Cal Fire and the local fire agency. Chief Streblov said there are very few places that SRA does not touch that does not also touch fire district. Sec/Tres Grinnell read the press release. President Hoffmann called for further comments, none were made, and he called for the vote. All in favor, none were opposed, and two abstained (President Hoffmann and Chief Streblov).

New Business:

- **Safety Pals grant:** FPO Foreman reported that we touched a little on this last month. Safety Pals needed money and the grant was an easy fit. Caerleon offered to write the grant for \$500.00. The final grant project was for \$100,000.00. Safety Pals and the grant had a disconnect of sorts, everyone pulled back a little bit. It was decided that Fire Safe Sonoma would support grant-writing portion instead of the FPO's. \$48,000 as applied for under fire safe Sonoma. In talking with FPO President Fergus-we had some ideas if the grant happens but all issues need to be addressed and Fire Safe Sonoma might not be the perfect fit, and specific language to Safety Pals and the relationship to FPO's group also needs revision. President Hoffmann said that he sought counsel from other chiefs. The amount is not the issue. How do we di-conflict grants or competing interests? How do we clear up or prioritize the grant conflicts? Do we want to be in the grant administration business? Not really was the answer, but support needs early buy in. The structure is such that FPO is a sub set of chiefs and safety pals is a sub set of FPO. In general what do we want to do? A policy does not exist. How do we provide input? FPO Foreman suggested a pseudo sub group to brainstorm ideas. We thank fire safe sonoma for stepping up but issues have been created. \$15000 so far has been received by grants for safety pals and others are looking to give us money. Sec/tres Grinnell was asked if we are writing the checks. No we are not. The Chiefs only collected annual dues for all sub groups. The current process was explained. The irony here is that each of the sub-groups is ultimately set up to run almost independently of the chiefs group. They all have their own officers and regulations and by-laws. The final aspect deals with use of our 501 c 3 tax-exempt status and because of this the chiefs are making sure that all required financial reporting is being completed for all groups under the chiefs. President Hoffmann suggested that budgets [of each sub group] be submitted for approval by the chiefs. What happens if the fire works company gives money from those we would normally take money from. Should we have a gatekeeper or checks and balances, etc., or a process for acceptance of monies? Safety Pals Grant and Fire Safe Grant. VP Aston moved to have FPO's present a budget for their funding and sub groups for presentation and approval (FPO Foreman asked if we would we then ask for budgets from all sub groups? Yes was the answer) 2nd by Chief Sebastiani. President Hoffmann asked if there was any further discussion? No one was had. President Hoffman called for the vote. All were in favor, no opposed.
- **Firehouse software/iPad grant-** Chief Williams reported that he spoke with Linda Collister about the idea of whether or not we could request a specific program like firehouse? There was no sure answer on this. Reading through the IAFC technology group's information the technology is not quite there yet. This is all new and we do not have all the issues vetted. The Marin County project was referenced-different system and vendor specific. An extension was granted for that project. Personally (Chief Williams) we should find ways to work with the technology and deal with the connectivity issues. President Hoffmann referenced the previous discussion regarding Safety Pals. Chief Williams moved to empower the E board to make the final decision, 2nd by (Chief Streblov added this does not necessarily mean we have to accept the grant if offered but we have bigger global issues to deal with first), Phil second. Being no further discussion President Hoffmann called for the vote. All were in favor none were opposed.

Improving Efficiencies/Customer service/Good of the order (all were combined): Chief Horne said he was working with county transportation to improve roads in his area; they are also working on a new engine spec; and new water tanks are in service: 175000 and almost 50000 at station one. Glen Ellen fire has a new website, check them out at www.glennellenfire.org; Schell Vista say the new rescue is in service, the BBQ is coming up; Sonoma Valley is creating its first joint budget with the city of Sonoma and Valley of the Moon; Chief Gray said Marin is working on a common RMS system- ePCR-system ESO solutions is the vendor; SR is hosting a hazmat ic class- Aug 1 and 2, free from ESTI; also a new solar pv prop, solar volt expert to come as well and all fire departments invited on June 27 and 28-just show up, check the SR Fire website. Fund raisers for Captain Roy Keegan -July 1st at Legends, \$20 per ticket, see the Facebook page for other events. Chief Williams presented the plaque from the Survivors Reunion.

REDCOM: Manager Ken Reese reported they are ramping up for fire season; ROSS refresher's, active status refresher's, etc. They are a little above average on fire call outs and they are working with Cal fire for minor issues that are occurring; otherwise-business as usual.

Closed Session: None.

Next Meeting: July 11, Hosted by Rohnert Park Public Safety

Adjourned: 12:18